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Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.
WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

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Presidents Message

As many of you know, our wonderful dog Tila passed away in the middle of March two days after having her teeth cleaned. We believe that she had a heart attack, perhaps brought on by a reaction to the anesthesia. She was a loyal, loving, sweet dog and very devoted to our son, Stephen.

We were dogless for about three weeks, when we drove down to the Charles County Animal Shelter and adopted two mostly Schnauzer puppies – yes, we are crazy. The older dog, whom we have named Andre, is about 8 months old and weighs about 11 pounds. He seemed really sweet and very alert at the shelter – it turns out that while he is smart, he is quite nippy and goes crazy with barking when he sees other dogs or people outside. Andre almost immediately learned the rudiments of toilet training and does most of his business outside. He also instantly figured out how to scale the walls of the pen that I acquired to confine (when necessary) the dogs. Andre has also learned to “sit,” when he feels like it.



The second dog, “Milo,” is 4 months old and only 6 pounds. He is super sweet and loving and likes to be held. He is beginning to get the idea of going to the bathroom outside, but still thinks it is optional. Milo does not yet comprehend the notion of “sit,” although he does better with “stay.” Both dogs like to bark at the many airplanes that pass over our house.

They both enjoy playing with the various toys that I bought for them, particularly the long fuzzy ones that make noise. However, they particularly like playing with each other, which involves tumbling, nipping, and running like crazy around the house. Surprisingly, Milo, although tiny, is just as aggressive as Andre. Even though there are many dog toys, if one dog is playing with a toy, the other dog wants that toy as well. The good news is that they rapidly wear themselves out and need to take a nap.

The first three nights, I put them in a large crate together in our bedroom. Of course, after that, Milo started sleeping on my bed and Andre on the rug in our bedroom. When they get too crazy at night, I separate them and give Stephen one dog so that I can get some sleep. They have learned that, in the morning, they go out to our bedroom deck to relieve themselves.

The first vet bill was, of course, much more than the adoption fee. They both needed another round of distemper shots, treatment for a yeast infection in their ears, and medicine for their next round of heartworm treatment.

Despite Bob’s notion that we could train these dogs ourselves, I hired a professional trainer for Andre. As I write this message, more than two weeks after acquiring the dogs, and two lesson in on training, Andre is learning how to behave better towards other dogs and people. We have four more lessons to go.

I am doing much more walking – it is amazing how much pulling power little dogs have. When they are more civilized, I look forward to introducing them to PVS members.

Cara Jablon, PVS President

Coming Event

Washington DC Ski Travel Show Friday Evening May 3, 2024

Marriott Hotel – Tyson’s Corner

8028 Leesburg Pike, Tyson’s Corner, Virginia 22182
703-734-3200

I-495 South Exit 47A (Route 7 West)

Show Hours 6:30 – 8:30 PM

Hors d'oeuvres all Evening

Cash Bar all Evening

Prize Drawing 8:45 PM



PVS - BYOB (Bring Your Own Book) group

Still going strong! PVS readers like to share what they’ve been reading and learn about other books that friends have enjoyed, too. It’s a win-win! 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, May 9th from 4 to 5 pm.**

Books we discussed in April:

Marianne Sponis says her contribution this month is especially good for those who like tennis. Author Taylor Jenkins Reid's novel "Carrie Soto is Back" follows an ambitious tennis player who after retiring, tries a comeback at age 37. Lots of tennis! **4*** if you like tennis. **3*** if not so much...

Ellie Thayer continues her interest in artists with Barbara Davis' "Strapless: John Singer Sargeant and the Fall of Madam X," non-fiction about the artist and the ruin of his model's reputation. The woman in question was painted with a "scandalous" strap falling from her shoulder. **5***

Rosemary Schwartzbard and **Bonnie Sweeney** both chose best-selling author, Kristin Hannah's, latest: "The Women" in which a naïve young nurse experiences the horrors of Viet Nam in the 1960's. The protagonist also finds intense friendships during that time and then returns home to a country unwilling to acknowledge the sacrifices of those who served in Viet Nam. Bonnie noted that she was drawn to the story as she was on active duty as an Occupational Therapist during that tumultuous time. Both give the novel **5***.

Mary Ellena Ward, preparing for a trip to the Dakotas, read "Lost Bird of Wounded Knee" by Renee Sansom Flood, hoping to read about the life story of the baby (the "Lost Bird") rescued from the massacre. Instead, the well-researched but "hard to read" book used the story of the child as a starting point for the sad tale of the Lakota Indians during that time. **5*** for the book. **2*** for indulging Mary Ellena's particular focus on the child.

Bob Jablon found another excellent biography, this time "Max Perkins: Editor of Genius" by A. Scott Berg. Perkins discovered and nurtured the talents of some of our most exalted authors, bringing us Fitzgerald, Hemingway, Wolfe, and many others. Bob felt that Berg's focus on the "lost generation" deserves **5***.

