



# UPSLOPE

## Newsletter of the PATC Ski Touring Section



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

September 2006

- Next UPSLOPE is October...
- Plans for Ski Fair,
- November 4, 2006
- Final Trip Schedule

### A SUPERB SKI ADVENTURE ON CANADIAN GLACIERS

By Doug Lesar

How can anything in this generally-flawed world be perfect? If perfection exists, could anyone recognize it? What is an objective definition of perfection? Four STSers can provide a pragmatic, real-world, and empirical definition of worldly perfection, particular to a season (winter), specific to a nation (Canada), and pertaining to a recreational sport (skiing) .... And that example would be the vicinity of Mistaya Lodge, located high in the Waputik Range of the Rocky Mountains, in British Columbia, adjacent to Banff and Yoho National Parks, in late March and early April of 2006.



Mistaya Lodge is a backcountry ski hut, located on the west side of the Continental Divide near tree line at the head of Wildcat Creek, which flows into the mighty Columbia north of the town of Golden. The lodge is accessible in the winter only by heli-

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### DON'T TURN YOUR BACK ON THE 2006 STS SKI FAIR!

SATURDAY — NOVEMBER 4 12:30-4:30 PM

PATC HQ — 118 Park Street, Vienna, VA

So, you say it's been two years since you've seen any snow in Virginia, eh Bunky? You say the mention of Vienna brings images of Austria, and that's more than you can bear while staring at your skinny skis? You say you need your x-c fix soon, or cabin fever will put you under? Well kiss the dog and rub your spouse's tummy and head over to the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club Ski Touring Section's annual Ski Fair, and we'll put you on the comeback trail. This is the annual kickoff event eagerly awaited by the Nordic ski crowd all over the region. This year, the Ski Fair is on Saturday November 4th and it is held in Vienna (OK, Vienna Virginia).



Trip signups, 2004

In addition to food, fun and a chance to lie about that 3 foot blizzard you say you skied through in downtown DC last winter, the Ski Fair is your entree to the STS trips for the 2006-07 Winter season, including some exotic new excursions and some old favorites. Be

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**From The STS Chair**

In only a few weeks—November 4th, mark it on your calendar—we'll be inaugurating the 2006-2007 cross-country ski season at the annual Ski Touring Section Ski Fair. Plan to be there to meet the membership, trip leaders, and officers. We'll be sharing our experiences on the past season's trips and what's in store for the coming season.

We've put together a season of fun, adventure, and camaraderie with a host of trips near and far. We've found a new, well-appointed chalet to stay in this year in Canaan Valley and we're scheduling trips for it. We're having the learn-to-ski weekend for newcomers and long weekend and holiday trips to Tug Hill, Vermont, and Canada.

In keeping the tradition of "high adventure" trips that Rob Swennes set in his trip to Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, a few years back, Rob is leading a trip to Yellowstone National Park this winter season. Read all about it on [page 4](#) of this UPSLOPE.

I'm always amazed at our membership. When I go on the trips, read the UPSLOPE, and talk to our members, I'm always impressed by how adventurous we are. Where else do you find people who think nothing of going off to Yellowstone in winter, or western Canada for helicopter ski touring. We all share a love of the outdoors that keeps us "young at heart" and it's not unusual that we are active all through the year and late in life. It's what keeps us interesting, vitally alive, and unafraid to take on challenges. The people, the stories, and the sharing are what make our adventures so memorable, and what makes PATC-STS unique.

May Ullr bless us with a snow-filled season of fun, friendship, and adventure on the slopes.

Best wishes for 2006-07

Bert



**From the 2005-2006 Ski Season**

**Link to Membership Listing**

In order to conserve space and paper, the membership listing is available for download in an Adobe Acrobat portable document file at the following link <http://www.patc.net/chapters/ski/Kojo693/jk8959U.pdf> This format allows you to search for names, addresses, phone numbers on your computer, can be magnified to be read more easily, and can be printed out.

