



# UPSLOPE



## Newsletter of the NORDIC Ski Touring Section of PATC

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February 2006

### UpComing Attractions In March UPSLOPE

- **More Ski Reports**
- **The last trip listing**
- **More destinations...near and far**

### Julyuary Melts; XC Skiing, Hopes Rise for Februgusts



Peggy Alpert at New Germany State Park

That's Chip's characterization, not mine. It was soooo bad that a disreputable news outlet ran this headline "Nation's Snowmen March Against Global Warming" (<http://www.theonion.com/content/node/44676>)

Despite a promising early start to the season in December (see picture alongside), and White Grass having snow on many weekends throughout the beginning of 2006, a number of STS trips had to be cancelled:

- Laurel Highlands on January 6-8 was cancelled due to weather—Mitch Grunes
- Cancelled Learn To Ski weekend at Camp Sequanota for January 20-22 due to lack of snow. The trip enrolled 20 enthusiastic and then disappointed skiers—Julie Nash
- Cancelled trip to Laurel Highlands, January 20 - 22 with temps in the 50's—Bob Leaf



Beth and Ralph Heimlich at Swallow Falls State Park

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Nevertheless, trips to our old stalwart, Tug Hill (see report), had skiable conditions, including:

- December 28-January 2 with 13 happy skiers led by Steve Brickel and Peggy Alpert
- January 13-16 found 21 STSers on a rewarding trip that included skiing on two of three days.—Rob Swennes

Even with poor skiing conditions, there are usually interesting things to do. My wife and I explored Swallow Falls State Park on our non-ski trip to New Germany, and found the falls gushing as we've never seen them (see photo).

On the same weekend, Doug Lesar was in the Garret County neighborhood at Wisp for a downhill holiday weekend with daughter and friends. Doug threatens to put a snow snake in the pocket of the next STSer who complains about White Grass's area use fee, after paying for lift tickets. Despite the price, he got a LOT of Telemark practice over 2.5 days.

Several STSer's resorted to pickup trips to take advantage of Alberta Clippers passing through between tropical heat waves:

- January 17—Took a lift up to the top of Canaan on Sunday and backcountryed on the pipeline between Canaan and White Grass. Skiing back down to Canaan on X-Country skis was fun.—Ben Loewenbach
- January 28—A couple of us went to Wisp resort yesterday in search of XC snow for the day. While the conditions were not good, there was some snow. The golf course-turned-Nordic-Center (this year) had some recent snow cover. As a newcomer to XC skiing, it was well worth squeezing in a day trip, including hiking the lower section of the downhill for some nice down hill experience.— Sarah Havlicek

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**Bert's Away**



Bert and his crew are away on the snow in France. Oh well!!! While the President's away, the Editor will play!

This edition, far from being a reporting of very many ski trips (there are some) is an exploration of what to do when there is no snow at one of our trips—and where to go closer to town if Ullr blesses us with some white stuff.

Another issue is the membership list. We keep growing, and the list keeps getting longer, so we decided to try an electronic list. You'll find the link below. Downloading is easy, and searching and viewing it is, too. You can use the "find (binoculars)" tool in Adobe Acrobat, or can use the "magnifying glass" tool to make it easier for all our old eyes to read. I hope you like this feature, and will provide the link in each edition.



Happy skiing, if you can get it,  
Ralph Heimlich  
UPSLOPE Editor

**Link to Membership Listing**

In order to conserve space and paper, the membership listing is available for download in an Adobe Acrobat portable document file at the following link <http://www.patc.net/chapters/ski/Kojo693/jk8959U.pdf> This format allows you to search for names, addresses, phone numbers on your computer, can be magnified to be read more easily, and can be printed out.

