



UPSLOPE

Newsletter of the **NORDIC Ski Touring Section of PATC**



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

April 2016

UpComing Attractions In Fall UPSLOPE

- Sneak Peek at the 2016-17 Season
- SKI FAIR plans

Skiing around Pagosa Springs, Colorado in February

By Rob Swennes

Thirteen Ski Touring Section members enjoyed a week-long ski trip to southern Colorado in early February. Most of us flew from BWI to Albuquerque on Monday, February 8th and then drove north past Santa Fe to Pagosa Springs. On the way we had lunch at the Range Cafe in Bernalillo, New Mexico north of Albuquerque. This is a well-known café in this part of the state. See <http://www.rangecafe.com/>.

We traveled in several vehicles. The van I was driving somehow missed a turn north of Santa Fe and made an unplanned visit to Taos, NM. There was plenty of slushy snow and mud in the town when we drove through, so we had no incentive to stop.

The town of Pagosa Springs is above 7,000 feet in elevation. This is the main reason for its good snow for cross-country skiing. Downhill skiers only need to drive 10 miles to the north on U.S. Highway 160 to reach Wolf Creek Pass at 10,000 feet elevation. Skiing begins there before Thanksgiving each year and is still 100% open for skiing as I write this on March 28th.

Though the area has a lengthy snow season, during the week we were in southern Colorado the weather felt like late spring. Though it was below freezing each night, daytime temperatures reached the mid 40s most days and climbed into the low 50s our last days there. We didn't have a cloud in the sky the entire week. But there was plenty of snow on the ground everywhere we went.



Coyote Hills: Elisabeth Lejman, Andre Lang, Ashok Sharma, Agata Marriott, and Ann Hitchcock photo by Rob Swennes

Our first day of skiing was enjoyed on the Coyote Hills Nordic Trails northwest of Pagosa Springs. The trail system is maintained by the U.S. Forest Service, and some backcountry style grooming is done weekly. The snow was icy when we started out, but the warming temperatures solved that problem in less than an hour. One of the joys of this network of trails is the ease by which you can escape from the network and break trail through deep snow to whatever sight draws you. And there is plenty to see. Majestic peaks jut up in the distance, covered in snow. And the snow contrasts beautifully with the deep blue, cloudless sky.

(Continued on page 4)

Inside this issue: (blue links are live)	
Your STS Officer Contacts	2
From the Slopes	2
Après Ski Party	3
Pagosa Springs(cont.)	4
Pagosa Springs (cont.)	5
A Call to Telemark and Back-country Skiers	6
Laurel Highlands Late January	7
Presidents Weekend at Black-water Lodge	8
Season Trip Results	9

APRES SKI PARTY NOW ON

Sunday, May 22, 2016

Meeting at 4PM Potluck at 5PM

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 left onto Balls Hill Rd (north 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.

ST\$ Officers

FROM THE \$LOPES – Chair Notes

Chair

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

Vice-Chair

Jack Kangas
 H:(301) 499-8758
jbkangas@verizon.net

Secretary

Laurie Welch
 H: 301-565-4399
laurawelch123@gmail.com

Treasurer

Brian O’Konski
 H: 202-362-2982
brian1642@gmail.com

Trip Coordinator

Kathy Brumberger
 H: 301 774 7412
kathybrum@verizon.net

Webmaster

Steve Brickel
 H: 301-946-2520
sbrickel2003@yahoo.com

Membership Coordinator

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

UPSLOPE Editor

Ralph Heimlich
 H: 301-498-0722
heimlichfamily@comcast.net

UPSLOPE Mailing Coordinator

Randy Kerr
 H: (703) 926 6779 (cell)
lerrkerr@aol.com

Backcountry skiing is a fascinating way to enjoy wintertime snows. In many respects backcountry Nordic skiing and Alpine skiing at downhill ski centers are polar opposites in the skiing world. Nordic skiing at ski touring centers falls somewhere in between. There are many gradations in this spectrum. Most of the ski trips offered by the Ski Touring Section fall somewhere between ski touring centers and backcountry in large measure because we have so few ski touring centers in the mid-Atlantic region. And many parts of the White Grass STC in West Virginia are really more backcountry in nature.

