



UPSLOPE



Newsletter of the NORDIC Ski Touring Section of PATC

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

April 2010

UpComing Attractions In Fall UPSLOPE

- Election Results
- 2011 Ski Fair

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” even if we are buried in SNOW. 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 **Saturday, May 1, from 4:30-8 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.



Après Ski at Catherine Payne’s house on the Potomac, 2009 photo by Ralph Heimlich

We’ll have a short club meeting starting at 4:30 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 7).

Regarding the election: This year’s officers have solicited people to serve for next year and will present a slate of nominees. However, 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

APRES SKI PARTY NOW ON

Saturday, May 1, 2010

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

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.

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FROM BETWEEN THE POLES – Chair Notes

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UPSLOPE

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April 8, 2010

A very snowy (long overdue) ski season has come to a close and therefore we are looking forward to our Annual Membership Meeting and Après Ski. It will be held on Saturday, May 1, at the home of our gracious hostess Catherine Payne. Please check information on meeting content, time and directions elsewhere in this issue.

And it is also the time for someone else to “sit on the Chair”. I welcomed the challenges of the position and enjoyed working with the other officers of the Club. They are dedicated, reliable and spirited individuals without whom we would not have a Ski Touring Section. Much appreciation is due them, as well as to the trip leaders without whom we would not have ski trips.

As we prepare for the coming ski season, I ask each of you to help make the 2010-2011 season full of exciting trips and joyful adventures. We need you!

Although I will not hold an officer position, I will be available to help where needed. Of course I will continue to lead trips – TUG HILL HERE WE COME!

I wish you a safe, comfortable and enjoyable summer.



See you on the trail.

Peggy Alpert

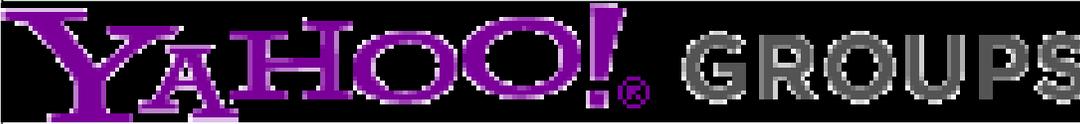
STS Officer Slate

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 this page). 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 4:30 PM.

If you are interested in running for an office, please contact Peggy Alpert or one of the other officers prior to the May 1st Après Ski Party, even if you cannot attend.



PATC-STS' New Yahoo Group Gains New Subscribers



Over the winter, the PATC-STS Executive Committee decided that the STS is moving from the ListServ to its newly established

PATC-STS Yahoo Group.

The address of this group is: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PATC-STS/>

Membership in the Yahoo Group has grown exponentially, as has message traffic. As a result, the ListServ was terminated March 30, 2010. If you wish to continue to receive the type of communications related to cross-country skiing, such as information on impromptu trips, equipment for sale and general technical articles, easy access to The Upslope Newsletter, as well as trip descriptions and schedules you can join the Yahoo Group by going to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PATC-STS/> and clicking on the join button. We will do the rest and approve your request for free access. Membership in the PATC-STS is NOT required, but at \$9.00 a year, it is a great bargain. (It also gets you a \$10 discount on PATC-STS trips!)

If you do nothing, you will not be added to the Yahoo Group and you will no longer receive fast-breaking, up-to-the minute, adrenaline-inducing, hair-raising, heart-stopping messages about local cross-country activities from the STS. We don't want to leave you out in the cold (pun intended), so sign up.

