



# UPSLOPE

## Newsletter of the PATC Ski Touring Section

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

- Next UPSLOPE is October...
- Plans for Ski Fair,
- November 5, 2005
- Potential trips for signup

### 2004-2005 Ski Season Roundup Après Ski Party

The official 2004-2005 PATC-STS ski season ended with a bang on April 10 (not long after lingering snow finally melted) at the Après Ski Party, hosted by Mollie Casey at Bert's house in Reston. Some 30 plus loyal STSers assembled to grill meat, sample assorted pot luck salads, appetizers, desserts, drinks and other nosh, and also chew over the season's many successful ski trips.

Not of least interest were discussions of what we ought to do NEXT season. Bert, Rob, and Suzie presented plans for excursions to France, Germany, and Canada.



Slide presentations were made on Switzerland (Heimlich), Far Hills, Quebec (Bert), the February White Mountains trip (Rob), and Rob Swennes' mystery location, which was revealed as Bryce Canyon, Utah, a little-known but promising venue.

For a complete picture of the party, see Barbara Mandula's summary, [inside](#). And come to the "Where is the Snow?" meeting August 14, [inside](#).

### 2005-2006 Excursions

In recent years the Ski Touring Section has expanded its offering of ski trips outside of the mid-Atlantic region. Reliability of snow is the main reason to go further afield, but each distant ski venue also offers a different cultural experience and some remarkable landscapes not available in this area. Many experienced downhill skiers claim that skiing on the Eastern seaboard pales in comparison once you have skied in the Rockies. Much the same may be said of cross-country skiing once you have tried the trails and backcountry areas in areas well away from the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. These trips will be a "go" depending on interest, so let the trip leaders know if you're interested. You may be required to pay a deposit to make sure that we have enough interest to run the trip. Our goal is to fill up these trips BEFORE the Ski Fair in



November. We may solicit interest from other ski clubs to fill the trips, so don't wait too long. Included in the plans are the following trips:

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## STS Officers

## From The STS Chair

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**Summary of STS Meeting/Apres-Ski Reunion April 10, 2005**

Place: Reston, VA  
Attendance: 30-35  
Notetaker: Barbara Mandula

**STS Board Members for Upcoming 2005-2006 Season**

Bert thanked the Board members and trip leaders for making the 2004-05 ski season successful and enjoyable, despite a spectacular shortage of snow early in the season. Izabella Zandberg was elected secretary, to replace Barbara Mandula, who chose not to serve again. Susie Etcheverry will be assistant trip co-coordinator, but we need a volunteer to be co-coordinator. Any volunteers? Other elected officers and appointees agreed to continue in their current positions. Bert also commended Mollie Casey for stepping in on short notice and organizing the Apres-Ski event.

**Committee Reports**

1. Treasurer's Report (Rob Swennes). We have approximately \$16,000 in our savings and checking accounts combined, which is a healthy amount for seed money for upcoming ski trips. For 2004-05, revenues were \$1,400 greater than expenses. We could spend some of our funds to benefit our membership, e.g., for instructional materials.

2. Membership Report (Doug Lesar). Our total membership as of April 10 is 315, a gain of 15 over the previous year. Doug estimates that about 30 percent of the members have signed up for 2 or 3 years, rather than just a single year. Doug also said that our internet site is now the biggest source of new STS members, with the Ski Fair running a distant second.

**Trip Information for 2005-2006 Season**

1. Excursions (as distinguished from local trips)
  - a. Excursions generally refer to extended trips (in time and distance), such as to Germany; Mt Rainier; Canada. Such trips require approximately a year to plan, which provides time to get the PATC approvals required for such trips.
  - b. During the next few months, the following members will be exploring 2006 excursions to the indicated places:
 

Bert Finkelstein—France; Rob Swennes - two trips: Germany (February 2006) and Bryce Canyon (early March 2006); Susie Etcheverry - eastern Canada; Ralph Heimlich -Switzerland (maybe for 2007).
  - c. Bert suggested considering joint excursions with other x-country groups in the mid-Atlantic, which could provide a larger number of excursions to choose from. Bert has initiated these contacts.
2. Cancellation policies for local trips
  - a. Different policies for different places.
  - b. The group agreed that trip descriptions should explicitly include the lodging's cancellation policy.
  - c. The Board may want to develop a systematic way of listing cancellation policies for the places where we stay frequently. Debby Ryan may have prepared such a list for Canaan Valley.

