



UPSLOPE

Newsletter of the NORDIC Ski Touring Section of PATC



Visit us on our NEW WEBSITE <http://www.patcskitouring.us>

February 2021

*UpComing Attractions In Spring's
UPSLOPE*

- Après Ski
- YOUR ski stories

PATC-ST\$'; New Website Bring; All XC-Ski Info to You

By Ralph Heimlich

This winter, with the lull in activity brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic still lingering, STS undertook to totally rebuild the section's website. With the help of web solutions architect Gregg Banse, our website was completely and comprehensively redesigned using Word Press to present a fresh, clean, modern face to prospective members, and a tightly-organized, logically presented information base to existing members. In this article, I'm going to take you on a tour through the new website, highlighting the navigation and the many features we've built into it. The presentation is couched in terms of the desktop version, but we carefully worked to preserve most of the functionality for both tablets and smart phones. You can follow the presentation here by clicking on the hyperlinks in the electronic UPSLOPE that will take you to the pages I'm discussing.



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(blue links are live)

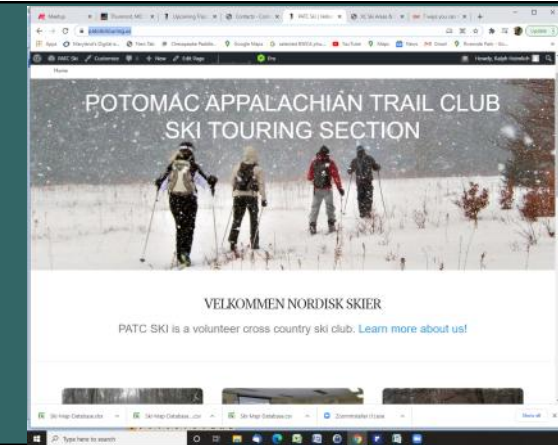
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The Home Page—The new site has a new URL (<https://patcskitouring.us/>) that reflects our affiliation with PATC, and our emphasis on ski touring in the U.S. The home page and all the pages are headlined by a simple logo that brings the skier right into the picture. We begin with a full-width illustration of our ideal situation: a line of skiers traversing a snowy landscape. The main navigation is designed for prospective members, so the first link is to help give them more info [about us](#). Under that are three main topics that form the heart of our program: 1) [Trips](#); 2) [Membership](#); and [Newsletters](#), shown with appropriate photos of each segment. Immediately beneath these three topics is a link to the [latest news releases](#) from the club's officers, which will assist members to get to the details of events and activities quickly. Beneath a second full-width photo of our favorite kind of activity, there is a link to [contacts](#) with the club officers and functions.

At the top of the home page (and on each subsequent page) there is a standard navigation bar with the following links: [Trips](#), [Photo Gallery](#), [Resources](#), [About](#), and [Home](#), so both new users and members can find their way around the site's major information sections.

At the bottom of the home page (and each subsequent page) there is another navigation bar with the following links: [About](#), [Contacts](#), [Membership](#), [News](#), [Newsletters](#), and [Constitution and By-Laws](#).

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PATC-ST\$ HAS A NEW WEBSITE!

Read the article above and check it out at <https://patcskitouring.us/>

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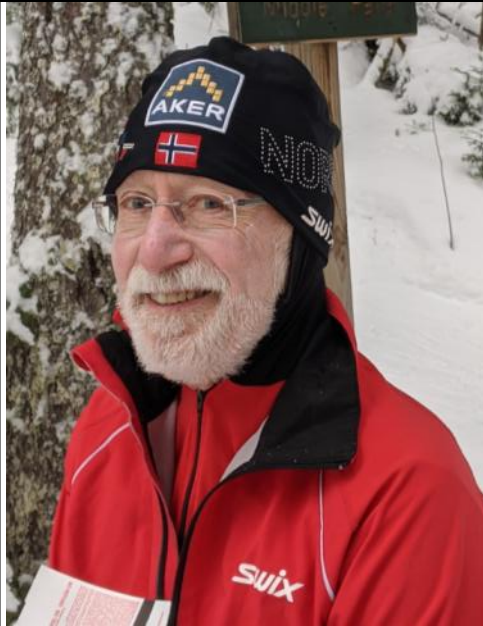
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“Got your COVID-19 inoculations yet?” “Stay healthy!” Those are the default greetings and good-byes for 2021. They sum up the nation’s mental state as we twist and turn our way through the ever-changing pandemic. But taking the long view, we gain major benefits from the present state of affairs.

The 2020-2021 ski trip schedule for this winter is in shambles. Though few would know it, we did get two excursion ski trips approved by the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club in the late fall. One trip was to ski in the White Mountains of New Hampshire in January, and the second was to ski in Summit County, Colorado in February. Both are beautiful locations outside the mid-Atlantic region that many Ski Touring Section members enjoy visiting. We even had developed protocols that would minimize any risk of corona virus infection, particularly when off the ski trails. Great planning, but of little value with so many of us still worried. Fortunately we have been blessed with appreciable snowfall in Feb-

ruary, enough to strengthen the resolution of some skiers to venture out to enjoy the fresh snow they love. It’s an affirmation of life and living, exactly what we desire and what we need.

