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Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.
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President's Message

I have just returned from another excellent trip to Snowmass. The snow was good, and although the weather was cold, most of the trip participants braved the cold and skied most days. In keeping with the food theme of my last message, I will report on our restaurant experiences at Snowmass. The Mountain Chalet has instituted a new food service system – rather than the buffets of previous years for both breakfast and dinner, the lodge now provides a served main course for breakfast and a served lunch. For breakfast, there is still a buffet of fruit, orange juice, yoghurt, cereal, muffins, bread, and bagels. The buffet no longer exists for lunch – no more cookies, apples, oranges or rolls and peanut butter (oranges were available if you knew to ask). Lunch consists of a bowl of soup and a sandwich (quesadillas, braised beef, etc.). Seconds were provided upon request. The food was very good, nicely presented, and the portions, particularly for breakfast, very generous. However, at breakfast, it could take a while to be served. Since most people came to breakfast at 7:30, and the lifts did not open until 9, that was not a problem.



We had a nice welcome party with food purchased locally – rolls, meat and cheese platters, and wraps. Our Saturday pizza party featured excellent varieties of pizza – cheese, pepperoni, and vegetable. For our final dinner, we went to the wonderful German restaurant in the Timberline Lodge (“The Edge”), where we had a choice of appetizers and entrees and were treated to a sampling of a variety of desserts. The pork schnitzel was excellent – other choices included salmon and steak. I enjoyed a mug of hot mulled wine – a drink I had been looking forward to for a year.

Apart from The Edge, our favorite restaurant was Kenichi, a Japanese restaurant at the base of the mountain. I had excellent shrimp tempura and spider rolls with crab meat and other ingredients. If you want to go to this restaurant on your next trip to Snowmass, you will need to make reservations well in advance. We have also been to the Kenichi restaurant in Aspen on a trip last year, but prefer the Snowmass Kenichi.

We also went to Il Poggio, a favorite of many PVS members. I had a good seafood and pasta dish – it was a special, and I neglected to ask the price. It turned out to be twice the amount of most of the items on the menu, but fortunately, Bob finished what I could not eat. Il Poggio is another restaurant generally requiring advance reservations.

Other restaurants that we tried were Mawita, a new Latin-American restaurant at the base of the mountain, Wienerstube, a German restaurant in the space formally occupied by the Little Mammoth Steak House, and A Slice of Italy, at the base of the mountain. Mawita was fine, but not exceptional – service was slow and the food fairly standard. I ordered what purported to be a chicken fajita, but what I got was really a chicken quesadilla – it was good, just not what I expected. I might consider going to this restaurant again, but would prefer to go to Venga, Venga, one of my favorites at Snowmass.



I would not recommend Wienerstube – the chicken schnitzel that I had was fried in oil that was used one time too many. The night we were there, the restaurant had a staffing problem, and we had a long wait. They did comp us for the wine and dessert, which was very generous of them. I, however, thought the apple strudel that they gave us was a little heavy on the dough and light on the apple - the apple strudel at The Edge is much better. I found A Slice of Italy to be somewhat disappointing. The fried calamari were good, but the ravioli was bland and uninteresting. The pizza looked good, but we did not have any. This restaurant might be worth another try, particularly if one wants pizza.

Other trip participants liked the new restaurant in the Stonebridge Inn (Heather's Pies) and the Vue Lounge at the Viewline Hotel. Clearly, we all ate very well on the trip, and hopefully did enough exercise to ski off all the calories. I look forward to our next trip to Snowmass.

Cara Jablon, PVS President

Past Event

Holiday Party at the Jablon's



Even though the official celebration days had passed, PVS friends enjoyed being able to share good tidings with each other. There were 27 of us plus the 2 pups and special guests from the Snow Searchers ski club, Mary and Dick Hubbard. Everyone brought delicious food to add to the table. Among the assortment of various appetizers were items from family traditions such as Bulgarian cheese bread made by Salli

Cara called us to meet. Snow and skiing was the big topic with the Snowmass trip leaving in a few days. Kathy reported fresh snow in Colorado. Our weather here continues to be cool/cold and local skiing was discussed. If anyone planned a day on the slope, an email could go out to the group.