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**Upcoming Ski Fair—Saturday, November 5, 2005, noon to 5pm.** (First Saturday in November at PATC Headquarters in Virginia) Feedback on 2004 Fair

- a. Presentations were excellent, especially for 1) Outerwear and 2) backcountry skiing
- b. Trip leader presentations helped attendees meet leaders and choose trips—do again.
- c. Many trip signups occur at Fair. Need lots of copies of forms.

### Highlights of the Après-Ski Party

1. Wonderful food and drink, including Lebanese food provided by Rob Swennes, grilled burgers and hot dogs by Bert, and leftover beer from last year's Après-Ski Bash.
2. Slide Presentation[s] of past (and future) trips. Switzerland; Far Hills, Quebec; February White Mountains trip; Rob Swennes' mystery location, which was revealed as Bryce Canyon, Utah
3. A good time was had by all, as usual.

## Summer STS "Where Is The Snow?" Meeting—August 14

Join us Sunday, August 14th from 3:30 to 7:30pm at Greg & Anna Westernik's for a planning and social meeting for 2005-06 ski season.

- Trips (current status, what's scheduled, what's not scheduled, what's reserved, presentations)
- Volunteers for sharing Trip Coordinator responsibilities with Susie Etcheverry
- The Laurel Mountain and Whitegrass Fall trail maintenance trips
- The Ski Fair
- The new STS waiver form

STS will supply pizza and drinks—Please bring a side dish or dessert.

Greg, Anna, Nadia & Roman live at 6404 Bardu Court in Springfield VA in a white-painted brick rambler on a cul-de-sac.

Directions to Greg and Anna Westernik's from the Beltway (avoiding the infamous Mixing Bowl): Exit the Beltway (495) on Virginia Rt. 620 West (Braddock Road), drive few miles to Rolling Rd (VA Rt. 638) where you turn left or south at traffic light. Proceed on Rolling Rd until you reach Old Keene Mill Rd (VA Rt. 644) where you will turn left at light. On Old Keene Mill within 10.5 mile you will pass a school on your left and head downhill. At the bottom of this hill you will turn right onto Bardu Avenue. Go a few yards and make the first left turn onto Bardu Court. If street parking is tight on BARDU Court, use Bardu Avenue.

From western Fairfax County and Loudoun County: Folks who live near I-66 and Fairfax Parkway in western Fairfax county would be better served to take the Fairfax Parkway to Rolling Road exit, turning north on Rolling Rd to Old Keene Mill Rd.

Lost? Call (703)866-4098

## Did You Know That Electronic Upslope...

- ⇒ Saves STS money, time, and labor—Each edition costs nearly \$1 to copy and mail—That's nearly \$1,800 per year, our largest club expense
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Ralph Heimlich, UPSLOPE Editor

## Ski Trip to Assiniboine Lodge, British Columbia

by Erma Cameron and Doug Lesar



March saw four STS'ers at Assiniboine Lodge, British Columbia: Erma Cameron, Jack Kangas, Doug Lesar and Myrna Aavedal (OK- technically Myrna is a *former* STS member and trips coordinator). Assiniboine is an historic (1928) lodge built by the Canadian Pacific Railway as a backcountry lodge to lure train passengers to the mountains. The CPR had it built by a Norwegian in the style of a Norwegian ski lodge, and it still retains the "Norwegian dragon" that was painted in the dining room, and rosemaling added at a later time. It also boasts elk-hide furniture. Now if that isn't Canadian, I don't know what is. Now located within Mount Assiniboine Provincial Park, just west of the BC/Alberta boundary, the lodge is accessible by helicopter or a rigorous 28 km ski-in (we opted for the helicopter). The helicopter runs three times a week. We elected to go in for a full week, Friday to Friday.