What are the “major benefits” coming our way? First and foremost is the beautiful new website the Section has developed to highlight Nordic skiing and its transformative effects. Our old website was . . . dated. This new 21st century website has a real upgraded feel, with bold, inspiring photos that remind us in a flash of our skiing achievements in the recent past. It creates a positive visual statement that younger generations can relate to. Full credit for this new website goes to Ralph Heimlich, our Upslope newsletter editor, who pushed and pulled Section members to take this leap forward, and Gregg Banse, who we contracted with to create the new site. A great achievement in this otherwise muted season.

The Section hopes in the near future to use its MeetUp web presence as an additional way to draw in new, younger skiers interested in Nordic trekking. Did you know that we have over 300 members in our Nordic skiing Meetup group? See <https://www.meetup.com/Nordic-Skiers-of-the-Potomac-Appalachian-Trail-Club/photos/30382110/485196060/> Our Section leaders in the future need to be more attuned to social media and how to unleash its power. That would indeed be a major benefit to the Section and its members. So shed off the old, and welcome the new you. We are, even if you didn’t realize it, going through a metamorphosis both as individuals and as communities. Where will this new adventure lead us? Show the way.

Canaan Valley and White Grass during the Winter of COVID

By Doug Lesar

The COVID-19 pandemic has been devastating to every aspect of Americans' lives during the past year, and normal social activities in all areas have been altered, descope or even curtailed. The operation of the STS is no exception, as there have, to the author's knowledge, been no STS trips during the 2020-21 season, either local trips in PATC-active states (MD, VA, WV, PA) or of the excursion category elsewhere. At the same time, the winter of 2020-21 has, as of early February, provided a greater availability of skiable conditions within a four-hour drive from the DC area than the prior three winters, especially during mid-December and from mid-January to the present time. Although taking advantage of this favorable snow condition is challenging in the face of the pandemic, it can be done while carrying out public and personal health best practices.



Morning scene outside main White Grass building
all photos by Doug Lesar and other trip participants

My own favorite go-to spot for cross country and backcountry skiing in the mid-Atlantic hills is the White Grass center in Canaan Valley WV. No other center in the country provides the sheer range of skiing opportunity (skating, classical, in-track, out-of-track, groomed, ungroomed, Telemark, Alpine Touring, even Split Boards!). Fortunately, XC and BC skiing (except in cases where "warming huts" are available) generally exclude close congregation with other people for prolonged periods indoors. No lengthy and crowded lift line waiting and multiple shuttles in packed lift chairs required! However, some sacrifices are necessary because of special pandemic-driven operational policies at the WG base area. Indoor activities are limited to brief shopping for necessities. Pass purchase and footwear changing must be done outside, along with part of the gear rental process. **NO INDOOR DINING AND/OR DRINKING!** Food and drink purchase is encouraged by placing smart phone orders with pickup at a designated window opening to the kitchen. Outdoor seating is provided with spaced-out tables and benches, and there are two fire pits to help with keeping warm. White Grass dinners may be ordered for takeout on weekend days, 5 to 8 pm. Finally, WG has set up several heated porta johns next to the parking lots, obviating the need to use the now-off-limits indoor bathrooms. Given that booting up is done outdoors, at your car or at outside benches, it is wise to put yourself together pronto and move up the mountain in a hurry, especially since the WG base area often ranks as the (seemingly) windiest

spot in the state of WV.

The main aspect of the WG environment missing this year is Apres-Ski in the usually crowded and sometimes raucous store / ski shop / dining hall. Rounds of beers around the wood stove while you warm up and dry out? **NOT HAPPENING.** Leisurely dinners with friends? **NOT HAPPENING.** Listening to live music and Chip playing the harmonica? **NOT HAPPENING.** Shot skis? **NOT HAPPENING.** In warmer and calm weather, you might be able to get a beer from a Stumptown Ales keg outside, but after 4 pm it is basically leave-and-go-get-your-takeout-dinner time.

This consideration brings up other pandemic consequences affecting conduct of a trip to WG. Among friends that I have skied with there, only one couple has carpooled and with one exception the rest of us have driven to/from alone. Lodging has been shared on one occasion but with only four people in a house that can accommodate twice as many. Except for one group evening meal in the rented house, all breakfasts have been prepped and consumed in our lodging rooms and dinners have been individual takeout.



Debbie happy with the snow conditions

Pre- and post-trip COVID testing has been conducted by all to the best of their ability given test scheduling challenges and the reality of test results not always provided in the timely fashion promised.