**Sign up for the PATC-STS List Serve**

There is an email list server for announcements and discussions of interest to Potomac Appalachian Trail Club—Ski Touring Section members and friends. This unmoderated list can be used to announce activities which may be of interest to members and can be used during the snow season to organize ad-hoc outings. All mail sent to [patc-sts@4gh.net](mailto:patc-sts@4gh.net) will be automatically forwarded to everyone on the list as email. The list has an automated subscription. To subscribe, send a message to [majordomo@4gh.net](mailto:majordomo@4gh.net) with the following in the body of your message:

subscribe patc-sts Your Name [<your\\_email@your.isp>](#)

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

## Canadian Glacier Skiing

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copter from Golden, BC. Named after nearby Mistaya Peak, it was built in 1986-87 by Ron Blaue and Jane Girvan and expanded twice since. The current proprietors are Dave Birnie and Cindy Galligan, who have been lodge hosts for the last three years.

Mistaya's near-treeline location in a huge subalpine basin ringed by many north-facing, powder-holding glaciers makes it a superb site for the backcountry Telemark or Alpine Touring skier who wishes to enjoy those sports without the rigors of high elevation winter camping. "Alpine Touring" bindings are designed to accept boots that are very close to downhill ski boots in design, but the binding's heel attachment can be unlocked for climbing and locked down for descents. Nice gear, but expensive!

The type of skiing done at Mistaya is very different from the experience of most eastern skiers. It doesn't neatly fit into the "cross country" and "downhill" families but has features of both genres. It isn't cross-country in the sense that the needed skis, boots, and bindings are much heavier than those used for groomed track-area Nordic. But it does resemble cross-country in the sense that one can ski there very well with a free-heel Telemark ski / binding setup. It isn't downhill or Alpine skiing, in the sense that there is no resort environment or lifts, but most of what you do all day is ascend serious elevation changes for the sake of the fun downhill run, and repeat that process until exhaustion sets in or a prudent head-for-home time appears on the clock. Some call it "yo-yo" skiing (up, down, up, down ...). The major difference is the absence of mechanical lifts powering the "up" phases; in the backcountry your dear old bod, with all its groans and complaints, does all the work against gravity.

The other STS members fated to savor this paradise-on-earth with me for a week were Mitch Hyman, Jack Kangas, and Diane Weil. This visit was Mitch's and Jack's third, and Diane's second, but my first Mistaya visit. It was also my first totally downhill-oriented ski trip, though this was the seventh time I've been in western Canada for backcountry skiing. For me, it was a challenging trip given that I had, after a few years of dabbling, seriously begun the process of learning Telemark downhill only a few months before. But my experience showed that professional lessons and lots of practice can pay off, and good gear helps.

After arriving in Calgary and spending a few days acclimatizing, it was off to the heliport for our transportation into the mountains. We joined the other eight lodge guests in the luggage and people weighing routine (helicopter loads have to be carefully calibrated) and learned we would be skiing with five Californians, a French couple working in New York City, and one lone Canadian from Ottawa. All but the youngest Californian were Alpine Touring skiers, making the DC foursome the majority of the Telemark contingent. This was the first group trip of my experience in Alberta and BC where the majority of the patrons (apart from my DC friends) were not Canadian.

The helo ride was thrilling as always, and we disembarked from the flying machine at Mistaya's little landing area in the usual cloud of blade-driven spindrift. After settling into our rooms, we set out for a brief afternoon tour on a route that climbed a few hundred feet up a semi-wooded slope called Mohawk Ridge and descended a tree chute. Most of our tour was devoted to thorough avalanche beacon, shovel, and probe usage refreshers, ably taught by young guides Keith and Lilla.

Our meal that evening was a foretaste of the varied and consistently wonderful meals we were treated to throughout the week. The handiwork of excellent cook and Telemark skier Kim Purdy, they always featured tasty fresh salads and soups, high quality restaurant-caliber main courses, and freshly baked cakes/pies. As a backcountry skier, Kim well understands the necessity of balanced caloric intake to keep you going for a Mistaya week!

Monday brought the first of our all-day tours to the powder-covered glaciers ringing the head of Wildcat Creek's basin. Our goal for the day was Ophidian Glacier, flanked on the right by Mistaya's trademark geographic feature (found on the lodge's logo), a distinctive pinnacle named Sceptre Spire. Our prompt 9:30am departure followed the usual routine of (delicious) breakfast, lunch-making, and gear-readying, including cladding skis with climbing skins right on the lodge's porch. Most tours near Mistaya involve relatively little flatland skiing but involve copious amounts of climbing, so any slight sluggishness suffered with skins on at the very beginning was hardly noticed.

