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*Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.*  
WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

April  
2024

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## President's Message

March is Cherry Blossom time in D.C., but the snow is still good in Utah. Having not skied since the beginning of February, not counting one day in heavy sludge at Whitetail, I decided at the last minute to take a long weekend at Park City in the middle of March. Bob came along, although he did not ski. We flew from National to Chicago, and made the long trek from the B gate to the C gate to get to our Salt Lake flight just as the plane started boarding. The flight came in about 3:15, and by the time we collected our luggage and took Canyon Transportation to Park City, we arrived at the Doubletree Hotel at 5:30.

Finding our way to our room was a challenge as the hotel is a bit like a labyrinth and our room was near the back of the hotel - I did discover later that there was a shorter way to go, but not workable with luggage as it involved some steps. The rooms at the Doubletree are nice, with the usual amenities of a refrigerator, safe and coffee maker – there was a large shower, but no bathtub and no microwave. The hotel is only a 5-minute bus ride from Park City Mountain and is located right next to a large supermarket, drug store and shopping mall with a Thai and Chinese restaurant, a movie theatre, and some other shops. Other restaurants and shops are several blocks away. Without a doubt, the room was far better than the one we had at the Mountain Chalet in Snowmass. We decided just to have dinner at the restaurant at the Doubletree – the dinner was adequate, but nothing special (Bob had onion soup and Steak Diane; I had Caesar salad and fish and chips). I had not made a reservation for that night as timing on the day of arrival can be less than exact. In general, reservations at the popular Park City restaurants are hard to get and must be made well in advance for peak ski times.

My first day of skiing was on a Friday. The bus stop is one long block away, across the street. Although the buses are supposed to come every 15 minutes, it seemed like a longer wait and the bus was very crowded. Of course, mid-March is spring break time and Park City is also a weekend destination for local Salt Lake City residents. The snow was very nice and the mountain had many well-groomed slopes, except for the runs on King Con, most of which do not appear to be groomed these days. The weather was mostly sunny, and although the morning was cool, the temperature warmed up by noon. After a few warm-up runs, I connected with two locals from Salt Lake – Von, a retired pilot, and Dave, a retired physician – and skied with them most of the day. Von has 8 children and 17 grandchildren; Dave has 5 children and 8 grandchildren. We skied some runs at Park City, and then

### **ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**

Saturday, 13 April, 1:00 pm  
at Jan Marx's home in Springfield,  
VA

RSVP to Jan NLT 9 April

Directions and Contact  
Information below

took the Gondola over to the Canyons side, where we made our way as far as the Tombstone lift. With a half-hour lunch break, I skied from 9:50 to 3:15 and felt much stronger than I had at Snowmass. The Canyons was formerly a separate ski area, but has been incorporated into Park City Mountain. At the end of the day, I made my way back to Park City via the two far lifts at the Canyons and the Gondola. I thought that the snow quality was better on the Park City side, as some of the Canyons runs were a little slicker.

Friday night, Bob and I had dinner at the Pine Cone Ridge, a new restaurant on Main Street. I had broiled oysters with bearnaise sauce, which were excellent, and ribs, which were o.k. Bob had a clam appetizer, which he liked, and a duck leg, which he did not particularly care for. The bread was very good and the service excellent.

Saturday was sunny and the weather became warmer as the day progressed. The snow was again good and I skied from 8:45 to 3 with about a half hour lunch break. After a few runs, I met a group of five skiers – Bob, Matt, Ken, Lynn and Dave and skied with them for the rest of the day. Three of them are from Martinsburg, West Virginia; one is from Hagerstown, and one from Great Falls. They met years ago at Whitetail and have been going on ski trips together ever since. I suggested that they consider our Snowmass trip next January. They were all fast skiers and I skied hard, and largely without stops on any given run, in order to keep up. Over the course of the day, we skied 19 runs, about half on the Park City side and the remainder on the Canyons side. Some of the memorable runs were the little bumps under the King Con chair, Phantasm (a steep groomed black at the Canyons), the Terrain Park and Temptation at Park City, McDonald Meadow, a blue Canyons run with very large bumps, and Mercury, a long run at the Canyons.