**Sign up for the PATC-ST\$ List Serve**

There is an email list server for announcements and discussions of interest to Potomac Appalachian Trail Club—Ski Touring Section members and friends. This unmoderated list can be used to announce activities which may be of interest to members and can be used during the snow season to organize ad-hoc outings. All mail sent to [patc-sts@4gh.net](mailto:patc-sts@4gh.net) will be automatically forwarded to everyone on the list as email. The list has an automated subscription. To subscribe, send a message to [majordomo@4gh.net](mailto:majordomo@4gh.net) with the following in the body of your message:

subscribe patc-sts Your Name <[your\\_email@your.isp](mailto:your_email@your.isp)>

## Trip Descriptions

Check <http://www.patc.net/chapters/ski/Trip%20Descriptions.htm> for updates

(see listing on page 4 )

### Laurel Highlands

We stay at Somerset, PA in the heart of the Laurel Highlands. While we're there, we have a choice of many ski areas: Laurel Mountain, Laurel Ridge, Kooser State Park, Hidden Valley (XC and downhill), Roaring Run and others. Plenty of skiing for all levels including skate skiing. Guaranteed fun. Ski on the trails we improved in October and discover new ski trails. Check out the Laurel Ridge skicam to see how much snow they have there when we don't have any here. Contact trip leader for specific details. See listing on page 4 for dates.



Steve and Doug at the new bridge, White Grass

### Blackwater Falls

Stay at the rim of the Blackwater Gorge at the Blackwater Falls State Park Lodge, complete with restaurant, fitness center, indoor pool and hot tub. Each room has two double beds. Ski out the door on over 20 miles of trails nestled among towering pines, from beginner to advanced. Enjoy hot chocolate on the trail or at the warming hut on Sled Hill, complete with its tow rope to add to your telemarking fun. Try other trails nearby at Canaan Valley State Park, Whitegrass Ski Touring Center and Dolly Sods. Evening folk music and entertainment options also just a few miles away with breakfasts at the lodge. Contact trip leader for specific trip details. See listing on page 4 for dates.

## PATC-ST\$ Excursions

**White Mountains, New Hampshire**—Join fellow STS skiers Feb. 16-20, 2006 on a trip to one of New England's premier winter vacation regions. Jackson and Bretton Woods ski touring centers are nationally known for miles of well-groomed trails, large, hospitable lodges and ski shops, and professional staffs. Set against the White Mountains, the extensive Nordic trail systems offer unparalleled East Coast scenic beauty. We will stay in rented townhouses in Jackson, North Conway or Glen, NH, ensuring a warm social atmosphere when the skiing's done. One of the Section's most popular trips, we will fly to Manchester, NH on Thursday morning and return Monday afternoon, traveling by rental cars within NH. Cost is \$350, plus air fare, and includes 4 nights lodging, NH transportation, and in-house meals. Cost if driving to/from NH is \$300. Contact Rob Swennes [robertswennes@hotmail.com](mailto:robertswennes@hotmail.com).

**Bryce Canyon, Utah**—The Bryce Canyon ski trip takes place February 28 - March 5, 2006. We depart from the DC area on Tuesday evening, February 28th, and return on the afternoon of Sunday, March 5. Tuesday night we will lodge in Las Vegas. The other four nights will be spent at a large motel complex just outside the Bryce Canyon National Park. Skiing is available directly from the motel into the park. In the park we will visit the famous red limestone hoodoos carved into fantastic shapes by wind and water. For additional backcountry skiing, the group will drive higher onto the Colorado Plateau to the Cedar Breaks National Monument near the Brian Head ski area. We will be skiing at elevations of 8,000 to 11,000 feet. The cost of the trip is \$270, which covers local vehicle and motel expenses. Participants must purchase their airline tickets to/from Las Vegas and all meals. To take part in this winter Western adventure, contact Rob Swennes at [robertswennes@hotmail.com](mailto:robertswennes@hotmail.com) or 703-532-6101.

**La Haute Trace des Escartons Cross-Country Ski Adventure**—This one is February 10-19, with the Paris add-on departing February 7. This will be one of the most exciting cross-country ski trips STS has offered – 8 days of skiing in France. We'll spend 3 days warming up at the Mont Revard cross-country ski area and then ski, inn-to-inn, for four days with a guide in the French and Italian Alps. The beginner's-level trail is groomed for classic, light backcountry, and skate skiing. We'll spend the evenings in warm, cozy inns high atop the moonlit mountains. You can even attend our learn-to-ski weekend and be prepared for the trip! This is an adventure you won't want to miss. Cost is only \$1,200, airfare included. Spend 3 days in Paris for an additional \$300. Imagine a sunset from the Eiffel Tower, standing next to the Arc de Triomphe, viewing breathtaking artwork at the Louvre, walking along the Seine across from Notre Dame. Contact Bert Finkelstein, (703) 715-8534 [bertanamo@gmail.com](mailto:bertanamo@gmail.com) to sign up for this fun-filled trip.



