

Volume 52  
Number 10

*Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.*  
WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

October 2017

[www.pvskiers.org](http://www.pvskiers.org)

[info@pvskiers.org](mailto:info@pvskiers.org)

---

## President's Message

*I write this month on **War and Peace**. PVS members might ask, "Why?"*

Members can be on a chairlift sitting next to young Super People. Super People will be discussing Garrett Gulch. They go to Garrett Gulch on purpose. Looking for Sheer Bliss, by mistake, you, a PVS member, can find yourself on Garrett Gulch, a steep, narrow, concave path between tall, impenetrable trees. With luck, skiing down Garrett Gulch, you may fall on only 40 percent of your turns, always landing face down. You may find solace by claiming rightly that you made more than half the turns; however, on the chairlift Super People are calling Garrett Gulch fun, exhilarating, a piece of cake. When they do, you need something to divert their attention or, at least, to divert yours. I suggest *War and Peace*.

At the core of *War and Peace* is Tolstoy's treatment of Napoleon's leadership of the French armies all the way across Europe, deep into Russia, reaching beyond Moscow, and, then, their subsequent retreat all the way back to France. When he was winning against the European powers, Napoleon could hardly do wrong. Employing what is even today considered brilliant strategy, he captured territory further and further east. Defeated, opposing armies almost withered away. But when the tide (or snow) turned, Napoleon could do no right. Defeat followed defeat. Napoleon ended exiled at Elba.

Napoleon was the same person with the same skills when he was winning and when he was losing. Tolstoy asks how it can be that a person who is so successful can become so unsuccessful. Tolstoy suggests and attempts to demonstrate that neither emperors nor generals cause victories or defeats. Great men do not create what happens. A myriad of individual acts of multitudes of people combines to create moods that leaders, no matter how brilliant, are unable to overcome.

Tolstoy argues that outcomes result from changes in the tides of individual soldier and citizen acts as the oceanic and river flows are the sum of individual water molecules. The question that Tolstoy asks – to what extent are leaders responsible for outcomes attributed to them for which they receive credit or blame – is worth pondering. To what extent do we control our destinies? To what extent are our acts driven by the tides?

A more current reference: Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair said in his memoirs that when things were going well, his actions gained broad acceptance. When they were not, he could not succeed. Success and failure are

## October Monthly Meeting

**SATURDAY, October 21**

**2:00 PM**

**Melissa FitzGerald's home**

**2520 Farrier Lane,**

**Reston, VA 20191-2116**

**[thediehlhouse@gmail.com](mailto:thediehlhouse@gmail.com)**

**or 703-476-9259**

matters of changing public moods, not of changing facts – or so Tony Blair argued.

When the Washington Nationals or Cleveland Indians and their players are hot, they win in streaks; their players make amazing plays. When the streaks end, the same teams and players play. They make strikeouts and errors. They lose. Other organizations experience parallel phenomena.

Setting aside not totally irrelevant issues of free will and determinism, we govern our fates, mostly, perhaps. One has to do right things. One has to work hard. One has to care. But maybe we are less in control less than we believe. Maybe what we think and do are more reflections of our times. Tolstoy suggested that to our benefit and to our detriment, we are buffeted by tides we cannot control.

How much are supposedly great leaders and we the cause of outcomes? Issues of causation matter to PVS. When we gracefully glide down the hill – the sun is shining, the snow is firm, the air is crisp - we ski well because of our good decisions to be skiing, years of practice and many paid for lessons. We are responsible for our skiing, our excellent skiing. When our skis cross and we fall on hard packed snow, bad conditions, worse karma and the snow tides are to blame – not PVS members.

Next month primary things: skiing and food. Or, food and skiing?

*--Bob Jablon*

**Directions to Melissa's**

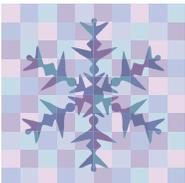
**2520 Farrier Lane,  
Reston, VA 20191-2116**

**From the Beltway (I-495) -**

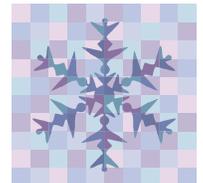
Take the Dulles Toll Road (Rte 267) west to exit 12, Reston Parkway. Turn left onto Reston Parkway. Go about two miles, and turn left at the light onto Lawyers Road (note that if you turn left, the street is Lawyers Road; if you turn right, the street is McLearn Road). Take the first left onto Farrier Lane. Melissa's house is the third on the left.