The tour to Ophidian followed a pattern fairly typical of each day. After perhaps 15 minutes of almost flat skiing on little rolls, passing by small lakes and streams, the climbing began, first with gradual upward pitches,



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## Yellowstone National Park Ski Touring Excursion

by Rob Swennes

The PATC-Ski Touring Section is planning a ski excursion to beautiful Yellowstone National Park, at the intersection of Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. The dates are February 16 (Friday) through February 24 (Saturday), 2007.



Yellowstone, the Nation's first national park, has developed an excellent cross-country skiing operation that offers extraordinary landscape beauty with a bountiful variety of wildlife and hot springs. Backcountry ski trail networks extend out miles into the park from both the Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel and the Snow Lodge near Old Faithful. Web site information on the available ski trails is available at <http://www.yellowstone-natl->

[park.com/winter.htm](http://www.park.com/winter.htm) and <http://www.nps.gov/yell/planvisit/todo/winter/skiyell.htm> .

Once our STS group is lodged at a hotel, skiers will break into smaller groups based on their interests and ability and decide each day which trails to ski. No one will ski alone! Each skier is advised to travel with and use a compass and available trail maps when on the trails. The groups will rejoin each evening for dinner and compare their day's adventures and sights.

We will be spending four nights at Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel (6000 ft. elevation) in Wyoming, followed by four nights at Old Faithful Snow Lodge (7300 ft. elevation) in Wyoming, the park's newest lodge. Lodging will be in rooms/cabins with two double beds each.

STS Cost will be \$875 person (\$825 for those staying in the Western Cabins near the Snow Lodge). This cost covers 8 nights of lodging, breakfast each morning, round trip shuttle bus between Bozeman, MT airport and Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel, round trip snow coach shuttle between Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel and Snow Lodge, one drop-off vehicle ride at each hotel for day skiing back to the hotel, & National Park Service admission fee to Yellowstone.

An initial deposit of \$500 is required, with reservations on a "first-come, first-served" basis. Reservation is confirmed when the trip leader has in hand the deposit check and completed trip application form and waiver of liability form (downloadable from the STS web site <http://patc.net/chapters/ski/>). The group size for this trip is limited to **24 people** based upon our lodging reservations and assuming two people per room/cabin. The mix of lodging at the Snow Lodge near Old Faithful is due to the fact that skiers for next winter season have already booked out some room categories. It is expected that the STS group will be set before the end of 2006. Other costs will be your personal air fare from/to Bozeman, MT, lunch and dinner meals, any incidental expenses while traveling to or within Yellowstone, and trip insurance (if desired). Participants will probably be making their airline reservations beginning in August or September, 2006.

Experienced STS trip leader [Rob Swennes](#) will be organizing and leading this trip. Reservation material and deposit can be mailed to him at 6101 N. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, Arlington, VA 22205 and he can be contacted at 703-532-6101(H) and 703-696-4432 (W), and email at [robertswennes@hotmail.com](mailto:robertswennes@hotmail.com).

Each STS member will provide his/her own ski equipment and a suitable travel bag for air transport of the equipment. Supplemental ski equipment is available for rent/purchase within Yellowstone. Though some trails are tracked by machine, the vast majority of trails are backcountry.

**[Note: As of press time, this trip is FULL! However, Rob will help other skiers coordinate travel to "shadow" the formal STS group—assuming they can find available lodging.]**



## Canadian Glacier Skiing (continued)

*(Continued from page 3)*

later with occasional switchbacks up glacial moraines, and as the morning wore on the climbing became more and more pronounced. At a certain point you began to feel just slightly winded, and when pausing a moment to take stock of your location, you could look back and see that the elevation gain was becoming truly significant! The views became grander and wider, and we usually entered the alpine zone very quickly given the near-treeline departure point at about 6,700 feet elevation. From the alignment of our tracks below us, one could appreciate the skill of the guides in laying out the most efficient route possible for the particular glacier's terrain.

After something like an hour, at which point perhaps nearly 1,000 upward feet had been gained, the guides called for a rest break, providing opportunity for a good drink, a snack, clothing adjustments, a pause for photos, and visits to the ad hoc Necessary Rooms (No trees to hide behind here!) To the amazement of the guests, energetic lodge canine Ginnie always accompanied us on our tours, sometimes investigating signs and scents off the human trail but more often staying in-track, to minimize her snow navigation energy demand, no doubt. At rest breaks Ginnie would carve out her own little bunker in the snow and lie down for a breather, usually at master Dave's feet.