## STS Ski Trips — Winter 2005-06

Trip	Location	State	Start Date	Return Date	Days	Notes	Leader
20	Blackwater Falls	WV	3-Feb	5-Feb	2		Lesar
21	Rangely, Maine	ME	3-Feb	6-Feb	3		Bachman
22	Whitegrass	WV	10-Feb	12-Feb	2		Ausema
23	France (room for just one more)	EU	7-Feb	19-Feb	7	President's Day	Finkelstein
24	White Mountains (Garmisch cancelled)	NH	16-Feb	20-Feb	4	President's Day	Swennes
25	Ski Dance, Laurel Highlands	PA	17-Feb	20-Feb	3	President's Day	Applestein
26	Canaan Valley Chalet (wait listed)	WV	17-Feb	20-Feb	3	President's Day	Brumbergers
27	Elk River Lodge	WV	24-Feb	27-Feb	3		Bergstrom
28	Local Pick-up trip	snow	25-Feb	25-Feb	1		Needs leader
29	Bryce Canyon National Park	UT	28-Feb	5-Mar	4		Swennes
30	Apres Ski Party		April	TBD			

NOTE: Please note that this trip schedule is tentative and subject to change. Also, cancellation policies may result in trips being closed out earlier than expected; please reserve space early. Check online at <http://www.patc.net/chapters/ski/Trip%20Descriptions.htm> for updates.

\* May arrive a day earlier for a 4-day trip.

## Tug Hill Ski Trips



Izabella, Mitch, Steve, Dan, and Dina at Winona Forest, Tug Hill, NY

[Editor's Note: The first STS group in the Tug Hill area in 2006 was a group of 12 who based at the 1880 House over New Year's Weekend. Led by Steve Brickel and Peggy Alpert, we enjoyed good, but sometimes icy, conditions at Winona, Salmon Hills, and the Osceola areas.]

Though STS's trips in the Mid-Atlantic region were snowless over the mid-January 2006 holiday weekend, 21 STSers were able to enjoy their sport in mid-state New York. For several years the Ski Touring Section has scheduled regular ski trips to the Tug Hill plateau north of Syracuse. With global warming and all, even that part of New York can no longer be called a "guaranteed" location for cross-country skiing. But the odds of skiable snow are still high.

This year the group found good snow-cover conditions and ample opportunity to trek for hours in a white, winter wonderland.

Most journeyed up to New York on Thursday morning. Nine skiers opted to share the costs of two minivans rented through Alamo at National Airport. That has become a popular custom with this trip, since it eliminates the burdens that any vehicle owner bears in volunteering to drive his own car so many miles and over ice and salt-covered roads.

Once we crossed the New York state line, we phoned Highland Forest State Park (southeast of Syracuse) to determine skiing conditions. "Spotty snow" was reported. Ugh—not good news. We often stop at Highland Forest on the drive up for skiing and a break in the otherwise full day of travel. But it was not to be this year. The weather for the week had been unseasonably warm—with predictable results for x-country skiing all along the East Coast.

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## Places to Ski Around Town (When There's Snow)

I queried STS members about where they sneak in a little XC action when the snow actually falls around town. Here are their "secret" places:

**University of Maryland** golf course (see <http://umterps.collegesports.com/facilities/md-golf-course.html>) —Joel Katz

**Cedarville State Forest** (see <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/southern/cedarville.html>) is a nice place to ski if you're in the Waldorf area. It has several trails that are well marked and if you did all of them you could get in about 20 miles. The terrain is pretty flat, with a few hills, and mostly wooded. You can get there by taking Route 301 to Cedarville Road, just north of Waldorf, turn east (I think that's the only way you can go) for a mile or two to Dent Road. Turn right on Dent and make a left on Bee Oak Road into the park. There is a \$3.00 fee per car.—Jan Tucker

I do **Rock Creek Park** (see <http://www.nps.gov/rocr/index.htm> and <http://www.nps.gov/applications/parks/rocr/ppMaps/ROCRmap1%2Epdf>) in the vicinity of Grove 9. There are multiple trails (the golf course, while inviting, is technically illegal). You have to watch for parking spots just north of Military Road, on Beach Drive.—Lou Lieb

The place I usually head when sufficient snow falls is the **Washington & Old Dominion (W&OD) trail** (see <http://www.wodfriends.org/>) in northern Virginia. The multiuse trail stretches for over 40 miles from the Shirlington area of Arlington out to Purcellville in western Loudoun County. The key is to head west on the trail and not in towards Washington, D.C. The reason is the larger number of overpasses the closer in to the city that you go. An overpass means no snow on that segment of the trail! A good trip is to ski from Arlington out to near the PATC headquarters in Vienna. I've always been able to find a small restaurant open in that area even if most businesses are closed down. That allows you to get a good meal before skiing the 5 miles back to Arlington.

