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*Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.*  
WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

October 2016

[www.pvskiers.org](http://www.pvskiers.org)

[info@pvskiers.org](mailto:info@pvskiers.org)

*President's Message*

Dear PVS Friends!

I hear that our ski trips are nearly full, so sign up quickly, and check out Rosemary's information in Ski Talk in this month's TOOT as well as the trip announcements.

Now is the time to help our club build new traditions! I spoke of this in last month's message, as we enter the second half-century of our club's fun and friendships. We need to find new places to meet, new events and sponsors, and new members to get to know and play with. Our ExCom will be working on this with our Committee chairpersons, but we need your help! If you have never hosted one of our monthly party/meetings at your home, please think about it now. If you have, please do it again. If you have a party room at your condo that might be a venue for one of our gatherings, let us know. Other ideas for short hikes, meals out with shows, concerts, excursions, other events, let us know. Our club has members with a lot of talent and creative ideas—we need them all!!

**Remember to sign up for our October lunch meeting at Culinaire in Arlington on Tuesday October 18.** See the details on page 2, and



call/email Ellie Thayer. **Join the group for the urban hike along the Mt. Vernon Trail, with lunch at Indigo Landing, on Oct. 28.** You can just come for lunch if you will not be hiking. See the details on page 3, and contact Nancy McKinley.

Also in this TOOT, you will find sadder news of our club losses. Dick Laeser, former ExCom member and club treasurer (for eight years), has left us after a valiant struggle with cancer. Dick's wife, Sandy, is organizing a memorial event later in October. We will be there to celebrate the life of this wonderful friend.

Last Saturday, many current and former members gathered for the memorial celebrations for Bill Anderson, former club president. Bill was a member for 42 years, ExCom member, and Club president. Members shared stories of his times with the club and his many contributions to our festivities during the service and after, at the Hunter Inn, which he often frequented.

I'm looking forward to joining everyone at our October meeting at Culinaire. Meanwhile, let's enjoy the beginning of fall.

*--Carolyn*



*October General Meeting  
October 18, 2016  
Arlington, VA  
Lunch/Meeting at Culinaire*

*See Invitation on page 2*



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Something **NEW** for PVS

*Our Monthly Meeting in October Will Be Lunch at Culinaire  
Tuesday, October 18, at 1820 North Fort Myer Drive, Arlington, VA  
Arrive between 11:30 and noon.*

*For a change of pace, PVS decided to hold its October meeting at Culinaire Restaurant, the restaurant at the Art Institute of Washington's culinary school in Rosslyn. The culinary students, supervised by a chef instructor, cook and serve, and the guests dine and enjoy. The light and airy setting is on the 12<sup>th</sup> floor with large picture windows looking outward as well as large picture windows looking into the kitchen. The restaurant will be reserved for PVS. The capacity is up to 35 diners. Expect prices to be around \$20.00 or slightly less for three courses. The culinary school accepts credit cards only (no cash) and there is no tipping.*

*Scattered arrivals between 11:30 and noon are requested. The building is across the street from the back exit of the Rosslyn metro. There is metered and garage parking available in Rosslyn also. Contact Ellie Thayer at [ellie.thayer@comcast.net](mailto:ellie.thayer@comcast.net) or 703 944 4653. The deadline for signing up is October 11, 2016.*

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**Take an Autumn Urban Hike with PVS!  
Friday, October 28, at 11 am**



Join us in Crystal City for a comfortable hike south on the Mount Vernon Trail to lunch on the river at Indigo Landing Restaurant [www.indigolanding.com](http://www.indigolanding.com). Each way the walk is around 3 miles. So if you plan to walk back after lunch (unless you arrange to take a taxi back or hitch a ride with someone with a car who joins us for lunch only) you should expect to walk about 6 miles total.

Mount Vernon Trail is a flat, paved walkway lined with trees that passes Reagan National Airport and then runs along the Potomac. Indigo Landing is a very nice restaurant right at Daingerfield Island Washington Sailing Marina with sweeping views of the Potomac. Lovely!

We'll start and park in a condominium parking area at 1805 Crystal Drive, Arlington and leave from there. You may also take the Metro to Crystal City and walk one block to meet up with the group. Directions will be provided.

It's also possible to join us just for lunch at the restaurant without having pumped your legs along the trail. Lunch would be expected at about 12:30 or 1:00 pm.