Marianne reported that in February our ever-popular zoom book club is scheduled on Thursday the 13th. If interested let Nancy know to add you to the list. Then, as promised, Marianne called for all White Elephants to start bidding. Amazing items came forth; puffin shaped salt and pepper shakers, a silver pill box, a sturdy satchel, a wooden chip n dip bowl, and a candle in a tall glass. Also, there was a first issue stamp on envelope for the James Webb Space Telescope, which was a reminder of the PVS tour at NASA in Greenbelt.

We adjourned for enticing desserts, and more visiting.

Thank you, Cara, Bob and Stephen for hosting.



submitted by Jan Marx



PVS - BYOB (Bring Your Own Book) group

Burr! Hope it's warmed up by the time you read this! Lots of inside time for reading, though. Come share what you've been reading by joining us on Zoom. We have a nice chat and learn about good reads we hadn't thought to pick up ourselves. **See the info at the bottom for how to join in on February 13th, 2025 (the second Thursday of each month) at 4 pm!**

Here are the books we shared in January:

Marianne Sponis brought us "The Lifeboat" by Charlotte Rogan. Newlywed and now widowed, Grace finds herself in an overloaded lifeboat for 21 harrowing and deadly days when the ship she and her husband were sailing on goes down in 1914. **5***

Ellie Thayer just read "The Demon of Unrest" the latest by Erik Larson. Larson researched and wrote about the pivotal time in the 4 months between the election of Abraham Lincoln and the start of the Civil War when Fort Sumter was attacked. **5***

Karen Knopes felt a personal connection to "Absolution," Alice McDermott's tale of two American women in Saigon just before the Vietnam War. The role of women whose husbands were stationed there resonated with Karen's experience as she recalled the attitude that they felt they were doing service to the people of Vietnam. The second half of the book focused on later years in the US and was less compelling. **4.5***

Jan Marx liked hearing about Bonnie Sweeney's offering from last month's BYOB, "The Sex Lives of Cannibals" by J. Martin Troost so she decided to read and offer a few additional remarks on the book. Jan gave it **4.5***

Dorian Janney brought Booker-prize-winning "Prophet Song" by Paul Lynch set in Dublin in which a mother of four faces wrenching choices when her husband disappears. Dorian called it "not uplifting" but it helped her understand more about the choices that may have to be made during difficult situations, especially by women. **5***

Mary Hubbard (joining us from Snow Searchers) told us about "Rebel Falls" by Tim Wendell. Taking place toward the end of the Civil War, the story is told from the perspective of a young woman tasked with being a spy for the Union side and her attempt to foil a plot to upend the war effort. Mary enjoyed it but it "dragged a bit in spots." **4***

Nancy McKinley enjoyed "Playground," Richard Powers' latest set between the US, Canada, and French Polynesia. Multiple protagonists' stories converge on a plan to create underwater living in the event of climate catastrophe. Themes of friendship, climate change, AI, colonialism, and the uncharted undersea world make for a fascinating read. **5***

Our next BYOB Zoom call will be held on Thursday, February 13th from 4 to 5 pm. Let Nancy McKinley know at nancymckin@gmail.com if you have questions or comments. If you're interested in joining us, Nancy will put you on the list to get the link to the Zoom call. No commitment!



SNOWMASS '25



Mary Ellena – it's Glorious!

Twenty-five club members, friends and family gathered at the Snowmass Mountain Chalet. We ranged in age from teen to 90+. Old friendships were renewed, and new ones were made.

The weather was on the cooler side, and we had some fresh snow that contributed to fabulous skiing on superbly groomed trails that were smooth as silk.



Our Leaders!