The advantages of backcountry skiing are many. The first is that it is a sport you can enjoy without having crowds around. There are no ski lifts. More importantly, backcountry skiing allows you to experience nature in wintertime and to reflect on what you see. From this standpoint, it is a particular pleasure when the terrain over which you are skiing offers a spectacular landscape any season of the year. Yet even skiing across a stubbled farm field has its virtues since you still get the interplay between skis and snow. And any landscape with a frosting of snow becomes magical.

Events that take place on a backcountry ski trip can stay with you forever. One on our recent ski trip to southern Colorado struck me that way. Our group skiing at Coyote Hills breached the boundary of the trail system and broke new trail through deep snow. It was a physically tiring but exhilarating experience. There was a profound sense of freedom. We held together as a group (which is important) but were looking for the best views we could find in the undulating landscape of unbroken snow. At one point we crossed a snow bridge over a stream, which was really several feet of snow piled on a ranch access lane. We saw no wildlife at all except for magpies and other Western birds.

When we stopped for lunch, we ate standing on our skis since there was nothing to sit upon. I skied a bit away from the group to a particularly large tree stump sticking out of the snow. The stump looked like it was decades old, grey and cracked with age and somehow drew me. I took several photos of it and then got closer to examine the cut surface. After a few moments, I was startled to see something move inside a crack. Staying still, I soon realized that a field mouse was living in the stump and was peeking out. The mouse peeked out several more times, and I had the strong sense of wordless communication between us. After a while the spell broke and I with some reluctance returned to my skiing companions.

It was a totally insignificant encounter, and in some way not. It made a lasting impression on me. I don’t believe the poet William Wordsworth was ever a skier, but this experience, like several I have had when backcountry skiing, brings to mind some of his best-known lines: “One impulse from a vernal wood may teach you more of man, of moral evil and of good, than all the sages can.”

Rob Swennes, Chairman



*“I’m truly sorry Man’s dominion Has broken Nature’s social union, An’ justifies that ill opinion, Which makes thee startle, At me, thy poor, earth-born companion, An’ fellow-mortal!”
 “To a Mouse” Robert Burns 1785*



2016 Après Ski Party



Well, believe it or not, there WAS a WINTER this year, although long gone. Spring is almost over, and Summer is just around the corner. That means it's time to wrap things up in our traditional STS way--with our annual après ski gathering, or end-of-season party and meeting, on **Sunday, May 22.**

In what has become a favorite outing for many of us, we are once again gathering at the home of club member Catherine Payne, 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.

The après-ski social will begin between 5 and 5:30 p.m. It is a pot luck event, so please bring a dish of one of your favorite foods to share. The Section will provide the beverages. As has become our tradition, in addition to the good food, we'll enjoy the fun of reliving this year's trips, and a reunion with your trip participants. And there is always talk about what trips are likely to be offered next winter!

The annual meeting takes place at 4 p.m. The meeting will include election of officers for the coming year. Any and all STS members are welcomed to attend and learn more about

how the Ski Touring Section functions. If you are a skier interested in leading a future trip, please attend and discuss where you would like to go with the Section's Trip Coordinator.

Those with good digital photos of STS outings this past winter are encouraged to bring them on a disc to share with others. We will have a digital projector available.

APRES SKI PARTY NOW ON

Sunday, May 22, 2016

Meeting at 4PM Potluck at 5PM

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 left onto Balls Hill Rd (north 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.

Are You Already Part of YAHOO GROUPS? Facebook?

If you haven't joined Yahoo Groups, make sure to do it.
Go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PATC-STS/>
Ask to join the group. You will get a confirmation message in your email.

FACEBOOK: Please sign on to the STS Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Ski-Touring-Section-Potomac-Appalachian-Trail-Club/226549600733615> and "Like" us. You can easily locate it by putting the phrase "Ski Touring Section" into the search box at the top of the Facebook page. "Likes" are critical for getting status on Facebook and thus for helping others find us when they want information on Nordic skiing.

You can also join our Meetup, Nordic Skiers of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club at <http://www.meetup.com/Nordic-Skiers-of-the-Potomac-Appalachian-Trail-Club/>

Pagosa Springs (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

And that was one of our problems. Skiing in a pure white landscape at an elevation of 8,000 feet on a sunny day means a lot of ultraviolet radiation. All of us had applied sunscreen in the morning, but some of us did a poorer job than others. Lesson learned.

