



Volume 60  
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*Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.*  
WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

June 2025

## President's Message

### ***Think Skiing!***

To think skiing means, "Think Snow." It means not any kind of snow. It means perfect, skiable snow, smooth snow, snow without ice. Snow for the best skiing.

This kind of snow needs the right weather. Days should be sunny and clear, but at the same time crispy and cool. There will not be any sub-zero degree Fahrenheit temperatures reminiscent of pre-climate change Vermont nor will there be any high, cutting cold winds. Snow will not only not melt, but will keep a firm, champagne texture. These Goldilocks days will have the perfect ambience.

Our perfect skiing weather will have other elements. Heavy snow should fall, but only on ski mountains and only beginning about 5:00 PM daily and ceasing about 8:00 PM so that groomers can finish their work. The snow should not fall on roads necessary to get to and from mountains.

Critics may doubt the chances of our getting such ideal, highly directed snow conditions. However, in *Peanuts* rain would fall solely on the affected character. There is no reason why snow, frozen rain, cannot fall locally where it is needed and not fall elsewhere. We have a capitalistic system and science to make this happen.

Whether weather will allow these ideal conditions depends on – you guessed it – weather or whether. Serious difficulties threaten our reaching the ideal. According to numerous articles in the *New York Times*, dutifully gathered by Google, climate change is causing warmer weather, which is reducing many resorts' days of good skiing. Compounding this problem is the fact that on other days climate changes impact air currents bringing frigid Arctic air south, making it too cold for people to ski comfortably. Problems have solutions. I suggest the following to maximize perfect skiing days.

My first is to ski in Paris, France. If it gets either too hot or too cold, one can go into a *patisserie* or into a bar and find good weather inside. Paris has many of both. Steamboat says that it first recognized Colorado's champagne snow and Utah and Colorado say that they have champagne skiing. However, Paris' domestic champagne is even more bubbly. [cont' pg2.](#)

**RSVP**

**Summerfest**

at Jill Nelson's home

June 15, Sunday at 1:00 pm

*Directions on page 2.*



**SUMMER FEST**  
Sunday, June 15, 1:00 pm  
**AT THE HOME OF JILL NELSON**  
**7715 ROCTON AVENUE, CHEVY CHASE, MD**

PVS will provide grilled food at SummerFest, our annual summer fun event where we talk about next year's ski trips and socialize. We ask that members and guests to bring an **appetizer, salad/vegetable or dessert**. Like all PVS events, there will be wine, beer, and soft drinks too.

We ask those who plan to attend to **RSVP to Jill at 249-645-5285 or [jillwnelson7@gmail.com](mailto:jillwnelson7@gmail.com)**. It is important to know approximately how many will attend so that the host knows the appropriate amount of food to purchase.

Directions to Jill Nelson's house: 7715 Rocton Ave., Chevy Chase, MD --- house is off East-West Highway, between Conn. Ave and Rock Creek Park. Call or email to RSVP or with any questions. 249-645-5285 or [jillwnelson7@gmail.com](mailto:jillwnelson7@gmail.com)

*From Washington, DC:* drive north on Connecticut Ave., pass Chevy Chase Circle – turn right on East-West Highway (MD 410) to 4<sup>th</sup> right on Rocton – go 2 blocks up hill, bear right, and white house is about 4<sup>th</sup> on the left.

*From the Washington beltway:* exit at Connecticut Ave. south, towards Washington DC, turn left on East-West Highway (after fire house on left), 4<sup>th</sup> right on Rocton, as above.

\*\*\*\*\*

*President's Message, continued:*

After drinking cool, smooth champagne, PVS members will feel that they are gliding down the Champs-Élysées or, better yet, that they are sitting at a Saint-Germain-des-Prés café, looking at others glide down the Parisian street-slopes. Notably, the Champs-Élysées goes downhill from the Arc de Triomphe, perfect for skiing. If PVS members at a Saint-Germain-des-Prés café order the right French tarte, preferably apricot, with drinks to match, they will surpass Steamboat's champagne snow.

Some PVS members may find Parisian skiing insufficient because its lack of moguls. Unlike Washington, D.C. and New York, Paris' streets are maintained. Therefore, skiers may have to seek other areas to meet their skiing needs. Unfortunately, whether they can maintain perfect ski weather at such ski areas is in doubt. However, they can seed clouds above where they choose to ski.

