



UPSLOPE



Newsletter of the NORDIC Ski Touring Section of PATC

Visit Us On the WEB at <http://www.patc.us/chapters/ski/>

March 2009

UpComing Attractions In Fall UPSLOPE

- Planning meeting for 2009-10 season

Après Ski Party



The final Ski Touring Section event of this season is fast approaching—and we can say with certainty that it will “go” regardless of snow conditions. Of course, I’m referring to our annual **Après Ski**, or end-of-season party and business meeting. In what has become a favorite outing for many of us, we are once again gathering at the home of club member Catherine Payne. This year’s event is on **Sunday March 29, from 4-8 PM**. Catherine has a lovely place overlooking the Potomac River, just off the Beltway on the Virginia side near the Rt. 193/GW Parkway exit, abutting Scott’s Run Nature Preserve in a beautiful wooded setting, with access down to the river.

We’ll have a short club meeting starting at 4 PM to discuss this year’s outings, ideas for next year, election of officers, and any other business that needs to be addressed. I’m attaching the minutes of the annual meeting from last year (see page 8).

Regarding the election: This year’s officers have solicited people to serve for next year and will present a slate of nominees. Unfortunately, long-time PATC-STS activist Bert Finkelstein will not be able
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APRES SKI PARTY NOW ON

Sunday March 29th

Please RSVP Peggy Alpert at mountainmama15@verizon.net

This is a POT LUCK PARTY: Everyone is to bring a dish or edible contribution that others will enjoy, either beatifically healthful or sinfully rich—Your choice

STS Officer Slate



Elected officers of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, Ski Touring Section, include the Chairperson, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. Other appointed posts are the Trip Coordinator, Membership Coordinator, UPSLOPE editor, Web Master, and Mail Coordinator (see masthead on page 2). We will be holding the election for the coming year at the business meeting which will be held in conjunction with the party, beginning at 4:15 PM.

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STS Officers

FROM BETWEEN THE POLES – Chair Notes

Chair

Peggy Alpert
H: 301-946-4497
mountainmama15@verizon.net

Vice-Chair

Bert Finkelstein
H: 703-715-8534
bertanamo@gmail.com

Secretary

Al Larsen
H: 703-807-1639
alarsen120@aol.com

Treasurer

Robert Swennes
H: 703/532-6101
robertswennes@hotmail.com

Trip Coordinators

Steve Bergstrom
H: 301-564-9696
skifisc1@yahoo.com
Kathy Brumberger
H: 301-774-7412
kathybrum@verizon.net

Webmaster

Steve Brickel
H: 301-946-2520
sbrickel3003@rcn.com

Membership Coordinator

Douglas Lesar
H: 301-587-8041
dlesar@comcast.net

UPSLOPE Editor

Ralph Heimlich
H: 301-498-0918
heimlichfamily@comcast.net

UPSLOPE

Mailing Coordinator

Randy Kerr
H: 703-937-3920
lerrkerr@aol.com

PATC Liaison

Steve Bergstrom
H: 301-564-9696
skifisc1@yahoo.com

The paradox of winter in the Mid-Atlantic is that something that seems to last forever when you are working or commuting can fly by with the blink of an eye in the few heartbeats that you can actually go SKIING. This winter season seemed especially brief to me.

We celebrate the passing of the season in usual fashion with camaraderie and good cheer at our hostess Catherine Payne's house in Great Falls, VA, at the Après Ski Party (see page 1). It will be delightful to greet friends, share stories, swap slides of our adventures (a projector and screen will be on hand), and enjoy all the wonderful things to eat that you all will bring (It is a pot-luck affair).

This year's event will be tinged with a slight degree of melancholy as long-time STS activist, officer, and general instigator Bert Finkelstein finds it necessary to step down from his post as Vice-Chair because of job relocation. Bert was the Chair of STS when I joined and became UPSLOPE editor, and had been Vice Chair and very active for years before that. The club will miss his steady hand, particularly in the whirlwind days and hours before each Ski Fair in November. While many hands contribute to any successful STS event, it was always Bert who had the signs, took the pictures so we could reassemble the PATC HQ offices, and generally was our institutional memory for a once-a-year event. Thanks for all that effort, and much more, Bert.