When it snows, if you live near a **Metro station**, remember that the subway can take you to almost any side of the metropolitan area for skiing. After a very ample snow a few years ago that pretty much shut down the city, a friend and I took our skis on the Orange Line down to Rosslyn. We then skied from the station down to the bike/pedestrian bridge from N. Lynn St. over the George Washington Memorial Parkway. We were the only visitors to Theodore Roosevelt Island on that snowy day and were able to make a full circuit of the island. We then skied on the Mount Vernon Trail downriver to Memorial Bridge and over to DC. After a sharp downhill descent down the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, we skied up the Mall to Capitol Hill. There were plenty of restaurants open there, ready to feed weary skiers. Then it was a quick final ski to the Eastern Market station and a warm ride on Metro back home.—Rob Swennes

When we get good snow around here (3" or more) I like to ski in **Wheaton Regional Park** (see [http://www.mc-mncppc.org/parks/facilities/regional\\_parks/wheaton/index.shtm](http://www.mc-mncppc.org/parks/facilities/regional_parks/wheaton/index.shtm)). It is in lower Montgomery County, Maryland. Drive south on Georgia Avenue, turn left onto Shorefield Drive, and go about half a mile. From inner Montgomery County, go north on Georgia Avenue and turn right on Shorefield Drive. An alternative is the Brookside Gardens side of Wheaton Regional Park off Randolph Road. Wheaton Regional Park features miles of snow-covered bike paths through dense forest. Also, a beautiful man-made lake, frozen in winter. A path runs right beside the lake, great for skiing. —Dan Peed

Though I have skied at **Sligo Creek Park**, **Great Falls** and **The Mall**, the place "close to home" for me is **Laurel Lakes** in Laurel, Maryland. Laurel Lakes/Granville Gude Park (see <http://www.laurel.md.us/prfac.htm#Gude>) is at the corner of Cherry Lane and Route 1 (Baltimore Blvd.) Not a remote area by any means (it's across from a mall and lots of restaurants/shops), but I don't have to drive to get there on skis. You can enter from the parking lot of Don Pablos Restaurant, which is behind the Silver Diner on Route 1 at the east end of the lake, or from Oxford Drive on the west end. There is a 0.9 mile paved walking/bike path around the lake which is mostly flat with one area of mild incline. There is a very large slightly hilly grassy area behind the restaurant, accessible from the path.—Anne Collins

The **WO&D trail** through Arlington, unlike Custis-Lee, does not have a lot of hills. It follows a babbling brook and wooded area near George Mason Drive for about 10 miles from end-to-end (Mt Vernon Trail to Custis Lee Trail). A good parking place would be the rose garden park off Washington Boulevard. Another spot is **Fort Hunt Park**, George Washington Parkway Park (see <http://www.nps.gov/gwmp/>), a few miles from Mount Vernon (just off GW Parkway) is a huge flat field that would probably be great for XC skiing, with plenty of parking there.—Janet Shannon

**The NCR Trail** (see [http://www.dnr.state.md.us/greenways/ncrt\\_trail.html](http://www.dnr.state.md.us/greenways/ncrt_trail.html)) This is an old railroad trail (North Central) that runs from Hunt Valley, Maryland, all the way to York PA - about 40 miles. It is flat and very scenic most of the way. Usually good skiing that holds up for days because the trail is heavily shaded. The only issues are foot traffic that tramples the ski tracks and sometimes frequent road crossings. I recommend starting at Sparks road or further north to minimize traffic.