Contact Nancy McKinley to sign up for the hike or just for lunch or for more info. Cell is 703 595 8375 or [nancymckin@gmail.com](mailto:nancymckin@gmail.com). RSVP by October 21.

## SKI TALK - October 2016



Representatives from ski clubs in the Metropolitan DC area, Richmond, Annapolis and Baltimore gathered at Snowshoe Mountain, West Virginia, for the fall Blue Ridge Ski Council (BRSC) meeting this past weekend. Snowshoe put out the red carpet for the group. They gave us low rates, a fun pass to ride lifts, use of the zip line, and use of the swimming pools. In addition, there were fireworks and we saw the most spectacular sun set over the mountains while eating dinner! Snowshoe is the largest ski area in the mid-Atlantic. It is a 4-5 hour drive from the DC area. A Snowshoe representative took us on a tour of the different lodging options. We were staying in a one-bedroom condo a few steps from one of the lifts. There are 14 lifts and 57 trails of varying levels. In addition, there are a variety of shops and restaurants. The Richmond Ski Club, who was sponsoring the weekend, planned a hike, happy

hours, and a dinner. The weather was perfect. If you don't want to drive there during the winter, I highly recommend a fall trip to get in the mood for skiing.

The Council meets two times a year and representatives of each club attend. Barry and Kathy Lake and Dick and I were the PVS representatives. It was not all fun and games. In between the fun activities there were meetings. On Saturday, there was a brainstorming meeting. The most popular topics were: how to attract new members and how some of the clubs are using social media and have online sign-ups and payments. All of the clubs are struggling to keep membership up and are trying to attract younger members. Sunday was a full-day meeting.

During the meetings the representatives vote on future ski destinations for the Council and select the tour operators who will arrange the trips. The following 2018 BRSC trips were selected:

2018 Western Carnival: **Whistler/Blackcomb, Canada** (Feb 4-11). Tour Operator: Sports America.



2018 Eurofest: **Trois Vallees (Brides-les-Bains), France** (Feb. 24-March 4). Tour Operator: Holidayze.

2018 Winterfest: **Stowe, Vermont** (March 4-9). Tour Operator: Banchi Outdoor Adventures.

### Spring 2017 Ski Show

The Paul Weber Spring Ski Show will be on Friday evening, May 5, at the Marriott Tysons Corner. Mark your calendars.

**PVS SKI TRIPS:** Please support our club and sign up for one of our 2017 ski trips. We still have a couple rooms left for **Snowmass**, but we can only hold them for a few more weeks. We also have space on the **Val d'Isere** trip, and we are looking for a single man to share a room.

--Rosemary Schwartzbard, [rosemaryschw@gmail.com](mailto:rosemaryschw@gmail.com)





**Potomac Valley Skiers**  
2017 Snowmass, Colorado Ski Trip  
Wednesday, January 11–Wednesday, January 18

**Please contact us by October 15<sup>th</sup>, if you are interested.**

**Trip Details**

Once again we will be staying slope-side at the Snowmass Mountain Chalet (SMC), just below the Snowmass Mall and from where you can ski directly to the lifts. Check the website at <http://mountainchalet.com>. This year we are offering a “**Land Only**” package since most people prefer to make their own arrangements. The total package includes: land transfer from Aspen airport to SMC and return; 5 day lift ticket (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; daily soup lunch; luggage handling; a welcome reception, an “all guest” hotel-sponsored party, 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 suggested.

Full application: [http://pvskiers.org/ski\\_trips/Snowmass2017.pdf](http://pvskiers.org/ski_trips/Snowmass2017.pdf)

**The basic package at \$1,630 includes a lift ticket discount for skiers 65 and over. Those under 65 will have to add \$42.00.**

<b>Costs:</b>		<b>Price</b>
Basic Snowmass Package (65 and older)		\$1,630
Under 65	add	\$ 42
Single Supplement	add	\$1,027
Non-skiers	subtract	\$ 262
Extra ski days (65 and older)	add	\$ 58 per day
Under 65	add	\$ 128 for 1 extra day
	add	\$ 224 for 2 extra days
Silver Pass	add	\$ 161

**NOTE:** The Silver Pass is available for skiers 70 and older for an additional \$161. If you are over 70 and plan to ski more than 7 days, you should buy the Silver Pass.