Saturday night, Bob and I went to Versante, the Italian restaurant in the Peaks hotel. Bob had spaghetti and meatballs, which he liked, and I had chicken parmesan, which was good, but not exceptional. We also had a Caesar salad, which was somewhat underdressed.



Sunday, my last skiing day, I did some warm up runs and then again skied with the group of five men from the previous day. The day was sunny and the weather fairly warm. At the beginning of the day, the snow was a little crunchy, but it improved as the day progressed. We just skied on the Park City side – many runs off the Silverlode, Motherlode and Thaynes lifts (Parley’s Park, Single Jack, Keystone), a few from the King Con lift, two on the McConkey lift (Georgeanna and Tycoon), and then Keystone, again, which we accessed from the Pioneer lift. I finished the day with a few runs on Payday. I skied 17 or 18 runs from 8:45 to 2:55.

Our dinner Sunday night was at Handle, another new Park City restaurant. We shared a pear and pomegranate salad and both had cassoulet, which was excellent. For dessert, we shared Handle’s version of a strawberry ice cream pop (it was a bit of a surprise, as we had expected something more like a dish of ice cream). We both agreed that the dinner at Handle was the best one of the trip.

Monday was our return home. Again, we flew through Chicago, and although we thought we had plenty of time for the connection, we got to the gate for the DCA flight as it was halfway through boarding. All in all, a good last-minute ski trip to finish my ski season.

As you are probably aware, the BRSC is running a ski trip to Park City in early February next year. We have a small group of PVS members who have expressed interest in this trip. There are a number of different options for accommodations – at present PVS has opted to stay at the Doubletree. Other options may still be available. There are very few hotels at the base of Park City Mountain; there are a number of hotels at the Canyons base, but these hotels are considerably more expensive than the Doubletree. While not ski in-ski out, the Doubletree has nice rooms, is only a short bus ride from Park City, and has a convenient location to restaurants and shopping. In 2020, PVS ran a Park City trip – many PVS members have been to Park City, the Canyons, and Deer Valley (I believe that the BRSC trip includes a day at Deer Valley). Between Park City and the Canyons, there are a large variety of runs for skiers of all ability levels. A gondola connects the two parts of the area and getting back and forth is quite easy. I hope that more PVS members will consider participating in the Park City BRSC trip.

Cara Jablon, President PVS

April Annual Meeting  
At Jan Marx's home  
1:00 PM  
Saturday, April 13th



Join your fellow skiers for the annual business meeting to elect ExCom members, to share tales of adventures and activities, and to celebrate friendships.

As has been the tradition, members have the option of bringing an appetizer, salad or dessert. Please let Jan know if you are coming and what you will bring and RSVP by 9 April. Beverages will be provided. There will be no charge at the door.

703-314-7361 (cell)

703-451-9158 (home)

### Directions

8312 Oakford Dr., Springfield, VA 22152  
703-314-7361 (cell) or 703-451-9158 (home)

#### **FROM NORTH ON THE BELTWAY:**

**Take Exit 54A west** onto Braddock Rd. Go to the fifth stop light and angle **left** onto Burke Lake Rd. Turn **left** at next stoplight onto Rolling Rd. Go to fourth stoplight and turn **left** onto Forrester Blvd. (called Hillside on the right side of Rolling). Go two short blocks and turn **right** onto Oakford Dr. (opposite the school on your left). Go about two blocks, past the Dead End sign to 8312 on your **left**.

#### **FROM SHIRLEY HIGHWAY AND I-95:**

**Exit 95 SOUTH at Old Keene Mill Rd (Hwy 644) West.** (Franconia Rd and the Mall go to the East.) Go to the seventh stoplight and turn **right** onto Rolling Rd. Go through one light, past McDonalds and turn **right** onto Roxbury Ave. (opposite the post office). Turn at the **second right** (road curves around to the left) onto Fenwood Dr. Go one block and dead end into Oakford Dr. Turn **right** and the house is the fourth on the **left**, 8312 Oakford Drive.

## BUSINESS AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

We have three candidates for the 2024-2026 ExCom term.