But PATC-STS, like any successful volunteer organization, has no indispensable people. One of you reading this right now will step forward, maybe after a few years of feeling that guilty tug that you should "give back" to a club that offers so much to so many. I'm sure that many years from now, some future UPSLOPE editor (web Blogger?) will be bidding farewell to YOU and lamenting the loss of YOUR service, just as we bid farewell to Bert's stewardship of the club. Well, the place to step forward is the Après Ski Party and election meeting, on March 29th.



In case you are wondering why you are reading my words here, Peggy Alpert is recovering from cataract surgery and couldn't get anyone to take dictation. She'll be back between the poles in the next edition, just before the next Ski Fair in November.

Ralph Heimlich
Editor, UPSLOPE

Sign up for the PATC-STS 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 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 with the following in the body of your message:

subscribe patc-sts Your Name <your_email@your.isp>

In order to prevent misuse of this facility you will receive a confirmation message which you will need to respond to in order to confirm the subscription.

Bill and Randy's Excellent Vermont Adventure

By Randy Kerr and Bill Branson



Bill in Aiken Wilderness photo by Randy Kerr

February 14-21. We left Bill Branson's place in Bethesda Saturday morning in my Dodge Sprinter Camper Van and then asked ourselves, okay where in New England are we going? Taking turns driving and looking at maps and phones, we settled on Prospect Mountain, Vermont, as a first ski destination. Prospect reported conditions on their web page as simply "best ever", which as a relative statement left plenty of room for differing expectations. However, seeing the slightly rustic appearance, its former status as a downhill resort and adjacent wilderness area, the place also sounded comfortably familiar.

We had decided a New England (or Adirondacks) ski tour was in order this year, and then with a good base and a cold week forecast, we decided to go for it and hope for the best on new snow. Checking with a friend, owner Anne Houser (with Ron) of the Mountain Goat in Manchester, we learned the southern Green Mountains had just received fresh snow at the higher elevations. A list was scribbled down of potential spots to check out – Woodford State Park, Merck Forest and Kelly Stand Road "behind Stratton". That was all we knew to start and turned out to be pretty much all we needed to know.

Drive to Albany, turn right and with a seven hour drive time (it took us longer with a little side trip) we were in Bennington, Vermont. A visitor center open surprisingly late gave us a warm welcome, a start on local information and a determination that only Walmart (one of only three in the Green Mountain State) would welcome an overnight parking camper. Bennington is unassuming (possibly due the lack of any nearby downhill skiing?) but with it's own charm and a decent selection of restaurants.

Prospect Mountain was just a short way up in the mountains above Bennington but offered a change to full-on winter conditions with fresh snow on a big base. We skied the center's lower system, not missing any of the really nice single tracks and unable to pass up an untracked wander "off piste". Prospect was fine with our residing in their parking lot and we passed a coolish three degree night under bright stars and brilliant Venus. We kept running into people having come from other parts of Vermont because Prospect "always has the best snow".

Day two we climbed up the Mountain Trail and then off the back into the George C. Aiken Wilderness Area. Fortunately we had a track to follow and GPS to have a sense of where were ending up (still not having found any maps). After making a day of it and getting only part of the way in, we knew that would be our next day tour.

Parking at the snowmobile parking lot (all meticulously plowed) across the highway, we skied in at closed Woodford State Park, crossed the lake and headed back into the Aiken Wilderness. Designated a trail-less wilderness, it appears to be best visited in winter as much of the skiing is across connecting systems of beaver ponds. Our tour took us through the aptly named Beaver Meadows drainage, down the West Branch of the Deerfield River (as in we skied directly on the frozen river much of the time – again, fortunately following tracks), up the Yaw Pond Brook valley and then circling back to Beaver Meadows. After leaving the state park, we saw not another soul the whole day and saw tracks but not the moose themselves, maybe for the best.

A stay at the economical and comfortable Catamount motel back in town was welcome for clean up and drying out. The next day provided for laundry, propane refill and visiting the town – including a nice little outdoor clothing shop and an excellent and helpful bookstore. Then continuing our rest day, we drove north to Manchester, finally getting maps and few gear items at the Mountain Goat. The bookstore and

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STS Officer Slate (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

Chair Peggy Alpert, Secretary Al Larsen, Trip Coordinators Steve Bergstrom and Kathy Brumberger, and Treasurer Rob Swennes are all running for their current offices. Membership Coordinator Doug Lesar, UPSLOPE Editor Ralph Heimlich, Web Master Stephen Brickel and Mail Coordinator Randy Kerr continue to serve in their appointed offices. Unfortunately Vice-Chair Bert Finkelstein will not be able to continue in office due to a job relocation to WV (poor guy, out in SNOW COUNTRY), so Peggy is looking for some new officer volunteers.

