

Volume 51
Number 11

Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.
WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

November
2016

www.pvskiers.org

info@pvskiers.org

President's Message

Hello, PVSers!

Well, it worked and we had a fine time! This month's meeting was held not on a Tuesday evening or on a weekend, but at lunchtime on a weekday! Thanks to Ellie's creative "out of the box" suggestion and her coordination, we met for our October monthly meeting during lunchtime at the Culinaire Restaurant and enjoyed a gourmet meal prepared and served by the culinary students. The entire restaurant was reserved for our event. Thank you Ellie, and please thank your son and the staff for making this a special occasion for our club.

We need more ideas such as this from all our members, and your help with leadership and planning. Soon ExCom will be preparing the way for our club elections at the annual meeting in April. In December, we will appoint a Nominating Committee to recommend members to fill the upcoming vacant leadership positions. Your suggestions will be welcomed. Consider stepping up to the plate and volunteering your help and ideas.

Sadly, I will miss our other October/early November events, because I will be visiting my granddaughters in Tokyo (another, but very different, urban hike arena). Nancy McKinley will lead this year's Urban Hike along my favorite Mount Vernon Trail from Crystal City to Daingerfield Island Sailing Marina. I proudly claim some responsibility for the existence of this trail. Before it was there (in the 1970s), Alexandria residents were promoting the notion of a bike path with some skepticism from local (and Park) officials. I remember helping spread gravel along a tentative, dragged path near the Marina, with my toddlers in tow and baby on my back. The skepticism subsided as it became clear there was strong community support and need for a bike path system. Look at what we have now!

I will also miss the next Eclipse Concert, which is always exceptional and a real bargain, but will see you all at Jan Marx's home for our November 15 evening meeting.

--Carolyn

November Monthly Meeting

November 15, 2016 7:30 PM

At the home of Janet Marx

Springfield, VA 22152

703-451-9158 jebbmarx@aol.com





Directions:

8312 Oakford Dr. Springfield, VA 22152 703-451-9158

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 HWY AND 95:

Exit 95 SOUTH at Old Keene Mill Rd (Hwy 644) West. 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**.

FROM FAIRFAX COUNTY PARKWAY and Braddock Rd east:

Go to Rolling Road at Kings Park. Turn **right**. Go to fifth 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 FAIRFAX COUNTY PARKWAY and Old Keene Mill Rd:

Go to Rolling Rd and turn **left**. 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**.



SKI TALK

NOVEMBER 2016



Well, the ski season is getting closer and the snow has started falling in Aspen/Snowmass. Predictions are for above average snowfall this November and December. Get your ski gear out, dust it off and decide what you need new this year. According to the new Ski Magazines, the skis have not changed considerably from previous years. They are now recommending skis that are not as wide as previously recommended for better carving. Skis that are 75-90 mm under the foot should work best for carving. Experts say fewer than 10% of skiers actually carve turns and thinner skis should help improve that number. Check out the SeniorsSkiing.com website which lists skis that are good for seniors.



As many of you know, Washington Ski Center has closed. Brian Eardley, who was employed there and has taken care of PVS skiers for many years, is now working at:

Ski Shoppe Ltd

202 Main St.

Reisterstown, Maryland 21136

The store is located at Route 97 and the Baltimore Beltway. While it is not as convenient as the Ski Center, it is still within driving range. If you need new equipment, especially boot fitting, remember to get in touch with Brian.

Phone # [410 833 1101](tel:4108331101)

email: eardleybr@gmail.com.



According to the latest ski statistics, the United States was the most popular ski destination last year for the first time beating France. Our Western ski resorts are becoming quite international, and it is always fun to ride up on the lifts with our international guests from as far away as Australia and New Zealand.

