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Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.
WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

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2025

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President's Message May, 2025

Thank you for again electing me as Potomac Valley Ski Club President.

We are a ski club.

If one skis as badly as I do - and even if one skis well - one ought therefore think of skiing poetically. We glide down mountain slopes. We descend over bumps rhythmically. We soar over snow. This is our essence.

However, because of age and other factors, many of us are doing less skiing or less aggressive skiing. Some are not skiing at all. But we all support skiing and the club maintains a panoply of activities in addition to ski trips, including convivial meetings; dinners; hikes; plays; reading activities and the like. The obvious fact remains, however, that if PVS is to maintain itself as a vibrant ski club, we should attract more and younger skiing members.

PVS has much value. It brings us together, providing support and interest. To preserve and add to PVS, I hope that we each maximize our efforts to get necessary new skiing members. Some are naturally social and inviting; others are encouraged to reach out. Paths to get skiing members include coordination with Slopedusters and other clubs.

We owe thanks to the many who work hard to maintain and advance the club. This includes arranging skiing activities, club events and schedules; providing for and hosting meetings and club parties; membership records and information; treasury; communications, including the valuable TOOT; external relations and more. Events participation aids club vibrancy.

Having said the above, my next messages will get back to the poetry of skiing, life and, I hope, other interests. However, because I am not planning new writings of mogul skiing techniques, unless members go to past TOOT issues, they may miss out. But to borrow from Winston Churchill: this is something up with which they will have to put.

Bob



**THERE IS NO
MEMBERSHIP MEETING IN
MAY**

**MARIANNE NEEDS
VOLUNTEERS TO HOST
THE SEPTEMBER AND
NOVEMBER MEETINGS**

Coming Events

Mark Your Calendars!

And, for the rest of the year.....

The planned calendar for meetings in 2025:

May – No meeting

June – Summerfest (members bring an appetizer, salad or dessert)

July and August – vacation time! No meetings

September – meeting with a \$5 charge, so no food to be brought

October – No meeting...too busy getting ready for Halloween!

November – meeting with a \$5 charge, so no food to be brought

December Holiday Party – bring lots of food and lots of cheer!

Past Event

PVS Annual Business Meeting 5 April 2025

Cara and Bob Jablon hosted the PVS annual business meeting on April 5. As usual, the table was loaded with good food, varied and delicious. Shrimp, dips, cheeses, and salmon brought by members were a perfect start. Cara's tasty meatballs in sauce completed the meal.



Corner Marriott on 2 May.

To open the business meeting Cara asked Kathy Lake for the latest on plans for the annual PVS Snowmass trip in 2026. The trip is on, scheduled for January 14-21 2026, and reservations can be made. Kathy requested that whoever is interested in going on the Snowmass trip in 2026, please send her a \$250 deposit to reserve their spot! Kathy also discussed BRSC trips for next year that PVS members might consider joining and mentioned that the Washington Ski Show will be at Tysons



Next was the annual election of officers. The slate of nominees - Bob Jablon for PVS president; Cara Jablon for VP; and Barry Lake, Jill Nelson, and Rosemary Schwarzbard for ExCom members – was elected unanimously.



In conclusion, Rosemary Schwartzbard presented a certificate of appreciation to Cara for her work as president and another to Dick Schwartzbard, who recently retired after ten years as treasurer. It was noted that not a penny was lost nor a decimal point misplaced during Dick's tenure.

The afternoon concluded with dessert and sincere thanks to Bob and Cara for their hospitality.

Submitted by Bob Knopes



SKI TALK
by
Kathy Lake

Spring Skiing

Spring has sprung and there are still many opportunities to get in some more skiing! Check out these 6 fabulous resorts that will be open a while longer. Palisades Tahoe remains open until May 26th. Imagine skiing on Memorial Day Weekend! Mammoth Mountain has been known to stay open late into summer during big snow years and is slated to run through Memorial Day Weekend as well. Snowbird is still going strong with spring hours on the weekends through closing day on May 26th. Mt. Bachelor has also transitioned to spring hours and will remain open until May 26th. Jay Peak is holding it down for the east coast having gotten some of the most snow of any mountain in the country this season at a whopping 470 inches (39.17 ft). You can keep spinning laps at Jay Peak until at least May 4th. Arapahoe Basin, which is known for its long season, has yet to set a closing date, and is planning to keep lifts spinning seven days a week, for as long as possible. Last season A-Basin was open until mid June.

