

VOLUME 53
NUMBER 3

Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.
WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

MARCH 2018

www.pvskiers.org

info@pvskiers.org

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - STYLE AND GRACE

At this moment, people are lying inertly on Hawaiian beaches. They think that they are happy. At most they may be surfacely content.

Slothful beach huggers lack Style and Grace. They lack the ability to soar. Even though a limited number of beach huggers may lift themselves up from the hot sand to go into the waves, even to go surfing, inevitably they are plunged into the sea. Their falls cannot be graceful. Achievement does not come from beach inactivity even when that inactivity is accompanied by slight movements to lift pineapples filled with rum or to lift bodies from swirling water.

By contrast, as the Olympics demonstrate, expert skiers are the epitome of Style and Grace. They race down mogul fields interspersed with areal somersault inducing terrain. Olympic skiing is infused with style, allowing the racers to ski past each mogul with precision while reaching for the gold. Ski jumping is pure grace. Skiing past slalom poles with form demands an additional mastery of style. In downhill racing in which skiers go straight down steep, iced mountain fall lines making only the slightest turns off dead center, skiing becomes art.

More ordinary skiers also try to learn expert turns. They augment their skiing style with outfits from Fifth Avenue's above \$1,000 racks or, better still, from Rosemary Schwartzbard's Second Hand emporia.

As ski instructors and Olympic announcers educate, successful skiing entails graceful movement. It eliminates excessive motion, reducing unnecessary skier effort. In the Olympics where milliseconds matter, skiers must master perfect form. So it is with PVSers, who, as they ski downhill, demonstrate vast skill.

Skiing becomes Style and Grace.

This is in line with much other achievement. Picture Willie Mays racing across Center Field to catch distant fly balls, bread basket style. Winning ice skating teams exhibit synchronized style. John Updike penned perfectly phrased stories conveying life's ironies and infidelities. Cole Porter's music never had out of place notes; accompanying lyrics never had misplaced phrases. Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers moved across stages with perfect grace. Civil War Generals learned the proper form of warfare from past master battles, correctly aligning their armies' centers and flanks.

Continued on Page 2

Monthly Meeting

25, 2018

2:00 PM

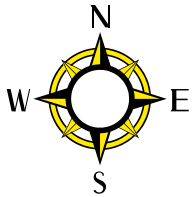
At Shirley Rettig's *Sunday, March*

Alexandria (Old Town), VA

703 836 0147

Directions on next page.





March Monthly Meeting, Sunday, 03-25-18
2:00 pm at the home of Shirley Rettig
604 Princess Street (Old Town)
Alexandria, VA
703 836 0147

From the North

Exit the Beltway (495) at George Washington Parkway, continue past Reagan National Airport into Alexandria, where GW Parkway becomes Washington Street. Turn left at Princess Street (9th traffic light – Wells Fargo Bank on the right). #604 is on the right in the first block.

From the South

Take the Beltway (495) exit North for Alexandria Old Town and Route 1. Follow signs for Route 1 North (Patrick Street) to Princess Street (the 3rd light after King Street). Turn right onto Princess Street and #604 is 3 ½ blocks on the right.

Parking – on the street. It's ok to park on Princess Street for 2 hours (limit not strictly enforced) but the best bet is to park on Washington Street or on St. Asaph Street. If in doubt, be sure to read the parking signs!



President's Message continued:

The importance of style is best illustrated by debating, which has morphed into legal oral arguments. In debating, one can make three points within the ten minutes allotted, but these points must be clear. Better yet, one can make two points with total clarity or if one is sufficiently skilled, a single point so finely expressed that it cannot be misunderstood. The best debaters manage to make no points with perfect, absolute clarity.

Style and Grace do not allow for disorder. Style becomes substance. There is no room for a cloud on the horizon or for other of life's difficulties. One of our members, whom I shall call Kerry,* has warned: "Style and Grace are not everything." His example: it is better to jerk, ruining one's form, than to make a well-carved turn into a tree, over a cliff, or, for snowboarders, into standing skiers. This applies even when snowboarders follow an elegant path.

No one ever called Babe Ruth graceful. But in between hot dogs, he hit towering home runs. Gene Kelly's athleticism beat Astaire and Rogers. Tolstoy had more to say than Updike, but perhaps he said it less gracefully. Cole Porter did not teach life's cruelties like Brecht. Lincoln's pre-Grant Generals did everything but win. Grant's victories came at a terrible cost, but they saved the union and (substantially) ended slavery.