**To sign up please send:**

- (1) the [Application form](#) -- one per person or one per couple residing at the same address,
- (2) [Full Payment](#), and
- (3) the [signed Waiver of Liability Agreement](#) by each party taking the trip.

Checks should be made out to Kathy Lake and mailed to 11677 Fox Glen Drive, Oakton VA 22124 (Put [PVS Snowmass 2017](#) on the check memo line).

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

## Ski Trip

Individual trip itineraries available – fun group of 26 so far – don't wait to sign up...

*Potomac Valley Skiers present:*  
**Val d'Isère, France © March 4 - 12, 2017**  
*Plus: Optional pre-trip to Lyon and/or post-trip to Nice*

*Lyon - add \$275*  
*March 2 - 4*

*Val d'Isère - \$2850*  
*March 4 - 12*




*Nice - add \$625*  
*March 12 - 16*

*7 nights*  
*at the*  
**4 ★ Hotel LAigle Des Neiges**


Welcome Drink on arrival with light snacks and orientation by Tourist office representative  
Cocktail Hour each evening with exclusive club prices  
Mid-week Après Ski Party

Full hot and cold breakfast buffet daily  
4-course dinner for 3 evenings  
so you can explore other great restaurants

Indoor pool, sauna, and steam room  
Ski room with heated boot warmers



Round trip air: Dulles/IAD - Lyon/LYS via Air France  
Round trip transfers between Lyon Airport and Val d'Isere  
Emergency Medical and repatriation insurance  
\*Trip Cancellation Insurance is not included in basic trip cost, but can be purchased



*Snowsure:* Snow coverage tends to be one of the best in Europe as conditions normally facilitate good skiing right to the end of the season, which is usually in early May.

**Inge Lesjak** ☆ 8123 Kingsview Ct, Springfield, VA 22152 ☆ 703-869-7248  
[lesjak.inge@gmail.com](mailto:lesjak.inge@gmail.com)  
(co-leader with Jerry Poley)  
Must be a member of a Blue Ridge Ski Council club to participate

◇

**Payment Schedule** (write checks to Inge Lesjak and mail to her at above address)

Val d'Isère \$2850    **Lyon + Val d'Isère \$275 + \$2850 = \$3125**    Val d'Isère + Nice \$2850 + \$625 = \$3475  
*Trifecta:* Lyon + Val d'Isère + Nice = \$275 + \$2850 + \$625 = \$3750

[http://pvskiers.org/ski\\_trips/Flyer\\_n\\_Waiver2017.pdf](http://pvskiers.org/ski_trips/Flyer_n_Waiver2017.pdf)

**Past Event**



**September 20, General Meeting  
at the Home of John & Blanca Hotaling**

As skiers have their skills in navigating mountains challenged, so did one of us had skills in navigating the twisting roads near Chain Bridge challenged, due to a misplaced street sign and a missed right turn. After a very scenic drive, one of us arrived at the hilltop home of our hosts. We thank the Hotalings for hosting on the day before they depart for a European Cruise. We also thank them for showing us their pneumatic elevator that reminds PVSers about the Aiguille du



Midi Elevator at Chamonix. The latter is inside rock and lifts skiers the final 42 m to the top terrace at an altitude of 3,842 m.

Attendees included three guests and 23 PVS members, including an applicant member, part of an applicant couple whose spouse was unable to attend.



We enjoyed a delicious assortment of food, particularly the mild to hot tacos, and diverse beverages, especially the sangria. Selecting what to eat and drink was similar to selecting which runs to ski. After we chatted and emptied food trays and plates, Dick Schwartzbard, Ray McKinley's very capable substitute, spoke in a loud, booming, low-pitched, authoritative, and clear voice, asking everyone to move to the living room for the meeting.



*Ruth Healey & Marianne Jacobs*

*Jan Marx, Historian;  
Ellie Thayer, ExCom Secretary, Board  
Member, & TOOT Coordinator;  
Dick Schwartzbard, Treasurer*

Carolyn called our meeting to order and welcomed the guests and new applicant member. Announcements of events and ski trips were made, whose dates are set forth on page 13, and details can be found in the flyers of this TOOT.



*Blanca, Sue Lyon, & Herb Bennett*

John Smith announced that the local ski schedule will depend on the weather at areas such as Liberty and Whitetail. A future TOOT will provide information closer to the ski season.