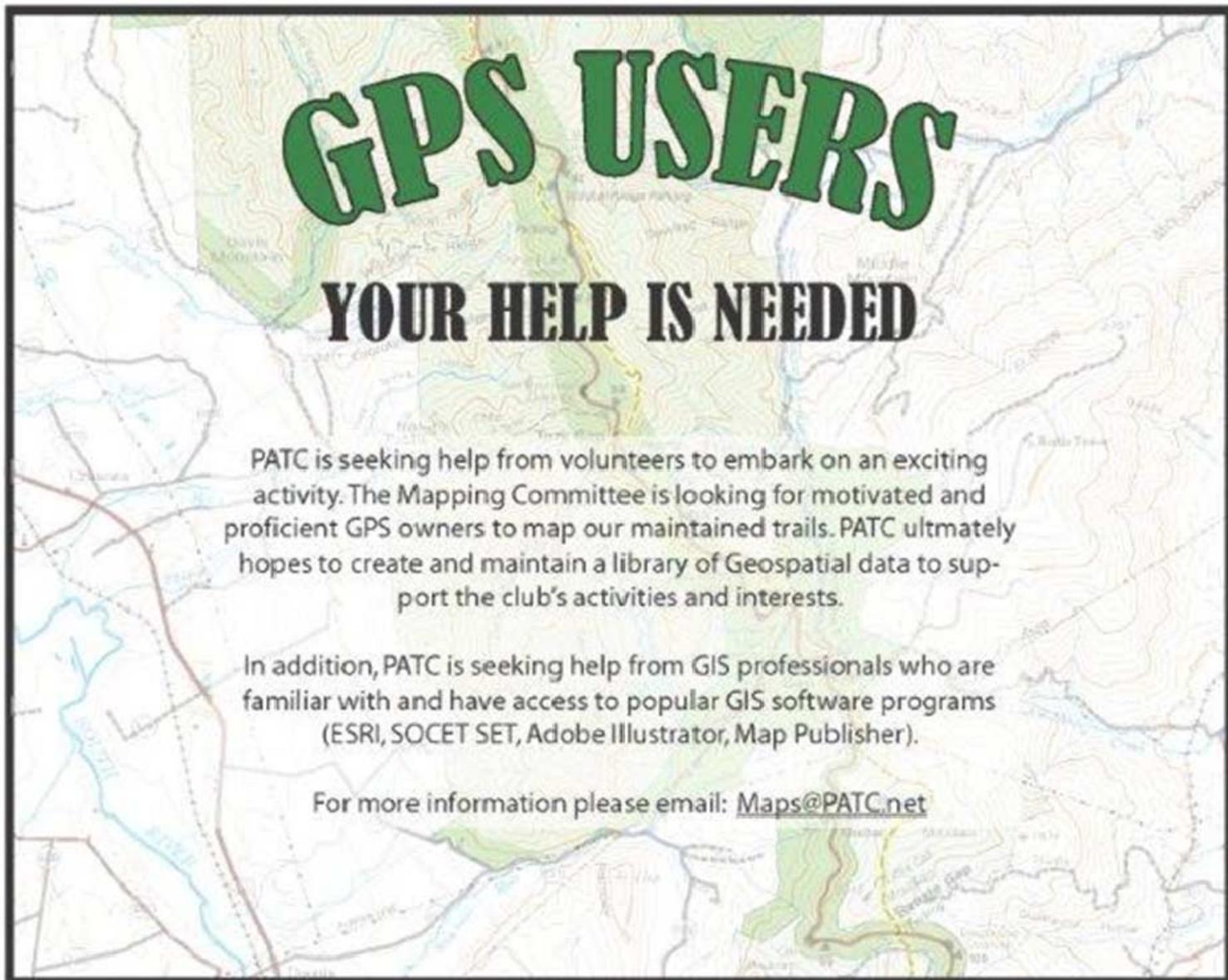
Larry Doff

Ten Reasons For Trying the New Yahoo Group PATC-STS

10. You will continue to keep abreast of cross-country ski trip news from the Ski Touring Section of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club.
9. You will be able to personally control the frequency at which you will receive PATC-STS messages.
8. You will be able to personally control the content of PATC-STS messages, i.e., full, summary, digest or just subject line.
7. You will be able to personally control the form of PATC-STS messages, ie text or full html.
6. You will be able to post your own messages regarding ski trips, items for sale or sought and other cross-county skiing subjects.
5. You will be able to go back to look at archived messages by subject, date or content.
4. You will be able to upload or read attachments, photos, documents and other material related to PATC-STS activities.
3. You will be able to communicate directly with other members *enmasse* or individually, publicly or privately.
2. You will be able to control your own privacy settings and protect yourself from SPAM.
1. The old ListServ is history and the PATC-STS Yahoo Group is now the sole method of web communication among and between members of the PATC-STS, other than our super web-site, which is one-way only.

