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Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.
WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

MARCH 2022

www.pvskiers.org

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President's Message

Here it is March already and for most of us the ski season is winding down or has done so already. Hope the skiers in the club were able to squeeze in some more skiing after the Snowmass trip concluded. The temperatures during late February have been all over the place with some days giving us a taste of Spring and then the next day showing us that Punxsutawney Phil made a correct call again this year.

Kathy and I were lucky enough to get another ski trip under our belts before the end of the season having gone out to Vail and then up to Jackson Hole. I must say that it is my opinion that we had the best snow of the bunch out in Snowmass, as both Vail and Jackson need much more snow and were very shaved off in spots yielding some challenging conditions. I'm sure that many folks were watching the Olympics during mid to late February and may have caught one of our first medalists – Jaelin Kauf – take the Silver in moguls skiing. There were a few stories during the broadcasts about how her dad was running around putting up big “J” signs all around their hometown of Alta, WY. I/We got the opportunity to see the “Js” in person as we drove through Alta on our way to ski Grand Targhee for a day. It kind of brought the Olympics a little closer to home for us.

It's early to be thinking about skiing for next year, but since it's still ski season, please keep in mind for your planning purposes that there are several compelling BRSC trips in the works for 2023, as well as our ever-popular Snowmass trip in mid-January. The BRSC winter trip is planned for Crested Butte in late January/early February, and the European trip planned for mid-March at Club Med Val d'Isère. So far there seems to be a fair amount of interest in the European trip and some interest in the winter trip, so later this year the ski trip committee will be looking forward to gauging membership's interest in the trips for 2023.

The March meeting will be a face-to-face meeting and you should see the announcement in this TOOT.

Hope everyone has an enjoyable March, and is looking forward to seeing folks at the March meeting. It will be nice getting together with old friends and ski buddies during our upcoming events, and if you feel comfortable in hosting a monthly membership meeting at your house, please reach out and let us know so we can start building up the calendar for the spring and summer meetings.

Cheers, Barry



Monthly Meeting
Jill Nelson's Home

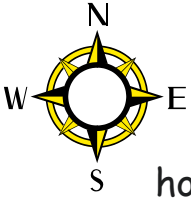
Sunday, March 20

at 1:00 PM

Chevy Chase, MD

MARCH 20, 2022 MONTHLY MEETING

at the home of Jill Nelson – 1:00pm



7715 Rocton Ave., Chevy Chase, MD - 301-656-3339 ---

house is off East-West Highway, between Conn. Ave and Rock Creek Park.

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

Election of Officers



Nominating Committee Report for PVS Officers (2022-2024)

<p>PVS Officers continuing for the completion of their two-year term in 2022-2023: President: Barry Lake Vice-President: Cara Jablon</p> <p>Candidates for PVS Board Members for 2022-2024: ExCom: Salli Diakova ExCom: Kathy Lake ExCom: Don Vierimaa</p> <p>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, which may be held on April 19, 2022 (TBD).</p>	<p>Submitted by the Nominating Committee:</p> <p>Kerry Hines (Chair)</p> <p>Marianne Hines Bruce King Mary Tycz Ellie Thayer</p>
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SALLI DIAKOVA - CANDIDATE FOR EXCOM

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

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

Salli is honored to be a candidate for ExCom and looks forward to serving the club 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 Switzerland and Austria, as well as skiing on two trips to Canada.

Since joining PVS in 2015, we have thoroughly enjoyed seven trips to Snowmass, having been trip leaders on five of those trips. We have also had fun on PVS trips to Steamboat, Big Sky, Sun Valley, and Snowbird/Alta. We are looking forward to many more PVS trips.

For the past two years I have served as a member of ExCom. Recently, I was asked to serve another term.

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.

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.