STS must continually keep an eye out for an infusion of new folks into the leadership ranks, and needs to actively draft folks as trip leaders, co-leaders, helpers on the Ski Fair and other events, and for leadership posts. If you are interested in running for an office, please contact Peggy Alpert or one of the other officers prior to the March 29th Après Ski Party, even if you cannot attend.

Après Ski (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

to continue as Vice-Chair due to a job relocation. So, we are seeking out anyone else who might be interested in helping run STS. There will be opportunity for nominations from the floor at the meeting, but if you would like to nominate someone, or express interest yourself, please contact STS Chair Peggy Alpert.

We do these end-of-year parties as a “pot luck” event. So, bring a dish of your choosing—main dish, salad, or dessert, and maybe some drinks. As has become our tradition, in addition to the good food, we’ll enjoy the fun of re-living this year’s trips, and a reunion with your trip participants. Feel free to call me or e-mail me if you have questions: Al Larsen, STS Secretary, 703-807-1639; alarsen120@aol.com.

Al Larsen
STS Secretary

Driving directions: Capital Beltway to Exit 44, Georgetown Pike, Rt. 193. Turn onto Georgetown Pike inside the Beltway, toward Langley, not outside toward Great Falls. Almost immediately, turn north onto Balls Hill Rd (toward the River, not south toward McLean). Take the first left off Balls Hill Rd, which is Live Oak Road, a bridge going over the Beltway, and then paralleling the Beltway. Take first left, onto Green Oak Drive. Follow to end of cul de sac, and take the driveway to the left of the large eagle statue/sculpture. Catherine’s house has the green roof, number 7035 Green Oak Drive. Her phone is 703-827-0370.

Skiing and Snowshoeing in New Hampshire

The Section sponsored its annual ski trip to the White Mountains of New Hampshire on January 15 – 20, 2009. Due to the Presidential inauguration on Tuesday, January 20th and the resulting extra federal holiday for Government employees in the Washington metro area, this trip was a day longer than normal. That bonus only comes around once every four years!



Part of our group skiing in the forest area at Bretton Woods photo by Rob Swennes

It was COLD. An hour before our arrival our vehicles were reporting temperatures as low as -17 Fahrenheit, though it had warmed up to a balmy -5 degrees by the time we had arrived at our lodgings. The temperatures the first two days we were skiing were in the positive single digits, but since there was no wind, the conditions were actually quite pleasant on the trails. And the snow conditions were GREAT. This is the second year running that we have had a deep base of snow and a light, powdery top during our visit. I had brought along Lebanese food supplies from the Lebanese Market in Arlington, so that served as our dinner the first night.

The whole group opted to ski at the Jackson Ski Touring Center (STC) which was only a few miles distant. The rolling Ellis River

Most of the participants drove up on Thursday and back on Tuesday, thus allowing four full days for winter sports in New Hampshire. Experience has shown that regardless whether you drive all the way from the DC area or fly to Manchester, NH and rent a car for the remainder of the trip north, we all arrive within about an hour or two of each other.

We had a great rental house in Bartlett this year that was less than a year old. Two thirds of our 16 skiers stayed there, with the remainder bunking at a nearby condominium apartment. All our evening meals and socializing took place at the big house, though the condo did give us access to a community hot tub and sauna for those who were interested.



Most of the group on the final night in the rental house at Bartlett photo by Rob Swennes

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Skiing New Hampshire's White Mountains (continued)

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Trail along the river of the same name is varied and several miles long. Several of us skied out to the point where the trail crosses the river and continues on to Dana Place, a B&B on the road up to Pinkham Notch. But since there is no bridge, crossing is dependent on a reliable ice cover on the river. Last January there was not. But even though there was clearly rushing water in the river, at the trail crossing point there was an unbroken surface of ice. The questions of its thickness and the safety of crossing that day were resolved by (1) the day's low temperature and (2) the visible track signs that others had successfully skied across earlier. Our hopes that Dana Place was again serving lunch again as it used to years ago were dashed, but I did meet up with Alan Kurzweil and Donna Brother of our group in the B&B. We heard of where others had skied at Jackson STC when we returned to the large ski center building late in the afternoon. Dinner that night was about 5 varieties of pizza from Kringles, the excellent local pizza shop.