Check the new PATC-STS Yahoo Group out at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PATC-STS/>

Help Out PATC Mapping Committee



GPS USERS

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

PATC is seeking help from volunteers to embark on an exciting activity. The Mapping Committee is looking for motivated and proficient GPS owners to map our maintained trails. PATC ultimately hopes to create and maintain a library of Geospatial data to support the club's activities and interests.

In addition, PATC is seeking help from GIS professionals who are familiar with and have access to popular GIS software programs (ESRI, SOCET SET, Adobe Illustrator, Map Publisher).

For more information please email: Maps@PATC.net

Bring Your Photo Slide Shows to Après Ski

Your slideshows from the 2009-2010 season (or anytime, for that matter) are wanted! There will be a digital projector and laptop available at the party to show your (short, please!) slide shows of trips taken during the season. This is a great opportunity to learn about new places to ski, see funny shots of your old friends, embarrass yourself, and have a good time enjoying memories of the snow just past.

Bring your slide show on a CD-ROM, USB thumb drive, or your own laptop in a format that has some prayer of moving from one machine to another, and we'll all take a look. Who knows, you could be the next U-Tube viral craze!!

SNOW: IRONY IS YOUR NAME



Anne Larsen, Catherine Payne and Erma Cameron at Garnet Hill Lodge
photo by Al Larsen

while our non-skiing friends back home were cursing the two feet of dump, viewing it as “work”, we were out playing in snow, because this storm never made it past northern PA.

As planned, everyone in our group was spending Saturday discovering or getting reacquainted with the miles and miles of groomed trails on the Garnet Hill Lodge site. Some skied down to Thirteenth Lake—and had gorgeous views up the length of the lake, with turquoise ice formations on the rock cliffs on the far side of the lake. Others skied to the high point of the GH property to a clearing from which we could look at the High Peaks region, including Mt. Marcy. All of us were gauging what black diamond trail designations meant in the GH grading scheme, and making preliminary plans for the next several days.

As the afternoon wore on toward evening, and the sun and the temperatures dropped, everyone made it back to the main lodge, where we had our rooms. A hot shower, the always-out tea, cocoa and coffee, the crackling fire in the huge stone fireplace (with garnets embedded in these rocks from the nearby quarries), the rocking chairs and easy chairs made for a cozy transition to our evening activities: eating, drinking, and planning the next day’s outings. Did I omit cooking and dishwashing? Oh—there was none. No small part of the attraction at GH is that dinner and breakfast are rolled into the price and the staff does all that work. So, instead of hustling out of our ski stuff to get dinner underway, we grabbed a cup of tea (with the freshly baked cookies that our chef put out), or a glass of wine, and had relaxed conversation. Saturday dinner was a huge buffet dinner, with salmon, prime rib, pasta, and much more, followed by home baked pies.

Everyone shared their “how I escaped DC” stories, and compared notes on where they had been skiing earlier in the day. Armed with each other’s information, and maps, we planned a number of outings for the next day. Most of us were in for the night at that point, enjoying the fireplace and the hot cocoa or wine. But, I decided to take advantage of the “torch skiing” that the ski shop staff had set up. On one of the flatter sections of groomed trails, they had set up tikki torches every hundred feet or so—enough light to guide you around but not so much as to ruin your “night vision”. Very cool—in both meanings of the word. A kazillion stars out, with the Milky Way forming a river of light across the absolutely clear night sky.