Style, grace and success are not the same thing. Style and grace may lead to success. They may not.

My wife passed onto my daughter that our grandson, who will be four next winter, will be old enough to ski. By beginning early, he can learn to ski with Style and Grace. Cara's observation appears to have been morphed into an invitation for the family to go together on a ski trip.

The return message was, "Maybe we can go to Hawaii...."

Bob

*I take liberties with sources, liberally adding mistakes. Source denials are to be trusted.



Past Trip



February 14-21, 2018

Trip Leaders: ***Inge Lesjak and Marianne Soponis***



Big Sky is BIG! It is currently the biggest ski area in the U. S. with 5800 skiable acres. We all arrived on time on Valentine's Day at the Huntley Lodge and were greeted with a Welcome Party attended by representatives from the mountain. The next several days the temperatures were moderate and it snowed most of the time, providing the wonderful "Montana Cold Smoke" as the locals call the dry fresh powder.

Typical of group ski trips we had a couple different "ski groups" that changed composition each day, if not several times during the day. With temperatures in the upper teens on Thursday (our first morning) and 3-4 inches of powder almost all of the PVS trip participants went on guided tours of the mountain. Off one of the trails our guide pointed out the exclusive Yellowstone Club where Bill Gates, Warren Buffet, Justin Timberlake, and Tom Brady have homes. Friday brought a bit of wind, but temperatures made it into the mid-20s. Saturday morning we made several blissful runs through 7-8 inches of powder. For some the highlight may have been the heated seats and bubble cover of the powder seeker chair rather than the knee-deep powder on the ski slope.



Sunday's skiing was another morning of powder. Heavy snowfall and wind continued until late morning before the peak of Lone Mountain finally popped into view for the first time since our arrival. The deep powder combined with bright sunlight made skiing challenging but magical. Skiing on Monday and Tuesday involved periodic stops to warm up since the temperatures dropped dramatically and the morning temperature was minus 14. The search for trails and lifts that were in the sun and out of the wind, periodic checks for possible frostbite, and constant hopes that the temperature would break through 0 degrees were the concerns of the day. Overall it was a week of great, sometimes challenging, skiing and some

rather extreme weather conditions.



A highlight of the week for some was the trip to Yellowstone National Park. Nine PVSers boarded their snow coach for a bumpy, yet exhilarating day trip to see Old Faithful. They experienced blinding snow, sunshine, freezing temperatures (and heated toilets!). They saw hot springs, mud pots, gurgling pools, geysers, a "stuck" snow coach (to which they lent a shovel), and snowboarders who ended up in a snow bank. They were lucky to spot two elk, one coyote, two crows and all the magnificent bison eating the dried grasses underneath the snow along the riverbanks. A gathering of bison on the main road gave ample opportunity for taking videos and photos.



The group was also part of a historical event. It was the first time in many years that Old Faithful did not erupt at the predicted time, being over one hour late. It was worth the wait to be at this unique experience.

Susan Payne had her own adventures. One day she went on a six-mile snowshoe tour on the mountain in the snowy, cold weather. The next day she signed up for a zip-line experience on the mountain. She was

strapped onto the zip and had to jump off fearlessly hoping the straps would hold her!! One jump was not thrilling enough so she did four zips to get the adrenaline going.



Of course, what is a PVS trip without social events that include food and wine? In addition to the welcome party we had a Pizza Party at the hotel the second night. Another night all 28 of us managed to mingle in close proximity in Manfred Boehringer's room where Marianne and Inge plus many in the group supplied lots of wine and goodies. Doug Horstmann, who was the vendor of this trip (and many other PVS trips), stopped by and was able to meet many of the people he only knew by phone or email. The Farewell Dinner at Bucks was a great success. During the week, we ate Red Deer, Bison and Elk, all specialties of the region.

We learned that one of our members, Bruce King, singer. Bruce (aka Neil Diamond) performed Montana Jacks Saloon to the delight of many of our group who were lucky enough to catch the act. For those who would like to see our perform, you can catch it on You Tube: <https://youtu.be/YGIpPV1LuNY>



we ate Red Deer, Bison and Elk, all specialties of the region. Bruce is a gifted karaoke at were lucky Bruce

We were happy to have so many of our associate members on the trip. Long time member Barbara Wilson (and her son, Jonathan) came from Houston; Susan and David Payne came from Florida; Bonnie Sweeney hails from Indiana; Kay Christensen, a relatively new member, lives in Denver; while Bruce is from Lexington, Va. Dick Lau hails from Connecticut as does Alice McNulty.