After the first break, conversation among guests began to lessen as the climbing continued in earnest and concentration to the task at hand took over. The skier cavalcade usually strung out slightly, but for the most part we never broke up into groups of wildly different pace. The guides maintained steady progress and never moved significantly faster than the guest's comfort level. The advantage of three guides was very evident, with one guide always sweeping the rear guard to assure that no one was unaccounted for or having unattended difficulties.

Another hour later brought us to another break, at which point we could truly ponder the magnitude of the descent(s) that would come later. On my part, I was feeling somewhat nervous as skiing powder over such long drops would be a new experience for me, but I forced myself to remember hairy little drops I've survived in tricky conditions (on icy junk, in trees, with flimsier equipment, sometimes all three at once). Still, it's gonna be a long way down, and lots of opportunity to crash ...

As we reached and exceeded 8,000 or so feet, the lower oxygen level began to be felt, but the effects were tolerable; some shortness of breath, but nothing like the labored huffing and puffing one suffers through while at 11,000 feet carrying a hut trip load. Our loads were moderate; avalanche rescue gear, water, lunch, and snacks being the greater part of the weight. Eventually, the "col" or apex of the glacier would be visible, at least we thought, as scale is very deceiving in such wide-open terrain. What looks like a hop, skip and jump can be another hour of climbing!

Our skier party finally gained the col around noon to 12:30, in Ophidian's case at an elevation of 9,000 feet, 2,300 feet above the lodge. Now was the time to wolf down the sandwich I had been craving for at least the last half hour, and drink from that thermos of hot tea or cocoa to assuage the chill wind. Then it was off with the climbing skins, and time to pay attention to the guide's instructions on what "lines" to ski. One guide led, with the admonition to ski to the right or left of his/her tracks. These instructions were intended to minimize exposure to hazards from above (cornices, overhangs) and below (crevasses). We followed them to the letter!

The descents were started by the lead guide, then by the Alpine Touring-equipped majority, who usually skied quite rapidly with very quick and tight parallel turns. The Telemark minority departed next, with much wider turn patterns and speeds that varied considerably (Jack wink of an eye fast, Mitch and Charlie fast to moderate, Diane with control and deliberation, Doug downright slow if not tentative) with the other two guides following up. The guides could descend at rates that matched or exceeded the Alpine Tourers and made the Telemarkers look like beer-drunk slugs in comparison. Ginnie's descent was rather headlong with a high-energy-doggie style all her own.



My first descent impressed upon the guides my need for skis better suited to the deep powder conditions than the ones I had brought. Dave swapped skis with me partway down Ophidian, trading my old-technology Tua Big Easys (hand-me-downs from Mitch) for a pair of G3 "fat" boards named the "Reverends", complete with a portrait of a Halle-lujah! clerically-collared preacher in the graphics. The difference in level of control was absolutely incredible, and I fell in love with those skis on the spot, gladly ponying up the dollars-Canadian for rental thereof for the whole week. No way was I going to let go of those babies! Can't say the transformation was "zero to hero" but it was darned close. Even with

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## Canadian Glacier Skiing (continued)

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the change of gear, I continued to fight a “weak side” turning habit and had trouble negotiating churned up snow (a big disadvantage of skiing LAST) but as the week went on those matters improved, and I learned to track the fresher powder rather than enslaving myself to an existing line. And, could even spoon a predecessor’s tracks or form figure-eights.... Praise be (Amen!) to the “Reverends”!

One would think after three hours of climbing we would want to make just one run and not climb anymore. Well, that may have been true during those first three hours of grunt labor, but once that first descent of several hundred feet was over, WE WANTED TO SKIN UP AND DO IT AGAIN! Powder lust is a very funny thing. It can infect the most unlikely people ... so, the yo-yo session would begin, and not end until 4 pm or so, at which point the legs and lungs couldn’t take it any more, at least for the current day. Telemark skiing is very athletic, and I couldn’t complete many runs without at least one or two short pauses to re-solidify the legs and regain

breath and composure. No one ever regretted, however, indulging in as many runs as possible as the powder snow was generally excellent. The track patterns left by our party were a beautiful sight, and even though we might run down a pitch at least twice, the glacier expanses could absorb several carving sessions by fifteen people and still have fresh snow left over.