Carolyn ended the meeting with a plea for PVS members to volunteer to lead activities such as going to concerts, hiking, biking, dancing, etc., in addition to leading ski trips. We then adjourned to continue consuming calories, this time from the dessert table.



*Frank Adamthwaite*

**--Submitted by Herb Bennett**

# Members' Corner



By J. David Warthen, Jr.  
[dwarthen@verizon.net](mailto:dwarthen@verizon.net)

The last few months in the life of PVS have been tumultuous with the passing of three of our beloved members:

**S. Jean Stephenson van der Tak**  
**Wilbert L Anderson**  
**and**  
**Richard Phillip Laeser**

We will miss them dearly, for they each were special people who impacted their environments, their families, and the people surrounding them in extraordinary ways.

One thinks of what is really important at times like these, and each of these friends gave a refreshing picture of what a real 'legacy' of life is all about.

The late Andy **Rooney**, who used to be on CBS's 60 Minutes TV, captured some of what was important in this life -

"I've **learned**... That the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.

I've **learned**... That when you're in love, it shows.

I've **learned**... That just one person saying to me, 'You've made my day!' makes my day.

I've **learned**... That having a child fall asleep in your arms is one of the most peaceful feelings in the world.

I've **learned**... That being kind is more important than being right.

I've **learned**... That you should never say no to a gift from a child.

I've **learned**... That I can always pray for someone when I don't have the strength to help him in any other way.

I've **learned**... That no matter how serious your life requires you to be, everyone needs a friend to act goofy with.

I've **learned**... That sometimes all a person needs is a hand to hold and a heart to understand.

I've **learned**... That simple walks with my father around the block on summer nights when I was a child did wonders for me as an adult.

I've **learned**... That life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.

I've **learned**... That we should be glad God doesn't give us everything we ask for.

I've **learned**... That money doesn't buy class.

I've **learned**... That it's those small daily happenings that make life so spectacular.

I've **learned**... That under everyone's hard shell is someone who wants to be appreciated and loved.

I've **learned**... That to ignore the facts does not change the facts.

I've **learned**... That when you plan to get even with someone, you are only letting that person continue to hurt you.

I've **learned**... That love, not time, heals all wounds.

I've **learned**... That the easiest way for me to grow as a person is to surround myself with people smarter than I am.

I've **learned**... That everyone you meet deserves to be greeted with a smile.

I've **learned**... That no one is perfect until you fall in love with them.

I've **learned**... That life is tough, but I'm tougher.

I've **learned**... That opportunities are never lost; someone will take the ones you miss.

I've **learned**... That when you harbor bitterness, happiness will dock elsewhere.

I've **learned**... That I wish I could have told my Mom that I love her one more time before she passed away.

I've **learned**... That one should keep his words both soft and tender, because tomorrow he may have to eat them.

I've **learned**... That a smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.

I've **learned**... That when your newly born grandchild holds your little finger in his little fist, you're hooked for life.

I've **learned**... That everyone wants to live on top of the mountain, but all the happiness and growth occur while you're climbing it.

I've **learned**... That the less time I have to work with, the more things I get done.

**To all of you..."**



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-TOOT Layout Editor & Electronic TOOT –

**--J. D. Warthen**



**Wilbert L. "Bill" Anderson**  
*June 29, 1928 – September 5, 2016*

Wilbert L. (Bill) Anderson was born June 29th, 1928 at Garfield Hospital, Washington, D.C., where his mother had trained as a nurse. There, she had met Bill's father, whose family were long time members of the Lutheran Church of the Reformation. He attended D.C. public schools and the University of Maryland. He was a member of the D.C. National Guard, and was called to active duty during the Korean War. He was with the 260th Gun Battery, remained in contact with many of his fellow soldiers over the years, and always picked 260 whenever he played the lottery.

From youth, Bill was interested in art, and did sketching and painting in various mediums. When he was 11 years old, he met Howard Chandler Christy, who painted "Scene at the Signing of the Constitution of the United States," which hangs in the Capitol. Bill's father worked at the Washington Navy Yard, and took Bill to meet the artist, who was working on a painting in the Yard's sail loft. Mr. Christy gave Bill a photograph of the signing picture, and attached a note "To Billy Anderson - from one artist to another" and signed and dated it, March 11, 1940.