Snowmass Trivia

Long before there were ski lifts, resort hotels and restaurants, Snowmass, Colorado, was full of mastodons—lots of mastodons. Also, mammoths, prehistoric bison, horses, American camels, and giant ground sloths. We know this because in 2010, a construction crew working in Snowmass' Ziegler Reservoir unearthed a mammoth bone.

Construction halted as a team of scientists from the Denver Museum of Nature and Science raced to examine the site. They had only 12 days to work before the ground froze, so they resumed the excavation the following May. When they were through, they'd uncovered more than 6,000 bones from 10 different species of large mammals and more than 30,000 bones from 42 species of small mammals. The fossils included 35 mastodons, earning the Ice Age find the nickname Snowmastodon.

Looking at the landscape today, it's hard to imagine a time when prehistoric creatures walked the earth. Luckily, we don't have to. Debbie Collins, tourism manager for Snowmass Tourism, said there are hiking trails and free guided walks offering a window into the past.

"These activities provide a unique perspective of our environment and landscape and how it has changed over time," Collins said.

Save the Date!
January 14-21, 2026
Snowmass, Colorado

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.

We hope to have pricing soon! If you are interested in going on the trip, PLEASE send a deposit of \$250 to reserve your spot. Make check payable to Kathy Lake and mail to:

Kathy Lake
11677 Fox Glen Dr.
Oakton, VA 22124

For questions contact us at KathyLakehomes@yahoo.com
Kathy & Barry Lake
Trip Leaders



Washington, DC Ski Travel Show

Friday, May 2nd 6:30 - 8:30pm at Marriott Tysons Corner 8028 Leesburg Pike, Tysons Corner, VA. Enjoy Hor's d'Oeuvres & Door Prizes!
Tour operators and representatives from ski resorts all over will be there.

Independent Ski Trips – Have you taken a ski trip this year that you would like to tell us about? We would love to hear your story in Members Corner!
Please submit your adventures to Jan Marx at jebbmarx@aol.com

Events during the month of May

While there isn't a PVS membership meeting in May, here are some opportunities for celebration:



Cinco de Mayo, or the fifth of May, is a holiday that celebrates the date of the Mexican army's May 5, 1862 victory over France at the Battle of Puebla during the Franco-Mexican War. The day, which falls on Monday, May 5 in 2025, is also known as Battle of Puebla Day. While it is a relatively minor holiday in Mexico, in the United States, Cinco de Mayo has evolved into a commemoration of Mexican culture and heritage, particularly in areas with large Mexican American populations.



Memorial Day is observed on the last Monday of May; this year May 26. It was formerly known as Decoration Day and commemorates all men and women who have died in military service for the United States. Many people visit cemeteries and memorials on Memorial Day and it is traditionally seen as the start of the summer season. Memorial Day is a federal holiday. Many people choose to hold picnics, sports events and family gatherings on this weekend.



PVS - BYOB (Bring Your Own Book) group

It's almost time to pick beach reads for the summer! Join us to hear about the latest and greatest (and occasionally not-so-great) reads your PVS friends have chosen to tell us about. No required reading and no commitment. **See the info at the bottom for how to join in on Zoom on May 8th (the second Thursday of each month) at 4 pm!**

Here are the books we shared in April:

Karen Knopes became immersed in the mid-1700's on the sea with "The Wager" by David Grann. It's a tale of shipwreck, survival, and savagery that Karen notes has "too many storms" which impeded her enjoyment of this bestseller. She gives it **4***

Ellie Thayer learned about "Camino: The Art of Wandering" from a seatmate on a recent flight. The seatmate's brother, author Nathan Richardson, is a historian who developed this combination memoir and history lesson about his trek on the Camino de Santiago. **5***

Marianne Soponis is taking a course on Thurgood Marshall and will be able to tell us more about "Thurgood Marshall" by Juan Williams. We're looking forward to hearing more next month!