These candidates are:

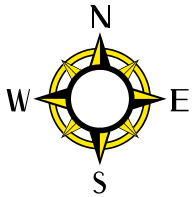
**Salli Diakova**

**Kathy Lake**

**Don Vierimaa**

Their election will be held at the April annual meeting.

(In accordance with the PVS By-Laws, 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.)



### Calling All Travelers We Want to Hear About Your Adventures



We are sure – or hope so at least - that you have noticed that **Members' Corner** has become a column for members to write about any and all adventures that they have undertaken. Since doing so, we have had a tremendous turnout of articles, but the queue has dwindled down, and so we are in need of new write-ups for future columns.



We want to thank those authors for their participation, and look forward to many others helping out in the future. If you have taken a fun trip/adventure that you would like to share with the other members, then by all means **write it up** and send it along with any pictures to Jan Marx for publication in a future TOOT.





## PVS - BYOB (Bring Your Own Book) Group

It won't be long now before we can tuck our books under our arms and head out to the beach or even just under a tree to read. Then we can decide which tome we want to tell others about at our monthly PVS BYOB. Getting together around the shared pleasure of reading is always fun and informative. Consider joining us and **see the info at the bottom for how to join in on Thursday, April 11th from 4 to 5 pm on Zoom.**

### Books we shared in March:

**Ellie Thayer** recently read "Sleeping with the Enemy" by journalist Hal Vaughn. Vaughn tells the story of the life of Coco Chanel, an impoverished orphan who created and sold her early clothing business, endured WWII by living with a German in occupied Paris, and herself spied for Germany. Her resurrected fashion empire is the stuff of legend. 5\*

**Karen Knopes** told us about "A World on the Wing: The Global Odyssey of Migratory Birds" by naturalist Scott Weidensaul. Alternately hopeful and depressing, per Karen, Vaughn's book tells of improved monitoring technology and the extraordinary measures people have taken to track and assess migratory birds. 5\*

**Marianne Soponis** shared "The Fountains of Silence." Author Ruta Sepetys sets this historical novel in Franco's fascist Spain featuring a young wealthy photojournalist and his love for a hotel maid whose family suffers under Franco's dictatorship. 5\*

**Mary Ellena Ward** interrupted her Spanish lessons to bring us "Learning to Walk in the Dark" by Barbara Brown Taylor. Taylor focuses on the spiritual nature associated with the moon and with the sun. Mary Ellena was especially interested in the descriptions of navigating physical darkness. 5\*

**Jan Marx** has been listening to "The Coworker" a mystery ("but different" per Jan) by Freida McFadden. Primary characters are the top saleswoman and the female auditor in a nutritional supplement company that's rife with secrets and in which a heinous crime is committed. 4\*

**Rosemary Schwartzbard** listened to "Devil Makes Three" written by Ben Fountain and lauded as one of the best audio books of 2023. The action features a politically naïve American and his local friend trying to run a scuba business in Haiti in 1991 in the aftermath of the coup d'etat against Aristide. Rosemary noted that the story was so "engrossing and timely." 5\*

**Nancy McKinley** brought nonfiction from Paul Theroux whose "On the Plain of Snakes" details the current state of Mexico, starting with the impact of US border policy. Driving alone across Mexico meeting locals, refugees, Zapatistas, artists, and writers, he has run-ins with corrupt and frightening police all while weaving in the remarkable history of this beautiful but troubled country. 5\*

The next BYOB Zoom call will be held on Thursday, April 11th from 4 to 5 pm. Let Nancy McKinley at [nancymckin@gmail.com](mailto:nancymckin@gmail.com) know if you'd like to stop by and check us out and she'll put you on the list to get the Zoom link. No commitment!



## **April 2024 SKI TALK.**

by

**Kathy Lake**



It's been an unbelievable ski season! March roared in like a lion for many ski resorts out West. During the first weekend in March, Jackson Hole had 30" of snow in one day and had to close the lifts for most of the day due to high winds. Then got another 17" a few days later. Vail and Beaver Creek received 20 – 25" over 3 days during the 1<sup>st</sup> week of March. While Aspen and Snowmass had 25" in 2 days. Over 35" fell at Mammoth in just a couple of days. Big Sky also had over 2 feet of snow. The Lake Tahoe region was hit really hard with Heavenly receiving over 50" in the first few days of March. Lifts were closed due to high winds and snow so deep that it was up to the chairs of the lifts!