**Oregon Ridge Park** is located on Beaver Dam road just west of I-83 in Hunt Valley. Take I-83 to Shawan Road West. Turn left at the first traffic light (Beaver Dam). The park entrance is about 1/4 mile on the right. There are about 10 miles of trails here, with lots of hills, including an old downhill area that is no longer operated. There is a quarry that is a swimming hole in the summer, nature center and some historic buildings. Mostly wooded trails plus a utility right of way.—Dick Simmons

Our "secret place" is worth the drive up to Gaithersburg to the **Seneca Creek State Park** (see <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/central/seneca.html>) where there are meadows, pine forests and trails around the Lake which amazingly keep the snow a lot longer! There are few close parking places, so you may have to walk a bit. It is Exit 10 off of I-270 North toward Clopper Road and then two miles till you see the signs for the State Park.—Teresa and GianPiero Forcina

I skied with a friend on the **College Park bike trail** (see <http://www.pgiparks.com/places/parks/anacostia.html>) that goes by the College Park Airport and the 94th Air Squadron Restaurant. There is plenty of parking at the restaurant and the trail is right there. Lake Artemesia is right around the corner. The bike trail is 4 miles south along the Anacostia levee to Bladensburg Marina or 4 miles north to Cherry Hill Road near the beltway. The terrain is mostly flat, with an occasional hill which could be easily avoided. The trail passes the lake and the University and is very scenic and underused, with a "bonus" when you return and sit by one of the restaurant's many fireplaces to sip an Irish Coffee and pretend you are at a ski lodge. The restaurant is on Paint Branch Parkway several blocks from the College Park Station metro stop.—Sue Massey

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## Places to Ski Around Town (cont.)

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**Scotts Run Park** (see <http://www.hikingupward.com/OVH/ScottsRun/index.asp>) is nice if there is enough snow to cover the trails. Some of the downhill runs are black diamonds, but the Ridge Trail has nice ups and downs. The carriage trail is relatively flat. The trail along the Potomac River in Riverbend Park is very nice and you can do a loop up through the hills back to the Park visitor's center. If you go far enough upstream you come to a pipeline easement that has a nice open slope for telemarking. The C&O towpath is nice and you can take loops off of it. **Huntley Meadows** (see <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley/>) has nice flat trails. **Lewinsville Park** in McLean has nice open terrain but limited area. The hill in **Westgate Park** in McLean is good for practicing your downhill techniques. There is a nice trail along the Potomac in **Turkey Run Park** (see <http://www.nps.gov/gwmp/vapa/turkey.htm>) beside the G.W. Parkway in McLean, but steep descents to get to it.—Gus Anderson

I live in Vienna and found the best skiing is at the battlefield park at **Bull Run (Manassas)**, (see <http://www.nps.gov/mana/information/info.htm>), which has open fields and paths through the woods. The **W&OD trail** starting at the old railroad station in Vienna (around mile 12) and going out toward Reston is ok, but after going on the asphalt trail about a half mile, there is a bridal path on the left that parallels the bike trail. It has a bit more up and down (not much, but not so flat as the regular path), and there are places on the left you can go off into the woods for short distances.—Monica O'Keefe

**Watkins Regional Park** (see <http://www.pgparcs.com/places/parks/watkins.html>), where I normally ski when we get snow locally, is located in central Prince George's county, just southwest of the intersection of Routes 214 and 193, a few miles east of the Washington beltway. It has a system of hiking trails (all but one of them wooded) that are usually ski-able when we get at least 3-4 inches of snow. Maps are posted on bulletin boards in the park, and copies are usually available at the park's nature center. The park's terrain is mostly flat, with some hills in the wooded areas. There's a trail that runs around the perimeter of the developed section of the park (Spicebush Trail) that's about three miles long, so that makes a nice circuit for a ski tour. The perimeter trail intersects a campground within the park. It has a heated bath house that is open year round, so that makes a convenient warming hut. The Nature Center is also on the Spicebush Trail in a different section of the park. New parkland to the south can be skied on the farm fields with plenty of untracked snow. The fields are often full of "cornstalk stubble", but there are some trails and old farm roads that run through there. There is a blazed trail that follows one of the farm roads and goes by most of the old farm buildings. This is not shown on the map on the website, but it starts near the end of the Overlook trail to the end of the Chelsea trail. This can be used to extend a circuit tour to over five miles.—Jack Kangas