Despite the precautionary measures everyone must follow, the Canaan Valley snow is the best in at least ten years, and WG has been hopping on recent snowy weekends. The snow status has been no-lie purple powder, usually partially wet trails are fully covered, and it does not get any better than that. While it might not be the "old normal," there is lots of fun to be had enjoying the fantastic snowy conditions and camaraderie of fellow x-county ski enthusiasts. In summary, it has been possible to enjoy the current great season in Canaan Valley.

Enough COVID-talk; how was the SNOW? For one trip conducted over January 20-24 at the start of the snowpack buildup, it was GREAT, and I will let photos do the talking.



Colorful national flags flanking the main slope

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New PATC-ST\$ Website (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

These more administrative links are available to members on every page, making them easy to find wherever you are in the site.

TRIPS—Trips are the heart and soul of the club. The main presentation of the trip schedule is a chronological list of the trips and events scheduled for the ski season. Each of the entries is illustrated with a photo, and briefly summarized with a date, title, time, location, description, leader, and cost. These will be entered from the trip schedule developed by the Trip Coordinators and trip leaders prior to the Ski Fair in November, but can be adjusted as the season goes forward. This will be maintained so that once trips have occurred (or are fully subscribed), they will be deleted from the listing and only those trips coming up will be shown. (note: because of COVID, I've used the 2019-2020 schedule to illustrate the format of this section).

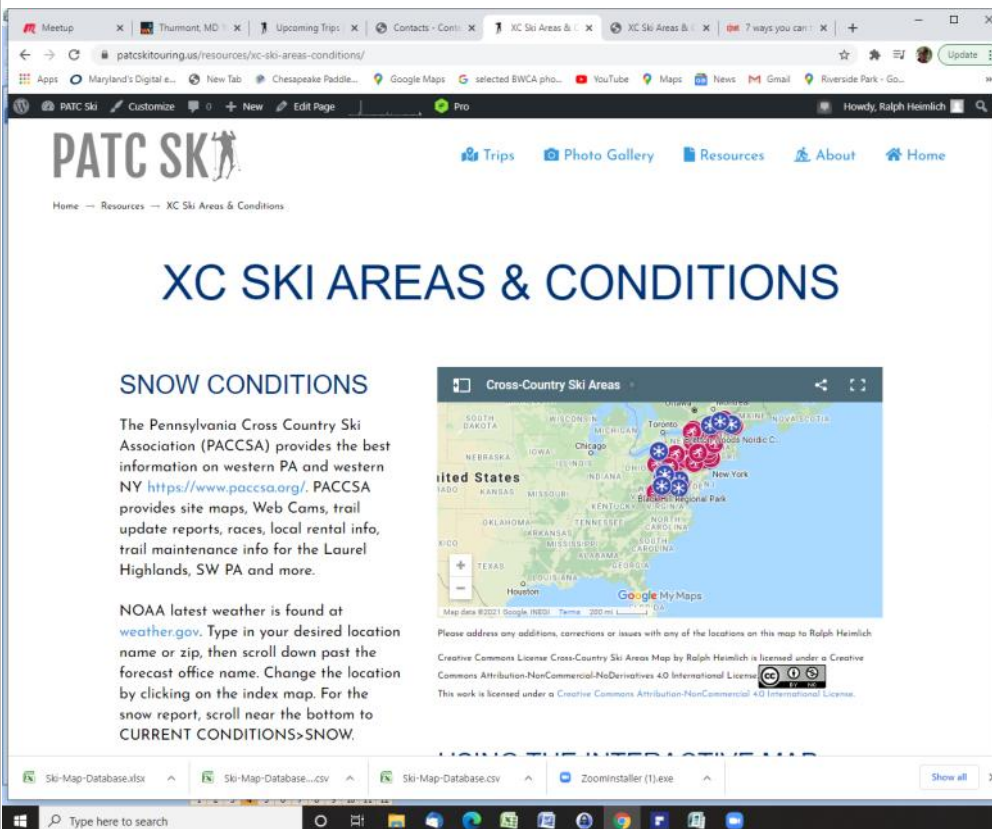
At the bottom of the page, a link to a second presentation of this information is provided that roughly approximates a [calendar layout](#). In this layout, there is a section for each month, with the trips or events indicated by a title and date. For each entry, clicking on the three lines provides a drop-down with the details of that trip. We feel that this presentation will assist people trying to decide on trips on the same or similar dates more easily than a sequential listing. Again, the months will be deleted during the season to reduce the amount of information people need to work through.

MEMBERSHIP—This page is our gateway to adding new members to the club and is quite simple. There is a statement of our club's purpose, the benefits of being a member, the terms of membership, and a link to a fillable-.pdf membership form which can be mailed to the Membership chair with a check. In the future, we can easily add a link for online membership application and payment.