Speaking of going international, Vail has announced that its Epic Pass is now valid in four European countries in 2016. It will add [Les 3 Vallees](#), [Paradiski](#) and Tignes-Val d'Isere in France; [Skirama Dolomiti Adamello Brenta](#) in Italy; [4 Vallees](#) in Switzerland; and [Arlberg](#) in Austria to the 2016/2017 Epic Pass lineup.

Check www.epicpass.com for details. Vail is on its way to owning a large portion of the ski world. Its latest purchase is Whistler/Blackcomb. Last year they acquired Park City/Canyons.

If you have not yet signed up for Snowmass and/or Val d'Isere, please see fliers in this TOOT. There still may be space. Contact the trip directors.

Please support PVS ski trips.

Rosemary Schwartzbard

rosemaryschw@gmail.com



Ski Trip



Potomac Valley Skiers

2017 Snowmass, Colorado Ski Trip

Wednesday, January 11–Wednesday, January 18

Just a few rooms left... but not for long! Female roommate needed

Trip Details

Once again we will be staying [slope-side at the Snowmass Mountain Chalet \(SMC\)](#), just below the Snowmass Mall and from where you can ski directly to the lifts. Check the web site at www.mountainchalet.com. This year we are offering a “**Land Only**” package since most people prefer to make their own arrangements. The total package includes: land transfer from Aspen airport to SMC and return; 5 day lift ticket ([good for all four ski areas in the Aspen complex, free shuttle bus](#)) with option for extra days; 7 nights lodging (double occupancy); daily breakfasts; daily soup lunch; luggage handling; a welcome reception, an “all guest” hotel-sponsored party, a “pizza” party and a farewell group dinner to celebrate our trip. Additional nights at Snowmass are an option **based on availability**. Trip insurance is available through Encompasse Tours and is [highly suggested](#).

The basic package at \$1,630 includes a lift ticket discount for skiers 65 and over. Those under 65 will have to add \$42.00. Direct link to the full application: http://pvskiers.org/ski_trips/Snowmass2017.pdf.

Costs:		Price
Basic Snowmass Package (65 and older)		\$1,630
Under 65	add	\$ 42
Single Supplement	add	\$1,027
Non-skiers	subtract	\$ 262
Extra ski days (65 and older)	add	\$ 58 per day
Under 65	add	\$ 128 for 1 extra day
	add	\$ 224 for 2 extra days
Silver Pass	add	\$ 161

NOTE: The Silver Pass is available for skiers 70 and older for an additional \$161. If you are over 70 and plan to ski more than 7 days, you should buy the Silver Pass.

To sign up please send:

- (1) the [Application form](#) -- one per person or one per couple residing at the same address
- (2) [Full Payment](#)
- (3) the [signed Waiver of Liability Agreement](#) by each party taking the trip

Checks should be made out to **Kathy Lake** and mailed to 11677 Fox Glen Drive, Oakton VA 22124 (put [PVS Snowmass 2017](#) on the check memo line).

Kathy and Barry Lake are the trip leaders. For more information, feel free to contact us at 703-625-2715 or kathylakehomes@yahoo.com

Ski Trip

Spaces available – fun group of 31 so far – don't wait to sign up...

Potomac Valley Skiers present:

Val d'Isère, France © March 4 - 12, 2017

Plus: Optional pre-trip to Lyon and/or post-trip to Nice

*Lyon - add \$275
March 2 - 4*

*Val d'Isère - \$2850
March 4 - 12*

*Nice - add \$625
March 12 - 16*

*7 nights
at the*

4 ★ Hotel L'Aigle Des Neiges

Welcome Drink on arrival with light snacks and orientation by Tourist office representative
Cocktail Hour each evening with exclusive club prices
Mid-week Après Ski Party

Full hot and cold breakfast buffet daily
4-course dinner for 3 evenings
so you can explore other great restaurants

Indoor pool, sauna, and steam room
Ski room with heated boot warmers

Round trip air: Dulles/IAD - Lyon/LYS via Air France
Round trip transfers between Lyon Airport and Val d'Isere

Emergency Medical and repatriation insurance
*Trip Cancellation Insurance is not included in basic trip cost, but can be purchased



Snowsure: Snow coverage tends to be one of the best in Europe as conditions normally facilitate good skiing right to the end of the season, which is usually in early May.