Second day the full group opted to drive west on Route 302 and across Crawford Gap to the Bretton Woods STC and the nearby grand Mount Washington hotel. Bretton Woods offers both Alpine and Nordic skiing, but this year everyone in our group stayed with Nordic. Much of our group wound up skiing



Five of us opted to snowshoe and ski along part of the AT
photo by Rob Swennes



Dan Peed and Barbara Mandula approach a "header" along the AT
photo by Rob Swennes

together during the time before lunch. Lunch is normally eaten in the large canvas yurt located out off the Porcupine Trail. It has a great view eastward of Mount Washington and other so-called Presidential peaks. Some of us split into smaller groups for the afternoon ski and then regathered at the STC for the drive home. One group of skiers opted to stay for afternoon tea and coffee or an alcoholic beverage in the long lobby of the historic hotel. That evening we celebrated Keith Chanon's birthday with cake and ice cream supplied by his wife, Mariamalia Araya.

Many people returned to Bretton Woods the third day (Sunday). But five of us decided to try something quite different. We had crossed over the Appalachian Trail on the way to Bretton Woods the previous day. So I recommended that we ski and snowshoe a portion of the trail. It has snowed heavily Saturday night and in fact continued snowing most of Sunday. We quickly learned that the AT in New England is far more challenging in terms of elevation change than is the trail in Virginia. Three of us (Barbara Mandula, Dan Peed and I) soon changed from skis to snowshoes. Warren Overholt and a visiting friend of mine, Andrew Malone, opted to stay in skis. The snowshoers definitely had the easier time on the narrow, steep trails. It was a wonderful alternative to skiing, especially when dealing with rugged terrain.

On our final day to ski, the group fractured into even more pieces, each scattering to a different skiing venue in the White Mountains area. A few of us, including Terry Ashby of Richmond, opted to ski at the Bear Notch STC in Bartlett—a place we had first discovered the winter before. Though Bear Notch lacks the dramatic backdrop of the key peaks of the White Mountains as seen at Bretton Woods, it has a quieter beauty, particularly its long, snowy trails along the Saco River. It was a very refreshing day of skiing.

We had some ignition problems Monday night with one of our vans when leaving the recreation center after sauna and hot tub. We were able to arrange for a replacement vehicle late morning on Tuesday, but that delayed by several hours our planned departure back to the DC area. On the plus side, we were able to pack the new vehicle and then sit back and enjoy the best of the inauguration ceremony on a big screen TV at the rental house. After the new President's address, we departed from the White Mountains of New Hampshire with a firm desire to return again to that great New England snow in a year's time.

More pictures at http://www.kodakgallery.com/ShareLanding.action?c=gyist5q.6uj8w15a&x=0&y=-6784is&localeid=en_US&cm_mmc=site_email_-site_share_-core_-view_photos_button



Terry and Dan "measuring" the trees on the signature bridge at Bear Notch
photo by Rob Swennes

Gore to Garnet Hill Trek

Our former trip coordinator Al Larsen is a great guy and arranges really nice places to go skiing—but pay attention when he’s arranging a back country tour. Al claimed he’s been going to [Garnet Hill Lodge](#) on the banks of the Adirondack’s Thirteenth Lake for 4 years now, but kept getting skunked on the Gore Mountain to Garnet Hill trek arranged by the ski center at Garnet Hill. Nobody else in our party of 7 (Al’s wife Anne, Marion Story, Jeff Ansbacher, Marion’s daughter Christy, and my wife Beth) thought it was anything they wanted to do, but I wanted to support Al, who’d made the arrangements for our trip up here going on the second year now, so I VOLUNTEERED!!

We met our local guides, Fred Anderson and Jim Underwood, at the ski center, along with Alan Lewis, another participant in the trek, and boarded the bus for Gore Mountain. Our guide Jim gave us some history of the ski business in the area. It was the 70th anniversary of the first “ski trains” to [North Creek](#), which brought GE employees from Schenectady up to try the new “skiing” popularized by the 1932 Winter Olympics in Lake Placid, NY. Bet you didn’t know that only Nordic events were featured in that Olympics (no downhill skiing).