NEWSLETTERS—An electronic archive of our newsletter, UPSLOPE, is catalogued here. This serves to both inform prospective members about our activities and longevity, and as a service to members who remembered a trip report or a technique article and want to re-read them.

PHOTO GALLERY—On this page, photos contributed by members of specific trips, or collections representing specific years or destinations are presented in an easy-to-access gallery format. This helps showcase our activity for prospective members and helps existing members recall past trips, and plan for new adventures. We look forward to adding additional galleries here as new trips take place and new destinations are added to our schedule.

RESOURCES—This section should be a real help to existing members, and may be useful for the wider cross-country skiing community. Two kinds of resources are presented here: STS Forms and documents and information on XC-skiing. Forms and documents include the membership application and our constitution and by-laws, and forms needed to apply for and administer our trips, including waivers for both STS and PATC.



XC-Ski info includes a series of primer articles contributed by knowledgeable members, and updated information on sources for renting and buying cross-country ski equipment, both locally, at the resorts, and online. All of this information was updated in January 2021 for the website rebuild. Finally, there is a link to an [interactive ski map](#) I built providing information on where to ski and conditions, including webcams showing current ski conditions. Clicking on the “[]” icon in the upper right of the ski map enlarges it to full-page size and it can be zoomed into for info on any destination for skiing in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast. Clicking on any of the “skier” icons provides a pop-up of location and contact info for that destination. The “snowflake” icons provide info on webcams, including a link to the camera view or webpage. I have tried to make these data as up-to-date as possible, and look forward to keeping it updated with info PATC-

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New PATC-ST5 Website (cont.)

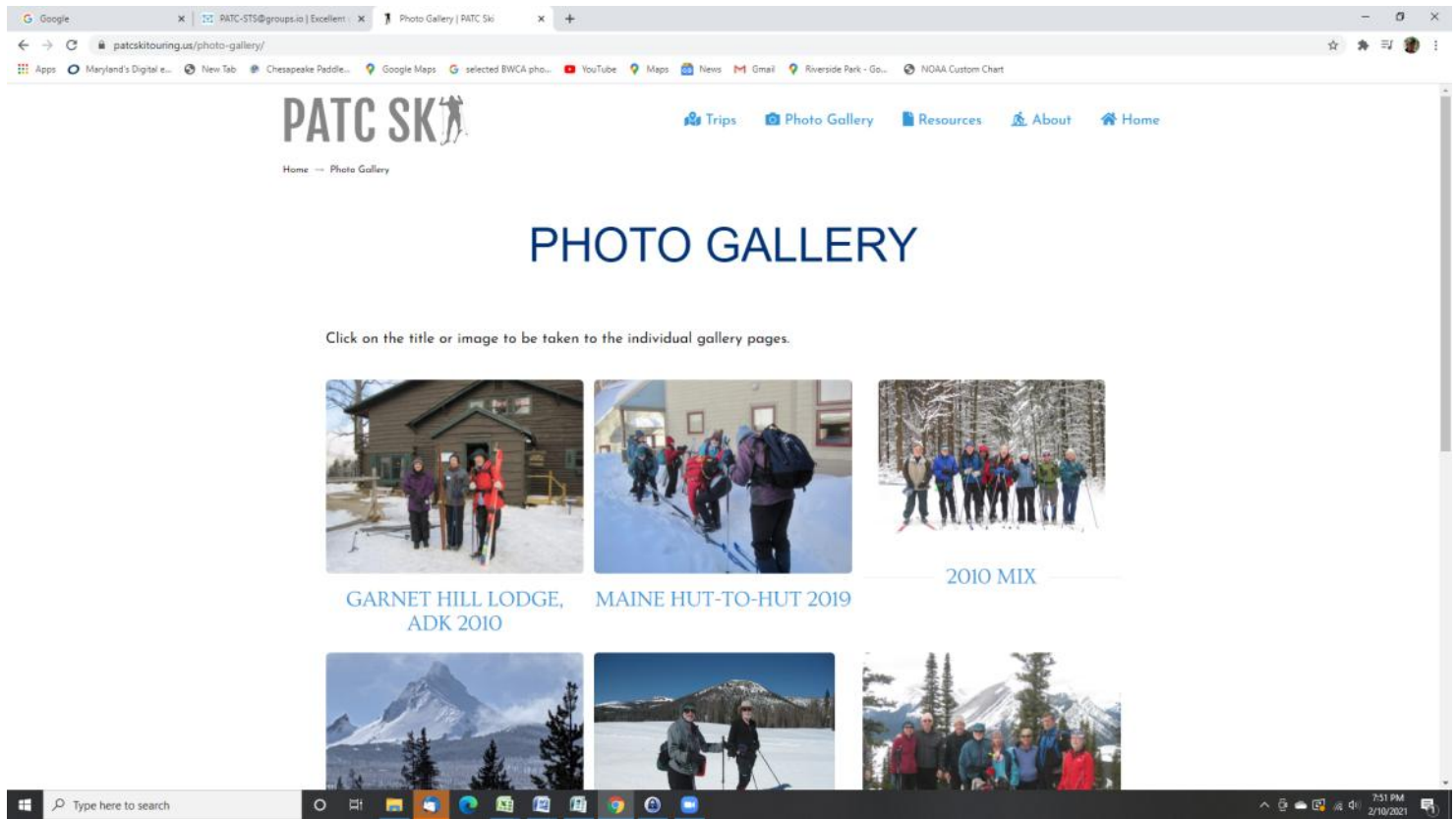
(Continued from page 4)