Coming Events



PVS - BYOB (Bring Your Own Book) group

So many books, so little time! Many PVSers do find time to do some reading, though, and they share their recommendations of the best reads over Zoom. Consider joining us! **See the info at the bottom for how to join in on March 10, 2022 (the second Thursday of each month) at 4 pm!**

Here are the books we shared in February:

- Mary Ellena Ward learned about the aftermath of the atom bomb in "Hiroshima" by John Hersey as told from the perspectives of six survivors. Hersey broke the story while the U.S. was actively covering up the devastating effects on civilians in Japan.
- Ellie Thayer looked to lighter fare this month, reading "A Thousand Years of Annoying the French" by British writer Stephen Clarke. Humorously told but meticulously researched, Clarke details the many wars between France and England.
- Marianne Soponis gave us "The Mystery of Mrs. Christie" by Marie Benedict. Putting the pieces together like a puzzle, the author brings to light the mystery of the whereabouts of Agatha Christie who once disappeared completely for 11 days.
- Jan Marx has been reading "Noah's Wife" by Lindsay Starck, which sets the rainy action in a small town in the present day. Protagonist Noah runs a local zoo that is threatened by torrential downpours, requiring evacuation and where the townspeople rally to help.
- Nancy McKinley enjoyed Pulitzer Prize winner Geraldine Brooks' foray into history in "People of the Book." Brooks provides an entertaining fictionalized account of the creation, history, and rescue of an important Jewish book from the 1400s.

The next BYOB Zoom call will be held on Thursday, March 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.



March 2022 Potential Events

Some ideas have been floated for joining a group for a PVS event. If you have interest, please check with Marianne who will help you organize leading a trip!

1- Take the ferry ride from Washington Harbor in DC across to Alexandria. Check out the Torpedo Factory art center, maybe have lunch, take the ferry or Metro back to D.C.

2- Visit the fabulous Van Gogh immersive experience near Rhode Island Avenue in D.C. Tickets are about \$30; there are several different rooms (with benches here and there) to read about his history and look at copies of his paintings; a chance to share the wonder of technology in a fantastic space and, of course, browse in the gift shop!



3- Take a walk around Teddy Roosevelt Island, just off the GW Parkway and, depending on your appetite, have lunch at one of the relatively close restaurants in Arlington.

Marianne's email: Marianne.soponis@gmail.com Phone: 202-363-5250



April Events



Enthusiasm was expressed for getting together in person, so if people are vaccinated and follow CDC guidelines, here is a thought for April. We did this trip last year, had a delicious lunch, a tour of the inn, and good conversation.

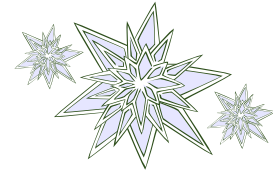
Travel down Route 66 to Route I-81 N to exit **302**, to the Wayside Inn in Middletown, Virginia and enjoy lunch at John Hotaling's (and others') restaurant, part of the Inn. It is about a 1.3-hour drive from Washington and on a spring day, should be a lovely trip. We have chosen **Wednesday, April 21** as the day and plan to make reservations for a noon seating. The web site is www.TheWaysideInn1797.com. It is the oldest continuously operated inn in America. The oldest portion dates to 1742. John will email a menu as we get closer to the time. The address is 7783 Main Street, Middletown, Virginia 22645-9502.

If you are interested in attending, Marianne can answer your questions.

(Marianne.soponis@gmail.com or 202-363-5250.



SKI TALK
March 2022



Two years into this pandemic and still counting. Will it ever end? It certainly looks like we are getting closer. However, last fall when I thought it was near the end, Omicron came to visit. I am hoping 2022 will take us out of this pandemic, and we can plan more trips. Going skiing in Snowmass in January was so liberating. I thought it was one of the best ski trips ever, perhaps because it involved coming off the isolation of the past two years. But we are not out of the woods yet. Recently, our 3 year-old grandson tested positive for COVID. Fortunately, he just had some mild symptoms and his parents and grandparents did not catch it.