Why trek all the way to British Columbia to ski? Terrain, terrain and terrain (to paraphrase real estate's mantra). The lodge is located at 7,200 feet, at the base of one of the most beautiful mountains in the world (I've been keeping a tally).

Tree line is about 7,500 feet, so you can quickly gain access to gladed areas, large open meadows and open ridges for miles-and miles-and-miles of skiing (to paraphrase Carl Sagan).

There is also tree skiing and several lake destinations. I just love lake skiing, and you can get your fill here if you want. There is very little in the way of designated trails, but all the skiing is guided, so that does not become a problem. The guides also keeps you off the avalanche slopes. There are other good things about this destination. Food, food, food. Gourmet food! And the sauna! Climbing skins (if you don't have your own), transceivers and snowshoes are available at no extra charge. And the couple that have been running the lodge for the last almost twenty years (it is owned by the BC provincial government), Sepp and Barbara Renner, are a charming pair. He is originally from Switzerland, and still has a delightful Swiss accent (he moved to Canada as a lad, because, he says, there are too many people in Switzerland!). He is also one of the founders of the Association of Canadian Mountain Guides. Barb is a local Calgary gal. Their daughter Sarah, who was partially raised at the lodge, and who could be seen skiing the 28 km to "home" on Fridays after school, is now on Canada's cross-country team, and got a bronze at the World Cup this winter.

As mentioned above, the terrain variety around Assiniboine offers a bit of something for every kind of skier. Though skiers with some ungroomed trail experience will definitely benefit, you don't have to be a hard-core Telemark / randonnee downhiller to enjoy the Assiniboine environs. This is in contrast to most backcountry lodges in western Canada, which are typically located in the midst of steep terrain that practically demands high backcountry downhill skills. Examples of the range of Assiniboine skiing can be found from our experiences in this trip.

On some days, we stayed at lower elevations, gaped in awe at the surrounding mountains, and visited the several pretty lake basins to the west of Lake Magog, the largest lake in the vicinity. All of these tours pop in and out of trees and all have viewpoints that are worth a rest break, snack, or lunch stop. On other days, conditions permitted substantial climbs to high points (Niblet and Nublet, both of which boast prime telemark slopes) while another particularly ambitious tour went all the way to mountaintop (Mount Cautley near Wonder Pass, another area with good telemark potential).

With breakable crust all around in early March of 05, Telemark skiing was, for the most part, not feasible during our trip's week,



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## 2005-2006 Excursions (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

**Bert Finkelstein—France**--We're inaugurating our next season with a hut-to-hut trip in France from February 10-19, 2006. The guided trip is for intermediate-level skiers and above capable of skiing 12-15 miles a day for three days. We'll be skiing on the scenic Le Haute Trace des Escartons through the mountains of France and Italy, and staying at the Mont Revard cross country ski center with 150km of trails.

Projected cost is \$1,200, which includes air fare, lodging, and most meals. There will be some additional costs of \$225 plus the cost of some meals. If you're interested, please look at the attachment. For more information, please call Bert Finkelstein at (703) 715-8534 or email [bertanamo@gmail.com](mailto:bertanamo@gmail.com)



## Erma's Endorsement

I was at the meeting on May 7 that Bert set up with Andre Gupta, who runs the travel company putting together the ski trip to France. Let me tell you, I am totally JAZZED about this trip !!

It has something for everyone - skiing in set track, hut-to-hut, and enough luxury to make it fun. And the price is excellent for what you are getting.

I would like to add a couple of points to Bert's fine description:

- The hut-to-hut portion is four days of skiing and three nights in huts.
- The route we follow, La Haute Trace des Escartons, is set track with a skating lane.
- Bert sure knows how to pick a winner!!!!