The next day, I led a group on a sort of “highlights sampler” of Garnet Hill trails. Temps were around 10 degrees when we headed out, and, given that the lodge is on a high point, that meant going downhill to start. Refreshing, as they used to say when trying to trick you into jumping in a lake at summer camp. It was a “blue bird” day, of the kind usually only encountered in the West. But here, it was full of white birch, stunning against the blue sky, and with the low, orange-ish morning light creating something of an alpenglow effect. We made our way to the “Sugarhouse”, which is now a warming hut. Not very many years ago, when I first went to GH, it was a working sugarbush operation, with tubes running tree to tree and into the boiler

As the date for our xc ski outing in the Adirondacks approached, Mr. Irony decided to visit the DC metro area at the same time. As a result, everyone who was going on our trip to Garnet Hill Lodge had to hustle out of town early on Friday (February 5) so as not to get caught in the snow here or on the highway—and, uh, not be able to go skiing. It was a very odd sensation—keeping ahead of a huge snow storm that would be arriving precisely in the place we were escaping, so we could ensure that we’d be able to ski, by getting to a place where this storm wouldn’t be hitting. Early in planning the trip, I had suggested to folks that they travel part way to the Adirondacks on Friday (getting a few hours in after work, or even leaving work early)—so we’d have a full afternoon of skiing on Saturday at Garnet Hill, before the official beginning of our outing on Saturday night. By the time Mr. Irony had announced his visit, I was suggesting people leave by noon—with snow expected to start accumulating by then. My wife Anne and I made it the whole way to Warrensburg, NY, by the end of the afternoon Friday, about half an hour from Garnet Hill.

After a leisurely breakfast the next morning at our B&B, we arrived to check in at GH at 10:30 AM, to a bright, crisp 12 degree morning, and the announcement from front desk staff that all of the rest of our group had already checked in! So, the irony reached a crescendo—



On the way to Bothereation Pond *photo by Al Larsen*

(Continued on page 6)

Garnet Hill (cont).

(Continued from page 5)

set up in the sugarhouse. This morning we found a potbellied stove and wood, just waiting for Tim Williamson and Catherine Payne to start up a fire that would serve other skiers as they would happen by throughout the day. The little house with the half moon on the door nearby was not heated.

Jeffrey Anspacher timed himself on several long loops he strung together (intentionally) including multiple climbing hills and quick descents. Erma Cameron had a great time “lake skiing”. All the nearby lakes are frozen hard and deep, and, while we were there, had enough snow to make them ski-able. Not glare ice, but not so much they weren’t fun. Dave and Cathy Collins spent much of the afternoon on Skullbuster trail. The challenge of Skullbuster is to extract the maximum fun out of a screaming downhill run, without re-establishing the name’s aptness. They did exactly that. Bill Collins headed out for some snowshoeing on the separate snowshoe trails. In the afternoon, Ralph Heimlich, Erma, Tim and I headed “off campus”, i.e. onto the single-track trails from the GH property into the adjacent NY State Forest lands. We headed toward Hour Pond, on some rather challenging terrain, returning to the lodge as light was fading. But, on our return, Ralph and I scouted for a possible connecting trail that would allow for a long back country loop outing the next day.

The hot showers felt even better the second day. And the chef brought out a new batch of cookies too. This being a Sunday night, most of the “local” crowd i.e. daytrippers, and folks from, say, Albany a few hours away who come for the weekend, had gone home at the end of the day. Dinner time was much less crowded that night. Rather than a buffet, this was *a la carte* fare—steak, trout, etc. Being February 7—it was Super Bowl Sunday. There is a rec room in the lodge—convenient, but nicely separated—so, Tim and Bill (getting their orders in quickly) could slip off to see the game, while the Adirondack ambiance was preserved in the Great Room.

