

Volume 56
Number 5

Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.
WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

May 2021

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President's Message

Welcome to the first column written during my term as President. I want to thank you for electing me as your president at the April Annual Meeting – or at least not voting against my nomination.



I also want to thank Tom and all the members of ExCom who served during the last term with him, and especially those who “re-upped” for another term. We all know that Tom, now president ex officio, did an excellent job leading PVS over the last two years, especially considering the circumstances of the past 12+ months – the “lost” year. I will likely rely on his advice during my term as president as we continue through the unknown – and hopefully into the light.

It is May and the signs of spring have sprung, with the cherry blooms having come and gone, the forsythia in full bloom and the azaleas starting to fill out. Alas – summer weather is not far ahead.

This is usually the time where we are meeting and mingling, and reminiscing about our ski trips of the year gone by – which unfortunately isn't/wasn't the case for a majority of us this past year, save for the brave few that did manage to get in some trips. My/our skis haven't seen the light of day this year, having stayed in the closet since Snowmass last year – but I'm sure that they - like us - are raring to go come 2022!

In the meantime, PVS members are continuing to meet up together via Zoom until such time as it is felt that we can once again begin face-to-face meetings. Hats off to our Entertainment Chair and Zoom meeting leader extraordinaire – Marianne – for continuing to come up with fun activities for the club to attend and enjoy. Look for the schedule in this and future TOOTs, and RSVP as appropriate.

As we roll through the club's 56th year, it is a marvel that PVS is and remains a vibrant ski club, and that is due to all the work of its volunteers. For the club to continue for another 50+ year, it needs to continue to grow, so do not forget to encourage friends and acquaintances to become members of PVS.

Barry

[Please see “Hear Ye, Hear Ye” request on page 3.](#)

Monthly Meeting

May 18

at 7:30

See directions on pg 2.





Join Us at Our May 18, 2021 PVS Virtual Meeting

We will again be holding our PVS monthly meeting via Zoom. The meeting will be on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. For those of you who have used Zoom, you know that we will be able to see other attendees, share some stories, and watch our president, Barry Lake, and others, cover some agenda items.

You will receive an invitation via email on the day of the meeting or the day before. If you are not familiar with Zoom, there is a short tutorial in the [December 2020 TOOT](#) and also free information on the Internet. If you have any additional questions, you can contact Marianne Sponis at Marianne.Sponis@gmail.com.

Looking forward to “seeing you” on May 18!

SKI TALK

May 2021

Who said life would not continue to be complicated? As I mentioned in my last Ski Talk, we were in the process of working on a contract for our 2022 ski trip to Snowmass at the Mountain Chalet. Just as we were ready to sign, we were informed that the Chalet is being sold. They will not open their reservations for next ski season for at least a few months, or until they figure out what direction they want to go. So, with our trusted vendor, Doug Horstman, we began looking at other properties in Snowmass. At this time, we have made no definite decisions. All I can promise is that we will have a trip to Snowmass and it will be mid-January, probably January 12-19. Our first choice would be staying at the Chalet as we have done for the past twenty years. We are willing to wait a few months to see if they open up reservations. In the meantime, if you want to go to Snowmass in 2022, please contact: Kathy Lake and get on the list. We will contact you as soon as we know the details of the trip. We will also send out a notice to all PVS members. kathylakehomes@yahoo.com

No one has stepped up to lead any other trips next season. Let me know if you would like to get a group together in February or March for a ski trip. The Blue Ridge Ski Council (BRSC) Western Carnival will be at Jackson Hole, Wyoming, January 29-February 5. As a BRSC member, PVSers can join that trip with any of the local ski clubs who are participating. If we have enough people interested in going, we could set up a PVS group. Let me know if you are interested and I can help navigate that for you. Actually, you can join any trips other clubs are going on if there is space. Hopefully, I will have the list of BRSC 2022 trips soon and will put them in the TOOT.

If you have not been vaccinated, please try to do so as soon as you can. We are all anxious to get back to in-person meetings and social activities.

Rosemary Schwartzbard

rosemaryschw@gmail.com

Ski Trip



SAVE THE DATE

**SNOWMASS
JANUARY 12-19, 2022
LED BY KATHY
& BARRY LAKE**





HEAR YE, HEAR YE

WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU

The club is contemplating holding an outdoor, in-person meeting this summer for SummerFest. The location is uncertain, but perhaps a regional park, a vineyard, or the like. Traditionally, SummerFest is held in June or July.

We would like feedback from members whether they would feel comfortable attending such an in-person event. Please respond to Barry Lake at:

Barry_Lake@yahoo.com We appreciate the response.