*Picture of Bill, courtesy of John H. Smith*

Bill was also a fan of Broadway musicals. While in high school, he served as an extra in "The Student Prince" and "Blossom Time," when they toured Washington. He was an avid skier and traveler. He served in various offices in the Ski Club of Washington D.C. and the Potomac Valley Skiers, and was a member of the Eastern High School Alumni Association. He worked for the D.C. Title Company, Interstate Building and Loan Company, and Weaver Brothers Property Management.

A memorial service was held on Saturday, September 17, at the Lutheran Church of the Reformation, 212 East Capitol Street, NE, Washington, DC 20003. Private Internment of cremains will be at Fort Lincoln Cemetery at a later date. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Lutheran Church of the Reformation, <<http://www.reformationdc.org>>.

*--John Anderson, Bill's brother  
[jhamha@comcast.net](mailto:jhamha@comcast.net)*

About two dozen PVS Members attended Bill's memorial service at the Lutheran Church of the Reformation.

**Reminiscences:**

Betty **Byrne** and Marvin **Hass**: "With smiles, Marvin Hass and Betty Byrne remember our many lunches with Bill on the mountain in Steamboat."

Melissa **FitzGerald**: "... hoisting a glass to a great guy."

John H. **Smith**: "Bill joined us on many ski trips to Mount Sutton and to Europe. He was always cheerful, sociable, and a delight to have along on the trips. Bill was an excellent and elegant skier. After skiing, he often wore a beautiful fur coat that looked like it came from the Great Gatsby era. At the end of a hard day of skiing he liked to relax with an icy cold Martini. We all remember the very elegant and formal Thanksgiving dinners that he often prepared for our November ski club meetings."

Nancy **McKinley**: "Bill was a former President of PVS, a great wit, and a friend to all."

Barb **Leonhardt**: "Following the church service for Bill, there was a coffee/cake get together in a meeting room in the church. Then, many of the attendees went to Hunter's Bar & Grill ( a Friday-night enjoyment of Bill's) in Potomac, MD, to hear and tell stories about Bill, while enjoying a cocktail or soda. Other PVSers, who hadn't made it to the church service, joined the group and soon there was a group of 25 PVSers. Bill's friend, Sue Ann Norian, arranged for hors d'oeuvres to be served with the drinks, which were enjoyed by all. Thank you Sue Ann! Bill sure would have enjoyed being there to hear the stories, especially the ones in which he was a major part of the story -- maybe indeed he was there!!"

**Documented memories of Bill in old photos:**



**Jan Marx:** “During one of the many ski trips to Mount Sutton, Canada, our leader Jack Peoples called for a “Come In Your PJs” party. Always debonair, Bill came in his raccoon fur coat and his skivvies. Every year while Bill was a member of ExCom, he hosted the November meeting. He prepared a full turkey dinner and the table laid with silver, china and crystal. Pure proper and classy Bill. Totally red-carpet treatment, including the red carpet he lay down the steps and out the sidewalk to welcome us. Bill, always the gentleman.”

--Bill dancing with Lu Beale while wearing their PJ's on the PVS Ski trip to Mont Sutton in Canada, in Jan. 1991. (Others in the picture: include Margaret Wyckoff in the long blue robe at left, Bob Wyckoff in Red shorter robe to Bill's left, and Charlie Huggins at the far right)

--Bill (3rd from right in red ski jacket and pants) and his “harem” at the PVS trip to Steamboat in Dec. 1993. (all others in the pic are female PVS members)



--Bill in foreground at a dinner on the PVS ski trip to Steamboat in Dec. 1996. (L to R: Lu Beale, Myron Marquardt and wife Fumiko, Aina Thomas (I think) and Shirley Rettig at far right.)

**-Pics from B. Leonhardt**

March '89 profile of Bill: <<http://pvskiers.org/TOOT/1980-1989/Mar89.pdf#page=7>>

March '91 profile of Bill: <<http://pvskiers.org/TOOT/1990-1999/Mar91.pdf#page=8>>

***Richard "Dick" Phillip Laeser***  
*April 8, 1938 to September 13, 2016*

Dick Laeser, smart, kind, upbeat, and a man with a good and clever sense of humor, died in peace, with dignity and grace, at his home in Reston, Virginia, after a 28-year battle with many different types of cancer. Those, who knew Dick, will remember him as always smiling, rarely talking about his difficult medical situation, and always enjoying exactly what he was doing in the moment. Dick was born on April 8, 1938 in Green Bay, Wisconsin.