**Rob Swennes—Garmisch, Germany**—This will be a repeat of 2004's highly successful trip, February 11-20, 2006. Call Rob at 703/532-6101 [robertswennes@hotmail.com](mailto:robertswennes@hotmail.com)

It is more than a ski trip—it's a 10-day European vacation in one of the most beautiful landscapes on the continent. We will fly from Dulles airport on Saturday afternoon (February 11), and arrive in Munich, Germany, the next morning. We will pick up rental cars at the airport and drive south to Garmisch-Partenkirchen. Seven nights will be spent in vacation apartments in this large resort town, which has been a favorite winter playground for centuries. We may stay in the same apartments in Haus Bader used two years ago. From there it is a two-block walk to the Hammersbacherfussweg and the closest ski trails.

Unlike most places in the U.S. where you are well advised to bring along a packed lunch and some emergency snacks, in Germany's ski regions you are always continually surprised by a friendly Gasthaus popping up just about the time you need a good meal. No cold sandwich on the trail when you have the chance to enjoy a sit-down meal in a lovely Bavarian restaurant.



Each person on this trip will have to decide how many days to devote to skiing and how many to spend as a winter tourist. Garmisch itself offers a wealth of museums and spectacular locations nearby. There is the mighty Partnachklamm (gorge) with its rushing water and ice spray sculpturing only a short walk from the center of town. From the main train station you can take a cog train up to the summit of the Zugspitze—the highest point in Germany and a mecca for downhill skiing.

The group that visited Garmisch in 2004 reveled in the local food and drink. People got up early for the daily walk to nearby bakeries to pick out the pastries and rolls for the meals. And every couple of days we walked to the local drinks shop to bring home cases of fruit drinks, beer and the like. A modern grocery store was several blocks away, and most of the skiers were fascinated by the never-before-seen selection of cheeses, cold cuts, fruits and the like. Shopping in a foreign

country is always different than at home, and those differences help to add an extra sense of wonderment at participating in a new cultural experience.

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## 2005-2006 Excursions (continued)

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The skiing itself? Totally awesome. We were lucky on our first visit to have very accommodating winter weather that allowed us to ski several days in Garmisch itself (which is at an elevation of 700 meters). The last few days were warmer, and as a result we tried out trails at higher elevations in the direction of Mittenwald (elev. 900 m.). Some of these were like superhighways (Autobahns) with unidirectional track skiing and separate lanes for skate skiing. We never saw a grooming machine during the whole trip. By the week's end we were convinced that the Shoemaker's Elves from the fairytale by the Brothers Grimm had, by the early 21<sup>st</sup> century, shifted professions to become nocturnal ski trail groomers in Bavaria.



For 2006 the group will have an even broader range of skiing venues nearby in Bavaria and Austria. We have information on many other ski trail systems (Loipen) in and between towns up to 1,200 meters in elevation – Lermoos, Biberwier, the Loisach Valley . . . . All of these alternate ski location are a short drive either SE or SW from Garmisch.

For those wanting to see famous sites in and around Bavaria, there are many. Some of the folks in 2004 made a day trip to Salzburg, Austria, by car. Oberammergau, the home for centuries of the passion play (Passionspiel) held every ten years, is only an hour's drive away. And if winter conditions prevail, there is also good cross-country skiing near the town along the Gau River. King Ludwig's fantastic castles of Neuschwanstein (<http://www.germanworld.com/neu.htm>), Hohenschwangau (<http://www.germanworld.com/hohen.htm>) and Linderhof (<http://www.germanworld.com/lind.htm>) are also popular tourist attractions at any time of year. The ski group will spend its final night in Germany in Munich before flying back on the President's Day holiday on Monday.

Trip Cost: \$900 (covers 7 nights lodging in Garmisch and one in Munich; all in-house meals; rental vehicles). Participants must book their air flights to/from Munich and pay for restaurant meals and incidentals. Those making sightseeing trips by vehicle will need to cover the extra gasoline expense. \$500 advanced deposit required. Number of participants: 8 – 16 (depending upon availability of rooms) Early sign-up (before autumn) is strongly encouraged. Note: A valid U.S. passport is necessary for this trip.