The next day, I led the back country trip that Ralph and I had partially scouted. I knew from previous trips where part of our planned route went, and we had done another piece yesterday. That left a connecting section which we thought would work. We headed off, going up the steep leg, on the theory that it would be more manageable than coming down it. Good choice. Very pretty. Another clear blue day, on single track through the state forest lands. We found the turn off to Botheration Pond. Ralph suspects the name comes from the bugs that attack hikers on that trail in the summer time. An alternative explanation could be the little brooks that invariably await the bottom of each steep downhill pitch. In any event, we did find the lake, and pushed on toward Botheration Creek, which Ralph and I had approached from the other side the previous day. The descending trail suggested that the creek might be awaiting at the bottom of the pitch, and sure enough, there was the impressive log superstructure of the bridge for the hiker’s trail across the creek. We now knew the rest of the loop that would take us back to Garnet Hill. We ate some GORP and took photos to memorialize the outing.

As always, Garnet Hill had offered up nice, easy groomed trails, challenging groomed stuff, and vary pretty back country trails, with everyone able to choose their own level of exertion and challenge. Some went out for a challenging trail, but of short duration. Others went on some of the easier terrain, but made a full day of it.

By this time, Mr. Irony had made his way up north to the Adirondacks. We were hearing that the second major snow storm was going to be hitting the DC area the next day (Tuesday)—our travel day. So, we had to get out of the ADKs promptly Tuesday morning. The Garnet Hill staff got up extra early and made us breakfast and, yes, a new batch of just out of the oven cookies for the road to send us on our way. We slipped back into town by late afternoon, so we wouldn’t get stuck in snow—returning from skiing. But Dave and Cathy were adamant that all snow (even a second storm in a week) is for playing in, not working—so they headed on into Vermont, to continue playing.

Al Larsen



Stand-up Lunch at Botheration Creek Bridge photo by Al Larsen

**Minutes of PATC Ski Touring Section
Annual Business Meeting
March 29, 2009**

Chair Peggy Alpert opened the meeting, greeting everyone, and moved to accept the 2008 minutes, which was agreed.

Treasurers Report—Next, STS Treasurer Rob Swennes presented the Treasurer's report, reflecting accounts as of March 15, 2009. Rob noted that the primary deviation between budget and actuals was in the category of trip expenses. The reason is that, if a trip leader chooses not to run the trip through the club account, neither the expense nor the revenue is recorded on our books. Thus, the revenue would be lower than budgeted, but so would be the expenses, with no net effect on our balance. This year, actual trip revenues and trip expenses in the club accounts were lower than budgeted. In the end, all revenues exceeded all expenses by \$571 for the year. The club therefore continued to maintain comfortable (given our operations) balances in its checking and savings accounts. Rob noted that, with an ongoing positive balance, this allows trip leaders, if they choose, to submit deposits (e.g., for lodging) through the club so the leaders don't have to front the money themselves. But, they are free to do it themselves, outside of the club account, if they wish.

A pitch from the Secretary at this point: Rob's report showed that expenses for both postage and copying did exceed budget this year. Members can directly help this situation by choosing to receive the club newsletter, the "Upslope", electronically (i.e., via e-mail), rather than with a hard-copy mailed version. If you are willing to do that, please see the instructions for doing so in the Upslope, or contact Doug Lesar (Membership Coordinator), Ralph Heimlich (Editor) or Randy Kerr (Mailing Coordinator).

Rob's comment about positive account balances set off a mad dash for cash, with many members suggesting uses for that idle cash. An Executive Bonus program was not among the suggestions. Someone did mention TARP funds, thinking that referred to some sort of bivouac shelter, but this was clarified without undue embarrassment to any party. Nevertheless, there were suggestions that STS could contribute to the maintenance or enhancement of certain areas where the club goes on trips, such as Laurel Highlands, Tug Hill areas, or Blackwater Falls and environs. Merle Van Horne noted that many national and state lands have an official fund to which donations can be made, as well as a "Friends of...." type organization. The officers will examine such opportunities further.