Al Larsen and Alan Lewis with the Green Mountains photo by Ralph Heimlich

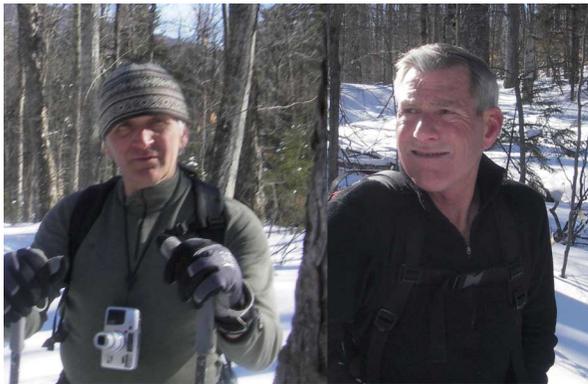


Garnet Hills garnets photo by Ralph Heimlich

In 1934, you could pay \$2 and ride the train from Schenectady to North Creek. You were matched with a local family and ate and boarded with them. You paid them \$.50 to get a car ride up the mountain, and spent all day skiing back down. Skiers didn’t come from New York City until they hit on the idea of putting fashion models in ski clothes and putting their pictures in the paper. Jim’s uncle modeled in ski clothes and was shown on a huge banner in Abercrombie and Fitch’s store in the city. Jim gave us each a copy of the 1930’s era ski trail map, which featured some of the same trails we were skiing this day.

Because of hassles with the lift tickets, the itinerary has been changed recently so that we drove up into the now disused Barton Hill Garnet Mine rather than around to the Gore Ski Area. The bus drove until the plowing stopped, then we geared up and started a long uphill climb with magnificent views back toward Garnet Hill and Thirteenth Lake. This trail was part of a circular passage around the top of Big Pete Gay Mountain, which is separated from Gore Mountain by the remains of an open pit garnet mine, now mercifully overgrown with vegetation and covered by snow. We reached the mine dump, where the overburden was cascaded down the mountain—not a very environmentally benign practice, but

it did provide great views of the Green Mountains and Lake Champlain to the East, and the backslopes of Gore Mountain ski area. We also got to see evidence of why Garnet Hill got its name—garnet crystals as large as grapefruit embedded in a large chunk of stone.



Guides Jim Underwood and Fred Anderson photo composite by Ralph Heimlich

After the view, we ducked into a wooded trail that curved around the east face of Big Pete Gay and descended, sometimes steeply through wooded glades, between Big and Little Pete Gay mountains. Jim swooped in tele turns between the trees like he was on a sidewalk. I got down the steepest pitches (turns out, you can fall DOWN anything) and was enjoying the gentler slopes and views north toward Dix Mountain and the great range of the Adirondacks, some 80 miles distant. We descended toward Halfway Brook, had a quick lunch on a snowy log, and crossed the road just below the brook.



Fred’s Bear Tree photo by Ralph Heimlich

Our guides work on maintaining the trails in the summer and have really learned about the area. Fred stopped to show us some bear trees (Al thought he said “beer” tree and was very eager, for a while). The black bear marks territory by biting the bark of a tree as high as he can reach, letting the sap run, then rubbing scent and hair into the sap. Sure enough, the trees he showed us were gashed and had black and tan hairs stuck in the wood and sap. But the clincher was a beech tree Fred had found a little off the trail that clearly showed the claw marks of bears climbing up to feast on beech nuts. You could even see some places where the back claws slipped, then held. Nothing like the Grizzly scratching out in Yellowstone, but impressive in old New York.

We continued on the gentle Barton XC trail and skied out onto frozen William Blake pond, then down onto Garnet Hills trails. We were almost home, when who should appear but Anne Larsen and my wife Beth—come out to see if we were going to make it back. We did, but it was a bit more rugged a trek than I bargained for.

Ralph Heimlich

Bill and Randy's Excellent Vermont Adventure (continued)



Still happy after having skied up Mount Antone in Merck Forest
photo by Mat (you know, Photomat)

was toast.

A somewhat harrowing drive around Stratton Mountain and up the fire roads in a snowstorm brought us to a parking lot near the end of the plowed Kelly Stand Road. In the isolated cold and wind, we thought we were out there until a van unloaded a group in the dark that headed out on snowshoes to camp in the snow. The tour to and around Grout Pond, included a side trip down to the open views of Somerset Reservoir. With the new fresh snow we were glad to have another pair of skiers to share trail breaking and show the way for a circle through another drainage of beaver ponds.

The area is definitely deserving of a return trip. Aiken Wilderness has other areas to explore. Merck Forest would be a fun tour in good snow. The backcountry Little Michigan trails near Wild Wings looks like a good day.