Coming Events

The Hillwood Estate

It's in Northwest Washington, D.C. and is a wonderful place to visit. There are garden tours (\$15 for seniors) as well as tours of the Marjorie Merriweather Post mansion and its fabulous collections (separate reservations need to be made). Depending on where your preference lies, this could be a full day adventure. An on-site café serves lunch. If you have any interest, check in with Marianne at marianne.soponis@gmail.com, who can make reservations for up to six.



The website is www.hillwoodmuseum.org.

Contact Marianne to set a date.

Past Event & Coming Event



PVS READS

PVS' BYOB (Bring Your Own Book) group met in April to chat a bit and to share their latest reads. **See the info at the bottom for how to join us on May 13th at 4 pm!**

Here are the books we shared in April:

- Mary Ellena Ward joined us to discuss a mystery by Dick Francis, "Wild Horses," involving both horses and the movie industry and offering up this perfectly relevant quotation for us readers: "Fantasy supplies what life doesn't."
- Ellie Thayer brought us Nigerian author Abi Daré's "The Girl with the Louding Voice," the inspiring story of a Nigerian girl's dreams and her eventual accomplishments in overcoming the many obstacles in her path.
- Marianne Soponis has been reading from "The Best American Essays" edited by Joyce Carol Oates and Robert Atwan. Marianne noted the valuable insights provided in the essays by many of America's finest writers.
- Jan Marx has been listening to books on rides in the car and discussed for us, "This Dame for Hire" by Sandra Scoppettone, a complicated mystery set in post WWII New York City.
- Bonnie Sweeney felt "The Book of Lost Friends" by Lisa Wingate shed light on attempts made by families separated by slavery to locate their loved ones after the Civil War. Though fictional, it included actual newspaper ads of the period.
- Louann Eadie told us about "The Henna Artist" by Alka Joshi, a novel about a young woman who escapes from an abusive marriage to lead her own life as an artist in Jaipur. Also noted was the "Strike" series by Robert Galbraith (aka J.K. Rowling).
- Nancy McKinley discussed "The Night Watchman" by Native American-focused author, Louise Erdrich. It tells the true story, through fiction, of efforts by Congress to terminate the land treaties of the Chippewa tribes in the 1950s.

Clare Soponis called our attention to the Washington Post article in March that mimicked March Madness in bracketing your favorite mystery writers of all time.

UPCOMING

The next BYOB Zoom call will be held on Thursday, May 13 from 4 to 5 pm. Let Marianne Soponis know at marianne.soponis@gmail.com if you're interested in joining us and she'll put you on the list to get the link to the Zoom call. Questions or comments? Get in touch with Nancy McKinley at nancymckin@gmail.com or 703 595 8375.

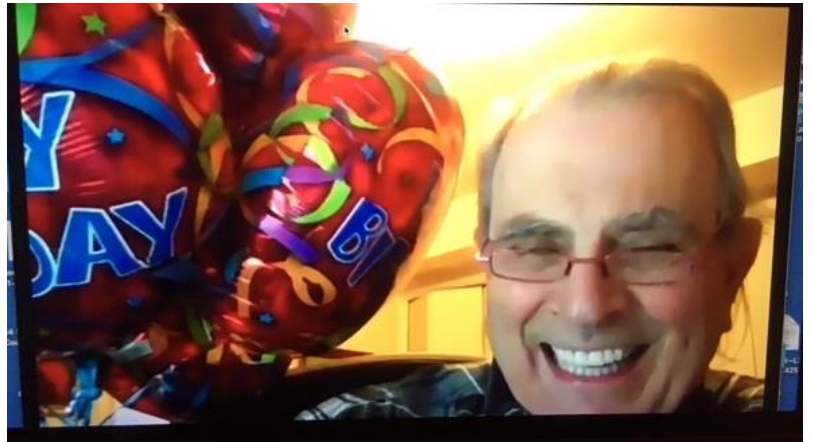
Past Events

ANNUAL MEETING -----

VA-VA-VOOM BY ZOOM

We're getting so good at using Zoom for our gatherings that there was nary a technical snag on the latest PVS virtual meeting, our 2021 Annual Meeting on April 20, 2021. Marianne Soponis hosted the Zoom call and greeted the virtual faces of about 25 PVS friends. During the meeting we saw Marianne, Tom Tycz, Mary Tycz, Dick Schwartzbard, Rosemary Schwartzbard, Don Vierimaa (and his gnomic ski companion...), Dave Warthen, Cara Jablon, Bob Jablon, Barry Lake, Kathy Lake, Carolyn DeVilbiss, Dave DeVilbiss, Marianne Hines, Kerry Hines, Jan Marx, Mary Rose de Valladares, Jannes Gibson, John Hotaling, John Holt, Bing Van Nuys, Kal Nossuli, Manfred Boehringer, Ray McKinley, and Nancy McKinley. Also present was a mystery attendee on telephone with no face to recognize!