THE OLYMPICS

The Winter Olympics have been filled with so much drama and trauma. It is usually fun watching the Olympics but this year it was different. There were underlying social issues. Spectators were not allowed because of COVID restrictions. The weather and ski conditions were truly challenging. Mikaela Shiffrin, one of the world's best skiers, had problems from the beginning. It was hard watching her distress when she missed her gates at the beginning of the women's slalom course. The snowboarders and freestyle skiers were awesome; they are jumping higher and higher. The mogul runs were fun to watch until they had to do a jump in the middle of the course. What does a jump have to do with mogul skiing? It was heartbreaking to see the 15-year-old Russian skater deal with doping issues and coaches who were less than supportive. Then, of course, the athletes were unable to have their families and support systems with them. I'm looking forward to the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris. Swimming and running are not as dangerous and easier to watch. Also, I hear there will be breakdancing.

SKIING IN 2023

We are beginning to plan for next ski season – 2023. Barry and Kathy Lake have agreed to lead a trip to Snowmass again. The new owners of the Mountain Chalet assure us they will be in business next season. They are even doing some upgrades to the Chalet. We will plan on going mid-January. That seems to work for our group.

The Blue Ridge Ski Council (BRSC) is planning two trips next year:

Crested Butte, Colorado
January 28-February 5, 2023

Club Med, Val d'Isere, France
March 12-23, 2023



At this point, we are not committed to either trip. We will have more information in the next few months. If anyone is interested in leading a PVS contingent on either BRSC trip or a trip to anyplace else, please let me know. The Club Med trip to Val d'Isere looks particularly interesting. Our club has never gone on a Club Med trip. More details to come.

Let me know if you have any skiing news.

Rosemary Schwartzbard
rosemaryschw@gmail.com



Past Event

PVS February 15, 2022 Monthly Meeting

A day after Valentine's Day, smiling Potomac Valley Skiers joined a zoom call to share stories, talk about events, and learn more about life in general. With the absence of **Barry Lake** (he and wife Kathy were on a ski trip with younger family members), **Cara Jablon** gracefully chaired the meeting.

Marianne Soponis announced *the in-person March meeting* at the home of **Jill Nelson**, in Chevy Chase Maryland on Sunday, March 20, at 1:00 p.m. Being the first day of spring, this should be the perfect time for getting back into the "swing of things past," seeing and greeting members in person.

Aside from the BYOB meeting (Bring Your Own Book) meeting on Thursday, March 10 at 4 pm, no other events have been planned. Marianne welcomes any suggestions for club events and is waiting to hear from you.



Rosemary Schwartzbard said the Snowmass ski trip was a success and will be held again next year. The BRSC (Blue Ridge Ski Council) is planning a trip to Europe as well as to the western USA. More news to come as more details are nailed down. She mentioned that **John Smith** has been advertising information about local skiing, which members appreciate.

NEWS ON AND OFF THE SLOPES

Mary and Tom Tycz were just back from a ski trip to Okemo in New England where the snow was good, the bubble lift nice and warm (except for the toes!), and the driving was "do-able" on the way home. They also enjoyed the trip to Snowmass before then, which acted as a nice warmup trip. **Bob and Cara Jablon** also were at Snowmass and are waiting to hear if anyone will be in Utah when they are there in a week or so. **Carolyn and Dave DeVilbiss** did lots of traveling locally, visiting family. They, we were sorry to hear, are giving away their skis and their kayak, but are still in the game as *Quiddler* champions. **Sharon Mulholland**, while not busy watching the Olympics or joining **Jan Marx, Carolyn** and **Dave** playing *Quiddler*, is into the downsizing of her wardrobe before a vacation in Florida. **Bing Van Nuys** shared that he had found a place that paid money for clothes for use in movies and TV productions. Sounds like it's worth a try. **Bing** is looking forward to the time when the National Archives opens again and he has the possibility of going back as a docent. **Don Vierimaa**, four days after returning from Snowmass, tested positive for Covid 19! He said the main difference from the regular sore throat, runny nose and cough he had gotten before was the fatigue. **Rosemary and Dick Schwartzbard** were planning to check out Timberline ski area in West Virginia where there are new owners and many improvements. **Jan Marx** is looking to buy a new car (or just get one in case anyone is downsizing their own fleet!). **Bonnie Sweeney** bypassed the Snowmass trip so she could ski with her grandkids at Snowshoe, in West Virginia. Although the skiing was good, she was surprised at how many did not wear helmets or stop at intersections on the slope. **Bonnie** has also discovered a muscle strengthening routine called Eccentric, which lengthens muscles to strengthen them. The lifting of 40 lb. of birdseed was easy and side stepping on skis presented no complaints. Just ask her to flex her arm! **Liz Triau** wondered if anyone was going to Richmond, Virginia to the art museum or other favorite places there. So far, no takers, but you never know!