STS members provide to me. This map is primarily intended as an aid to planning trips at home, but it can be accessed on mobile phones for information during trips, as well.

ABOUT—This section gives a brief history of PATC-ST5, our mission and goals, and provides links to other electronic resources such as the new Groups.io, MeetUp page, and our Facebook page.

CONTACTS—On this page are pictures, names, and contact info for our officers and volunteers. These are presented both for prospective members wanting more info and for existing members who need to contact the club personnel.

We hope that the rebuilt website provides us with a fresh face to the world’s increasingly electronic view, and gives an additional benefit of easily accessible and current information for existing members. As with any website, you only get out of it what you put into it. Actively using the website and providing us with updated information and trouble-shooting (do the links work? Did we get a telephone number or URL wrong? Do you have good photos of your latest trip?) will keep it fresh and alive and benefit you and all the other PATC-ST5 members. We would like to hear your reactions to the new website (both positive and negative) and will strive to make it work as well as it possibly can for you.



ST5 Declares Membership Dues Holiday

Covid-19 pandemic fallout is greatly restricting usual ST5 trips activity for the winter of 2020-2021. Pre-scheduled trips have been foregone and ad hoc arrangements will be the norm. Accordingly, ST5 leadership has concluded that collecting membership dues for the 2020-2021 cycle is unwarranted, with the exception of new members enrolling as complete newcomers or returning expirees from past years.

All persons on paid-up ST5 membership rolls as of 23 October 2020 will have their memberships extended for another year. For example, people whose membership expires at end of 2020 will advance to end of 2021, expirees for end of 2021 will advance to 2022, etc. Finally, new and lapsed members from past years enrolled or re-enrolled between October 23 and the end of the 2020-2021 season will also be awarded a year beyond their requested membership term.

Thanks to supporting members who have helped to keep the ST5 treasury in good enough shape so that this measure can be afforded.

Doug Lesar
ST5 membership coordinator

Canaan Valley Resort Special Deals

The snow has never been better at Canaan Valley, but finding a place to stay may be an issue. Reports are that hotel rooms and cabins were fully rented over recent weekends. Blackwater Falls SP Lodge is being renovated this year, contributing to the dearth of lodgings. Here are some ideas and deals:

- * Go during the week! Many of us are retired, on a more flexible schedule, have vacation days to burn or otherwise free to break out of the weekend ski mould. Not only are lodgings more available, but the roads and trails are less crowded.
- * Canaan Resort is offering 10% off basic rates to seniors 60 + years old. See [Savy Senior](#) rates.
- * You can also get 10% off rates as an active or retired military members. See [Military Discount](#) rates.
- * Stay longer. There are discounts for staying 3 or more consecutive nights (20%) and 2 consecutive nights (15%).
- * Try downhill as well as XC. Discount packages for lodgings and lift tickets are available to let you try the "other" kind of skiing.

PATC-ST\$ Ski Trip Guidelines for 2020-21 Season

The Ski Touring Section's leadership met in September to discuss plans for this coming winter season. After some back and forth, the group endorsed the guidelines below. We are referring to this winter's ski trips as "winter lite" in that several of the responsibilities that would normally be arranged by the STS's trip leader will devolve to the individual trip participants so that the adult participants can make their own public health decisions. The main elements are:

Waivers:

- * This year the waiver form includes a provision specifically acknowledging the pandemic situation and the participant's responsibility to follow public health guidance.
- * Those intending to ski outside the region on an STS ski trip must also sign a separate PATC waiver of liability form.
- * These completed forms must be in the trip leader's hands before the applicant can be considered as a participant on the trip.

Lodging:

- * Trip participants may stay overnight in motel rooms but not in cabins or cottage/house rentals, arranged by the trip leader, to be shared by multiple individuals.
- * Participants are presumed to be intending to overnight one individual per motel room unless the trip leader is notified by particular participants that they intend to room together.
- * The trip leader will recommend a motel to the trip participants, but participants may overnight at a different motel if they so choose and identify their intention to the trip leader accordingly.
- * It was suggested at our meeting that the trip leader should direct the planned participants to call the motel themselves to reserve their own desired rooms, rather than having the trip leader assume that responsibility (again, winter lite). Alternatively the trip leader can reserve a group of rooms and ask the participants to make their reservations through the motel based on this group of rooms. If a participant does not make a reservation prior to the cut off date for reserving a spot in the group of rooms, the participant will be responsible for making his reservation at that motel or some other motel.
- * Trip participants are expected to adhere to current social distancing and facemask requirements when inside any building or other structure.