The last dash home, skirting the little nameless frozen lake in front of the lodge, was always a bit awkward on our un-patterned skis, as no one bothered with re-fastening skins for the short run home from where the downhill gliding finally ended. But like the proverbial horses smelling the hay in the barn and galloping home, we would overcome the lack of kick grip and reach the lodge porch. Then we would drop packs, scrape and sweep snow off skis and boots, step inside into the drying room, remove boots and fogged goggles or glasses, peel off damp gloves, hats, and outer layers, unplug avalanche beacons, hang skins and other wet stuff to dry, and trudge upstairs to our rooms for a complete clothes change. Many of us postponed the last step and went straight to the dining area for après-ski munchies and a cold beer or ale (or two). On alternate days, the sauna stove would be lit by one of the guides prior to our arrival, so that after a short interval this facility would be ready to admit a small group (women always go first) of sweaty skiers for a session of Finnish-style body cooking and an opportunity to scrub ourselves down to a modicum of cleanliness. The method of combining very hot stove-heated water with cold water to produce warm water for sponge or washcloth-bathing worked quite well, especially with the (very large) bottles of liquid soap and shampoo provided.

After spending early evening in conversation, music (two good guitarists present!), reading, gear-fiddling, washing-up, and recuperation, dinner time approached, and the glass of wine offered before dinner was always welcome as a prelude. Kim, the skiing cook, always provided superb meals and desserts. I came to admire Kim’s time management abilities as she not only succeeded in making all of our hot meals from scratch but also accompanied us on at least part of our daily glacier tours, skiing like the accomplished Telemarker she was. We non-resort skiers lived up to our reputation as party non-animals as the day’s exertions compelled fairly early bedtimes. A vocal saw-whet owl serenaded our final post-sunset processions to the outhouse nearly every night. Both outhouses sported front windows, giving the user a nice view, and one was decorated inside with a magnetic “poetry board”, giving opportunity to occupy your mind while poised on the thoughtfully foam-insulated seat. On the board, one wag had lined up the words “I ski like a whale” (Jack admitted to being the self-critic. Skiing whale he is not).

So far, no note of the weather has been made, and it can be summarized in just one word: “changeable”. If a trend had to be chosen, perhaps “mostly cloudy” would have been appropriate. The only day with brilliant, dazzling sun (and high warmth) was our final full day, and that was probably for the better, as the persistent cloudiness and consistent temperatures in the high 20’s (F) preserved the high quality of the powder during our week.

Our aerial departure Sunday was followed by a lunchtime revisit of the Bad News Bistro in Golden, and a long drive back to Calgary prior to our very early plane trip back to DC the next day. When walking with two ski bags in hand at the Dulles airport parking lot, I stepped off a curb slightly wrong and fell forward directly onto my face ... as I spat out little bits of sand and checked that all the teeth were still in place and eyeglasses were not destroyed, I thought “how ironic after a week of heavy alpine zone skiing in Canadian wilderness with almost no accidents happening”. Guess I was just a bit tired after this trip.

But would I do it again? Absolutely! Maybe even next year!\* Well done, Dave, Keith, Lilla, Kim, Cindy, and Ginnie the mountain dog!

[Editor’s note: I only had room for this much of Doug’s complete report. Catch the rest of his adventures and more great pictures online at [http://www.patc.net/chapters/ski/ardocs/mistaya\\_article\\_for\\_UPSLOPE.pdf](http://www.patc.net/chapters/ski/ardocs/mistaya_article_for_UPSLOPE.pdf)

Doug (H: 301-587-8041) has agreed to make available a hard copy of his full report to those who are e-mail or internet challenged.]

Mistaya Lodge information can be found at their website: <http://www.mistayalodge.com/>

\* As of late August 2006, Doug and Mitch have indeed made reservations for a return trip to Mistaya in early March 2007.



**Ski Fair 2006 (continued)***(Continued from page 1)*

among the first to apply for trips scheduled from December 2006 through March 2007. STS trips are inexpensive (the members are cheap, the trips, inexpensive), fun, friendly and led by members with years of experience (some of whom have wool knickers, wooden skis and answer to names like Ole, Sven and Bert).