Karen Knopes offered "North Woods" by Daniel Mason, one of the most talked-about novels in the past year. Author Mason uses a house in western Massachusetts as the setting for 12 stories over the course of centuries beginning with runaway lovers in the 1600s. **4***

Jan Marx listened to "Pulling the Chariot of the Sun: A Memoir of a Kidnapping" by Shane McCrae. McCrae, born to a white mother and a Black father, was kidnapped by his white supremacist maternal grandparents in an attempt to shape his racial identity and erase his memories of his father. **3***

Nancy McKinley liked Katie Kitamura's "Intimacies" set in present-day The Hague. The young protagonist, new to the International Criminal Court, is assigned to interpret for a West African former President on trial for war crimes. There is an intimacy in interpreting and in her relationships with others as she becomes accustomed to her role and her surroundings. **5***

The next BYOB Zoom call will be held on Thursday, May 9th 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.



Future PVS Meetings for 2024:

May - No meeting. Happy gardening!

Sunday, **June 9** at 1:00 p.m. - Summerfest at Jill Nelson's home

July - No meeting. Happy vacation!

August - Steak and Swim at the Hines home, Saturday, August 17

September - No meeting. Back to school?!

NOTE: Marianne Sponis is looking for a home to host our **October/November** meeting.

Please lighten her spirits and offer yours -- you can choose the date!

December - Holiday party at the Jablons. Thank you!



SKI TALK

by *Kathy Lake*



Spring Skiing

It's been quite a season for Spring Skiing with many ski resorts receiving massive amounts of snow into mid-April. Some resorts have extended their closing dates to take advantage of the additional snowfall. Aspen Snowmass, Alta, Deer Valley, Heavenly, Mount Snow, Steamboat, Stowe and Vail closed April 21st. Followed by Park City on the 22nd. While Big Sky, Jay Peak, Kirkwood and Snow Basin closed April 28th. Then Sun Valley on the 30th and Sunday River on May 1st. There are numerous mountain resorts that have closing dates scheduled later in May, such as, Breckenridge, Copper Mountain, Brighton, Solitude and Snowbird. Unbelievably Killington and Arapahoe Basin plan to stay open until June 1st and 2nd! So, if you are feeling the urge for one more ski trip this season, you have plenty to choose from!!

Visitors Choice Awards 2023/2024

At the Travel Mountain Symposium **Aspen Snowmass** was awarded as being the ski resort with the "Best Apres-Ski" in North America. The rationale used for the award was stated as "With four mountains and two towns, Snowmass Village and the town of Aspen, Aspen Snowmass has endless possibilities featuring award winning restaurants and wine bars, to include the sunny deck at Venga Venga, and the lounge at the Limelight with live music, both in Snowmass. As well as, the Backyard at Buttermilk, Ajax Tavern at Aspen Mountain, the Alehouse

at Highlands and the legendary J-Bar at Aspen’s Jerome Hotel.” This past January due to flight cancellations a few of us spent a night at the Inn of Aspen which is located at the base of Buttermilk. Wish we had known about the Backyard then, because I’m sure it would have been fun to check out!
In recent years Aspen Snowmass has received the “Best Overall” award. However, this year the “Best Overall Resort” went to Telluride, and Jackson Hole received the “Best All-Mountain Terrain”.

Planned Snowmass Upgrades

The Coney Glade lift at Snowmass—in its current form—is going away.

The Aspen Skiing Company (aka SkiCo) has announced that the nearly 40 year old lift will be replaced this summer with a new and improved lift called the "Coney Express."

The lift's replacement (a high speed quad) will start at the Mall in Snowmass and the lift will extend to near its current top terminal. The bottom terminal will begin at the Snowmass Mall to provide greater out-of-base capacity and help alleviate congestion at the Village Express during peak times. The Coney Express will also offer loading at a midway angle-station and unload at the same location.

SkiCo also plans for the improvement and/or replacement of the Skittles gondola. The importance of the gondola is recognized as such a vital transit connection between the base area and the mall. As of yet, a definitive timeline has not been set.

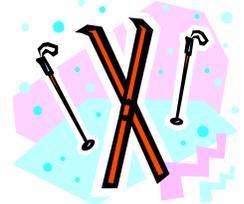
Looking Ahead to 2025

In preparation for next year, now may be a good time to purchase new equipment and/or clothing. Many of the local ski shops are having end of season sales. Check out the Alpine Ski Shop and Sun & Ski Sports.



Ski Trips

Snowmass, Colorado 2025
Save the Date!
January 8-15



We are already planning to go back to Snowmass next year! Once again, we will be staying at our favorite Snowmass Mountain Chalet which offers a convenient ski in, ski out location. As in recent years it will be a “**Land Only**” package which will include lodging and a 5 day senior lift pass. Pricing and other details to follow.