**Rob Swennes—Bryce Canyon—March 1 – 5, 2006.** Call Rob at 703/532-6101 [robertswennes@hotmail.com](mailto:robertswennes@hotmail.com)

At an elevation of 8,000 feet, Bryce Canyon National Park offers a long winter season with plenty of snow into the early spring. This will be the Ski Touring Section's first trip out to this popular Western area on the Colorado Plateau. It offers plenty of contrast to skiing in the East. Bryce Canyon boasts a wealth of unique natural wonders that draw tourists from around the world (<http://www.nps.gov/brca/>). Yet it is a large enough park that one can ski for miles and not have to deal with people outside the ski group.

The skiing in this part of Utah is backcountry in nature. Ruby's Inn, the large motel complex where we will be staying (<http://www.rubysinn.com/>), sets cross-country track up to the edge of the national park. The inn web site claims that the NPS sets track within the park (<http://www.rubysinn.com/>). In any case, the gently rolling terrain set with well-spaced Ponderosa pine makes for a fairly easy course into the park. Skiers are free to break trail to whatever points in the park they wish to visit, including the park's



new, modern Visitors Center.



The STS group will fly from the Washington area to either Salt Lake City or Las Vegas on early Wednesday evening, March 1. We'll spend that night in a motel on the way to Bryce Canyon. We'll arrive at the canyon by noon on Thursday and will have that day and two other full days to explore the national park. We'll leave Ruby's Inn Sunday morning for the drive and flight back home.

Those seeking a further challenge in the area can attempt to access Brian Head

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## 2005-2006 Excursions (continued)

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(<http://www.onthesnow.com/UT/80/>) and the Cedar Breaks National Monument (<http://www.go-utah.com/Cedar-Breaks-National-Monument/>) which are up at 10,000 feet elevation. These locations can be inaccessible even in late March due to snow accumulation, but if snow blocks your way, it is always skiable!

Trip cost: \$220 (covers lodging cost and rental vehicles). Participants must book their air flights to/from Salt Lake City/Las Vegas and pay for restaurant meals and incidentals. Number of participants: unlimited

### Rob Swennes—Tug Hill, New York – January 13 to 16, 2006.



For the past decade STS members have driven up to the Tug Hill plateau north of Syracuse for some of the most “guaranteed” snow on the Eastern seaboard. Winter winds blowing over Lake Ontario provide lake-effect snow in upper New York state. The ski group will be staying at the 1880 House, a large, informal bed-and-breakfast facility in Pulaski, NY. The 1880 House web site (<http://www.1880house.com/>) has good information on skiing opportunities in the area. On previous trips to this region, members of the section have skied at Winona State Forest, Salmon Hills Ski Touring Center (STC), Osceola STC, Barnes Corners State Park, Highland Forest State

Park – and other spots as well. You run out of time well before you run out of skiing venues. Both the STCs offer a wide range of cross-country ski equipment.

This trip runs over the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday weekend. The formal trip includes lodging at the 1880 House on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights, with folks driving home on the holiday Monday. But many skiers drive up on Thursday and pay separately for an extra night at the bed and breakfast so that they can have three full days to ski. This is an ideal trip for car pooling. Most of the roadway up to Pulaski is interstate or of similar quality (no secondary, steep West Virginia roads here!). With a friendly group of skiers sharing a vehicle, the miles melt away. In recent years some STSers have rented minivans in the DC area for this trip and shared the vehicle cost.

With several cars at the lodging, skiers usually have a choice as to which place they will go to ski on a particular day.

