

UPSLOPE



Newsletter of the NORDIC Ski Touring Section of PATC

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

January 2007

UpComing Attractions In Winter **UPSLOPE**

- Complete Winter trip listing
- More trip reports
- Snow forecast
- More destinations...near and far

Tug Hillers Redirected to Snowy New Hampshire By Rob Swennes

Five intrepid STSers succeeded where all others failed over the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday weekend finding excellent skiable snow to enjoy. What originally began as the Section's annual mid-January trek up to the Tug Hill plateau north of Syracuse, New York, morphed into a much different trip to New Hampshire due to the vagaries of the weather in the first half of the winter.



The Balsams, Dixville Notch, NH photo by Rob Swennes

By early January, seventeen Section

members had signed up for the MLK, Jr. weekend trip to New York—an always popular excursion in no small part due to the excellent accommodations provided by The 1880 House B&B in Pulaski, New York. But the owner of the lodging has always had a very rational policy regarding our lodging reservation: if there is no skiable snow, we are not obliged to come. For the second time since 2000 we have had to avail ourselves of that "out" and cancel the trip to New York due to the lack of snow. The decision was made a week before the trip start date since the forecast weather did not hold out much prospect for skiable snow.

As the trip organizer, I had already advised those signing up for the trip that we would likely try to shift the trip (for those still interested) to New Hampshire or even to the Laurentian (Continued on page 5)

Inside this issue: (blue links are live) Your STS Officer **Contacts** 2 From the STS Chair Trip Descriptions

Trip listing and contacts Balsam's NH (continued) 5-6

Laurel Ridge (continued)

Area Snow at Laurel Ridge

One lucky group of local area skiers were rewarded for persistence on a January 19-21 trip to the Laurel Ridge area. Kathy and Elliot Brumberger and 14 other STSers were fully prepared to "hike it" up to the Thursday before our trip left, but Ullr relented with a Friday morning snowstorm in the Somerset area that left 3-4" of the cold white on the ground by Saturday morning. Cold weather persisted as well, leaving enough tracked snow to ski on Sunday.

Friday night, those that had arrived by 7 PM enjoyed a lively group dinner at Hoss's Steak and Sea House, nearby (no horses were eaten in the production of this dinner—we think).



STSers at Laurel Ridge photo by Terry McAndrews

(Continued on page 7)

UP\$LOPE JANUARY 2007

STS Officers

Chair

Bert Finkelstein H: 703/715-8534 bertanamo@amail.com

Vice-Chair

Steve Bergstrom H: 301/564-9696 skifisc1@yahoo.com

Secretary

Izabella Zandberg H: izandberg@aol.com

Treasurer

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

Trip Coordinator

Al Larsen H: 703-807-1639 alarsen120@aol.com

Webmaster

Steve Brickel
H: 301-946-2520
sbrickel3003@verizon.net

Membership Coordinator

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

UPSLOPE Editor

Ralph Heimlich H: 301-498-0918 heimlichfamily@comcast.net

UPSLOPE

Mailing Coordinator

Dave Holton H: 202-364-7055

From the STS Chair

Last weekend was perfect to finally open the ski season. All the pent-up demand from the cancelled ski trips along with the cold snap that ruined all the "beautiful" (don't you hate to hear about how the spring-like weather during ski season is described as "beautiful") weather and made for the "really beautiful" ski weather.

If you doubt me, a quick check on the Laurel Ridge skicam (
http://www.paccsa.org/webcam.htm) courtesy of PACCSA shows 14 degreeweather and ABOUT 1 FOOT OF SNOW WITH GROOMED TRAILS! Whitegrass (www.whitegrass.com) has 6"-16" base and 15" at the 4,000 foot stake.

How about a challenge? Let's see how many STSers we can get onto the Trails now that the season is underway. How quickly can we mobilize our troops to conquer the enticing

trails awaiting us? To experience the magic of skiing under the snow-covered evergreens and feel the sting of icy air in our lungs?

If you're interested in organizing a spontaneous trip, post an email to the STS listsery (patc-sts@4qh.net) under your name. Make sure you post the following:

- * Where are you going? (Whitegrass? Laurel Highlands? Elsewhere?)
- * When are you leaving? When do you plan to return?
- Where are you staying? Don't forget to get your room reservations ASAP. They'll fill up fast
- * Carpool request. (Where do you plan to leave from?)

When you respond, Make sure you send your response to the organizer/coordinator and not to the entire listsery! Make an offer as to when you're available, where you're located, and whether you're willing to drive. The organizer will contact the responders and set up the trip.

I can't wait to see you all on the trails. (I'll be at Whitegrass)

Wheee!!! Bert



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 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 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.