- *Snowmass offers direct access to 3,100 acres of skiing, just outside the door.*
- *The skiing terrain totals more than 5,000 acres, with interchangeable lift tickets and free bus service to Aspen Mountain, Aspen Highlands & Buttermilk ski areas.*

We hope to have pricing soon. If you are interested in going on the trip, please send a deposit of \$250 to:

Kathy Lake
11677 Fox Glen Dr.
Oakton, VA 22124

For further information, contact us at KathyLakehomes@yahoo.com or

703-625-2715.

Kathy & Barry Lake

Trip Leaders



Information about (POSSIBLE) trip to Park City.

Only a small number of people have expressed interest in the Park City trip, and many of those were tentative about the trip. Therefore, it does not make sense for PVS to enter into a contract with the tour operator who is running the trip for BRSC. If rooms are available, we can go with the Columbia Ski Club, which is staying at the Peaks Hotel for six nights (February 2 is the first night; February 7 is the last night). **The cost of this trip is \$2495 without lift tickets or airfare.** The only meals that are included are a welcome party, 2 apres ski events and the final dinner. The lift tickets should be about \$500 if purchased through BRSC.

If you expressed interest in the Park City trip, can you please let me (Cara Jablon) know whether you want to go. Columbia Ski Club can probably get rooms now for any PVS members who want to go - if you delay, rooms may not be available. **A \$500 deposit is required on signing up.** The remainder of the payment is 40% in August, 40% in October and 20% in November. If you cancel after July 1, you will lose \$50. If you cancel closer to the trip, the charge is \$50 plus the costs that are forfeited as a result of the cancellation. Therefore, it is advisable to get trip cancellation insurance.

It also might be possible to go with a club other than the Columbia Ski Club, but that hasn't been explored as yet.

PLEASE LET CARA JABLON (rcjablon@aol.com or 202-333-5332) KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IF YOU WANT TO GO ON THE PARK CITY TRIP.

Thank you very much.

Past Event

April 13, 2024
Annual Meeting

Flowers may have been the theme of this annual meeting hosted by Jan Marx. Her azaleas were blooming in their full glory near the front door, which boasted the PVS flag. Later, at the end of the meeting, Marianne Sophonis gave attendees a wickedly difficult fill-in-the-blank quiz about flowers. Reportedly, Marianne created this flora challenge just for us.



The nineteen attendees initially crowded around the food table in usual PVS fashion after grabbing a beverage. Shrimp, deviled eggs, nuts, cheese board, smoked salmon, hummus and pita, tuna salad, feta dip, spring rolls, raw veggies, slaw, Macedonian salad, and more graced the table. From the dining room, we segued into the living room for a short business meeting led by President



Cara Jablon. The primary business of this meeting was the election of three ExCom members for the 2024 – 2026 term. Without dissent, Salli Diakova, Kathy Lake, and Don Vierimaa were elected.



Although it seemed early to be talking about 2025 ski trips; it really was not. Snowmass 2025 and Park City 2025 were discussed preliminarily by Cara and Kathy. Marianne, the club’s events guru, reminded us that Jill Nelson will host SummerFest in June and Kerry and Marianne Hines will host Steak ‘n Swim in August. Before we broke for dessert, Marianne sprang the aforementioned flower quiz on the group. For those of us who did poorly, we were compensated by a scrumptious cake, brownies, bars, and the like.

Thank you Jan for hosting a lovely and fun meeting.

Submitted by Ellie Thayer



Calendar

Fri May 3 DC Ski Travel Show, 6:30 - 8:30, Marriott, Tysons
 Thur May 9 BYOB, Zoom at 4:00, McKinley
 Tue May 21 EXCOM Zoom meeting at 7:00 p.m.
 Sun Jun 9 Summerfest, 1:00 p.m., Nelson, Chevy Chase, MD
 Sat Aug 17 Steak & Swim, 3:00 p. m., Hines, Delaplane, VA



Ski Trips:



January 8-16, 2025, PVS Snowmass Trip: Kathy & Barry Lake
 February 2-9, 2025, BRSC Park City Trip, Cara Jablon

ExCom Officers, Board
 Members, and Chairpersons

<p><u>Officers:</u> 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></p> <p><u>Board Members:</u> <u>First Term 2022-2024:</u> <i>Salli Diakova</i> <i>Kathy Lake</i> <i>Don Vierimaa</i> <u>Second Term 2023-2025:</u> <i>Bob Knopes</i> <i>Jill Nelson</i> <i>Rosemary Schwartzbard</i></p>	<p><u>Chairpersons:</u> Ski Trip Coordinator – <i>Kathy Lake</i> Events – <i>Marianne Soponis</i> Membership Records – <i>Barry Lake</i></p> <p>TOOT Coordinator – <i>Jan Marx</i> TOOT Layout Editors – <i>Jan Marx, Kerry Hines</i></p> <p>TOOT (E-Distribution) – <i>Barry Lake</i></p> <p>Webmaster – <i>Mary Ellena Ward</i></p> <p>Meeting Records – <i>Sue Lyon</i></p> <p>Historian – <i>Jan Marx</i></p>
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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.