That evening several of us visited one of the hot spring centers in town to soak away the muscle soreness of the day's activities. We chose the Healing Waters center, since it caters to locals and frequent visitors to Pagosa Springs, rather than the more elaborate hot springs complex across the street which caters to tourists passing through. Our center had a large swimming pool with a mix of hot spring and non-thermal water. It was nice warm water to relax in, with a noticeable sulphur fragrance, no matter what season of the year. The next pool was round and could seat 10 or 12 people in much warmer water. It proved to be a great venue for casual conversation with whoever was there, stranger or friend. Everyone was primed to open up to strangers. I call this spot the Goldilocks pool. The third set of thermal pools was indoors and segregated by sex. Clothing was optional. But the main distinction of these two pools was their very toasty water. The thermal waters that fed the entire center swelled up only a few feet away. Those of who visited the thermal baths found that our aches and pains of the day just melted away. We returned to our motel much refreshed. Some us returned to the springs most evenings during our stay.



The "Goldilocks" hot tub at the thermal spa in Pagosa Springs: Ron & Jan Tucker, Barry Weston, Steve Jarvis, Ashok Sharma, Rob Swennes, Andre Lang, and Elisabeth Lejman photo by Moby Dick

On our second day, some of us opted to snow shoe or ski on the Fall Creek Trail at 9,000 ft. elevation. The trail is not far from Wolf Creek Pass on U.S. Hwy. 160. Snowmobilers also use this ungroomed forest road, but there was enough trail width to accommodate snow shoers and skiers as well. Rich Galloway and Ann Hitchcock skied, and the snow shoers were Barry Weston, Elisabeth Lejman, Jan Tucker, Bert Finkelstein, and me. We enjoyed great views of the encircling mountains.

The third day most of the group skied at the Purgatory Nordic Ski Touring Center about 15 miles north of Durango. Three of us opted to tour the historic center of Durango. This town, an hour west of Pagosa Springs, is overwhelmed with tourists during the summer. But in the winter season it is most pleasant. Ron Tucker, David Adams and I spent over an hour exploring the narrow gauge railway museum in town. It was filled with 150 years-worth of artifacts and mementos of when trains were king in the area. We learned that for much of the town's life it was a mining center



Fall Creek trail snowshoeing: Barry Weston, Elisabeth Lejman, Jan Tucker and Bert Finkelstein photo by Rob Swennes

with coal being locally mined and transported to Durango. The coal was used to fire the many smelters in town refining precious metal ores mined elsewhere in Colorado. That evening the group enjoyed food and drink at the large Steamworks brew pub in downtown Durango (see <http://steamworksbrewing.com/>).

The next day, given the rising temperatures, we opted to ski the Nordic loops up at Wolf Creek Pass. Some sections of the trails had been well groomed with track set. While most of our skiing on this trip was backcountry in character, it was delightful to have a bit of classic track to enjoy.

The final full day of skiing for most of us was on the West Fork Trail off of U.S. Hwy. 160, a mile or two south of Wolf Creek Pass. One of the draws of this trail was its shade through many stretches. The trail varied in difficulty. But because of the shady conditions, the snow was lighter and more enjoyable than on any other day of the trip. We worked our way uphill and across the west fork of the San Juan River, which runs down into Pagosa Springs. Those enjoying this day on skis included Ashok Sharma, Ann Hitchcock, Jan Tucker, Agata Marriott, Andre Lang, Elisabeth Lejman, and Bert Finkelstein.



Enjoying the brew at Steamworks photo by Rob Swennes

(Continued on page 5)

Pagosa Springs (cont.)

(Continued from page 4)



Coyote Hills: Jan Tucker and Steve Jarvis photo by Rob Swennes

Arriving back at our vehicles late in the afternoon, we discovered that with the snow on the West Fork road now a mix of slush and ice, we could not get our vehicles up the slope to the highway. We were able to phone Rich Galloway, Steve Jarvis, and Barry Weston to come to pick us up. That evening at dinner Steve used his persuasive negotiating skills to try to arrange for a AAA tow truck to pull our vehicles out early the next morning. To no avail. The rest of us watching this lengthy phone transaction kept cracking up. Fortunately we did not need to call AAA the next morning. As Ann Hitchcock had suggested, the overnight freezing temperatures were enough to solidify the West Fork road again, so that we were able to drive the stranded vehicles out without a problem. Another good lesson learned.

The rest of that day we packed up and left Pagosa Springs and enjoyed a lovely lunch in a swank hotel in the old town area of Santa Fe. Several of us also explored the Georgia O’Keeffe museum in town. Our last night was spent in Albuquerque near the airport prior to catching our flights back home.