We thank Inge and Marianne for planning the trip and taking such good care of us.

Submitted by:
Kerry Hines
Kathy Lake
Marianne Sponis
Rosemary Schwartzbard



Past Event

FEBRUARY 24, 2018 MEETING



The day of our February monthly meeting, Saturday, February 24, turned out to be foggy, drizzly, and dreary. However, inside was warm, welcoming, and inviting – just like our hostess, Jan Marx. Twenty-eight of us gathered for the meeting, including a new applicant member, Salli Diakova. Salli’s introductory remark was that she “loved to ski.” She was joining the right group.

Jan’s table was festive with deviled eggs, a cheese platter, seven-layer dip, shrimp, and more. The beverage table beckoned with wine, beer, and soft drinks. Indeed, President, Bob Jablon had a difficult time herding the assembled crowd away from the table and bar and into the living room for a short meeting. Rosemary Schwartzbard, the Ski Trip Committee chair, began by praising the trip leaders for leading successful trips to Big Sky. Inge Lesjak brought a large blow-up photograph of most of the Big Sky contingent, which had Montana just a few days earlier. Rosemary crowd with visions of a 2019 trip to led by the Lakes, a 2019 trip to Sun Valley to and the possibility of joining BRSC on its trip. Nancy McKinley, the Meetings and thanked Shirley Rettig for offering to host monthly meeting in March. Bob ended the again thanking Jan for her hospitality and meeting ended with the group enjoying Jan’s cookies and bars.



Snowmass and up photograph returned from tantalized the Snowmass to be led by Inge, 2019 Eurofest Events co-chair, the next meeting by the afternoon homemade

Submitted by Ellie Thayer

PVS Members: Please review the slate below which will be presented to the membership for voting at the April 2018 meeting.

According to the PVS by-laws Section III H:

“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.”

Nominating Committee Report for PVS Officers (2018)

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>PVS Officers continuing for the completion of their two-year term in 2018-2019: President: Bob Jablon Vice-President: Jan Marx</p> <p>Candidates for PVS Board Members for 2018-2020: ExCom: Barry Lake ExCom: John Holt ExCom: Melissa FitzGerald</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 will be held on April 17, 2018</p> | <p>Submitted by the Nominating Committee:</p> <p>Jan Marx (Chair)</p> <p>Dave DeVilbiss</p> <p>Tom Tycz</p> <p>John Smith</p> <p>Nancy McKinley</p> <p>Louann Eadie</p> |
|---|---|

Melissa FitzGerald – Candidate for ExCom

Melissa grew up in a village in NY State and fell in love with skiing in the icy Northeast at Mount Tremblant. After college at William and Mary, she and three other ex-coeds went west to ski and seek their fortunes (husbands) in Denver. After marrying a cowboy from Montana who began a career in the Foreign Service, it was off to six capitals: San Salvador, London, Rio de Janeiro, Santiago de Chile, Quito and Port Moresby (Papua, New Guinea). The best skiing was in Chile: Portillo and Farrellones! Five children later and stints as a teacher of English as a Second Language in various posts, Melissa settled in Reston, VA, retired from teaching high school Government and History, and kept on traveling in retirement.

Melissa joined PVS ski trips to Snowmass, Big Sky, Taos, and local skiing spots, always enjoying the good company. She served on ExCom from 2011 – 2013.



John Holt – Candidate for ExCom

John was born in Washington DC. He graduated from the University of Maryland with a BS in Mechanical Engineering followed by two years of graduate school in Nuclear Engineering. John worked for 35 years for the US government – Corps of Engineers and Rural Electrification Administration - where he was the Nuclear Staff Advisor, Chief of Power Plants and Deputy Director of Power Supply. He retired in 1993 and went to work for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, a trade association for rural electric cooperatives, where he was Senior Manager of Generation until he retired on April 6, 2012. On April 9, he re-joined that Association as a consultant.