Tom Tycz took over and got us right to work dealing with the not-at-all-controversial issue of electing new officers, which had been accomplished by acclamation. Tom thanked those he worked with the past two years as well as all the PVSers who keep the Club running. He graciously accepted our gratitude for his work and was surely thrilled to receive a lovely certificate suitable for framing to document his tenure. Mary brought in the surprise balloons for Tom,



which turned out to be a surprise to all as the ordered "Thank You" balloons arrived with "Happy Birthday" emblazoned on them! We're sure Tom realizes it's the thought that counts...



Barry Lake is our unanimous choice for PVS President over the next two years, a role that he modestly accepted. Tom went on to thank Cara for taking on the VP role and noted that Sharon Mulholland will complete the second year of Cara's ExCom tenure. Manfred was elected to ExCom and Jannes and Mary Rose both agreed to

"re-up" for another two years on ExCom. Congratulations and thanks to them all!

Marianne brought us up to speed on the luncheon at John and Blanca Hotaling's Wayside Inn for the following day and the 14 PVSers and friends who will be attending. Also on the agenda is a trip to Glenstone. Plans are in the works for a delayed PVS Anniversary luncheon in the fall. Marianne asked for other suggestions for Club outings and noted Manfred's biking interest as ripe for planning pedaling events.

Rosemary caught us up on the latest ski-trip planning for Snowmass in January of 2022, to be run by Barry and Kathy and which has been complicated once again by the impending sale of the Mountain Chalet. More info will follow as we know it.

The business part of the meeting done and dusted, we carried on with catching up with our PVS friends, albeit without the usual in-person goodies. No matter – it's still great to see our buddies.



Some tidbits: both Bing and Jan are in the throes of downsizing after many years in one house; Dave Warthen commiserated with both; Cara skied with gal-pals in Utah; Mary Rose has been busy with work and notes that colleagues are still being infected with Covid-19 - not a time to let down your guard; Kal is attending two college classes online; Kathy is selling real estate and waiting for her second vaccine jab; Nancy and Ray report staying home and watching the up and down Nationals on TV; Don traveled west and visited Government Island among other sites; Kerry and Marianne have enjoyed eating out with friends; Dick and Rosemary have been babysitting, volunteering, beginning to go out, and doing some e-bike riding; Manfred enjoyed a bike tour from Richmond to Jamestown; Carolyn and Dave have ventured out to restaurants and are planning to attend some weddings; Jannes played golf and recently had a jam-packed weekend with her visiting daughter.

Our thanks to Marianne for hosting the Zoom call again and our congratulations to the incoming officers. 'Til we meet again!

Submitted by Nancy McKinley

LUNCH IN THE COUNTRY

On Wednesday, April 21, 2021, we arrived in Middletown, Virginia (close to I-66 and I-81) for lunch at the Wayside Inn, greeted by John and Blanca Hotaling, Innkeeper Rich Orndorff and his wife Angie. Anticipating a cold and windy day with possible rain or snow, we were delightfully surprised. We found blue skies and a wind that helpfully “blew” us inside to a warm, cozy atmosphere. The Inn is currently undergoing some renovation, but the restaurant was bright, and the chef was ready for us!



We enjoyed getting to know each other better, sitting at well-distanced tables but close enough to overhear conversations from Marna Blanchette and Mike Carberry, Carolyn and Dave DeVilbiss, Betty and Dick Comerford, Kathi Daylor and Brian Drinkwater, John and Blanca Hotaling, Jan Marx, Herb Bennet, and Clare and Marianne Sponis. The menu was especially printed for us and created some difficulty in making a choice. The oohs and ahs seem to go to the Dagwood club (“I can’t possibly finish this”), although we saw takeout boxes being filled from other delicious, ample lunch dishes too.



Rich, the innkeeper, had known and worked with the previous owner of 50 years, so gave us interesting history stories. Wayside Inn began as a stagecoach stop and relay station in the 1740s. Among famous guests who stayed there was George Washington, our first president, who stayed in the room above the old kitchen (also called the slave kitchen), which is now turned into a beautiful state room. We toured the many nooks, crannies and other rooms to be used for food and beverage service. A quick look outside on the terrace showed us the barn, being refurbished for a June graduation, already booked! Some of our group climbed the stairs to

view bedrooms; others took time to peer down the old well – initially outdoors to get water for the stagecoach horses – now inside and covered with glass.