Transportation and Meals:

- * Trip participants are expected to arrange their own transportation from home to the skiing area and also around the skiing venue. The trip leader may offer suggestions to aid the participant, but he cannot mandate that a trip participant use a particular mode of travel.
- * The presumption will be that the individual skier will use his own vehicle on the trip. The trip leader will ask to be informed of what transportation means the participant will use so that the leader has that information. The trip leader will also ask to be informed if a participant decides to travel with another participant.
- * Skiers who are signed up for the STS ski trip will make their own meal arrangements. Historically STS skiers have made lunches in the morning to eat while on the ski trails that day, so many skiers will purchase their food items at local grocery stores. Whether the skiers will have breakfast included with their motel stay depends on the terms of the lodging agreement. The STS trip leader will not make dining arrangements as a part of planned trip. Each skier will make his/her own meal arrangements. The trip leader will not make a group meal reservation for the ski group. If group members decide on their own to dine together in a restaurant, that's their decision to make and not the responsibility of the Ski Touring Section or the PATC.

Skiing Activity:

- * Skiing on the scheduled trips is the least concerning part of the activities from a public health standpoint. The sport is conducted outside, with a hefty amount of distance between individual skiers on the trail. Skiers on the trail are usually separated by a minimum of 10 feet and may be separated by many times that distance.
- * Skiers on the STS trips are expected to bring along each day a facemask covering both nose and mouth.
- * Skiers are expected to mask up before entering any building, such as a ski touring center or a remote cabin along the trail.

Canaan During COVID (cont.)

(Continued from page 3)



Doug experiences the agony of de feet



Daniela entering Narnia



Carl bites into a pickle while Daniela remains bemused



Approaching Rocky Ridge



Diane, Jack, and Steve pausing their climb

Canaan During COVID (cont.)



Ascending by a fallen hunter's blind on Weiss Knob



Debbie, Doug, Diane, and Steve in the customary Bald Knob pose



Scene on the fabled pipeline



Diane, Debbie, and Steve enjoying a post-ski fire pit



Saluting the best WV snow in at least ten years

Ski-in Dining at Maine Huts and Trails

Stratton Brook Hut, Maine Huts and Trails

Maine Huts and Trails is a network of ski, bike and hiking trails between four world-class “huts” in the Maine woods of the Carrabassett River valley. STS members did a hut-to-hut ski there in February 2019. COVID has been tough on this organization, as many others, but they have organized a unique ski-in dining experience February 13-March 20. Stratton Brook Hut will host a new Weekend Fun and Food Event Series -- ski, hike, bike, snowshoe with family and friends and enjoy some simply prepared warm foods outside, with our Winter 2021 “Vittles and Views at Stratton Brook”, *Fridays: 12:00 to 4:00, Saturdays: 10:00 to 4:00, and Sundays: 10:00 to 2:00.*

Maine Huts and Trails is partnering with local Maine brands to offer for purchase soups, chilis, sweets, coffee, hot chocolate, and even Athletic Brewing's non-alcoholic beer on weekends.

- * February: The **Orange Cat Café** prepares the yummy fare.
- * March: **Chef Will from The Shipyard Brew Haus at Sugarloaf** does the cooking.
- * **On Saturday, February 27 Portland's Big Tree Catering** is bringing their acclaimed culinary talents (the team behind Eventide Oyster Co., The Honey Paw and Hugo's) to the hut for an alpine themed treat featuring spaetzle, sausages and other delicious creations. This is a ticketed event, and [more information can be found here.](#)
- * **On Saturday, March 6, Carrabassett Valley's own Chef Spencer Lee** will be featuring the tastes of Morocco. Service is a la carte, enjoyed outside, and there will be fun food for all ages. No tickets required. [More information is available here.](#)
- * **On Saturday, March 20 get excited for Baxter Outdoors/Baxter Brewing and Maine Huts & Trails “Newton's Ascent”**, a fun-filled staggered timed “race” via cross-country ski, snowshoe, or fat-bike from Stratton Brook Trailhead up to Stratton Brook Hut (~5km). Stick around (at a bike or pole length distance) at the summit for awards, post-race libations and soup, and homemade bread (vegetarian/vegan options available). [More information is available here.](#)

All events:

- Are outside
- With limited, managed access to inside the hut
- Will follow COVID safety guidelines, including requiring participants to properly don your favorite mask and maintain social distancing
- Will request you to sign in for tracing purposes
- Will be subject to Mother Nature. Updates will be provided via FaceBook, Instagram, and [MH&T's website.](#)
- Staff will be there to update participants on Maine Huts & Trails plans for 2021 and beyond.
- Proceeds from the events will go toward stewarding trails.