As I suggested, meeting the standards of having snow over and only over desired ski slopes will take carefully, applied science and even advanced engineering. I suggest using hot air balloons, which are found near multiple ski areas. As skiers descend, they can release gas into clouds to direct snow as needed. This methodology would be like pipetting in biology, chemistry and the like where scientists drop liquids into tubes to direct properly

measured amounts to their destination. This process has been used for many years and despite appearances is claimed accurate. However, some observers like Robert Kennedy are skeptical and say that results need study.

In the event that cloud seeding does just not work, PVS can support the building of gigantic walls just west of their chosen ski slopes. Such walls would simulate mountains. As air rises, allowing it to hold less liquid, snow will fall. Where such walls are not allowed, for example, near airports, snow blowers could create air barriers still causing snow to drop where it is needed.



An additional alternative would be to import snow as done to meet the needs of the 2014 Sochi Olympics.. Because of tariffs and other factors, there may be space on planes and container ships to facilitate such snow transports. And Soda Stream has proven that carbon dioxide can be added to water to spray snow over slopes.

My suggestions do not propose to reduce carbon emissions as this might generate undue political opposition.

As a near final alternative solution to obtaining smooth skiing over long seasons, PVS might consider installing magic carpets on ski slopes. The magic carpets could use bleached white weaves to look like snow and have pillows on the side least one fall and need to rest. These carpets can be used for both indoor and outdoor skiing. Places like Dubai and some ski lifts in the United States use them, although in Dubai, because of the weather, skiing can only be indoors.

But if all these carefully considered suggestions to achieving the perfect skiing ambience are unacceptable, there is one final option. Book ski trips, say like for mid-January at Snowmass. With luck the weather and therefore the snow will be perfect, so perfect that even the ski club president will find that his balance permits him to ski. PVS members will beautifully, ecstatically glide down the slopes. We reasonably hope.

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## PVS - BYOB (Bring Your Own Book) group

Still thinking you might join us to chat about books? Go ahead! You'll hear about good books to take to the beach. Or you may learn about some riveting nonfiction. No required reading and no commitment. **See the info at the bottom for how to join in on Zoom on June 12<sup>th</sup> (the second Thursday of each month) at 4 pm!**

Here are the books we shared in May:

Karen Knopes headed back to the ocean with "The Wide Wide Sea." Author Hampton Sides chronicles the last voyage of Captain Cook in 1776. Cook came upon Hawaii by accident and became a figure of worship to the inhabitants before his death on the island. 5\*

Rosemary Schwartzbard brought us the story of Judith Jones, a publisher who championed Anne Frank's diary as well as Julia Child's early work. Author Sarah Franklin wrote "The Editor" which elaborates on the remarkable persistence and foresight of Jones. 5\*

Marianne Soponis abandoned the life of Thurgood Marshall and gave us a murder mystery, "Red Ultimatum" by former Marriott colleague Edwin Fuller and his writing partner Gary Grossman. A plane crash, an attack in Cairo, and a kidnapping in Panama are all part of this "very gripping" novel Marianne gives 5\*.

Ellie Thayer has been engrossed in "Prisoners of Geography" by Tim Marshall. Marshall details the impact a country's geography has on its politics and the world around it. She noted that she was reading the section on the historical division between Pakistan and India when the region recently erupted. Per Ellie, it should be updated from 2015. 5\*

Bonnie Sweeney decided on the "enjoyable" murder mystery "The Maid" by Nita Prose. Though not a literary masterpiece, per Bonnie, the story provided details of what it is like to be a maid in a hotel along with insight into the protagonist's social interaction difficulties and, of course, the mystery! 4\*

Jan Marx discovered "The Angels of Morgan Hill" by Donna VanLiere which takes place in 1947 in Tennessee. A Black family moves to town to work and faces discrimination. They suffer a tragedy and receive help that makes ripples throughout the community. 4.5\*

Bob Jablon again gave us a welcome history lesson with Russell Shorto's "Taking Manhattan," a nonfiction account of the Dutch influence in New York. The Dutch approach of religious and country-specific tolerance led to New York City becoming the melting pot that it is today. 5\*

Mary Hubbard looked to a bestselling novel by Kristin Hannah, "The Nightingale." Hannah was inspired by the story of a Belgian woman who helped downed Allied pilots escape Nazi Germany. In this historical fiction account, the protagonist and her sister with opposing views both joined the French resistance and reconnect at the end of the war. 4.5\*

Nancy McKinley listened to the "almost-poetic" Booker Prize winner from 2024 "Orbital" by Samantha Harvey. Harvey's 6 astronauts from 5 countries on the international space station experience 12 orbits around the earth in 24 hours while reflecting on earth from afar and on their individual paths to a life dedicated to space exploration. 5\*