Barry and I were skiing at Vail the last week of February. We had mostly sunny blue-sky days and temperatures in the high 20s – low 30s. At the beginning of the week, the snow conditions were hard packed, which felt a little like East Coast skiing. I was missing that powdery Colorado snow. Then mid-week we received some snow. So, we headed to the Back Bowls the day after the snowfall. It seemed like everyone else had the same idea. China Bowl was great! Most of the crowds had gone on to Blue Sky Basin. We attempted to head over to Blue Sky until we got close enough to see the unbelievably long lift line where everyone had to sidestep the decline leading to the entrance of the actual lift line. Looked like too much work and time, so we bailed. China was more inviting!

Later in the week we ventured over to Beaver Creek which is always a treat. From BC we skied our way over to Bachelor's Gulch and Arrowhead, which are less crowded. The snow seemed to be more forgiving. At Bachelor's Gulch we stopped for an afternoon break at the Ritz Carlton's outdoor bar/cafe for an expensive "sipping" beer. We enjoyed the view of the slopes on such a gorgeous afternoon. It was a nice way to wrap up our Vail trip before heading to Jackson Hole.

We managed to fly out of Eagle/Vail just before the next snowstorm hit Vail only to be stuck in Denver for 2 nights. Ugh! Our flight to Jackson was cancelled due to all the snow that they were getting. Two nights in Denver may sound exciting but in reality, it wasn't. We stayed at a Residence Inn at the Gateway Park area which is about 5 miles from the Denver

Airport with limited shopping and restaurants. On our first morning there we walked for just under an hour to the nearest store, Walmart, to purchase toiletry/cosmetic items, leading us to think about making some changes in travel “packing” incase this situation happens in the future. (Remarkably our bags made it to Jackson without us.) We had lunch at Applebee’s and dinner at Outback. Traveling is always an adventure!



We finally made it to Jackson Hole just in time for more snow to fall, 17 inches in one day. The day after the snowfall turned out to be a fairly sunny day with lots of fresh snow. It was a nice way for us to finish our skiing season. We stayed at The Alpenhof which is an Austrian style hotel with great skiing ambiance. Their restaurant offers a variety of Austrian style dishes. The wiener schnitzel was delicious! Another night we went to a popular local restaurant, The Mangy Moose, where Barry had a Bison Burger and I had a regular hamburger. All good.

Mid-March brought another massive amount of snowfall out West. Denver and surrounding suburbs had almost 3 feet of snow which led to cancelled and delayed flights, as well as, treacherous road travel conditions. I-70 was shut down for hours between Golden and Silverthorne. Arapahoe Basin was closed for a day because the roads leading to it weren’t passable. In the meantime, Deer Valley is taking advantage of all of this snow and has decided to extend its ski season by a week for only the second time in its 40-year history.

With all of this late snow it could make for perfect spring skiing conditions. There may still be time for you to get out there and enjoy if you are so inclined.

Here is a cute and interesting article that a couple of members alerted us to, about a “senior” ski club in Utah that some of you may have seen:

[Alta’s seniors ski club, the Wild old Bunch, proves age is just a number for Utah skiers \(sltrib.com\)](http://sltrib.com)

## *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](mailto:KathyLakehomes@yahoo.com) or 703-625-2715.

Kathy & Barry Lake  
Trip Leaders

## **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**

If you are interested in attending, please let us know by April 28<sup>th</sup> so that we can register all PVS attendees at the same time. Email: [kathylakehomes@yahoo.com](mailto:kathylakehomes@yahoo.com)



## MEMBERS' CORNER

### Stranded Overnight on Ski Bus by Kay Christensen

I was one of more than 40 women who were stranded overnight on I-70 during a recent voluminous spring snowstorm that dumped up to five feet of heavy, wet snow in the foothills & mountains of Colorado. Due to a cascade of unfortunate events, it took us 22 hours to return from Vail to Denver (usually a 2-hour drive).

Our ladies' ski bus, called Thera-Ski for "skiing is therapy," has been traveling weekly during ski season from Denver to various ski resorts for more than 40 years.