Lastly, speaking of trails, the trail conditions to Stratton Brook Hut and up and around Poplar Stream Hut have been terrific. The grooming team (Tyler, George, Will, and Wolfe) have loved seeing everyone out there on your skinny skis, snowshoes, and fat-bikes. Thank you for getting out there. Thank you for being safe and wearing your masks. And thank you for finding such great adventures on the Maine Hut Trail. If you are going to be in New England and are looking for a different XC ski adventure, check it out.

The Great February Snowstorm

As documented on our [Groups.io discussion page](#), plenty of people found skiable snow after the very welcome snowstorms on January 30-February 2 and on February 7.



Blackwater Falls Photo by Ralph Heimlich

"Jan 30 #1020— Snow at Blackwater Falls, and more coming tonight.—Ralph Heimlich"

"Feb 1 #1052 — Canaan Valley Ski Report— Drove up today, roads good until we got 100 ft from cabin at Black Bear Resort. Had to put on chains for last 100 ft. 10 inches dry powder on the ground. Snowing steadily since 4 pm Have not seen this much snow in years.—Gus Anderson"

"Feb 2 #1057 —I'm snug in a cabin in an, um, adjacent state with 12" of snow on the ground and no person within miles. Lots of (unbroken) trails. Downside: I have to do all the trail breaking myself and I've forgotten how much work it is with 12" because it's been so long since having that luxury. Upside: no one from the bozo brigade on hand to trample my hard-earned pristine tracks. I did a lot of work in the morning, returned to my cabin for some lunch and headed out again for the afternoon to reap the reward of the morning 's work by skiing on those tracks again. Well, apparently every deer in the whole region decided skier's tracks were much easier than post-holing. Never saw so many deer tracks on one trail.—and befouling my tracks! Anyone know how to teach trail etiquette to deer? ;>)—Al "

Feb 2 #1059 --C&O Canal Conditions--Skied the C & O canal today from Pennyfield lock (mile 20) to Horespen camper site (mile 26). Track was really good form 20 to 23 with just one other set of ski tracks and no footprints. For 23 to 26 it got a little slushy, then improved at 26. When returning later in the day was very slushy around mile 23 with more footprints appearing, but still skiable. So, 20 to 23 was good, not sure about the miles below 20. – largemargery



C&O Canal photo by largemargery

Feb 2 #1062 --I found a similar mix of conditions this afternoon between Carderock and Great Falls. A few wet/slushy patches, some extending ~20-30 yards. The bad spots were mostly between Carderock and Widewater. The section next to Widewater was in good shape. Surprisingly no icing up on the skis in spite of wet and mild conditions (temps a bit above freezing). In the Carderock area I could see a few guys ahead of me skate skiing. There were a lot of other people out skiing (as well as walking and running) so I think it's getting progressively worse. Another inch would freshen things up nicely for anyone who wants to go out first thing in the morning, but I don't know if we will get more than flurries.—John Ausema

Feb 2 #1063 --XC Today in Fairfax VA-- I skied at Burke Lake golf course this afternoon. Conditions were pretty good (I'd rate them a B). There is a solid base of 3-4 inches of pretty dense but mostly loose snow. There is a very thin crust layer about in the middle of the snow (which really didn't affect the skiing). The snow had good glide everywhere. There were a few tracks already in place and they were skiable. You could also ski on the untracked areas without any problem. It should continue to be pretty good at least for tomorrow (probably better earlier than later if there is much melting). The trail around the lake wasn't skiable. I may try Meadowood park tomorrow morning. The trails there are great for XC (if there is enough snow).— Craig



NCR Trail photo by Dick Simmons

"Feb 4 #1070 --We were at the Western Md Trail today near Fort Frederick, skiable but not ideal. Getting warmer the next couple of days so I don't know what shape it will be in.—Larry McLaughlin"

"Feb 4 #1071—Louise, I just skied the NCR trail north of Baltimore. Pretty nice. Good cover, and if you avoid the access points with larger parking lots, not too many footprints. It could rain a bit overnight . If that is light rain I think the surface will hold.—Dick Simmons"



Western MD Trail photo by Larry McLaughlin

"Feb 7 #1073 With this crusty base [at the Catoctin Trail, Gambrill SP, MD], a couple inches of good new snow should make it skiable next week. —Ralph Heimlich"



New Germany SP, MD photo by Jack Kangas

"Feb 7 #1074 — A group of us skied at New Germany State Park yesterday; I think we skied at least portions of all the blazed trails. There was good coverage everywhere, but snow conditions varied depending on where you were. There was some crust in sun-exposed areas, and lots of post-holing from hikers and dog-walkers, especially on heavily-used trails such as the Turnpike Trail (green blaze). The attached photos are from the Dynamite Shack Loop (purple blaze) and the Cabin Loop (red blaze). None of the MD state parks are offering ski rentals this season due to COVID.— Jack Kangas"



Catoctin Trail photo by Ralph Heimlich

The Great February Snowstorm(cont.)