A most enjoyable STS excursion trip with plenty of spectacular scenery of the Colorado Rockies in wintertime!



Steamworks Brewery in Durango: David Adams and Ron Tucker photo by Rob Swennes



Coyote Hills: Ashok crossing a buried barbed wire fence photo by Rob Swennes



Rich Galloway and Rob Swennes at Wolf Creek Pass photo by A. Nother Hiker

A Call to Telemark and Backcountry Skiers



What is Telemark Skiing? According to Wikipedia, **Telemark skiing** is a *skiing technique that combines elements of [Alpine](#) and [Nordic](#) skiing. Telemark skiing is named after the [Telemark](#) region of [Norway](#), where the discipline originated. [Sondre Norheim](#) is often credited for first demonstrating the turn in ski races, which included cross country, slalom and jumping, in Norway around 1868. Sondre Norheim also experimented with ski and binding design, introducing side cut to skis and heel bindings (like a cable). Telemark skiing was reborn in the 1971 in the United States. Doug Buzzell, Craig Hall, Greg Dalbey, Jack Marcial, and Rick Borcovec are credited reintroducing the style after reading the book *Come Ski With Me* by Stein Eriksen. Telemark skiing gained popularity during the 1970s and 1980s. Telemark equipment crosses Alpine and Nordic ski gear. Generally, Telemark skiers use Alpine skis with specially designed Nordic style bindings that fix only the toe of the ski boot to the ski, thereby creating the "free heel." Telemark turns use a distinct lunging motion.*

I am X Country skier.. with "Tele" ambitions!!! Being inspired by my entrance to "Tele" last year ... Bought my own gear...Took a NATO course (Elk) and a couple of lessons at White Tail Ski Area. But... I found that there was no place to connect to "Tele skiers" in the DC Metro area. Jim Kapp has the [Appalachian Telemark Association \(ATA\)](#) but they are more "PA-Centric"... (I'm going to [Telepalooza](#) this year!!).

So, I go to White Tail and the local ski areas and see a "smattering" of Tele skiers. A "smattering" is a (one) Tele skier before he /she takes that "Spectacular Fall"! So, I say to myself... Hell... Start a "Tele/BC Meet Up". Tele skier are a rare breed, but you'll never find them unless you lift some "Rocks".

So I'm sending out this "Rock Lifting" notice to see if I can find those Tele and Backcountry Skiers (and wanna be's like me). If all of those "Tele Skiers" can connect, I see the strong possibility of a "synergized" group making more trips out to White Grass and Canaan Valley to ski telemark and backcountry styles.

If you are interested in telemark, radonee' (the French version), or backcountry skiing, please contact me and we'll move forward on a sub-group.

Peter Bulota Annapolis, MD bulota@verizon.net 443-591-7223

Notes from All Over

Arrived New Germany State Park at about 10:30 AM, Friday Feb. 12. They had a packed base, and about 4-5 inches of new absolutely fluffy powder had fallen Thursday night. Temps in high teens all day, so nothing melted or deteriorated. They had been around with the grooming machine on the trails, after the overnight snow. in the afternoon, about another inch came down, and they are expecting another couple of inches overnight, so that will freshen things up even more. Bottom line: these were some of the best xc skiing conditions we've experienced in the Mid-Atlantic. If you were considering going sometime this weekend, but were on the edge and not sure, know that the snow conditions will be great. Now tomorrow, as you've probably seen if you are in fact considering an outing, it is expected to be bitterly cold--temps just above zero degrees F. and wind chill factored temps well into the minus range. Apparently smearing a Greek pastry on your face helps, as someone told me to wear a baklava.