*Sandy & Dick at Jackson Hole, '10*

He is survived by his wife of 27 years, Sandra Gindin Laeser; two daughters, Holly Cox and Kathryn Laeser of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; three granddaughters, Kaylynn Cox, Ashlin LaBelle and husband Brice, and Breckin Cox; four great grandchildren, McKinley, Alayna, Bryson and Alivia; brother, Thomas Laeser and wife Joyce of Los Alamos, New Mexico. Dick graduated from Marquette University High School in 1956, he received his bachelor of science in electrical engineering from MIT in 1962, and he received a master of science in electrical engineering from the University of Southern California in 1968. Four years later he graduated from the program for management development at the Harvard Graduate School of Business. He joined the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in 1964 after two years as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army Signal Corps where he managed development of the Army Intelligence Command-Control Information System. In 1974, after serving in various capacities in the computing, communications and tracking, and data acquisition support of planetary missions, Dick became mission operations manager for the

Voyager project. After serving as Voyager mission director from 1977 to 1981, he was named project manager for Voyager 2's 1986 encounter with Uranus, which also included planning for the 1989 flyby of Neptune. In 1987 to 1991, Dick established, managed and decommissioned JPL's space station support office in Reston, Virginia. He then was appointed special assistant to the director, Management Systems, focusing on change of JPL's culture and its underlying management systems and work processes. He worked for JPL for 35 years and retired in 2000. Dick was president of the Verdugo Gymnastics Club, a nonprofit women's gymnastics center and served on the competition staff of the 1984 Olympiad in Los Angeles. Dick had many interests that he pursued in his retirement, such as: downhill skiing with the Potomac Valley Skiers, adventure traveling - his favorite: the North Pole, making iMovies of trips and special events, attending Washington regional theater, volunteering on the Board of the cluster of townhomes where he lived, collecting eclectic art, building a boat that he loved taking out on Lake Thoreau, where he lived, and following the Green Bay Packers and the Washington Nationals. After Dick retired, when someone asked him what he did at JPL, he always proudly said, "I flew robots to the planets." Classic Dick!! In lieu of customary remembrances, contributions may be made in Dick's name to Signature Theater at 3806 S. Four Mile Run Dr., Arlington, VA 22206, phone #703-820-9771.

*Dick Schwartzbard remembers Dick Laeser:* I met Dick in 1972 when we were both enrolled in a program at Harvard Business School. At the time, Dick was working at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California. It was many years later, at a 30th reunion, that I again encountered Dick. I learned that when he retired from JPL he took the unusual step of retiring to the Washington, DC area. I know, it's not a well-known retirement area, but if you want an active retirement versus vegetation, it's a great place to locate, and Dick was not one to vegetate.

We discovered that we shared many interests, high among them skiing. One of the best things I've done for PVS was to introduce the club to Dick and to get him to join. Dick participated in many PVS trips, but more importantly he served as club treasurer for many years, faithfully and accurately looking after our finances. He retired from that position only when his health no longer permitted his involvement.

Dick was also active in his homeowners' association, serving as treasurer there, too. He and Sandy were avid theatergoers, frequently going to New York for the Broadway shows. He was an active supporter of

both Arena Stage and Signature Theater, and he participated in a variety of local theater events.

Dick had been plagued by several different cancers during his life. He battled each of them and received a clean diagnosis after almost all of them, but he lost the fight to the latest one. He didn't go easy though and fought through an increasingly debilitating situation. I never once, though, heard him complain. Whether healthy or suffering, he was always upbeat, optimistic, and in good spirits, even when in pain. A good man, gone too soon.

*Jan Marx:* I fondly remember a Sun Peaks Canada trip with Dick and Sandy. Everyday after breakfast, Dick had the grooming map in hand with an itinerary for the day. He led his group hither and yon keeping all of our skiing skills in mind. We wanted to ski in the sunshine and he found the sunny slopes for us. What a joy!

*Dave Warthen:* Dick was a very humble man, but he was also a world-renowned scientist whose accomplishments are only dreamed about by children and adults alike. He quietly revealed amazing wonders about planets far away in our solar system.