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café across the street was excellent in both counts and even had topo maps. Onward to visit Bill's friends, who have just transplanted themselves from Takoma Park to try their hand at sustainable farming – a highly inspiring vision.

Thursday took us northwest to the Merck Forest and Farmland Center, a working farm in the mountains with cabins and a really nice network of roads and trails for skiing and snowshoeing. Though there was a new four inches of snow, it was wet, heavy and made for tough travel up and down, as it was largely untracked.

After a B&B at the comfortable Inn at Manchester, we set off back into the Green Mountains with snow falling. The ranger station northeast of Manchester was very helpful and is an excellent stop. Then on to Wild Wings Cross Country Center with it's one way, classic only grooming – as in "no skating allowed on the trails". We managed to ski something like ten of its twelve miles of very nice trail network, helped by fresh snow. Unfortunately, the straight away skiing reveals exactly how fast Bill really is – I



Wild Wings touring center



Randy on the beaver ponds near Grout Pond *photo by Bill Branson*

You Can Ski in DC (Just Don't Blink)—Went March 2 to Great Falls VA side and parked at Difficult Run parking lot. (it takes a four wheel drive to get out of that parking lot, but not in). Broke trail skiing along Difficult Run Creek and then up a ridge that goes along the Potomac River across from the "s" curve at the end of the gorge. Ended with a run down a narrow side trail without too much drop that takes you back to the parking lot. Managed to avoid hugging any trees but not a bit of build up on the skis from the damp ground. Saw just one other person/skier going the other way who had parked at the Great Falls parking lot and came down the bridle trail. And 4 deer who left fresh tracks in front of me as they bounced across the trail. Only two days of skiing this winter around DC this being the second but a nice close out to the season.

Cheers,
 Harrison Snow

Minutes of PATC/STS Annual Business Meeting, May 4, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM at the home of Catherine Payne in McLean, VA. Someone was confused and thought this meant it was time to call in their order, but that opening gambit was successfully parried and the meeting proceeded.

1. For the welcome, STS Chair Peggy Alpert said "Welcome". The writing of it has hereby taken longer than the doing of it.
2. Acceptance of Minutes of the previous Annual Business Meeting (May 5, 2007). The assembled membership (and two of Catherine's cats) voted to approve last year's minutes.
3. Treasurer's Report. As has now become his custom (resulting in his annually being re-elected), STS Treasurer Rob Swennes presented a complete, comprehensive and documented Treasurer's Report (attached). Highlights include the fact that actual income over expenses created a slight excess (\$204), indicating that the club is successfully recovering the costs of its various and sundry activities, but not building fat into the charges imposed. Also noteworthy is that total expenses were over budget—but that was simply because certain ski trips were run through the club account rather than being netted out by the trip leader before hand. Thus, revenues were over budget by the same amount as expenses, with no net impact on club finances.
4. Membership Report. Actually, the membership did not report. It sat there passively while Doug Lesar reported about the membership. Through a variety of advanced quantitative methods and statistical analyses, including regression analysis (what else would suffice to chart the direction of our "special" group), Doug showed that the slow bleed of total membership size continues. At the end of the year, we were down 20 members from last year's total, from 278 to 258. Someone argued that we were making up in quality what we were losing in quantity, but that was met with "yeah, yeah", "says you" and "is it time to eat yet".

Doug also noted that not quite half of members receive the UPSLOPE newsletter electronically. The hard copy snail mail distribution does cost the club substantially more and uses natural resources—so we urge anyone who can to choose electronic distribution.

5. Trip Coordinator's Report. Al Larsen noted that once again, it was a very tough (as in, hardly any) snow year in the Mid-Atlantic region. To a group whose whole reason for being is to get out skiing, this was, surprisingly, not totally new information.

Al thanked the trip leaders, whom he pointed to as the heart and soul of the STS program—making possible the ski outings themselves. He raised some questions for the group to ponder and discuss later in the meeting, regarding the kinds and locations of trips to be planned for the upcoming season.

6. Election of Officers: In an election that would have made the old Soviet leaders proud, existing Chair Peggy presented a slate of candidates for offices and asked for approval. Hearing a "yeah, sure" from the back of the room, Peggy declared the following results:

Chair—Peggy Alpert

Vice Chair—Bert Finklestein

Treasurer—Rob Swennes

Secretary—Al Larsen

Other appointed positions were approved as follows:

Trip Coordinators—Steve Bergstrom and Kathy Brumberger

Membership Coordinator—Doug Lesar

UPSLOPE editor—Ralph Heimlich

Mailing Coordinator—Randy Kerr

Webmaster—Steve Brickel

The group discussed the need and desirability for people to serve in two other capacities:

Publicity Coordinator

PATC liaison

No one was appointed to these roles at the meeting, but the officers solicit and would welcome those who want to serve the STS to step forward to volunteer.