I live on the **Trolley Trail #9** (see <http://www.trainweb.org/oldmainline/ect1.htm>), from Catonsville to Ellicott City in Baltimore County is 1.5 miles each way of easy skiing for children. It has gentle slopes and is paved. The entrance is in Catonsville at Exit 14 W Catonsville, then Edmonson Avenue until it ends on Chalfont Road. Park on the road. The other entrance is in historic Ellicott City, at the intersection of Frederick Road and Main Street. You can use the parking lot behind the Trolley Stop restaurant. More rail trails are at <http://www.trails.com/toptrails.asp?state=MD&activity=Rail-Trails>. —Jenny L. Sunderwirth

Finally, two of my favorites are **Centennial Lake Park** (see [http://www.co.ho.md.us/RAP/RAP\\_HoCoParksCentennial.htm](http://www.co.ho.md.us/RAP/RAP_HoCoParksCentennial.htm)), which is a paved trail around the man-made lake off Route 108 just west of Route 29 in Howard County, and the **Savage Park** (see [http://www.co.ho.md.us/RAP/RAP\\_HoCoParksSavage.htm](http://www.co.ho.md.us/RAP/RAP_HoCoParksSavage.htm)) trails, which hook up to the Guilford Road rail trail and to other trails into Columbia, MD.—Ralph Heimlich

## Tug Hill Ski Trip (cont.)

(Continued from page 4)

We finished our drive up to our lodging for the weekend—the 1880 House bed and breakfast in Pulaski, New York. Linda Tarbox, owner of the 1880 House, has developed quite a rapport with ski groups in recent years as more and more skiers discover the Tug Hill plateau. She had her traditional large pots of hot soup (and freshly baked bread!) available for us when we arrived. Several people passed up the temptation of making soup and bread their supper for that Thursday evening. They drove about 10 miles on to the Irish Wigwam pub (<http://www.irishwigwam.com/>), close by the shores of Lake Ontario. A good meal and fine brews awaited them there.

We were all excited about actually skiing Friday, though the temperatures were scheduled to rise into the mid 40s. There was little real snow in Pulaski itself, but we had it on good report that the two fee-based ski touring centers (STCs) in the area had reliable snow. We drove out to Osceola STC (<http://www.uxcski.com/>) and found this to be true. Hugh Quinn, the owner of Osceola, has done a marvelous job of creating a cross-country skier's heaven with several miles of flat and upland trails through the woods. Since warm rain was predicted for Saturday, he had not groomed the trail network that morning. But we found the snow depth to be ample and the trails free of bare spots. The somewhat crusty trail conditions of the morning changed to slushy by afternoon as the temperatures rose. But the skiing was fully satisfactory. All the effort to travel from the DC area to New York was amply rewarded that day.

By the time the skiing group returned to the 1880 House that evening, the remaining participants had arrived. Keith Chanon, a Section member now living in Montreal, had driven down Friday morning to meet us and skied Friday afternoon at Osceola. Several of us received an invitation to have dinner that evening at the local American Legion hall in Pulaski. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet some local citizens, get a great fish dinner and cheap beer,

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STSers in the Parlor, 1880 House, Pulaski, NY



## Tug Hill Ski Trips (cont.)

(Continued from page 6)

and play some competitive table shuffle board afterwards in the hall's basement pub.

Friday proved to be the poorest day of our stay, weather wise. Heavy rain and dropping temperatures had been predicted and proved to be accurate. A couple of skiers who had driven up on Friday—Harold Datz and Steve Bergstrom—were insistent on getting their first ski “fix” that day, despite the poor conditions. Along with Al Larsen, they drove to the Salmon Hills STC (<http://www.salmonhills.com/>), the other major fee area close to Pulaski. They returned late that day reporting good skiing notwithstanding the adverse, damp conditions. Most of the rest of the ski group spent the day exploring the region in more depth. Some walked along the shore of Lake Ontario. Many also went to the waterfall located on the west end of the Salmon Reservoir. One group of skiers used the day to drive to Utica, NY to visit an excellent art museum there.



STSers skiing at Salmon Hills STC, Tug Hill Plateau

The Salmon Hills STC has a large, hospitable headquarters area with plenty of tables and chairs to stretch out in when not on the trails. Our collection of skiers had a wide range of skiing skills. One advantage of skiing at a fee area like this is that people can make up their own minds how much time they want to spend on the trails. They have a warm and friendly place to wait (with food available for purchase) for the rest of the group to return.