**From the South -**

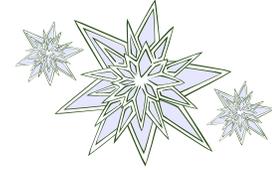
Take Fairfax County Parkway north. Turn right onto Fox Mill Road. Turn right onto Reston Parkway. Turn left onto Lawyers Road. Take the first left onto Farrier Lane. Melissa's house is the third on the left.



Barbara Leonhardt very much thanks all the PVS members who expressed their condolences upon the recent death of her husband. Fred died on August 24, just a month after being diagnosed with very aggressive brain and torso cancer.



## SKI TALK OCTOBER 2017



Ski season is rapidly approaching. It is already snowing in the Rockies and the predictions are that there could be above average snow conditions in the west this year. As you may remember, I have been demoing skis for two years trying to find the “right” skis for me. Unfortunately, there is no magic, but I did make a choice. I bought a new pair of Blizzard Black Pearl skis. I just had the bindings put on them at Sun and Ski (Ski Chalet) and picked them up while they were setting up for their big clearance event. I hope that some of you went to the clearance and bought some new gear. It was fun looking through all of the skis, boots and clothing and then carrying my skis out the door. Even Dick bought a new pair of skis. He’s such an optimist!

According to Kerry Hines, the snow predictions for this season are:

Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Montana and Idaho: Normal to above-average snowfall

Pacific Northwest: Normal snowfall

Whistler Blackcomb and Banff/Lake Louise: Normal to above-average snowfall

California: Normal to slightly below-average snowfall

Northeast: Normal snowfall

We are hoping we can extend the PVS ski season this year. We have received a proposal for a ski trip to Mt. Snow, Vermont, in March. PVS members Alice McNulty and Dick Lau have proposed to lead a trip to their favorite Eastern ski resort. They have been skiing at Mt. Snow for 25 plus years and have agreed to be our tour guides on the mountain. Please read the flier in this TOOT for all of the information. They are proposing six nights, Sunday through Saturday, at a lovely ski-in ski-out hotel for under \$1000 including air and lift tickets. This trip has been approved by the Ski Trip Committee and ExCom, but has not been finalized pending interest. Alice says the snowmaking is excellent, and there should be good skiing through March. If you have any questions and/or interest, please send an email to Alice at: [mcnulty@optonline.net](mailto:mcnulty@optonline.net) with a copy to me.

Rosemary Schwartzbard  
[rosemaryschw@gmail.com](mailto:rosemaryschw@gmail.com)



## Proposed Ski Trip

*\*New\* \*New\* \*New\**

### PROPOSAL FOR SKI TRIP TO MT. SNOW, VERMONT

March 18-24, 2018

*If interested, please let us know by the end of November*



This is an opportunity to ski at Mt. Snow, Vermont, with Alice McNulty and Dick Lau who have been skiing there for years. This is a beautiful mountain with a total acreage of 589. The base elevation is 1,900 feet; with a summit elevation of 3,600 feet; and vertical drop of 1,700 feet. There are twenty lifts and tree terrain available on all four mountain faces. The percentage of terrain for different abilities is: 14% green, 73% blue and 13% black.

**HOTEL:** We would stay at the ski-in/out **Grand Summit Hotel**. It has an exercise room, pool and spa.

**LIFT TICKETS:** Senior 4-day midweek \$140; senior 5-day midweek \$170. People might want to get the 4-day and ski at Stratton Mountain one day. It's about a 45-minute drive.

**PROPOSED DATES:** Proposed dates March 18-24 to provide 5 full days of skiing.

**TRAVEL FROM DC:** Air: Flights from Dulles to Hartford on United are 1.5 hours and are \$199-\$169 depending on whether you fly Sunday or Monday.

Transportation to the resort from Bradley Airport (Hartford) to Mount Snow is provided by Thomas Transportation in a private van for about \$41-\$46/per person depending on whether we would need a trailer for skis and baggage.

**ESTIMATED COST:** The **estimated** cost would be approximately \$900:

Airfare \$200

Airport transfer \$84.

Room approximately \$400 (per person/shared).

Senior midweek lift ticket (5 days) \$170.

No meals included but we will try to set up a welcome wine and cheese party. We will also check with the hotel (or other local restaurants) for a farewell dinner and the cost.