Before proceeding with remaining agenda items, Peggy noted the large turnout for the meeting portion of the event (vice the subsequent eating and socializing portion), and asked that we go around the room and introduce ourselves. It became apparent that some had simply mis-timed their arrival, thinking that the feed-bag was already on. But, most participants chimed in with comments that made for a (keeping with the food theme, here) meatier-than-usual discussion of matters pertinent to the functioning of the Section.

Erma Cameron noted that the Section had a successful work weekend at Laurel Highlands last October, and that we plan to do it again this year, probably also around mid-October. She noted several incentives for participation: leaf color is at its peak, and last year at least, the park provided dinner for the volunteers.

Trip Leader's Report—Kathy Brumberger reported that 200 people signed up for STS outings this season (including work trips to White Grass and Laurel Highlands). Kathy asked Harvey Walden to report on the Western MD/ Backbone Ski Farm trip, so we could learn lessons from some of the logistical challenges that trip encountered. Harvey noted that we had secured flexible cancellation rights, so he was holding off on a final go/no go decision as late as possible. As of Thursday, the report was of marginal existing snow, but a possibility of additional snow overnight. Harvey advised participants to stand by for a Friday decision. In fact, they got more snow, and conditions were good by Friday, but when Harvey sent word out it was a "go", all participants reported that they were not going. Harvey was able to cancel lodging. In the end, he and one other person made the trip, and he reports it as a worthwhile trip for the future: a day at Backbone and another day at nearby Herrington Manor or Swallow Falls State Parks.

Kathy continued with her report, stating that "Ski/Dance" had no "ski" component this year—due to no snow, (rather than excessive exuberance over "dance" crowding out all ski activity). She also noted that Larry Doff has researched new venues, especially lodging possibilities in the Laurel highlands area, which the club will mull over for next season. Present suggestions or tentative leader commitments for next season include New Hampshire, Laurentians/Quebec, and perhaps even Finland.

Kathy is recruiting new (additional) trip leaders for next year. See her if interested, or if you're curious what being a trip leader entails. Kathy and Peggy thanked all the trip leaders for their work and commitment.

Kathy also noted that we will continue to work for even more favorable (to us, not the inn-keepers) cancellation terms, in the event an outing arrives and there is no snow. She noted, as one example, that at Blackwater Falls State Park, if we reserve no more than 4 rooms, we can cancel up to 48 hours in advance, but for more than 4 rooms, we must give at least 30 days notice to cancel. Peggy and others mentioned various alternative lodging possibilities (such as a number of B&Bs) in the Davis WV area that we might want to investigate for Canaan/ Blackwater trips.

Election—The next item was the much anticipated, highly competitive election of officers for the coming year. Actually, despite having solicited nominations (including self-nominations) ahead of time, and providing for an "awkward silence" during the meeting to draw out additional nominations or expressions of interest or guilt, there were none. Peggy read the slate of nominations, which had a familiar ring:

Chair—Peggy Alpert

Treasurer—Rob Swennes

(Continued on page 8)

2009 Après Ski Meeting Minutes

(Continued from page 7)

Secretary—Al Larsen

There was no nomination for Vice Chair.

A unanimous voice vote swept all of these current officers back into office. Peggy, now operating with a clear mandate in light of the election landslide, announced the following appointments to other club positions:

Trip Coordinator—Kathy Brumberger

Membership Coordinator—Doug Lesar

Upslope Editor—Ralph Heimlich

Mailing Coordinator—Randy Kerr

Webmaster—Steve Brickel

In addition, the following people volunteered: Keith Chanon will be our **PATC Liaison**, attending PATC Council meetings, with or in place of our Chair. Peggy Kenney volunteered as our **Publicity Coordinator** whose useful and important functions are publicizing STS and the Ski Fair at outdoor stores, writing info blurbs for newspapers, exploring internet links, etc. She will need help. Anyone interested please contact her.