A few weeks ago, despite a winter storm forecast, we ventured to Vail as scheduled because significant snowfall wasn't predicted until late evening. As usual, we celebrated the last day of the ski season attired in bikini t-shirts, hula skirts and leis over our ski clothes. We enjoyed a delightful day of skiing on packed powder trails until late afternoon when the ski lifts were shut down due to lightning!

Snow started to fall as we departed Vail and our progress up the often-treacherous Vail pass was limited to a snail-like pace due to stalled vehicles blocking the highway. Subsequently, the transmission on our diesel-fueled bus overheated, forcing us to pull off and await a tow to the nearest exit ramp. The transit company dispatched a bus & driver from Denver to rescue us, but they weren't expected to reach us until late at night. After the transmission cooled, our driver was given clearance to resume our trip and we managed to crawl along I-70 past Silverthorne and through the Eisenhower Tunnel. At this point, around midnight, we exited at Idaho Springs so that our driver, who had timed out her maximum driving hours, could swap with a replacement driver sent up from Denver.

We returned to the snow-packed congested interstate and soon came to a complete stop amid an array of semi-trucks, trailers and cars, unable to move in any direction. I'm guessing we were stuck there for about 12 hours. Some ladies were able to sleep an hour or two in the dark confines of the 50-passenger bus, but most of us just dozed intermittently or conversed quietly. At least we had room to occasionally stand up & stretch.



We all bring water, snacks and wine to enjoy on our trips, but our resources at this point were diminishing. The last meal for us was lunch on the mountain Wednesday and after dawn on Thursday many of us exited the bus to gather snow to melt for water. We were fortunate to have a toilet onboard, but it was getting full and we were running out of toilet paper as well! Some of us were worried about exhausting our fuel supply, but apparently an idling engine doesn't consume much fuel and we were able to stay warm. In addition to two women who suffered injuries while skiing, we were concerned about a lady who is a diabetic and was running low on insulin.



Our dire situation prompted some of our ladies to reach out to the news media in search of information and help. We soon became quite a human-interest story all across Colorado media outlets.

Eventually we were resupplied with water from a bus maintenance crew that was able to access us and finally tow trucks and wreckers were able to clear the road sufficiently to allow us to resume our trip back to Denver. We have had many delays and detours over the years due to severe winter weather, but we have always returned home the same day. This time it took 22 long hours!

## MORE TIDBITS ON SENIOR SKIING:

We (PVS Members) are part of a large group:

*The number of seniors on the slopes has reached epic proportions. In 2020-21 seniors accounted for 16.1% of skier visits, totaling 59 million, while a record 10.5 million seniors participated in the sport according to the National Ski Areas Association.*

Skiing is one activity in which there is actually a benefit to getting “older”:

*In the November-December 2014 issue of Skiing History Magazine, there was a directory of ski areas where seniors can ski for free or for discounts in North America. As a rule of thumb, smaller areas not owned by Vail Resorts or Alterra are more likely to offer senior discounts. If you are considering visiting an area, check its website. Some of the areas include:*

Alta, Utah	80+	ski free
Powder Mountain, Utah	75+	ski free
Gunstock, New Hampshire	70+	ski free
Waterville Valley Resort, New Hampshire	80+	ski free
Smugglers' Notch Resort, Vermont	70+	\$500 discount on season pass
Shawnee Mountain, Pennsylvania	70+	ski free
Purgatory, Colorado	75+	ski free and at sister resorts
Swain Resort, New York	75+	ski free
Pajarito Mountain Ski Area, New Mexico	75+	ski free

In addition to PVS, there is an actual 70+ Ski Club: [<https://seniorsskiing.com/>]

*The 70+ Ski Club is a nationwide national club with 3,000+ members across the US and Canada. It organizes trips and events for its members with the objectives of providing a lower cost experience and companionship on the slopes.*

## Calendar

Thu Apr 11 BYOB (Bring Your Own Book) Zoom at 4:00 p.m., N. McKinley  
Sat April 13 Annual Members' Meeting, 1:00 p.m., Marx, Springfield, VA  
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

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

### **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.