Tropical Weather Ends, Snow Arriving Daily

Check http://www.patc.net/chapters/ski/Trip%20Descriptions.htm for updates

As most club members are aware, the officers spend late summer and early fall putting together an outing schedule for "snow season". We now use that term sparingly, and usually in a humorous way. We do the planning based on feedback from all of you about your impressions from previous years about what was fun and exciting, where snow seemed especially good or reliable, etc., etc. Of course, it's all one big crap shoot, because the jet stream moves on us, El Nino comes and goes, Bert forgets to do his snow dance, and come the scheduled date, it's 70 degrees. As of this writing, we've lucked out with a last minute cold blast out of Canada and a pretty good dumping of snow in Western MD, PA and WV. So, despite some very nervous days for your intrepid Trip Coordinator, many of the trips ended up as a "go". But, given the vagaries of it all, it's certainly possible that some of our fixed-in-stone (or at least fixed in Upslope typeset) trips might arrive on a no-snow weekend. We can't control that, but we can minimize disappointment by supplementing our regularly scheduled programming with flexible, spur of the moment outings that all of us can throw up on the STS listserve. If it snows on a Wednesday, someone can put together a day outing to New Germany for Saturday. Enough words. Let's go ski!

Al Larsen Trip Coordinator

Laurel Highlands, PA—Multiple dates, see page 4. We stay at Somerset, PA in the heart of the Laurel Highlands. While we're there, we have a choice of many ski areas: Laurel Mountain, Laurel Ridge, Kooser State Park, Hidden Valley (XC and downhill), Roaring Run and others. Plenty of skiing for all levels including skate skiing. Guaranteed fun. Ski on the trails we improved in October and discover new ski trails. Check out the Laurel Ridge skicam to see how much snow they have there when we don't have any here. Contact trip leader for specific details.

Canaan Valley/Blackwater Falls, WV—Multiple dates, see page 4. Stay at the rim of the Blackwater Gorge at the Blackwater Falls State Park Lodge, complete with restaurant, fitness center, indoor pool and hot tub. Each room has two double beds. Ski out the door on over 20 miles of trails nestled among towering pines, brom beginner to advanced. Enjoy hot chocolate on the trail or at the warming hut on Sled Hill, complete with its tow rope to add to your telemarking fun. Or, try other trails from the lodge or cabins at nearby Canaan Valley State Park, Whitegrass Ski Touring Center and Dolly Sods. Evening folk music and entertainment options also just a few miles away with breakfasts at the lodge. Contact trip leader for specific trip details.

Yellowstone National Park, Montana—Feb 16-24, 2007: Contact 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. 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. As of press time, this trip is FULL! NOTE: Rob knows of skiers who intend to "shadow" the formal STS group but who are still searching for people to share their motel rooms in Yellowstone. If interested, contact him right away!

Stowe, Vermont—Feb 15-20, 2007, extended President's Day: Contact: Steve Brickel or Peggy Alpert—A world famous historic village, nestled beside Vermont's highest peak, majestic Mt. Mansfield. Legendary Fall foliage. Spectacular skiing. Beautiful mountains. Incomparable accommodations, recreation, dining, shopping, spa. Stowe's allure is timeless, your Vermont vacation will be unforgetable. With 4 ski touring areas, and down-hill for those who are so inclined, or Telemark and Radonee' for those who can, Stowe offers world-class skiing in our own back yard. Accommodations: Motel with kitchens, private baths, etc. located on main road with access to ski trails. Approximate lodging cost - \$240 (depending on number of participants) Flight info: Fly out of DC on the evening of 2/15; return evening of 2/20. Approx. cost \$325 Ground transporation will be rentals, approximate cost \$100.

New Germany, MD—Feb 16-19, 2007, President's Weekend: Contact Jack Wise—New Germany State Forest is east of Deep Creek Lake and north of Canaan Valley in western Maryland. We ski on the Park trails and stay at historic Casselman Inn, eating hearty country fare from the Mennonite kitchen.

Ski-Dance Weekend—Feb 16-19, 2007: Contact Elliot Applestein—Camp Harmony, Laurel Highlands, PA, has cross country skiing (downhill skiing available nearby), sledding, dancing (contra and square dancing; workshops, too), and music making. Have lots of fun outdoors and indoors in a beautiful rustic setting. Dance to live music in the evening by Dave Weisler and the Avant Gardeners. Dances called by Robin Schaffner & Bob Mathis. Bring your talents and instruments to share. Lodging is dormitory-style at Camp Harmony; that is, group rooms in heated cabins. Check out the website, http://www.skidance.com, for more information and a registration form. The weekend will NOT be cancelled for lack of snow.

Garnet Hill Lodge, NY—Feb 23-26, 2007: Contact Al Larsen—Garnet Hill Lodge is a true Adirondack mountain resort on 13th Lake. Enjoy miles of scenic groomed trails. Take a ski lesson. Watch your kids ski. Enjoy a backcountry ski journey. At day's end find the warmth of friends and good cheer by your Log House fireplace. Check the website http://www.garnet-hill.com/ for more info.