Anne and I had a great day skiing at New Germany today (2/12). Perfect conditions. We wanted to get out this weekend, but tomorrow is supposed to be bitterly (maybe dangerously) cold. We ended up talking to one of the rangers, a young fellow named Ben. I told him our ski club had had an outing there during the weekend of the big storm. He was familiar--he worked that weekend. Probably one of the guys you met, as he talked about shoveling folks out at the cabins. I told him how complimentary the group was of the help in making revised arrangements and the help when the big dump hit while they were there. I also told him you had written up the experience for our newsletter, and told him I could forward that to him. He was excited to hear that and asked me to do that, which I just did when we got back home a bit ago. Good to build bridges with folks like that. Al Larsen

White grass was fantastic yesterday (2/12)-- lots of powder and I am sure even more today -- ran into one of our members Randy from Florida and we did a few runs through the trees. Harrison Snow

Herrington Manor today (2/14) had the best ski conditions we've seen in the Mid-Atlantic this season. Yesterday was adequate coverage, but bitterly cold with biting winds once beyond protection of the trees. Today was slightly warmer, but with sunshine and no wind, and a few more inches of snow, made for lovely skiing. I do think that weather conditions tomorrow may make it dicey to get to the area. You may want to wait until you can travel safely. There's plenty of snow, so as long as temperatures stay near or below freezing, you will be able to enjoy great skiing here. Terri Fischer



Went for an hour or so before the freezing rain started [on the Middle Patuxent River, 2/15] Not bad, but crusty old snow underneath. All gone down the river today. Ralph Heimlich

Peggy and I skied at New Germany yesterday afternoon (2/16). Adequate snow but crusty icy conditions. Park service manager suggested green trails. Did both Green and Purple trails which was a labor of love of skiing. We will ski at Herrington Manor today and white grass tomorrow. Steve Brickel



Laurel Highlands Late January

By Greg Westernik

On departure day 1/29, there was 6 inches of snow on a 1+ inch base on trails in the Highlands with no new snow accumulations expected all weekend and a rather warm weekend calling for high temps in the mid 50s on Sunday. Nine of us enjoyed gliding at some favorite locations (Laurel Mtn, Laurel Ridge STC and Laurel Hill, including 5 experienced STSers (John Tichenor, Carl Modig, Alice Leaderman, Maryanne Sacco and myself) and 4 beginners (Ann Granger, Jessica Foltz, Michelle Jones and Randy Goguen). On Saturday, one half of us went to Laurel Mountain and the remainder (mostly beginners) headed for the groomed trails of Laurel Ridge. Laurel Mountain was good Saturday. That group glided around the Loop and down Towhee, intending to take another route back, but heard from passers-by that other trails and especially the road were getting bare, so they went back up Towhee. On the way back up, some snow snakes reared their heads but could be easily avoided. We had doubts about how it would be Sunday. At Laurel Ridge the Saturday snow was a little slow but we never found any snakes. In the next picture you can see some of our group and the snow conditions (going from left to right) starting from Randy (in light blue jacket) on the left, to Michelle, then John then Ann hanging around the webcam. We spent much of time reviewing basic XC ski technique in stations and on tours of ½ of Red trail, and green and blue blazed trails.



At the start of Saturday evening, John volunteered to host the après ski. We all jelled well in the small space of John's room. The social was spiced up when a bunch of STSers visited us from the Comfort Inn nearby as shown in the next picture (we know who you were).

All that apres ski comraderie and lubrication made conversation there and later at dinner more lively, especially since all 12 of us were all at one dinner table and not close to another table on Sat nite.

Next picture is another view of some of our group enjoying the apres ski, including Carl, Alice, Randy, Maryanne and Dave Collins.

On Sunday we again split into two groups. One group when to Laurel Hill between Laurel Ridge STC and Kooser State Park for more backcountry experience. They found Laurel Hill was deserted and lovely, with a sledding slope in the center of the campground area. They found the sledding hill not steep, but long and wide enough to practice on. Maryanne and Alice practiced their downhill skills there (Carl didn't need the practice.)

No grooming or tracks were found. They skied on unplowed paved roads in the campsite area as the pamphlet Carl had suggested. Apparently hiking trails are too rocky for skis but coverage was fine for the skis on these paved roads. Snow was heavy but was holding up well until they left about 1:00 pm. The snow was a bit heavy for downhill, unevenly packed down by feet and toboggans and/or some equipment, not sled runners. Nobody there. The roads wound down and through trees, over streams. Very scenic.

Our second group returned to Laurel Ridge STC to do the orange-blazed trail. We found the snow in mid 50's temperature still quite enjoyable for gliding with few snow snakes. All the STC trails were open. We just did a bunch of delayering, including rolling up my ski pants into knickers.

The Laurel Highlands is known for its high winds, big wind chills and temperatures well below freezing. We had none of that this weekend.



Membership Listing

A membership listing of all those members and contact information (less those who opted out of the listing) will be available from Membership Secretary Doug Lesar by email request only.