Inge Lesjak ☆ 8123 Kingsview Ct, Springfield, VA 22152 ☆ 703-869-7248

lesjak.inge@gmail.com
(co-leader with Jerry Poley)

Must be a member of a Blue Ridge Ski Council club to participate

Payment Schedule on pvsikers.org (write checks to Inge Lesjak and mail to her at above address)

Val d'Isere \$2850 Lyon + Val d'Isère \$275 + \$2850 = \$3125 Val d'Isère + Nice \$2850 + \$625 = \$3475

Trifecta: Lyon + Val d'Isère + Nice = \$275 + \$2850 + \$625 = \$3750

Future Ski Trip?

ANY INTEREST IN A MIDWEEK SKI TRIP TO SUNDAY RIVER, MAINE?

Sunday River is Maine's second largest ski resort. It spreads across eight interconnected peaks, with 15 lifts, 135 trails and 95% snowmaking. It is an easy flight to Portland and a one and a half-hour bus ride to the resort from the airport.



Sunday River, Maine - February 5 to 10, 2017 or February 12 to 17, 2017 (Sunday to Friday).

Grand Summit Hotel - Ski-in ski-out.



Fly to Portland, Maine from Washington Reagan National airport on Sunday about 3:00 PM and return from Portland, Maine on Friday in the early afternoon. Take a shuttle bus from the airport to Sunday River.

The estimated cost is **\$891.00** per person double room and includes air, shuttle bus, hotel (five nights), breakfast, senior lift ticket, and some incidental expenses. It does not include lunch or dinner.

This is a tentative proposal for a trip. **Please let me know if there is any interest in this trip and which dates you would prefer:**

John H. Smith

Phone: 301-299-8376

E-mail: johnhsmith@juno.com

(Happy Thanksgiving)



Coming Event

Join PVS for the
Eclipse Chamber
Orchestra's
Concert
Sunday,
December 4
3:00pm



In its 25th season of world-class performances, Eclipse Chamber Orchestra, one of the nation's premier chamber ensembles, presents exceptional performances of diverse repertoire. Featured regularly on WETA-FM, ECO takes great pride in spotlighting its members as soloists in every concert where one can enjoy hearing up close the artists one sees only from afar at venues like the Kennedy Center. The upcoming concert will be at an **alternate venue** from their regular subscription series. Please join PVS once again to enjoy the upcoming concert at St. Luke's Catholic Church in McLean, VA.

www.eclipseco.org

SUNDAY, December 4 at 3 PM

Strauss: Serenade for Winds

Mozart: Symphony #29

Strauss: Metamorphosen I for 23 Solo Strings

NOTE the location:

St. Luke's Catholic Church at 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean, VA

Optional: gather for a local dinner after the concert.

Eclipse Chamber Orchestra is committed to bringing quality music at a price that everyone can afford. Therefore it's "pay as you can." Donations are made at the door or you can donate online.

Please RSVP to Ray and Nancy McKinley at 703 527 7126 or at nancymckin@gmail.com by December 2 to let us know you're coming, and we'll keep a lookout for you. Let us know if you plan to join us for dinner.

We'll see you there!



Past Event

October 18, 2016 Monthly Meeting
CULINAIRE



PVS decided to try something new for its October meeting and it was a business meeting and gustatory success. We met for lunch at Culin*aire* Restaurant in Rosslyn where culinary students, supervised by chef instructors, prepared and served 29 of us a delicious lunch. The light and airy setting is on the 12th floor of the Art Institute of Washington building with large picture windows looking outward, as well as large picture windows looking into the kitchen.