*Snowmass 2011: Dave DeVilbiss, **Dick Laeser**, Dave Warthen, Bing Van Nuys, Jannes Gibson, Laurie & Colin Church*



- “36 years of robotic exploration of the planets with NASA/JPL/CalTech
- 1965/68 Mariner Venus ‘67: Deep Space Net Project Engineer
- 1968/72 Mariner Mars ‘71: Deep Space Net Project Manager
- 1975-86 Voyager: ‘75-77, Mission Operations Manager
- Jupiter/Saturn/‘77-81, Mission Director
- Uranus/Neptune ‘81-86, Project Manager
- 1986/91 Space Station: Director, Program Requirements & Assessment Division, Space Station Program Office
- 4 NASA Medals: Distinguished Service, Exceptional Achievement, Outstanding Leadership, Exceptional Service
- Lead author of Nov. 1986 *Scientific American* cover story
- 2003 NASM Udvar-Hazy docent candidate”



<https://airandspace.si.edu/support/wall-of-honor/richard-p-laeser>

March '06 profile of Dick: <<http://pvskiers.org/TOOT/2000-2009/Mar06.pdf#page=4>>

April '10 profile of Dick: <<http://pvskiers.org/TOOT/2010-2019/Apr10.pdf#page=3>>

**A forthcoming group e-mail will announce a mid-October Friendship Gathering for Dick Laeser in Reston, VA.**



**PVS Calendar 2016:**

- Oct 18 Tue Monthly Meeting, arr 11:30 AM-Noon, Culinaire Restaurant, Rosslyn, VA
- Oct 25 Tue ExCom Meeting, 7:30 PM, telephonic
- Oct 28 Fri Autumn Urban Hike/Lunch, 11:00 AM, Nancy McKinley, Crystal City, VA

**PVS Ski Trips 2017:**



January 11-18, 2017: PVS Aspen/Snowmass, CO (Barry & Kathy Lake)

March 4-12, 2017: PVS Val d'Isere, France (Inge Lesjak/Jerry Poley)

**Useful Ski "Links"**

- Potomac Valley Skiers..... [www.potomacvalleyskiers.org](http://www.potomacvalleyskiers.org)
- BRSC Sanctioned Trips..... [www.skicouncil.com/tripsbydate.htm](http://www.skicouncil.com/tripsbydate.htm)
- DC Ski Online News ..... [www.dcski.com](http://www.dcski.com)
- Best of Times Ski Club ..... [www.bestoftimeskiclub.org](http://www.bestoftimeskiclub.org)>Ski Trips

**ExCom**

<b>Officers:</b>	<b>Chairpersons:</b>
President – <i>Carolyn DeVilbiss</i> V. President – <i>Marianne Sponis</i> Secretary – <i>Ellie Thayer</i> Treasurer – <i>Dick Schwartzbard</i> Ex Officio -	Ski Trip Committee – <i>Rosemary Schwartzbard</i> Events – <i>Ray McKinley</i> Membership Records – <i>Dave Warthen</i> Membership PR Reps – <i>Inge Lesjak &amp; Marianne Sponis</i>
<b>Board Members:</b>	TOOT Coordinator – <i>Ellie Thayer</i>
<u>First Term:</u>	TOOT Layout Editors – <i>Jan Marx, Marvin Hass, &amp; Dave Warthen</i>
<i>Barry Lake</i>	TOOT (E-Distribution) – <i>Dave Warthen</i>
<i>John H. Smith</i>	TOOT (USPS Distribution) – <i>Barb Leonhardt, June Read, Liz Triau</i>
<i>Ellie Thayer</i>	Webmaster – <i>Mary Ellena Ward</i>
<u>Second Term:</u>	Meeting Records – <i>Sue Lyon</i>
<i>Herb Bennett</i>	Historian – <i>Jan Marx</i>
<i>Marna Blanchette</i>	
<i>Nancy Pigman</i>	

**Roster Changes** (notify-[dwarthen@verizon.net](mailto:dwarthen@verizon.net))  
 -Charlotte **Eddy**  
[Charlottechat28@gmail.com](mailto:Charlottechat28@gmail.com) (new e-mail address)  
 -Jon **Wechsler**  
[wechslerjon@gmail.com](mailto:wechslerjon@gmail.com) (new e-mail address)  
 845-233-0300 c (new cell phone)

**You don't stop laughing because you grow old, you grow old because you stop laughing!**