President's Weekend Blackwater Falls Lodge Trip

By Greg Rudl (photos by James O'Reilly)



Iffy snow conditions warranted a call to Blackwater Falls Lodge on Wednesday, only to be reassured that they had good snow, so our Presidents Day Weekend trip was a go. The party started arriving Friday evening (including little baby Ruthie!). They found rooms hotter than a Republican presidential nominee debate. The dry, hot-water heated rooms contrasted starkly with the arctic conditions outside. Some brought small humidifiers to fight the dryness. Over some wine and cheese, consensus dictated skiing around the lodge the next day, so that's what most did.

When it blows, pine trees are your best friend, and the area around BWF has many. Still, Saturday was a day to bundle up. (Lindy Point was renamed Windy Point.) Some of the beginners appreciated the gentle slopes, while the more experienced bided their time for the steeps of White Grass.

Sunday brought sunshine and less wind, so most drove the 20 minutes to WG. On the way, several cars had gone off the road. Though it was a bit slick, I wondered if it was the result of texting while driving. WG's parking lot filled quickly, not to mention

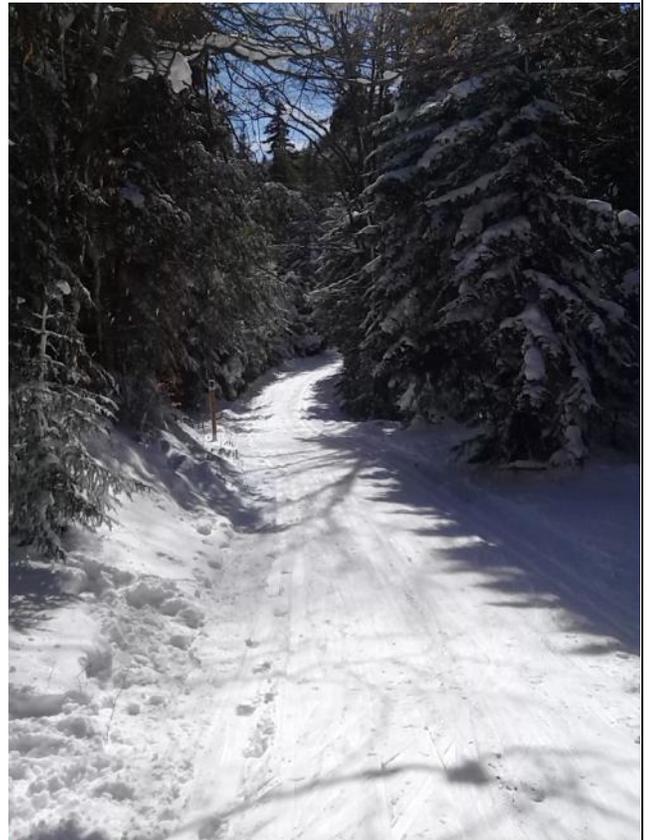
the ski touring center. Crowds lined up inside to buy trail passes, the transaction completed with a "now get in the woods" by the cashier. The trails had a few wind-blown bare spots, but for the most part were quite good. From the lodge, skiers exuberantly started up the hill for destinations like Bald Knob or Round Top, weighed down by rugged boots and skis, bulging backpacks filled with everything, and sometimes infant sleds. Like the Klondike craze, hundreds marched up the hill for adventure and fortune, or maybe just a long, smooth descent down Three Mile Run. Back in the lodge after my morning ski, I tasted a few slightly undercooked pieces of potato in an otherwise tasty clam chowder, and chatted with a man fresh back from a trip to the snowless Dolomites. He was also preparing for his 16th Birkie. While I waited for the men's room, a man remarked that it may be the only time you'll ever see the men's line longer than the women's. Later, at dinner, several recollected over spicy hungarian peppers stuffed with Italian sausage at Sirianni's Cafe in Davis.

On Monday, several headed home early to evade a possible ice storm, while others headed back over to WG for a half day. On Brian O.'s tip, I drove over to Herrington Manor SP in Oakland, MD. I discovered about 10k of well-groomed trails with gradual ascents/descents, which suited my skate skiing technique. I briefly walked around the quaint little town of Oakland only to find that the railroad museum was closed for the season. I grabbed a bite and reluctantly headed back to the Nordic-free zone of DC.