The meal began with a house salad and bread made in-house. Three entrée choices were offered: salmon, roast beef, and house-made whole wheat pasta with roasted squash. The dessert sampler included a slice of opera cake and an exceedingly scrumptious sample of pumpkin cheesecake. Accolades all around for the meal.



President Carolyn DeVilbiss conducted a short business meeting where Ray McKinley reported on future meetings and events and Rosemary Schwartzbard and Kathy Lake reported on the 2017 ski trips, which are full or nearly so. Rosemary noted that it was snowing in Aspen, and they are predicting an epic year for snow – something they predict every year said Rosemary.

The event ended with a few remarks by Chef Michael Roll, Director of the culinary school, and applause for Chef Abel and Chef Dilling, the chef instructors for the kitchen and the front of the house, respectively.

Submitted by *Ellie Thayer*



Past Event

URBAN HIKE - OCTOBER 28, 2016



The sun was shining and the breeze was blowing - another beautiful day for a PVS Urban Hike! On Friday, October 28, eight PVSers, dressed for windy weather, met in Crystal City to hike down the Mount Vernon Trail. Just 2.6 miles to get to our “sit-down” with a view of the Potomac and sailboats at the Indigo Landing Restaurant at the Washington Sailing Marina on George Washington Parkway. Our troupe - Reg Heitchue, Susan Sinclair, Dick Schwartzbard, Rosemary Schwartzbard, Sue Lyon, Ellie Thayer, Nancy McKinley, and applicant member Martha Cole Glenn - was met by Shirley Rettig who biked up the trail from Alexandria, by Sally Ann Greer (guest of Rosemary) and by Dave DeVilbiss and Ray McKinley who took the “scenic route” by car via the District of Columbia....

The sunny return trip hike of 2.6 miles was a snap after the lovely lunch and with the opportunity to chat and catch up with other members in the fresh air. Looking forward to the next Urban Hike – we hope to see you then!

submitted by *Nancy*



Members' Corner



By J. David Warthen, Jr.
dwarthen@verizon.net

Friendship Gathering for Dick Laeser in Reston, VA:

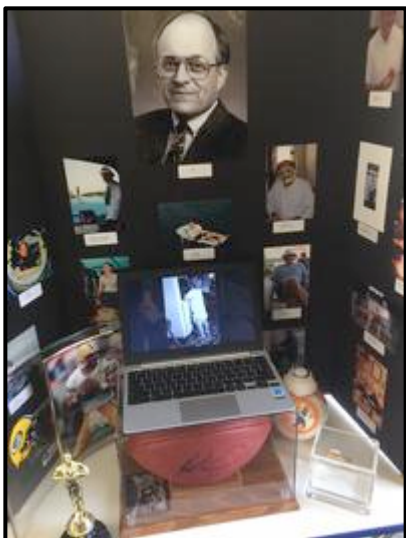
At the invitation of Sandra Laeser, close to 100 people attended the Friendship Gathering for Dick on a crisp October 22 Saturday morning in Reston, VA. It was a



beautiful day to celebrate Dick's life, and celebrate we did. While it was a cold, blustery day, all were cozy in the tent adjoining the house on Lake Thoreau. Among those in attendance were his two daughters (Holly and Kathryn), granddaughters (Kaylynn, Ashlin, and Breckin), four great grandchildren (McKinley, Alayna,

Bryson, and Alivia), Dick's brother Thomas (wife Joyce), and Sandy's sister and brother-in-law. Among the remaining friends were about a dozen PVS members who attended, including Dick Schwartzbard, who had known Dick for 44 years. Sandy gracefully acted as mistress of ceremonies, and began by giving a touching tribute to her husband. Many shared remembrances about Dick, and related memories of his kindness, gentleness, brilliance, thoughtfulness, humbleness, sense of humor, bravery, honesty, courage, and optimism no matter the circumstances. After the time of sharing, all dined together where food, wine, and more stories flowed.

In the 28 years that Dick battled different cancers, he never let the disease define him. What courage!