*I have been skiing at Mount Snow for almost 25 years. It really has something for everyone in terms of terrain, and each year the snowmaking gets better and better - so there are virtually no gaps. Dick Lau and I would be happy to ski with anyone and show you the mountain. West Dover and Wilmington are charming, postcard VT towns with some excellent restaurants. There is also the possibility of a moonlight sleigh ride (weather permitting), snowmobiling, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing.*

If interested, let me know by the end of November

Alice McNulty

Email: [mcnulty@optonline.net](mailto:mcnulty@optonline.net)

With a copy to:

[rosemaryschw@gmail.com](mailto:rosemaryschw@gmail.com)



## Ski Trips



# Potomac Valley Skiers

2018 Snowmass, Colorado Ski Trip

Wednesday, January 10-Wednesday, January 17

## Trip Details

Once again, we will be staying at the [Snowmass Mountain Chalet \(SMC\)](http://www.mountainchalet.com), which offers a convenient ski in, ski out location. Check the web site at <http://www.mountainchalet.com>. The “**Land Only**” package includes: transportation to and from Aspen airport (7am -11pm); 5-day Senior lift pass ([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](#). For trail information, check <http://www.aspensnowmass.com>.

**The basic package at \$1,630 includes a lift pass discount for skiers 65 and over. Skiers under 65 will have to add \$93.00.**

<u>Costs:</u>		<u>Price</u>
Basic Snowmass Package (65 and older)		\$1,630
Under 65	add	\$ 93
Single Supplement	add	\$1,044
Extra hotel night (pending availability)	add	\$ 310 per room per night
Non-skiers	deduct	\$ 224
Extra ski days (65 and older)	add	\$ 65 for a 6-day Senior pass
	add	\$ 110 for a 7-day Senior pass
Under 65	add	\$ 172 for a 6-day pass
Silver Pass (70+ skiing 8 or more days)	add	\$ 196

**NOTE:** The Silver Pass is available for skiers 70 and older for an additional \$196. If you are over 70 and plan to ski 8 or more days, you should buy the Silver Pass.

## Payment Schedule

**Final payment is due.**

**To sign up please send:**

- (1) the [Application form](#) -- one per person or one per couple residing at the same address
- (2) the [final payment](#), and
- (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 2018](#) on the check memo line).

**Kathy and Barry Lake are the trip leaders. For an application and more information, please contact us at 703-625-2715 or [kathylakehomes@yahoo.com](mailto:kathylakehomes@yahoo.com)**





**The Potomac Valley  
Skiers invite you to  
ski  
Big Sky Montana**

**February 14 - 21,  
2018**



**Come join us at Big Sky, Montana**

**When:** February 14 – 21, 2018.

**What:** 5-day ski pass, 7 nights lodging at The Huntley Lodge (ski-in ski-out) with hot and cold breakfast buffet daily, and round trip air from IAD including coach from Bozeman to Big Sky. The price includes welcome party, Happy Hours, at least one dinner - not to forget the great company and fun!

**Price:** \$2,350 per person.

After arriving at Big Sky, we will have a get together with food and drinks, serving as a reunion or a getting-to-know new folks. We are staying in the Queen Rooms at the Huntley Lodge, which include many amenities, and are within walking distance to lifts and restaurants. **We do have 4 vacancies -** so bring your friends for a great ski week!

If you are not a member and want to secure a place on the trip, we do recommend you join our Club.

**Deadline for registration/final payments is 15 November.**

For further questions please contact Inge Lesjak [lesjak.inge@gmail.com](mailto:lesjak.inge@gmail.com)



## Past Event

### *September 19, 2017 PVS Meeting At the Home of Ingrid Dallaire*



There was a fantastic turnout for the September meeting. There were at least 30 attendees. Everyone was happy to see each other and traded stories of summer travels.

We had some twists and turns through interesting neighborhoods to get to Ingrid Dallaire's house. A few people got lost by following their GPS instead of the instructions provided in the TOOT. You can always count on the TOOT! Ingrid graciously invited us into her beautiful home. She had lots of scrumptious food waiting for us - salmon and cucumbers, pizza bagels, spanakopitas, veggies, and chips 'n dip, to mention a few.

It was hard to call the meeting to order while everyone was chatting and catching up with each other. Once our fearless leader, Bob Jablon, had everyone's attention, the first order of business was to wish Ray McKinley a Happy 75th Birthday, which was the day before. Happy Birthday, Ray! Bob thanked Dave Warthen for all his hard work in handling the membership records. Dave reported that there are 160 paid members with a few still outstanding.



We were encouraged to take and pass out our club brochures, which



Marianne Sponis and Inge Lesjak produced. Sun & Ski in Falls Church will be having a weekend sale Sept 29 - Oct 1. PVS will have a table there to promote our club. The brochures will be available for distribution. Additionally, our November meeting will be held at Sun & Ski for equipment discussions and demonstrations.