The meals at the Chalet were served in a new manner, in that we no longer had to serve ourselves. Each person was served

by a very attentive and congenial staff. The breakfasts and lunches (which were included at no additional charge) were well prepared and delightful in variety, quality and flavor. As usual the Chalet guest rooms, and public areas were comfortable and well maintained. The Chalet is slopeside, making skiing access easily accessible. Each day we met just outside the door, gathered in groups and skied right

down to the lifts both in the morning and after lunch. As always, skiers formed different groups for both morning and afternoon skiing that are open to everyone according to their interests for terrain and pace of skiing. A foundational strength of our club is the determination to make each and every one feel comfortable and at ease.



Bruce, Kal, Rosemary



Kay & Marianne H.



Four generation Schwartzbard skiers

Remembering the average age of our august group, here's a quiz.... how many club members does it take to figure out how to use the Aspen App to get a trail snow condition report? Guess high!

Several people visited Aspen Village for visiting museums and shopping, using the convenient shuttles between Snowmass and Aspen.

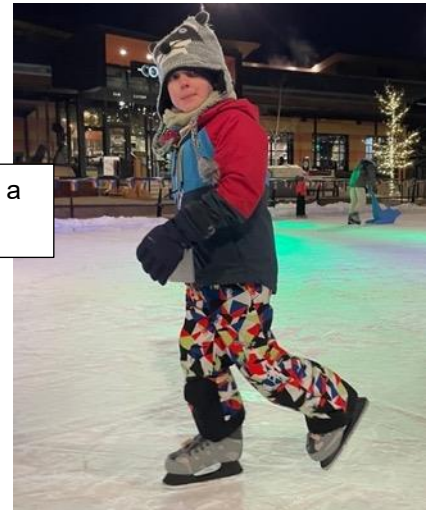
To promote fellowship, several gatherings were organized including an opening reception and a Saturday pizza party. The week wrapped up with a banquet at The Edge on our last evening at which Kathy and Barry Lake were enthusiastically thanked once again for organizing and delivering a phenomenally pleasant experience for us all.

Apré ski fun:



Mary Ellena with her Cricket wearing her new Aspen treasure.

Bjorn have more fun after a long day of skiing.



Adventures downtown:



A museum experience



Ajax

Group dinner



Bruce & Mary Ellena



Dick, Bonnie, Theresa, Rosemary



Thanks, Barry and Kathy!!

submitted by Bruce King



Nominating Committee Report for PVS Officers (2025-2026)

<p>Candidates for PVS Officers for 2025-2026: President: Bob Jablon Vice-President: Cara Jablon</p> <p>Candidates for PVS Board Members for 2025-2026: ExCom: Jill Nelson ExCom: Rosemary Schwartzbard ExCom: Barry Lake</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 ??, 2025.</p>	<p>Submitted by the Nominating Committee:</p> <p>Barry Lake (Chair)</p> <p>Kerry Hines</p> <p>Nick Young</p> <p>Marianne Hines</p> <p>Rosemary Schwartzbard</p> <p>Kal Nossuli</p>
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March Toot will have profiles on candidates to be voted on at our annual meeting. The offices to be filled are President, Vice President, and 3 ExCom members.

Thank you Barry, for this wonderful slate.

Thank you Candidates, for being willing to serve our ski club.

Calendar

Tues Feb 4 ExCom meeting, ZOOM, 6:30 p.m.
March No members meeting this month.

Ski Trips

Snowmass 2026

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 –</p> <p><u>Board Members:</u> <u>First Term 2023-2025:</u> <i>Bob Knopes</i> <i>Jill Nelson</i> <i>Rosemary Schwartzbard</i> <u>Second Term 2024-2026:</u> <i>Salli Diakova</i> <i>Kathy Lake</i> <i>Don Vierimaa</i></p>	<p><u>Chairpersons:</u> Ski Trip Coordinator – <i>Kathy Lake</i> Events – <i>Marianne Sophonis</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> Nomination Chairman – <i>Barry Lake</i> 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.