Bring your checkbook to sign up for trips and buy or swap for used cross country ski equipment at the Fair. Bring healthy snacks to share (and maybe sneak a little junk food in so long as it looks green or crunchy). STS will provide coffee, tea and sodas. Chat with new and long-time members, swap ski stories and learn about favorite last-minute get-away locations, so that when your neighbor is parked on the Beltway, you'll be in a parallel-tracked state of Zen bliss.

Featured attractions at the Ski Fair include:

- \* Destinations and dates for ski weekends in nearby Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania
- \* Info on excursions to Yellowstone National Park, New York's Tug Hill Region, and others
- \* Meet STS trip leaders and get details on all the trips—sign up so you don't miss out
- \* Learn how to start XC skiing—gear, safety, lessons
- \* Swap gear, tales, and tall stories

WHERE: The Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) headquarters at 118 Park Street, Vienna, VA 22180 [directly in front of the Safeway which itself is on corner of Park & Maple Sts.(VA Rt.123) in Vienna]

Getting to the fair is easy, but depends upon your starting point! Once you find the intersection of Interstate 66 and Interstate 495 (alias the Washington Beltway), take the Nutley Street North (VA Rt. 243) exit just outside the Beltway. Go north just over 1 mile passing two traffic lights. When you get to the third light, turn right onto Route 123 (alias Maple Avenue). Continue in the right-hand lane for about ¾ mile or count traffic lights. When you reach the fourth light, turn right onto Park Street. The PATC headquarters is the second building on the left, a red brick two-story structure with parking in front. There is ample parking in the area. It is convenient to shop at the nearby SAFEWAY or Whole Foods, then visit the Fair. Trip leaders have already staked out the following events:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| * November 4                           | <b>Ski Fair, PATC HQ</b>   |
| * November 11-12<br>* or 18-19         | <b>Whitegrass Work Party</b> Lynn Yates                                  |
| * December 28-January 1                | <b>Tug Hill</b> Steve Brickel and Peggy Alpert                           |
| * January 5-7                          | <b>No trip scheduled</b> Want to lead one?                               |
| * January 13-15 (MLK Jr. Weekend)      | <b>Laurel Highlands</b> Bert Finkelstein                                 |
| *                                      | <b>Tug Hill</b> Rob Swennes (Jan. 11-15)                                 |
| * January 19-21                        | <b>Laurel Highlands</b> Elliot and Kathy Brumberger                      |
| *                                      | <b>Learn to Ski</b> at Camp Sequanota Julie Nash and Larry Doff          |
| * January 26-28                        | <b>Laurel Highlands</b> Leader to be determined (want to lead?)          |
| *                                      | <b>Canaan Valley Cabin Trip</b> Doug Lesar (Jan 25-28)                   |
| * February 1-3                         | <b>Canaan Valley</b> Kathy Brumberger (Thursday-Saturday)                |
| * February 2-4                         | <b>Canaan / Blackwater Falls</b> Leader to be determined (want to lead?) |
| * February 9-11                        | <b>Canaan/ Blackwater</b> Bert Finklestein                               |
| * February 16-19 (President's Weekend) | <b>Ski-Dance Laurel Highlands</b> Elliot Appelstein                      |
| * February 16-24                       | <b>Yellowstone National Park</b> Rob Swennes <b>WAIT LISTED!!</b>        |

Both Tug Hill holiday weekend trips will be four-night events, costing \$260 per person (four nights lodging plus one delicious evening's meal in, complete with wine, beer and various cheeses before the meal). A backup plan in case the snow conditions on the Tug Hill Plateau are not good in mid-January will involve rented minivans and a shift to the White Mountains of New Hampshire or the lovely Laurentian region of Quebec north of Montreal, and an extra day. No one signed up for his Tug Hill trip would be obliged to shift to another location. Note: Passports will be required at the Canadian border for those traveling by air or sea on January 8, 2007. (see [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cbpmc/cbpmc\\_2223.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cbpmc/cbpmc_2223.html))

You will have to come to the Ski Fair to learn about several other trips that are still in the formative stages: Eastern Canada, Vermont and Western US. Plus, we're going to have a new, and we think enjoyable, housing option for our Canaan Valley and Blackwater trips. So, there you have it, Bunky. No Ferris Wheel or cotton candy. It's not that kind of a fair. But, it will get you over that cabin fever, get those ski juices flowing, and get you signed up for the real thing which is, according to Larsen's Almanac, just a few months away.

Al Larsen

Trip Coordinator



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 \_\_\_\_