This Friendship Gathering for Dick was just what he would have wanted. As we reminisced and remembered, one could just see Dick smiling and appreciating all of his family and friends. He will be dearly missed.

Thank you,
Sandy!

--R. Schwartzbard

Thanksgiving:

As autumn descends upon us, and we prepare for Thanksgiving, it is that time of year for family gatherings, breaking bread together, and enjoying what is really important in life, as is reflected in the write up in the first column. As you prepare your turkey and trimmings, as well as those wonderful pies, I wish you the best Thanksgiving ever with all those for whom you care the most. As we will have survived another election by Thanksgiving Day, it is always a good time to sit back and take an inventory of what is really important, and decide to appreciate our many blessings in the land in which reside.



Voting:

No matter your persuasion in the political arena, voting is a privilege and right in these United States. You may want a 'none of the above choice,' you may want to vote for an 'elephant' or a 'donkey,' or you may want to vote for 'Supreme Court choices.' The point is that you have a choice to vote, unhindered, because it is part of freedom. Do join other United States citizens and exercise your right to vote on November 8!



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Thanks to:

-TOOT Coordinator - E. Thayer

-TOOT Layout Editor - J. Marx

-TOOT USPS - B. Leonhardt, J. Read, & L. Triau
- Electronic TOOT - J. D. Warthen

Roster Changes: (contact dwarthen@verizon.net)

-See the updated PVS Roster, distributed 11-1-16.

Please disregard your old PVS Roster, as you store your new roster on your computer devices. Keep up to date.



THE KNEE

by Ray McKinley

RaysKnee@gmail.com

Skiers care about the weather. And we've had quite a bit lately. Hurricane Matthew, which caused wide-spread death and destruction, a significant earthquake in Italy, tornados in the central US and multiple tropical storms. What's next? Locusts?

It's November. Fall is finally upon us. The **Knee** recently read that weather forecasters are using a new methodology that predicts a very snowy winter. It's called pinecone counting. A lot of pinecones is Mother Nature's (perhaps I should use the non-sexist "Parent Nature's") way to tell the squirrels to stock up on nuts, as it should be a real humdinger of a winter. Scientists have correlated the amount of pinecones directly with the amount of snowfall. Although they don't tell us how the pine trees know how much snow is coming 6-9 months in advance. Rosemary Schwartzbard added credence to this when she reported the first major snowfall in Colorado's high country behind Aspen—the earliest on record. **Kneet**

Knee's surgery notes: Dave DeVilbiss was at the meeting shortly after his second foot surgery. And he was walking with no limp whatsoever. On a side note, the Knee himself had a couple of small strokes followed by a bit of surgery this summer – doing well!

Bob Eadie has fully recovered from recent surgery and is at the ready to help wife, Louann, as she goes through extensive treatments for her illness. A tip of the ol' Knee cap to them both!

PVS Travels. Bob and Karen Knopes are just back from northern California. So many of their friends have moved out there that they have to make the trek to the west coast to see all the folks that used to be just down the road.

Pres. Carolyn DeVilbiss is, as I write this, in Japan visiting her son and family and enjoying all the tempura and sushi she can. Carolyn loves to speak to her granddaughters in a mix of Japanese (their first language) and English.

Also, the **Knee and Nancy** were on a tour in Italy, Malta and Corsica in September and October—ah, it's great to be retired! Our small chartered cruise ship had Broadway performers who entertained us at night – including 82-year-old Chita Rivera. She was dynamite and reminds us of the many super-active

octogenarians we have in our club (and nonagenarians too!).

John and Blanca Hotaling, after celebrating their 48th wedding anniversary this spring, took an extensive cruise in September. From Italy over to France, to Morocco, Spain and Portugal and back to Italy. They had a ball!

John and Polli Brunelli just got back from doing some leaf peeping in New England. Dick Schwartzbard observed, on hearing about it, that you could get arrested for peeping in New England, too.