It was a worthwhile day trip to Wayside Inn, celebrating “new beginnings” for an old, historical, and treasured place.

Submitted by Marianne Sponis



Past Event

EARLY TRIP TO GLENSTONE

Mary Tycz, Clare Soponis, and Marianne Soponis made an early trip to Glenstone on April 9, 2021. (More PVSers will visit the museum later in April.) The day was crisp and sunny. We enjoyed the activist Faith Ringgold's art exhibit in addition to the glorious outdoors.

Note: pictures were not allowed indoors.



Members' Corner



David Warthen, Jr.
dwarthen409@gmail.com

The Virtual Annual Meeting occurred this year just like last year via ZOOM. Who would have thought that that would happen again. By acclamation, Barry Lake is our new President, and Cara Jablon is our new Vice President for 2021-2023. We also now have Jannes Gibson, Manfred Boehringer, and Mary Rose de Valladares beginning new two-year terms on the Board. Kathy Lake, Sharon Mulholland, and Don Vierimaa continue the second year of their Board terms. I remember Colorado shutting down ski slopes in mid-March last year. This year, the big news is the three new vaccines that were developed in record time. Thank goodness for the lights at the end of the tunnel. What a year!!!

April showers have again brought **May Flowers**. We all seem to appreciate them more this year than last after the dreary long days of pandemic isolation. Even dining out for the first time in a year at Chick-Fil-A seemed like a wonderful gourmet feast. Gradually, groups are cautiously beginning to congregate. This really has been a rough year for all.



Electronic TOOT to 118 Members: - pdf: 108

Thanks to:

- TOOT Coordinator - E Thayer
- TOOT Layout Editors: J Marx, K Hines, D Warthen
May TOOT Layout Editor – J. Marx
- TOOT Electronic Distribution – D Warthen

Roster Changes: contact [<dwarthen409@gmail.com>](mailto:dwarthen409@gmail.com)



Lily of the Valley, *Convallaria majalis*, sometimes written Lily-of-the-Valley is the birth flower for May. It is a woodland flowering plant with sweetly scented, pendent, bell-shaped white flowers borne in sprays in Spring. It is native throughout the cool temperate Northern Hemisphere in Asia and Europe.

Our monthly ZOOM meetings, along with the monthly TOOT, have really held our ski club together for the last year. Special congratulations go to our past President, our TOOT Coordinator, and our ZOOM Facilitator for exercising extraordinary expertise in holding our club together.

May Holidays 2021

- National Loyalty Day.
- **May Day.**
- National Mother Goose Day.
- National Chocolate Parfait Day.
- Law Day.
- School Principals' Day.
- Silver Star Service Banner Day.
- Kentucky Derby – First Saturday in May.
- Memorial Day – Last Monday of the month

Memorial Day – May 31, 2021

Memorial Day is a federal holiday in the United States for honoring and mourning the military personnel who have died in the performance of their military duties while serving in the United States Armed Forces. The holiday is observed on the last Monday of May.



Calendar

Thur May 13 BYOB (Bring Your Own Book) Zoom at 4:00-5:00 PM, N. McKinley
Tue May 18 Monthly Meeting via Zoom. 7:30 PM
Tue May 25 ExCom Meeting via Zoom. 7:00PM

Ski Trips:

Jan 12-19, 2022 Save the date.

Snowmass, Colorado. Led by Kathy & Barry Lake

ExCom Officers, Board
Members, and Chairpersons

<u>Officers:</u>	<u>Chairpersons:</u>
President – <i>Barry Lake</i> Vice Pres. – <i>Cara Jablon</i> Secretary – <i>Ellie Thayer</i> Treasurer – <i>Dick Schwartzbard</i> Ex Officio - <i>Tom Tycz</i>	Ski Trip Committee – <i>Rosemary Schwartzbard</i> Events – <i>Marianne Sopolis</i> Membership Records – <i>Dave Warthen</i>
<u>Board Members:</u>	TOOT Coordinator – <i>Ellie Thayer</i> TOOT Layout Editors – <i>Jan Marx, Kerry Hines</i> & <i>Dave Warthen</i> TOOT (E-Distribution) – <i>Dave Warthen</i>
<u>First Term:</u> <i>Jannes Gibson</i> <i>Manfred Boehringer</i> <i>Mary Rose de Valladares</i>	Webmaster – <i>Mary Ellena Ward</i>
<u>Second Term:</u> <i>Kathy Lake</i> <i>Sharon Mullholand</i> <i>Don Vierimaa</i>	Meeting Records – <i>Sue Lyon</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.