John joined the Ski Club of Washington DC in 1971 as a novice skier and was a member of SCWDC for 24 years. He was a board member, program chairperson for several different programs, led many trips to Europe and Western US as well as Eastern “Learn to Ski” weeks. He met his wife Barbara in the Ski Club and they have three children. Barbara and John were in a German Dance Group for about 10 years and performed at one of PVS’s Oktoberfest parties. They applied for membership in PVS in 2010 and John has been on four ski trips with PVS since then. He was a trip leader on the January 2012 PVS trip to Steamboat Springs. John served on ExCom from 2011 – 2013 and as Vice President from 2013 – 2015. John sadly lost his wife, Barbara, on December 3, 2017 after a long illness.



Barry Lake - Candidate for ExCom

I was born in Leavenworth, KS, into an Army family. After a few years in Colorado Springs, the family took up more or less permanent residence in Arlington, VA. I attended George Mason University receiving a BS in Mathematics, and received an MS in Information Technology Administration from George Washington University. I am currently a Program Manager for a Reston based Information Technology Company, which provides software development, cybersecurity and operational services to the federal government.

While I originally learned to ski during my college days, I did not take up skiing in earnest until I met my future wife Kathy; both of us have enjoyed skiing together for nearly 30 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 at least one to two ski trips a year, mostly to Colorado and Utah. We have also taken two European trips, to Switzerland and Austria, as well as two Canadian trips. Since joining PVS in 2015, we have thoroughly enjoyed four trips to Snowmass, having lead two of the trips, and are looking forward to many more. I am currently finishing my two-year term on ExCom and am an applicant for a successive two-year term. We currently reside in Oakton, VA. When not skiing or working, we also enjoy time at the beach.



SKI TALK
March 2018



Having just come back from a two-week trip to California and then to Montana to ski I am acutely aware of how important it is to pack light and be aware of your fellow travelers. Packing for a ski trip is no easy task. Add a week to California where a few days would be beachside and then on to San Francisco makes it a little more complicated. We allowed ourselves one duffel bag each, which contained all our clothing for the two weeks and our ski boots. Skis were shipped via FedEx. The important part is only taking what you need and using clothing multiple times. The secret is layering and avoiding bringing bulky items. I was able to wear the same clothing in the evenings in California as I did at après ski events, a lightweight top covered by a sweater. Accessorizing with different scarves and jewelry works well, also. Dick travels with a few shirts and sweaters! We have gone on Rick Steves tours where you are only “allowed” to bring a carry-on size suitcase. Check out Packing Smart and Traveling Light on the Rick Steves website.



The other issue is travel etiquette on planes, buses and trains. If taking a carry-on, be sure it is no larger than 22 inches and that it will fit in the overhead. Try to put it in the overhead above your seat. Try to do this quickly so that other passengers may pass by. If you travel with a backpack take it off when you get onto the plane and carry it in front of you to avoid whacking other passengers. What about the people who hover around the baggage carousel so you can’t get to your suitcase? I saw a child too close to the carousel almost get hit by a heavy suitcase. Be aware of how you impact others when you travel.

Yes, bags do get lost. The statistics show that 2.7 bags per 1000 passengers get lost. What to do? Be sure you have identification on the outside and inside of your baggage. Some of the more high tech tags can follow your effects. For example, the Pixie (\$29, getpixie.com) a Bluetooth enabled fob, attaches to your checked bags and track it through an app called Baggage Claim. When you get to the carousel, fire up the app and it will display a metal detector-style screen that gives the exact distance of your bag. Low-tech luggage tags are still used by most people. Our ski trip vendors usually give us neon tags with the hotel name and address on it. They are usually quite flimsy so attach another more sturdy tag also. If you have a non-descript black bag think of creative ways to make it stand out. I put red duct tape on mine. Some people spray paint their bags. Some just tie colorful ribbons on it.

We are now looking forward to next ski season. So far ExCom has approved a trip to Snowmass next January and the BRSC Western Carnival at Sun Valley next February. More information will be in the April and May TOOTs. If you have other ideas for a ski trip next year or in the future, please let me know. We are always looking for trip leaders.