On Sunday evening most of the skiers were dog tired and opted to rely on Linda's fine breads and soups for their evening meal. A couple of people chose instead to drive north to Watertown to catch a movie at a multiplex theatre.

The drive back on Monday (the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday) was blessedly uneventful. While the weather during this trip did not bring the region a lot of new snow, it did make for open roadways in both directions.

Beginning next year we will make this trip a formal four-night event, rather than three-night. Linda would also prefer it if we would combine into the cost of the trip the expense of the Saturday night in-home meal. That would make her life much easier and avoid her having to collect additional money from each of the participants.

The 21 people on the trip maxed out the rooms at the 1880 House reserved for us. But we could have housed other members in an annex to the B&B had they signed up a couple of weeks before the trip date. As it was, we turned this annex back to Linda in early January so she could rent to another group. Keep this in mind when deciding where you want to ski next year over the mid-January holiday weekend. The Section's arrangement with the 1880 House allows us to cancel if there is no skiable snow in the region—unlike lodgings like the Blackwater Falls Lodge in Canaan Valley. Canceling this trip has happened only once in recent years. In that case people willing to spend a bit more money switched their King weekend trip to New Hampshire on short notice, flew up, and had a successful ski vacation.

Global warming—reality or myth? You should make your own decision and schedule the location of your ski trips accordingly.

Rob Swennes

**PATC-Ski Touring Section**  
 c/o Doug Lesar  
 2507 Campbell Place  
 Kensington, MD 20895



To:

## PATC Ski Touring Section Membership Form

**The PATC/STS provides quality services and benefits to its cross-country skiing members while promoting and supporting the PATC and cross country skiing in general.** Whether a novice, recreational, citizen racer or telemark skier, STS has something for every XC skier. Imagine yourself floating on the snow, climbing across hill and dale in the quiet of winter, stopping for lunch in brilliant sunshine on a vista with a view of snow-covered ridges and valleys stretching to the horizon, and then making a descent back to home. Our membership enjoys ski touring in the hills with the comradeship and safety of a group. When you become a member, you receive all issues of the club's newsletter UPSLOPE and other useful information. UPSLOPE is published six times a year by PATC/Ski Touring Section, a non-profit, educational and recreational group of cross-country skiing enthusiasts based in the Maryland, DC, Virginia, PA and West Virginia areas. UPSLOPE provides information about STS trips and events (e.g., Learn-To-XC-Ski weekends, Telemark instructional clinics, and mini-week ski trips). One year membership runs from October 1st through September 30th of the next year. If you join in April or later, your one year membership will run through September of the next year. To insure uninterrupted membership for more than one year, you may provide advance dues for up to three years. To join, select your desired membership category and term from the table below, complete this Form legibly, and send it with a check appropriate to your membership choice (**payable to PATC Ski Touring Section**) to:

**PATC-Ski Touring Section, c/o Doug Lesar, 2507 Campbell Place, Kensington, MD 20895**

### Membership Classes

<u>Membership Categories</u>	<u>1 Year Only</u>	<u>2 Years</u>	<u>3 Years</u>
Individual	\$ 9	\$17	\$25
Family	\$13	\$24	\$35

**PLEASE PRINT or TYPE THE INFORMATION BELOW !!!**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Request is for:     - NEW Membership: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_ - New Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ - Renewal: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

- Add me to Annual member directory but do not list my: Home Ph.: \_\_; Work Ph: \_\_; Email: \_\_; Postal Address: \_\_
  - If checked, add me to STS LISTServ so I can get infrequent, adhoc announcements of local XC Ski activities: \_\_
  - If checked, add me to STS Bulk Email list so I get official club announcements important to all STS members: \_\_
  - **NEW:** If checked, send my UPSLOPE only electronically (no paper copy) to save the club copying and postage: \_\_
- STS is an all-volunteer organization. We cannot function without the assistance of our members. If you are interested in volunteering to help STS in any of the following areas, please check the box and you will be contacted:

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> STS Officer           | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity       | <input type="checkbox"/> XC Ski Instructor          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Web Content Assistant | <input type="checkbox"/> Ski Trip Leader | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Events Coordinator |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                       | <input type="checkbox"/>                 | <input type="checkbox"/>                            |