(Continued from page 10)

"Feb 7 #1075 --Snow Conditions at Herrington Manor State Park 2/7/21--Diane Weil and I skied at Herrington Manor State Park today, and there was good coverage everywhere we skied (parts of red & blue trails, and all of yellow & green trails). Snow conditions could be described as "dust on crust", about an inch of fresh powder which fell last night on top of the existing snow, some of which had gotten crusty. Overall, conditions were good, and there was much less of a problem with post-holing than we experienced yesterday at New Germany State Park, especially trails away from the Lake House and the Cabins (red & blue trails). Some trails showed signs of having been groomed in the past week or so. We parked near the Lake House, which is open, with picnic tables available inside, and indoor bathrooms available. — Jack Kangas"



Red trail: Note snowshoe tracks to one side, and minimal post-holing. Photo by Jack Kangas



Main trail leading away from the Lake House: Packed hard by ski traffic, some post holing. Photo by Jack Kangas



Shedding a clothing layer before climbing a hill on the red trail. Note the downhill "emergency stop" tracks on the right. Photo by Jack Kangas

"Feb 8 #1077--Excellent conditions in Canaan Valley--It's late afternoon, Monday 2/8/2021. There is about 8-10 inches of snow everywhere in the valley. Conditions are excellent. Just arrived, but am planning to get out to Whitegrass as soon as I can.—Bert Finkelstein"



Photo by Harrison Snow

Feb 8 #1078--Great conditions today in the upper part of the Shenandoah National Park especially on the AT and fire roads leading to it. Parked at the trail head near little Washington and hiked and skied up. The higher you go the deeper the snow. Expansive views from skyline drive. Cheers, Harrison Snow.



Photo by Harrison Snow

Info on Groups.io Listserv

Given the continuing COVID-19 pandemic situation challenging the operation of social groups of all stripes, staying connected with the aid of internet-hosted tools and platforms is more important than ever. Fortunately, PATC-STC successfully migrated from the dying Yahoo groups platform in early 2020. Our new "listserv" is hosted by groups.io, which offers a less clunky user interface than Yahoo and has operated smoothly for us for more than a year (your MEMBERSHIP DUES help to pay for it ... it isn't free).

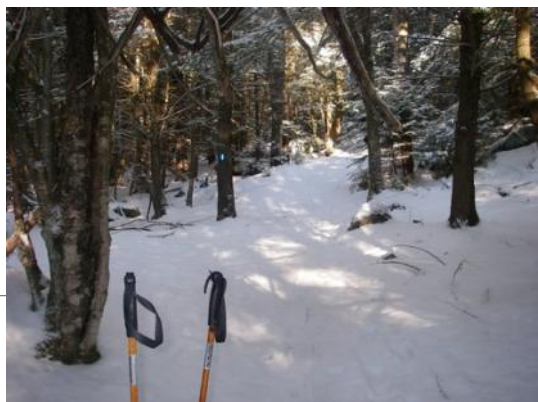
The STS group is reachable at the address <https://groups.io/g/PATC-STC>. The user interface has, apart from one exception discussed below, all basic operations front and center. "Log In" and "Sign Up" appear upon first entry, and "post", "subscribe" and "unsubscribe" are handy buttons on the "home" dropdown. Postings are available for perusal via the "messages" dropdown.

The one function that gave subscribers trouble during last season was the classical "reply to all" versus "reply to sender" choice, a matter of group mailing list etiquette that occasionally leads to subscriber annoyance. At the bottom of any posting, see the options gathered under the heading "Groups.io Links": "You receive all messages sent to this group. View/Reply Online (#797) | Reply To Group | Reply To Sender | Mute This Topic | New Topic | Your Subscription | Contact Group Owner | Unsubscribe"

Particularly note "reply to group" and "reply to sender". "Mute this topic" is also helpful. If you simply execute an email client reply, your response goes to the whole group and you may not intend and/or want that.

Doug Lesar

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



To:

PATC Ski Touring Section Membership Form

The PATC/STS provides quality services and benefits to its cross-country skiing members while promoting and supporting the PATC and cross country skiing in general. Whether a novice, recreational, citizen racer or telemark skier, STS has something for every XC skier. Imagine yourself floating on the snow, climbing across hill and dale in the quiet of winter, stopping for lunch in brilliant sunshine on a vista with a view of snow-covered ridges and valleys stretching to the horizon, and then making a descent back to home. Our membership enjoys ski touring in the hills with the comradeship and safety of a group. When you become a member, you receive all issues of the club's newsletter UPSLOPE and other useful information. UPSLOPE is published 3-5 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 |