In the evening after a full day on the trails, the skiers have a choice of restaurants. Our hostess at the B&B normally has a large pot of hot soup on the stove to greet us when we return for the day. And one of the neatest features of these Tug Hill weekends is an optional in-house meal that the B&B can prepare one night. We supply wine/beer. The host supplies the meal for about \$15/person. Number of participants: 15 – 18

Trip Cost: \$145/person (covers lodging for three nights)



**Susie Etcheverry—Eastern Canada**—This will probably be at Far Hills again, or possibly some other Canadian venue. See [Bert's article](#) on the 2004-05 trip. Contact Suzie at 202/244-2562 [setchever@aol.com](mailto:setchever@aol.com)

**Ralph Heimlich—Kandersteg, Switzerland**—Maybe for 2007



## Bonjour Canada: A Love Affair with Canada

By Bert Finkelstein

On February 26, STS members took off to Canada for a week long ski fest in the Laurentians, about one hour north of Montreal. We were off and ready to ski at the Far Hills Inn in Val Morin. The Laurentians were so inspiring that Steve and Peggy organized a separate trip for those who did not want to partake of the amenities at Far Hills. Two groups of skiers together = twice as much fun.



When we arrived in Montreal, we were greeted by Keith Chanon, an ex-STs member who had moved to Montreal a few weeks before and who skied with us on the weekends. On the way up to Far Hills, we saw lots of snow. We found out later that this was the best cross-country ski week of the season. We thought we had found the only good snow for the 2004-05 season, but Ullr had cooperated back in DC while STS responded with impromptu trips celebrating the late snow.

Yarka and Marsha rented skis. We spent the first day skiing at Far Hills on their 30km of groomed and backcountry trails. At one time, Far Hills had access to 60km of trails on adjacent land, but this was taken over by a developer who prohibited access. In the next few years, the local government will buy the land for park-

land and allow skiing once again.

The evening of February 26 we met for dinner. The dinners at Far Hills were gourmet quality and included entrées like bison, ostrich, elk, and venison. Even a simple tomato salad showed imagination, taste, and creativity. Of course, we couldn't resist the desserts; the most memorable is a white-chocolate covered pyramid of cake with a raspberry-filled chocolate ball in the center. Wine experts Barbara, Susie, and Yarka suggested excellent wines to go with dinner and that set the tone for the remainder of the dinners. We talked of what we found and where we wanted to go next. Christine, Susie, and Bozena lent a touch of French to the conversation.

On Sunday, we met Steve and Peggy's group in Val David to ski on Le P'tit Train du Nord (The little train of the north), a rails-to-trails groomed for classic and skate skiing. But first, we went to Ste Agathe so Yarka could buy skis. Much to our surprise, the ski shops did not stock any waxless skis. The skiing is so consistent in Canada that most Canadian cross-country skiers use waxless skis only at the ends of the season for rock skiing! So Yarka rented skis and we were off to Val David. Nothing boring about village-to-village skiing on a trail filled with happy skiers. True to form, adventurous STSers discovered Potier, one of the many backcountry trails, and we were off and skiing. Yarka, a beginner, skied with us on this challenging intermediate trail and came through beautifully while Bozena, one of the French-speaking members on the trip, took off on a side trail marked "Expert Seulement". Wonder what "Expert" means in French? We were having a fun-filled adventure; nothing could stop us!



We got a taste of back-country skiing on Monday, when we took a guided ski trip from Far Hills along the Maple Leaf, Thé du Bois and Stevenson trails led by our guide, Alex. We skied across frozen lakes, through gently rolling woods and down tricky, curvy trails. On a particularly tricky trail, Bill had managed to negotiate the trail beautifully only to find that the log bridge was narrower than it looked. Bill crossed the creek on his new water skis as he slid off the bridge.

On Tuesday we went to St Agathe des Monts to return Yarka's rental skis and ski in the cross-country center. A fine snow fell making the trails just perfect for skiing. We skied the many beautiful evergreen-lined trails. Steven, our Far Hills ski instructor lapped us three times! We took the Grignon trail and a side trail to an overlook at the top of a hill. Not much to see in the gray sky, but the way down was pure heaven, just gliding on the snow without a care in the world. We went down "douce" (gentle), moyenne (moderate), and raide (steep) slopes, calibrated to the trail's level of difficulty. We returned (retour) on the Davis trail, a gently-rolling trail with lots of long "douce" slopes around a beautiful frozen lake. We arrived back to the lodge cheerfully tired.