**Our next BYOB Zoom call will be held on Thursday, June 12th from 4 to 5 pm. Let Nancy McKinley know at [nancymckin@gmail.com](mailto:nancymckin@gmail.com) if you have questions or comments. If you're interested in joining us, Nancy will put you on the list to get the link to the Zoom call.**

## SKI TALK

*By  
Kathy Lake*

### Washington DC Ski Travel Show

On Friday May 2nd the Jablons and the Lakes attended the Washington Ski Show hosted by Paul Webber at the Tysons Marriott. It's an opportunity to meet representatives and tour operators from various ski resorts and swap stories with other skiers. There were 9 vendors, which is less than in past years. Snowmass, Taos, Elk Mountain, SkiCanada, Stratton, Smugglers Notch, Mt Bachelor, Banchi Tours and Interlachen all had tables set up. We had a chance to talk to these folks and collect information and some swag, as well as, mingle with other BRSC members. According to the Snowmass rep there will be a couple of new chair lifts this upcoming season. The Elk Camp quad lift will be replaced with a high-speed 6 pack lift. A new Cirque T-Bar lift will replace the existing platter lift.

\*\*\*Once we made the rounds Bob, Cara, Barry and I went down to the hotel restaurant for dinner and talked skiing. Then back to the show in time for the door prize drawing. I won a 3 day lift pass to Elk Mountain. Barry got a vest from Snake Dance at Taos. Bob received a lift pass holder and Cara a luggage tag. Our friend Dick Hubbard from Snow Searches won a few nights lodging and lift tickets at Mt Bachelor. It was an enjoyable and interesting evening.

### BRSC Spring Meeting

The next day on Saturday May 3<sup>rd</sup> Barry and I attended the BRSC Spring Meeting which was held at Wildfire Restaurant in Tysons. The purpose of the meeting is to hear summaries of the 2025 trips, get updates of the 2026 trips and plan for 2027 and beyond. We started the morning with coffee, tea, muffins and fruit provided by Wildfire. Then followed introductions of all attendees which prompted a member of the Little Heiskell club to come over to talk to us. He asked if we were in Cara's club. He had an interesting story to tell as at the break. Apparently, he and 4 of his buddies skied with Cara at Park City. He was quite impressed with Cara keeping up with them and coming back for a second day of skiing expert runs top to bottom!



After introductions we heard reports of the **2025** ski trips. There was a good turnout for the Killington trip. Park City was a great trip with great events. Interesting occurrence...at one point the lifts were closed for thunder and lightning which is highly unusual. The trip to Chamonix apparently had the largest participation for Eurofest at 200 people.

### 2026 BRSC Trips

Next on the agenda were presentations and discussions of the **2026** trips. Banff, Canada is the selection for **Western Carnival**, January 31 - February 7, 2026. It's an opportunity to ski Sunshine, Mt. Norquay, Lake Louise and Kicking Horse. There is still room on the trip. However, the airline seats have been filled.

**Eurofest** will be in Madonna di Compiglio, Italy, March 13 – 21, 2026. Snow should be good. Apparently there is lots of lake effect snow. There has been a lot of interest and space is still available.

Banchi Sports is planning **Winterfest** to Jay Peak for March 1-6, 2026. This would include a bus ride from the DC area. Space is available.



If you are interested in any of the 2026 trips, please let us know at [kathylakehomes@yahoo.com](mailto:kathylakehomes@yahoo.com).

Time to break for lunch. Wildfire served a delicious spread of salad, meatballs, salmon, chicken, mac n cheese and roasted vegetables plus key lime pie and berry crisp with ice cream for dessert.

### 2027 BRSC Trips

Back to planning ski trips which included a discussion for 2027. Breckenridge, Colorado was selected for **Western Carnival**, January 30 - Feb 6, 2027. It has the capacity for large groups. All lodging is at the base of the resort. There are affordable and self-contained space for events. The lift pass would be good at Keystone, as well, with the option of a shuttle.

It was decided that Drei Zinnen, Italy will be the **Eurofest** ski trip, with suggested dates of March 6 – 13, 2027. It is a new up and coming ski destination located in the Dolomites, also known as the Three Peaks. The World Ski Awards named Drei Zinnen Dolomites Italy's best ski resort in 2024 beating out Cervina, Cortina and Val Gardena.

Quebec was chosen for **Winterfest in 2027** with specific dates to follow. As always this would be a bus trip.