Rosemary Schwartzbard
rosemaryschw@gmail.com



~~~~~  
**Coming Event**

**ATTENTION MUSIC LOVERS**

There is to be another concert performed by the fabulous **Eclipse Chamber Orchestra** at the George Washington Masonic Temple in Alexandria on **April 15, 2018 at 3:00pm**. No fee at the door, but donations are appreciated. Join the McKinleys and others.

More information coming in the April TOOT.



# Members' Corner



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

## Returning from Injured-Reserve —

It is good to be back and functioning better. A shoulder dislocation, shoulder separation, and a minor avulsion fracture on a double black diamond (a bit of a stretch, suggested by Chef Diane, of our Snowmass breakfast/lunch room) can really put a cramp in one's style. Actually, the injury really occurred only 30 steps from the ski patrol clinic on Daly Drive, where a rut was waiting for me. If you have a shoulder dislocation, ask for Dr. Dewayne Niebur at the clinic – what an expert!

Due to excellent care by the Aspen/Snowmass Ski Patrol, the staff at the Aspen Medical Clinic on Daly Drive, my orthopedist, and physical therapists, I can now dress myself, scrub my teeth, comb my hair, insert & remove contact lenses, cut meat, and sign my name. Driving a car? – Not yet.

Special thanks go to those PVSers who graciously jumped in to help me every step of the way. Within our PVS group, I had the services of an occupational therapist, a licensed social worker, terrific trip leaders who would not leave me at Dulles until my luggage and I were in the car, and many other kind PVS folks who enabled me to approach this challenge with a positive, optimistic attitude.

This is what makes PVS extra special for all of us. Thank you folks !!!

## TOOT Distribution to 146 Members:

-pdf: 129; USPS: 2

### Thanks to:

- TOOT Coordinator - E. Thayer
- TOOT Layout Editor - J. Marx
- TOOT USPS – J. Read & L. Triau
- TOOT Electronic Distribution – D. Warthen

Roster Changes: ([dwarthen@verizon.net](mailto:dwarthen@verizon.net))

## Spring Forth –

The winter months and PVS ski trips are over for 2018. Ski trip proposals for 2019 are already in the works. Time marches on - no pun intended!

Even in Olney, daffodils are already 6 inches above ground level. We will have cherry blossoms within weeks.

Winds and the Ides of March are not far behind. Time for the wearing of the green is just around the corner.

It is amazing how quickly the seasons pass, particularly as we age. The other day, Marsha and I visited another retirement complex to be astounded at the cost. I had just finished our taxes and we had all our financial data before us. Thus, the outing to the 'Home.' Decisions, decisions! I guess that is just part of the aging process – 'it is what it is.' Ugh!







**PVS Calendar 2018:**

- Mar 06 Tue ExCom Meeting, 7:30 PM, Jablon, Washington
- Mar 25 Sun Monthly Meeting, 2:00 PM, Rettig, Alexandria, VA
- April 15 Sun Eclipse Concert, 3:00 PM, McKinley, Alexandria, VA
- April 17 Tue Annual Meeting, 7:30 PM, Reg Heitchue/Susan Sinclair, Reston, VA

**PVS Ski Trips 2019:**

January 9-16, 2019  
**Snowmass** (Kathy and Barry Lake)



**Useful Ski "Links"**  
[Potomac Valley Skiers](#)  
[BRSC Sanctioned Trips](#)  
[DC Ski Online News](#)  
[Best of Times Ski Club](#)

**ExCom**

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Officers:</b></p> <p>President – <i>Bob Jablon</i><br/> V. President – <i>Janet Marx</i><br/> Secretary – <i>Ellie Thayer</i><br/> Treasurer – <i>Dick Schwartzbard</i><br/> Ex Officio - <i>Carolyn DeVilbiss</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Board Members:</b></p> <p><b>First Term:</b><br/> <i>Inge Lesjak</i><br/> <i>Nancy McKinley</i><br/> <i>Tom Tycz</i></p> <p><b>Second Term:</b><br/> <i>Barry Lake</i><br/> <i>John H. Smith</i><br/> <i>Ellie Thayer</i></p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Chairpersons:</b></p> <p>Ski Trip Committee – <i>Rosemary Schwartzbard</i><br/> Events – <i>Ray and Nancy McKinley</i><br/> Membership Records – <i>Dave Warthen</i><br/> Membership PR Reps – <i>Inge Lesjak &amp; Marianne Sopolis</i></p> <p>TOOT Coordinator – <i>Ellie Thayer</i><br/> TOOT Layout Editors – <i>Jan Marx, Kerry Hines &amp; Dave Warthen</i><br/> TOOT (E-Distribution) – <i>Dave Warthen</i><br/> TOOT (USPS Distribution) – <i>Barb Leonhardt, June Read, Liz Triau</i></p> <p>Webmaster – <i>Mary Ellena Ward</i><br/> Meeting Records – <i>Sue Lyon</i><br/> Historian – <i>Jan Marx</i></p> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**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.