Eventbrite--a great tool for a trip leader

I used [Eventbrite](http://Eventbrite.com), a popular event registration system, to help me organize my trip. Based on my experience, I recommend the club adopt it for the following reasons:

- People pay by credit card, so there's no checks to hold, cash and/or return
- No paper--forms, including liability, can be completed online
- Email your registrants easily
- Automatic waitlist
- Can easily generate lists of registrants with info like email, address, phone, etc.
- Helps with trip report
- Trip gets added exposure on EB



Don't take it from me, go to <https://www.eventbrite.com> and search for ski trips in the DC area--you'll find many other clubs using it.

One thing I would have done differently is not allow users to pay with Paypal--they charge fees (on top of EB). As a leader, just offer the credit card and/or check option. EB charges credit cards up front, which is not ideal for our situation, but then again it may increase trip commitment. EB only collects small fees when registrants use a credit card or Paypal. (I've asked them to offer an option where credit cards are not charged until three days before the start of the event.) And for club luddites that prefer paper forms, checks and/or snail mail, you can manually register them. If you're a trip leader who still wants to use checks, you could still use EB and then give them a certain time period (i.e. week) to send their check, or else they're dropped.

EB doesn't have a forum, where signups can discuss things like carpooling, so I directed my participants to our Meetup site.

All in all a great tool for managing a ski trip.

SEASON TRIP RESULTS

STS Report 2015-2016 18 ski trips and one work trip scheduled. 9 were cancelled and 10 completed.

Date	Place	Leader	Partici- pants	Comments
Nov. 13-15	Work Trip, White Grass, WV	Erma Cameron	6	Cold (20's) and blustery, but Chip took his work crews to sheltered locations so we could avoid the wind. We did the usual – bridge replacement, brushing/ clipping/ snipping, removal of blow-downs, etc. We stayed at a member's lovely vacation home in Canaan Valley. And WG provided us with sumptuous lunches.
Dec 30–Jan 3	Tug Hill, NY	Peggy and Stephen		Cancelled: questionable snow conditions
Jan 8-10	Laurel High-lands, PA	Laurie Welch		Cancelled: questionable snow conditions
Jan 8-10	Canaan Valley Cabin	Bert Finkelstein		Cancelled: questionable snow conditions
Jan 14-18 MLK	Jackson, NH White Mts	Rob Swennes	14	Good snow.
Jan 15-18 MLK	Laurel High-lands, PA	Brian O'Konski	4	Cancelled: No snow
Jan 15-17	Laurel High-lands Learn-to-ski, PA	Greg Westernik		Postponed because of no snow.
Jan 23-26	New Germany State Park Cabin, Md	Ralph Heimlich	6	28" of snow with Winter Storm Jonas. These cabins are a bit cozier than the larger ones at Blackwater and Canaan. The advantage was the ability to ski right out the door.
Jan 22-24	Laurel High-lands, PA	Joe Bachman		Cancelled: too much snow!
Jan 28-31	Canaan Valley Cabin, WV	Doug Lesar	8	Great Snow!
Jan 29-31	Laurel High-lands, PA	Greg Westernik	9	Snow was good at Laurel Ridge STC on both days.
Feb 4-7	Blackwater Falls Deluxe Cabin	Arleen Richter	8	No snow this weekend but we hiked.
Feb 5-7	Blackwater Falls Lodge	Harvey Walden	12	Cancelled: questionable snow conditions
Feb 8-15	Pagosa Springs, CO	Rob Swennes	13	We had sufficient snow, but the weather was unseasonably warm.
Feb 9-12	Bald Eagle State Park, PA	Ralph Heimlich		Cancelled. No snow.
Feb 12-15	Ski Dance, Laurel High-lands, PA	Eliot Applestein	62	It started snowing as we arrived and we got between 6" – 8" over the weekend. Skiing conditions were very good.
Feb 12-15	Blackwater Falls Lodge, WV	Greg Rudl	12	Skiing conditions were good.
Feb 19-21	Canaan Valley Deluxe Cabin	Ralph Heimlich	8	We had good snow cover on arrival Friday, although warm conditions did away with it all by Sunday. Most skied at White Grass.
Feb 25-Mar 1	Lake Placid/Adirondacks/Tug Hill	Greg Westernik		Cancelled: too few participants



PATC-Ski Touring Section
c/o Doug Lesar
2507 Campbell Place



From Bald Top photo by James O'Reilly

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:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <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 |