Lastly, thoughts and possibilities were tossed about for 2028 and beyond. Another Asiafest was proposed in lieu of Eurofest with a destination of Niseko Ski Resort in Japan. It was suggested that the last full week of January would be a better time to travel rather than March due to the ever popular cherry blossoms. Thus, the Western Carnival would shift to the last full week of February. Snowmass came out as a favorite destination to be considered. More to come.

**Speaking of SNOWMASS, PVS is going back to Snowmass Jan. 14 – 21, 2026. See flyer elsewhere in the TOOT for details.**

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### Coming Event

*A Celebration*

*Coming this Fall*



**PVS IS 60 YEARS OLD THIS YEAR!!**

The 60<sup>th</sup> Planning Committee is working on this event.

It will be a weekday luncheon around the end of September or early October.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact one of the committee members you know!



Nancy McKinley, Chair, , Marianne Soponis, Rosemary Schwartzbard,  
Bob Jablon, Cara Jablon, Don Vierimaa, and Jan Marx.

**Stay tuned -----  
the date and place will be announced soon.**

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## 2026 SNOWMASS, Colorado Ski Trip

Wednesday – Wednesday  
January 14 – 21, 2026

### Trip Details

Once again, we will be staying at the [Snowmass Mountain Chalet \(SMC\)](#) which offers a convenient ski in, ski out location. The **“LAND ONLY”** package includes: transportation to and from Aspen airport; 5- day Senior (65 and older) lift pass ([good for all four ski areas in the Aspen complex, free shuttle bus](#)); 7 nights lodging (double occupancy); luggage handling; buffet breakfast, soup lunch, welcome reception, pizza party and farewell group dinner to celebrate our trip. Additional nights at Snowmass are an option **based on availability**.

**Trip insurance is available through [www.Encompasse.com](http://www.Encompasse.com) and is [highly recommended](#).**

**The Basic Package price is based on 2 people per room. We have 16 rooms reserved consisting of Standard and Deluxe, King and Queen/Queen rooms. The Standard Rooms are on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor/ground level with no microwaves or coffee makers. Deluxe Rooms are on floors 2-4. See below for pricing. Room preferences will be on a first come first serve basis.**

| <u>Costs:</u>                                     |        | <u>Standard</u> | <u>Deluxe</u>                   |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| Basic <b>Land Only</b> Package (65 and older)     |        | \$2,497         | \$2,635 per person              |
| Under 65                                          | add    | \$ 137          | \$ 137                          |
| Single Supplement                                 | add    | \$1,773         | \$1,911                         |
| Extra hotel night ( <b>pending availability</b> ) | add    | \$ TBD          | \$ TBD per room per night       |
| Non-skiers                                        | deduct | \$ 396          | \$ 396                          |
| Extra ski days (65 and older)                     | add    | \$ 120          | \$ 120 <b>6 day Senior pass</b> |
|                                                   | add    | \$ 209          | \$ 209 <b>7 day Senior pass</b> |
| Under 65                                          | add    | \$ 267          | \$ 267 <b>6 day pass</b>        |
| Silver Pass (Age 70 and older)                    | add    | \$ TBD          | \$ TBD                          |

### Payment Schedule

Deposit of \$1,000 per applicant due by **June 10th** with Application & Signed Waiver

2<sup>nd</sup> Deposit of \$1,000 due by **August 1st**

Final payment due **September 1st**

Checks should be made out to **Kathy Lake** and mailed to  
11677 Fox Glen Drive, Oakton VA 22124  
(put PVS Snowmass 2026 on the check memo line).

**Cancellation Policy:** The entire cost of the trip is non-refundable after **September 27th**.

Kathy & Barry Lake are the trip leaders. Feel free to contact us at 703-625-2715 or [kathylakehomes@yahoo.com](mailto:kathylakehomes@yahoo.com)

# APPLICATION FORM

Potomac Valley Skiers Trip to Snowmass, Colorado

January 14-21, 2026

Name (List both names if a couple) as on your Official ID:

\_\_\_\_\_ Age 65 or older Y N

\_\_\_\_\_ Age 65 or older Y N

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact and Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: Please let trip leader know of any special medical issues which may affect your trip.