The upcoming ski trips were discussed. We will be going to Snowmass in January. There are still a few spaces available. Let trip leaders, Barry and Kathy Lake, know if you are interested. The trip to Big Sky is in February. There will also be the option of a day trip to Yellowstone. Contact Inge Lesjak or Marianne Sponis for more information. Lastly, a trip to Mt. Snow in March is in the works. More information to follow....

John Smith discussed local skiing opportunities to Whitetail and Ski Liberty. Peter Russell suggested local overnight ski trips. He created an elaborate



pin map of all the ski locations that could be driven to for mini-week combined ski & tourist trips.

After the meeting Ingrid had coffee, cookies and candy waiting for us. An enjoyable evening was had by all.



*--Submitted by Kathy and Barry Lake*

# Members' Corner



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

**Thank you** Jan Marx for being TOOT Layout Editor this month, instead of November. And, thank you Kerry Hines for agreeing to do the November TOOT, in addition to the July TOOT a few months ago. Ellie, thanks for shuffling this scenario, so that I would not have to layout two consecutive TOOTs. What a treat! Thank you TOOT Staff!

**Where are some ski resorts with reliable early season snow?** [ski.com]

It is that time of the year when skiers are dreaming about the slopes. Who is going to open first and where? Last year, **Sunday River, Maine**, was one of the first, opening in mid-October with schussing down Locke Mountain. Grand Summit is a perfect resort to stay.



And, what about **Keystone, Colorado** – Arapahoe Basin and Loveland are frequently the first to open in Colorado each October, but Keystone is the pick for best early season skiing.



How about River Run Condos for lodging, right in the middle of Keystone's base village?

**Lake Louise, Banff, Alberta?**

High in the Canadian Rockies, Lake Louise is always an early season opener. Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise is a Lake Louise legend with a world-class dining experience.



**Mammoth Mountain, California?**

Early November is likely with a stay at Juniper Springs Resort.



**Alta, Utah**

Mid-November is the usual. A stay at the Peruvian Lodge is recommended.



**PVS Calendar 2017:**

Oct	21	Sat	Monthly Meeting, 2:00, FitzGerald, Reston, VA
Oct	24	Tue	ExCom Meeting, 7:00, via Conference Call
Nov	12	Sun	Monthly Meeting, 6:00-8:00 PM, Sun and Ski, Falls Church, VA
Dec	19	Tue	Holiday Meeting, 7:30, Hotalings, Arlington, VA



**PVS Ski Trips 2018:**



January 10-17, 2018

**Aspen/Snowmass 2018**, Colorado (Barry & Kathy Lake)

February 14-21, 2018

**Big Sky Montana**, (Inge Lesjak & Marianne Sophonis)

**Useful Ski "Links"**

- [Potomac Valley Skiers](#)
- [BRSC Sanctioned Trips](#)
- [DC Ski Online News](#)
- [Best of Times Ski Club](#)

**Officers:**

President – *Bob Jablon*  
 V. President – *Janet Marx*  
 Secretary – *Ellie Thayer*  
 Treasurer – *Dick Schwartzbard*  
 Ex Officio - *Carolyn DeVilbiss*

**Board Members:**

First Term:

*Inge Lesjak*  
*Nancy McKinley*  
*Tom Tycz*

Second Term:

*Barry Lake*  
*John H. Smith*  
*Ellie Thayer*

**Chairpersons:**

Ski Trip Committee – *Rosemary Schwartzbard*  
 Events – *Ray and Nancy McKinley*  
 Membership Records – *Dave Warthen*  
 Membership PR Reps – *Inge Lesjak & Marianne Sophonis*

TOOT Coordinator – *Ellie Thayer*

TOOT Layout Editors – *Jan Marx, Kerry Hines & Dave Warthen*

TOOT (E-Distribution) – *Dave Warthen*

TOOT (USPS Distribution) – *Barb Leonhardt, June Read, Liz Triau*

Webmaster – *Mary Ellena Ward*

Meeting Records – *Sue Lyon*

Historian – *Jan Marx*

**TOOT Distribution to 159 Members:**

-pdf: 141; USPS: 3

**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:** ([dwarthen@verizon.net](mailto:dwarthen@verizon.net))

- Betty Lawrence – (**703-255-1482 h**)
- JanaLee Sponberg - [<twotrot@gmail.com>](mailto:twotrot@gmail.com)