8. New Business

- a. Insurance Issues—Peggy presented a number of concerns regarding insurance coverage for STS trips. In the end, there were more questions than answers, with Peggy soliciting information from members if they have any. Several members believed, although no one could confirm, that PATC insures STS trip leaders for negligence claims coming from club trips. After an inquiry this past season, it now appears that,

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Last Year's Minutes (continued)

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whatever coverage PATC does have, its carrier will not cover STS. It is not clear whether they were basing that on a misconception that STS was a downhill skiing club, or whether they would reject coverage even if they understood perfectly the nature of our outings.

Peggy stated that based on the latest information she had received from PATC, there may be one insurer would insure STS for our 4 month per year season for about \$600.

Peggy noted two things that are certain:

1. Participants in STS trips outside of the PATC area (PA, VA, MD, WV, DC) must be members of the PATC
2. All trip leaders, regardless of location of trip, must be PATC members

b. Location of Trips for 2008-09 Season—Suggestions from the group discussion:

--recruit leaders for more out-of-region trips, where availability of snow is more likely

--local trips—schedule such trips, but try to set them up with cancellation rights in the event there is insufficient snow. Kathy Brumberger will check on such lodging availability in the Canaan/Blackwater area

--Backbone Ski Farm (Garrett County, MD). Cancelled this past year because of no snow. Want to schedule a trip there next year, but need an STS trip leader, who would then contact Max to arrange for use of facilities, guided outing, etc.

--Tentative trips for next season:

Rob Swennes—New Hampshire (Bear Notch area); will be driving from DC, not flying up

Rob Swennes—Yellowstone, in February

Peggy Alpert and Steve Brickel—probably Vermont in February

c. Publicity—Peggy raised the need for additional publicity for club activities. The group agreed that at least some of what goes on in STS should not simply stay within STS (no not the face-plants and not the who-snores discoveries; those can and will remain mostly confidential). But, some information should be publicized beyond our own insular organs (i.e., beyond the UPSLOPE, the website and the listserv). This would include bringing back to life our STS brochure (in need of revision) and finding venues to advertise the existence of STS and its trip schedules. Ralph Heimlich volunteered to do the formatting, graphics and printing of the brochures as soon as he received the text from Peggy.

There was consensus that publicity about Ski Fair in the Fall should go to a wider audience, using media such as the Washington Post outdoor column, bulletin boards at outdoor stores, college outing clubs, etc. Everyone enthusiastically agreed with this proposition. No one enthusiastically stepped forward to actually do all the work (except for Eliot Brumberger who will contact the WashPost in the Fall). Your secretary therefore unilaterally has implemented a system of randomly selecting one person from among everyone who signs up for a trip next season to take on this task. Just kidding—but, got your attention, ain't not?

Peggy invited anyone who is interested in helping with some or part of the publicity task to contact her.

With that, by voice vote with no dissent, the assembled multitude ended the business meeting around 5:30 and began the eating, drinking, conversation and slide show of past season's trips (except for that far corner of the room which had previously commenced with the drinking and conversation part of the program despite what the agenda showed).

Respectfully submitted,

Al Larsen

You Can Ski in DC, Two—When we get a coastal storm like this in the future, check out Colmar Manor Community Park in Prince George's County by the Anacostia River. A friend and I skied for 4.5 hours, sometimes in a strong wind and some sun (towards the end of the day), in the community park. Near the highest point of the park, we skied in wind-blown snow of 1 to 1.5 feet deep on the edge of some ball fields. At lower elevations (and out of the wind but wetter snow), we skied on some wide hiking trails besides floodplain woods and some dredge-fill lakes, and even skied up to the very edge of the Anacostia River. We ended up the day skiing across the river on a foot-bridge to Bladensburg Waterfront Park before recrossing the bridge back to the car.

Thank you Snow-Gods!

Ted Conwell

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

March 2009



Al Larsen and Fred on William Blake Pond, Barton Cross Country Trail, Garnet Hill Lodge, NY

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 |