Submitted by Marianne Soponis

Members' Corner



By J. David Warthen, Jr.
dwarthen409@gmail.com

TOOT Distribution to 88 PVS Members
(Active=67, Absentees=13, Associates=6, Applicants=2)

Thanks to:

-TOOT Coordinator - *E Thayer*

Layout Editors: *K Hines J Marx, & D Warthen*

March TOOT Layout Editor – *J Marx*

-TOOT Electronic Distribution – *D Warthen*

Roster Changes: Contact <dwarthen409@gmail.com>

Happy St Patricks Day

Since we all have a little bit of Irish in us and we wear the green; celebrate, celebrate, celebrate! **March 17**



Ireland was recently in the news because it came out on top when dealing with Russia and seafood. One of the world's top power-countries was up to no good in exercising war games in Irish waters, which interfered with Irish fisherman and the annual catching of prawns in-season. The Irish stood fast. The Russians backed down and moved their war games to another location. Yeah, for the Irish and the prawns!



Ukraine In the News

Ukraine may not be a well-known winter sports nation, but perhaps it should be, with more than 50 ski areas located in the Carpathian Mountains. That puts it in the world's top 20 (of around 80 nations where there's at least one ski lift) in terms of the number of ski areas. It was even an early candidate to stage this winter's 2022 Winter Olympics, before pulling out of the bidding process.

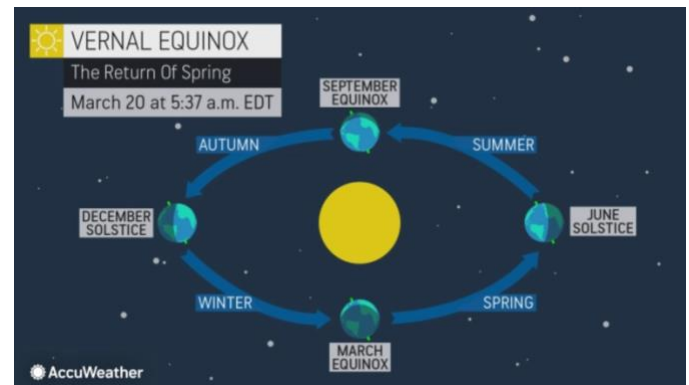
When you look at the list of resorts in Ukraine, you'll also see one ski resort dominates in a way you don't really see in any other countries. Bukovel in the west of the country dominates like no other with 68km of runs (more than a

third of the national total). Whilst most Ukrainian ski centres have a few simple drag lifts, most of the lifts here are fast quad chairlifts too – there are more than a dozen of them – with a six-seater added in 2020. It's one of the claimants to the title “biggest ski area in Eastern Europe.”



Perhaps we can encourage some Irish skiers to have a standoff with Russians, and the latter would back off to save Ukraine.

The Spring Equinox



Spring will arrive on March 20, at long last. As Covid winds down, again, let's hope that no more variants pop up to complicate our lives with masks, vaccines, and boosters. However, we are blessed with scientific discoveries that have saved many lives. Looking back in time, one only dreamt about such advances in medicine.

It is hard to realize that 900,000+ have lost their lives in our country during this horrendous pandemic of Covid-19.



Calendar

Mar 10 Thursday BYOB via Zoom, 4:00 - 5:00 PM, McKinley
Mar 20 Sunday Monthly Meeting, 1:00 PM, Nelson

Ski Trips - 2023

Snowmass: With Kathy and Barry Lake
Blue Ridge Ski Council (BRSC) to: Colorado and France.
(See Ski Talk, page 6.)



ExCom Officers, Board Members, and Chairpersons

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

Useful Ski “Links”

[Potomac Valley Skiers](#)
[Blue Ridge Ski Council](#)
[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.