Linda and Jack Sloan were seen in town recently. They divide their time between Arlington and Sarasota, Florida. In June of each year, they normally escape north to Arlington to avoid the hot weather down south. This summer, as you'll recall our miserable streak of hot days here, they would have been better off staying in Florida – it was so hot in the DC area that....well, how hot was it? It was so hot that I saw a robin use a pot holder to pull out a worm. It was so hot that cows were giving evaporated milk. It was so hot that I saw the Devil at Ace Hardware buying air conditioners and Dick Cheney water-boarded himself!

Jan Marx recently went to visit long-time member Aina Thomas whom we haven't see in ages.

Aina is now 91 and doing well. Aina met her late husband, former Pres. Hank Thomas "several years ago" on a PVS trip. She's been staying locally rather than traveling.

John Smith just returned from a trip on the QE2 to London to deliver a paper. Not a newspaper – a serious paper!

Shirley Rettig and her sister are recently back from a Viking River Cruise through Germany and Austria. While there, they arranged to visit their ancestral hometown just north of Heidelberg. They found a pretty little burg nestled against the mountains where the primary occupation was stone cutting, usually for cemetery markers. Shirley, who acknowledges that her family name means "radish" in German, said there was no farming of the tuber in that area due to the rocky terrain.

Sending good thoughts to Dick Parlow, who recently suffered a stroke, but is doing well. He's moved to Richmond but stays active with PVS and plans to ski with us this year.



PVS Calendar 2016:

- Nov 15 Tue Monthly Meeting, 7:30 PM, Jan Marx, Springfield, VA
- Dec 4 Sun Eclipse Concert, 3:00 PM, McLean, VA, McKinley, (see pg 7)
- Dec 6 Tue ExCom Meeting, 7:00 PM, telephonic
- Dec 20 Tue Monthly Meeting/Holiday Party, 7:30 PM, Hotalings, Arlington, VA



PVS Ski Trips 2017:



January 11-18, 2017: PVS Aspen/Snowmass, CO (Barry & Kathy Lake)

March 4-12, 2017: PVS Val d'Isere, France (Inge Lesjak/Jerry Poley)

Local Skiing: John Smith will be coordinating the best weather day and destination for each week. Members will be notified and can let John know if they are interested in going.

Useful Ski "Links"

- Potomac Valley Skiers..... www.potomacvalleyski.org
- BRSC Sanctioned Trips..... www.skicouncil.com/tripsbydate.htm
- DC Ski Online News www.dcski.com
- Best of Times Ski Club www.bestoftimeskiclub.org>Ski Trips

ExCom

Officers:	Chairpersons:
President – <i>Carolyn DeVilbiss</i>	Ski Trip Committee – <i>Rosemary Schwartzbard</i>
V. President – <i>Marianne Sophonis</i>	Events – <i>Ray McKinley</i>
Secretary – <i>Ellie Thayer</i>	Membership Records – <i>Dave Warthen</i>
Treasurer – <i>Dick Schwartzbard</i>	Membership PR Reps – <i>Inge Lesjak & Marianne Sophonis</i>
Ex Officio -	TOOT Coordinator – <i>Ellie Thayer</i>
Board Members:	TOOT Layout Editors – <i>Jan Marx, Marvin Hass, & Dave Warthen</i>
First Term:	TOOT (E-Distribution) – <i>Dave Warthen</i>
<i>Barry Lake</i>	TOOT (USPS Distribution) – <i>Barb Leonhardt, June Read, Liz Triau</i>
<i>John H. Smith</i>	Webmaster – <i>Mary Ellena Ward</i>
<i>Ellie Thayer</i>	Meeting Records – <i>Sue Lyon</i>
Second Term:	Historian – <i>Jan Marx</i>
<i>Herb Bennett</i>	
<i>Marna Blanchette</i>	
<i>Nancy Pigman</i>	