Roommate (if a separate person) - Official name as on ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Bedding Preference (Pending Availability): \_\_\_\_ 1 King or \_\_\_\_ 2 Queens \_\_\_\_ Deluxe or \_\_\_\_ Standard

|                                                | <u>Standard</u> | <u>Deluxe Price</u>   |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Basic Snowmass Package (65 and older)          | \$2,497         | \$2,635 per person    |
| Under 65                                       | add \$ 137      | \$ 137                |
| Single Supplement                              | add \$1,773     | \$ 1,911              |
| Extra hotel night (Pending Availability)       | add \$ TBD      | \$ TBD per room/night |
| Non-skiers                                     | deduct \$ 396   | \$ 396                |
| Extra ski days (65 and older)                  | add \$ 120      | \$ 120 6 day Senior   |
| Under 65                                       | add \$ 209      | \$ 209 7 day Senior   |
| Under 65                                       | add \$ 267      | \$ 267 6 day pass     |
| Silver Pass (70 & older skiing 8 or more days) | add \$ TBD      | \$ TBD                |

Please check all appropriate spaces:

Cost (will be filled in by trip leader):

\_\_\_\_ Basic package \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Single supplement \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Extra hotel nights \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Non-skier \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Extra day(s) of skiing \_\_\_\_ days \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Silver pass \_\_\_\_\_

Total price of trip \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Additional nights at SMC: yes \_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_ if yes, what dates? \_\_\_\_\_

Additional comments: \_\_\_\_\_



**WAIVER**

**RELEASE, ASSUMPTION OF RISK, AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY AGREEMENT PERTAINING  
TO THE JANUARY 14-21, 2026 SKI TRIP to SNOWMASS, COLORADO (Potomac Valley Skiers)**

- (1) I acknowledge that there are inherent risks in the sport of skiing and other sports or activities in which I might participate during this trip, and in the process of traveling. There may be bodily injury, illness, accident, death, property loss or damage, and unanticipated additional costs or other economic losses. I fully and willingly accept the responsibility and liability for all such risks, dangers, costs, and losses.
- (2) I agree not to sue or hold responsible the trip leader, Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc. (hereafter PVS), its officers and members of the Executive Committee, or its members for: (1) any accident, personal injury, illness, or death occurring to me or to any other trip participant, arising directly or indirectly from this trip; (2) any loss of deposit of payment, any other property or economic loss, or unanticipated additional costs, delay, or change of itinerary arising out of any action or inaction of any hotel, airline, tour operator, land transportation operator, or other entity or person providing services on this trip; and (3) any trip cancellation, delay, early termination or extension due to acts of God, forces of nature, or other force majeure events or situations. I willingly and with full knowledge assume these risks.
- (3) I understand and agree that the trip leaders, and the tour operators or agents with whom the trip leaders have contracted, have the right to substitute accommodations of similar or better quality, to change transportation arrangements and providers, and to modify other services. In the event of such changes, no refund or credit will be provided if the accommodations, transportation, or services are of comparable or better quality and cover the same approximate time period.
- (4) I agree that I am not entitled to a credit or refund for any included trip service that is not used by me.

I have read and I fully understand this “Release, Assumption of Risk, and Waiver of Liability Agreement,” the final trip flyer, and the trip application, and I agree to all of the specified terms and conditions.

Signature of Participant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name of Participant: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Participant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name of Participant: \_\_\_\_\_

## Calendar

Thur June 12 BYOB, Nancy McKinley, Zoom at 4:00pm.  
Sun June 15 Summerfest, Jill Nelson, at 1:00pm.  
Wed June 18 ExCom, Zoom  
Sat Aug 9 Steak & Swim, Hines, Delaplane, VA at 3:00 pm.



## Ski Trips

January 14 - 21, 2026 Snowmass  
BRSC Taos, NM,???

### ExCom Officers, Board Members, and Chairpersons

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Officers:</b><br>President – <i>Bob Jablon</i><br>Vice Pres. – <i>Cara Jablon</i><br>Secretary – <i>Ellie Thayer</i><br>Treasurer – <i>Barry Lake</i><br>Ex Officio –<br><b>Board Members:</b><br><b><u>First Term 2023-2025:</u></b><br><i>Barry Lake</i><br><i>Jill Nelson</i><br><i>Rosemary Schwartzbard</i><br><b><u>Second Term 2024-2026:</u></b><br><i>Salli Diakova</i><br><i>Kathy Lake</i><br><i>Don Vierimaa</i> | <b>Chairpersons:</b><br>Ski Trip Coordinator – <i>Kathy Lake</i><br>Events – <i>Marianne Soponis</i><br>Membership Records – <i>Barry Lake</i><br><br>TOOT Coordinator – <i>Jan Marx</i><br>TOOT Layout Editors – <i>Jan Marx, Kerry Hines</i><br><br>TOOT (E-Distribution) – <i>Barry Lake</i><br>Nomination Chairman – <i>Barry Lake</i><br>Webmaster – <i>Mary Ellena Ward</i><br><br>Meeting Records – <i>Sue Lyon</i><br><br>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.