Wednesday, under perfect conditions, both groups met for a guided trip down more of the same amazing skiing. The sky opened up into one of the bluest ever. There were times when it felt as though we were skiing on a cloud. The trip crossed three lakes – with a lunch stop on one of them. There were plenty of downhill to practice our falls. Alex, our guide, said that this was the best skiing of the season. We skied noticeably better than ever and made lots of happy face plants. Rob and Susie spent the day skate skiing to Val David and back. Barbara and Yarka toiled around in snowshoes. All in all, lots of happy STS skiers.



## Bonjour Canada: A Love Affair with Canada (continued)



The week went so quickly. On Thursday, we were off to Mt. Tremblant for another day of extraordinary skiing. We skied at the Mt. Tremblant Park (not the downhill area) in the Secteur de la Diable. At this point in the trip, we'd come to expect great skiing and a fun-filled adventure no matter where we went. We weren't disappointed. We ended the day by spending some time at the downhill resort and drinking some "hot red wine".

Friday we were off to Montreal. We all went our separate ways and discovered the Montreal we wanted to see. Barbara visited her aunt. Montreal is so cosmopolitan, but no people on the streets. Why? We found out that there was a whole underground community of store-lined tunnels that went from building to building downtown. It was so easy to get lost and so much fun to discover. Yarka rented yet another pair of skis.

We spent Saturday close to Far Hills winding down for the trip home on Sunday. Overall, we discovered the Laurentians, made friends, have contacts and fell in love with Canada and the Canadians. We all promised that this would be the first of many trips to Canada. Look for one on next year's schedule. *Au Revoir*

## Ski Trip to Assiniboine Lodge, British Columbia (continued)

(Continued from page 4)

but the slopes near Wonder Pass offered tantalizing possibilities for downhillers of all skill levels. Most tours were led by Urs, our Swiss guide for the week, a retired engineer residing near Jasper Park with a playful and relaxed outlook on life. Even sideslipping for several hundred feet down slopes covered with non-optimal snow was fun with Urs in the lead!

A tip: beware of the term "skiing" in western Canada. If people talk about "backcountry skiing" or if a backcountry lodge advertises "skiing", they really mean telemarking or randonnee. If they mean kick-and-glide touring, they call it touring.

A little about costs: the main lodge holds 10 people in double rooms, and there are 6 cabins, 4 doubles and 2 for 3-5 folks. Their maximum capacity is 30 guests. We opted to stay at the main lodge. The cost was \$180 Canadian per night (about \$150 USD), and includes the room, all meals and guiding. The helicopter is an extra \$125 each way. We stayed two nights in Canmore, the closest local town, quite charming in its own way, at either end of the Assiniboine stay, and were able to get in an extra day of skiing at each end. Winter is low season in this part of Canada, and accommodations are quite reasonable (less than \$60 (\$50 USD) a night for a double, almost half the summer rate).



Assiniboine is singularly the most interesting place I have ever gone skiing (oops, I mean touring). I was at the lodge in 2001, and then again in 2005. To paraphrase the Governor, I'll be baaaack!

Contact: [www.assiniboinelodge.com](http://www.assiniboinelodge.com)



July 2005

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**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Add me to Annual member directory but do not list my: Home Ph.: \_\_ ; Work Ph: \_\_ ; Email: \_\_;Postal Address: \_\_

If checked, add me to STS LISTServ so I can get infrequent, adhoc announcements of local XC Ski activities: \_\_\_\_

If checked, add me to STS Bulk Email list so I get official club announcements important to all STS members: \_\_\_\_

*NEW:* If checked, send my UPSLOPE only electronically (no paper copy) to save the club copying and postage: \_\_\_\_

STS is an all-volunteer organization. We cannot function without the assistance of our members. If you are interested in volunteering to help STS in any of the following areas, please check the box and you will be contacted:

STS Officer \_\_\_\_ Publicity \_\_\_\_ XC Ski Instructor \_\_\_\_ Web Assistant \_\_\_\_ Ski Trip Leader \_\_\_\_ Special Events Coordinator \_\_\_\_