Mary Ellena Ward has been rereading favorites and has just begun her new read, "Victoria: A Life" by A. N. Wilson. While only a little way into the book, Mary Ellena was able to share with us the surprising number of German connections in the English royal family due to the lack of appropriate marriageable royalty in Europe. More next month!

Jan Marx brought a mystery, "The Life We Bury" by Minnesotan Allen Eskins, about a college student who interviews an elderly Vietnam veteran and convicted killer in a nursing home. The student then throws himself into disproving the criminal charges against the veteran before the man passes away. Jan rates it **4.5***

Nancy McKinley brought "The Paris Express" by Emma Donahue. The author imagines the events leading up to a real steam engine crash in Paris in 1895. An anarchist, an artist, train crew, businessmen, and French parliament members make up the characters who happen to have been actually on the train that day. **5***

Our next BYOB Zoom call will be held on Thursday, May 8th 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.

Members' Corner

!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! VERY, VERY IMPORTANT !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

The club is in need of hosts who will have a meeting in their home in September and November. Please check with Marianne Soponis for information and support (202-353-5250 or Marianne.soponis@gmail.com). Go do that NOW!

\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$ Membership Alert \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

Bi-Annual Dues cycle restarts July 1, 2025

The PVS bi-annual dues renewal period for 2025 – 2027 will begin July 1, 2025. This is an advanced notice before the renewal distribution emails go out to membership. Renewal notices will be sent out via email to the current membership in late June.

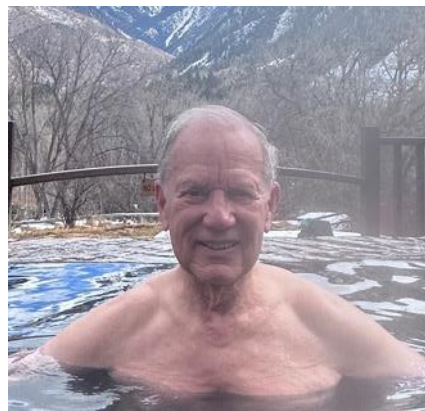
Submit a biographic sketch for the Toot

In order to create more comradery, we would like to provide short biographical sketches of our members in the monthly newsletters, the Toot. Please submit your biographical sketch to Jan Marx, jebbmarx@aol.com. If a file photo is available the TOOT staff will add your photo to the biographical sketch, or better, you could provide your favorite photo to accompany your sketch.

An example follows:

Donald Vierimaa

I enjoy friends & family, skiing, biking, hiking, kayaking, music, science, travel, and dancing. I retired 24 years ago from engineering. My favorite ski resort is Snowmass. I spend summers on a lake in Minnesota where I grew up.



Calendar

May 8 Thu BYOB on Zoom, McKinley, 4:00 pm.
May 14 Wed ExCom on Zoom, 7:00 pm
June 15 Sun Summerfest, 1:00 pm, Jill Nelson

Ski Trips

Snowmass, **January 14-21, 2026**, Led by Kathy & Barry Lake

ExCom Officers, Board

Members, and Chairpersons

Officers: President – <i>Bob Jablon</i> Vice Pres. – <i>Cara Jablon</i> Secretary – <i>Ellie Thayer</i> Treasurer – <i>Barry Lake</i> Ex Officio – Board Members: <u>First Term 2023-2025:</u> <i>Barry Lake</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>	Chairpersons: Ski Trip Coordinator – <i>Kathy Lake</i> Events – <i>Marianne Sponis</i> Membership Records – <i>Barry Lake</i> TOOT Coordinator – <i>Jan Marx</i> TOOT Layout Editors – <i>Jan Marx, Kerry Hines</i> TOOT (E-Distribution) – <i>Barry Lake</i> Nomination Chairman – <i>Barry Lake</i> Webmaster – <i>Mary Ellena Ward</i> Meeting Records – <i>Sue Lyon</i> Historian – <i>Jan Marx</i>
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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.