Membership Report—Membership Coordinator Doug Lesar noted that, what he so poetically described as the “slow bleed of membership losses”, continued this year, with the membership total down 18 from last year. Doug said some of that resulted from people moving away. Someone else said it was the result of the “bowling alone” phenomenon. [Secretary’s note: I’m putting my money on the latter theory because unlike active participation in STS: 1) it requires no snow and 2) by definition, no complicated car pooling arrangements.] Doug noted several positive trends—increased use of multi-year membership sign-ups, and the highest percent to-date of members choosing electronic delivery of the STS newsletter, the “Upslope”. As noted, that saves money and is more environmentally benign. Finally, Doug noted that an increasing percentage of those signing up for the club list serve (the e-mail discussion/notification group) are not members. So, even though the number of people choosing to be members declined slightly, a growing number of people are “tuning in” to club matters, learning about trips, etc.

New Business—Peggy solicited information and discussion about insurance matters. At this point, the STS provides no insurance for trip leaders or officers. Ralph Heimlich noted that the Chesapeake Paddlers Association (his kayak club) is investigating Director and Officers insurance, but has no intention of trying to insure trip leaders. Peggy noted that Wilson Riley of PATC has had no answers for her about insurance, whether any is provided by PATC to STS or whether it may be available to STS from PATC sources.

Trips for the 2009-10 season. There was interest in looking further afield (i.e., outside of the Mid-Atlantic) to where there would more reliably be snow, even though logistics would be more complicated and costs higher. As always, the key is people stepping forward as trip leaders to organize and lead such trips. Please contact Kathy Brumberger if you have ideas and interest.

Brian O’Konski suggested we note, both at Ski Fair and in trip write-ups, that equipment rentals are available at certain of our trip venues.

Issue for members to ponder: there was a discussion of the fact that a lot of club members have old sets of skis that they rarely use, just sitting around. For someone who wants to give x-c skiing a try without investing in equipment before hand, this could be a good match. Is there a feasible way to make this equipment available to loan out for a trip?

A suggestion for next year’s trips: When STS is at some venue as a group, e.g., at White Grass or Laurel Mountain, we could put up a poster saying so. This would 1) let others know, e.g., members or friends who might happen to be there also, and 2) provide some publicity for STS (oh, I’m from Bethesda and look, there is some sort of ski club there in the area).

Peggy adjourned the meeting, directing the group toward the food, and announcing the slide shows, house tour, and piano playing that would follow.

Respectfully submitted,

Al Larsen, Secretary

Are YOU in the Picture?



If not, make a resolution to SKI MORE NEXT SEASON!!

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY AVAILABLE ON-REQUEST ONLY

Traditionally, STS has published a membership directory in UPSLOPE every year in February. A few years ago, an attempt was made to make this list available for web download but personal information privacy issues quickly squelched that experiment. Due to a lack of consensus as to how to distribute this sometimes-useful data, STS did not publish a list at all last season, and did not do so this winter. Although the list is surely of some use to some members, its publication does claim substantial newsletter space, which is especially a limitation with USPS-distributed paper copies.

For these reasons, a new approach for membership list access has been instituted. Any bona fide paid-up STS member may receive a club membership list but only by specific request to the membership coordinator. This will be a members-only service, and a reason for access need must be provided. Such requests must be addressed to Doug Lesar, at dlesar@comcast.net. Personal data privacy requests supplied by members at time of membership commencement or renewal WILL be honored. I hope that this new distribution method will satisfy STS needs.

Doug Lesar

STS membership coordinator

PATC-Ski Touring Section
 c/o Doug Lesar
 2507 Campbell Place
 Kensington, MD 20895
 April 2010



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 New Yahoo Group so I can get infrequent, adhoc announcements of local XC Ski activities: ___
- 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:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| STS Officer | Publicity | 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"/> |