Bryce Canyon, UT—*March 6-11, 2007: Contact Rob Swennes*—Bryce Canyon, UT-March 6-1, 2007: Contact Rob Swennes. Both Bryce Canyon and the Cedar Breaks National Monument offer superb late-season skiing high in the Colorado Plateau (8,000 - 10,000 ft.). This is the second year in a row the Section has offered this trip. We'll fly to Las Vegas and spend four days skiing, snowshoeing

(Continued on page 4)

U P \$ L O P E JANUARY 2007

Preview of \$T\$ \$ki Trips —Winter 2006-07

STS officers and volunteers developed the following roster of trips. NOTE: Please note that this trip schedule is tentative and subject to change. Also, cancellation policies may result in trips being closed out earlier than expected; please reserve space early.

			Start	Return			
Trip	Location	State	Date	Date	Nights	Notes	Leader
8	Blackwater Falls	WV	26-Jan	28-Jan	2	snow or no snow	Doff
9	Canaan Valley Cabin	WV	25-Jan	28-Jan	3	TRIP IS FULL	Lesar
10	Canaan Valley	WV	1-Feb	4-Feb	3	WAIT LIST	Brumberger
11	Canaan/Blackwater Falls	WV	2-Feb	4-Feb	2	SPACE FOR 1	Ausema
12	Blackwater Falls	WV	9-Feb	11-Feb	2	snow or no snow	Doff
13	Stowe	VT	15-Feb	20-Feb	5	President's Day	Brickel and Alpert
14	Ski Dance	PA	16-Feb	19-Feb	3	President's Day	Applestein
15	New Germany Casselman's Inn	MD	16-Feb	19-Feb	3	President's Day	Wise
16	Garnet Hill Lodge	NY	23-Feb	26-Feb	3	Adirondacks	Larsen
18	Yellowstone NP	MT	16-Feb	24-Feb	8	TRIP IS FULL	Swennes
17	Bryce/Cedar Breaks	UT	6-Mar	11-Mar	5	Utah	Swennes
18	Elk River	WV	TBD				

Contact information for Ski Trip	Leaders:	
Name	Home Phone	email
Stephen Brickel and Peggy Alpert	301 946-4497	sbrickel3003@verizon.net
Rob Swennes	703 532-6101	robertswennes@hotmail.com
Bert Finkelstein	703 715-8534	bertanamo@gmail.com
Julie Nash	703 471-0854	triadsnash@aol.com
Kathy and Elliot Brumberger	301 774-7412	KathyBrum@comcast.net ElliotBrum@comcast.net
Larry Doff	703 615-3195	ldoff@juno.com
Doug Lesar	301 587-8041	dlesar@comcast.net
John Ausema	301 345-2794	jausema@gmail.com
Eliot Applestein	301 984-6855	eliotapplestein@verizon.net
Jack Wise	410 256-3963	
Lynn Yates	410 296-2988	Towson.Lynn@gmail.com

Check online at http://www.patc.net/chapters/ski/Trip%20Descriptions.htm for updates

(Continued from page 3)

and hiking in southern Utah. Cost is \$300, plus air fare and food. Cost covers 5 nights of lodging and rental vehicles—an average of only \$60/day! GUARANTEED SNOW! Doubtful?--contact Rob to find out why. And ask him to send you photos from last year's trip.

Elk River, WV—TBD—The Elk River Touring Center is located five miles from Snowshoe Mountain Resort at elevation 2750', high enough to receive an annual snowfall of about 180 inches per year. Cross-country skiing trails which criss-cross the Highland Scenic Highway, which peaks at an elevation of around 4700'. The downhill skiing at nearby Snowshoe Mountain peaks at 4,848' making both two of the highest (and snowiest!) points in West Virginia.

U P \$ L O P E JANUARY 2007

To the Balsams (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

countryside north of Montreal, if necessary. By early January, it was not clear that either of the proposed backup locations would give us skiable snow either—with one exception.

Twice in years past when we have had groups arranged to go to the White Mountains area in upper New Hampshire, we have found poor skiing conditions when we arrived. But in both cases on the final day of our visit we took a chance and drove 90 minutes further north to the old, grand hotel, The Balsams, up at Dixville Notch close to the Canadian border. And both gambles paid off: we had great skiing.

So this time, I factored in The Balsams and its miles of cross-country trails early on. Daily monitoring of the weather forecasts for the traditional ski touring venues in New Hampshire showed only The Balsams as having weather likely to produce good trail conditions.

I contacted the skiers originally signed up for Tug Hill and solicited their interest in shifting their skiing holiday weekend to New Hampshire. Four people besides me ultimately said "Yes". Due to the late date for arranging the trip, it was clear that the only reasonable way to get up there was to drive. Last minute plane tickets would have been prohibitively expensive. As it turns out, five people were the ideal number for renting a minivan—which has become the favored mode of transport for most skiers up to New York and New England.

At least on paper, the most daunting aspect of the backup trip was the drive. It amounted to about 14 hours of travel each way—almost 2,000 miles by the time we rolled back into town. But, in point of fact, the drive up and back was pleasant. We had good company and great conversations that made the miles melt away. We had two drivers who could alternate driving and thus reduce both risk and delays. And we could (and did) stop for meal or restroom breaks whenever we wished. We had none of the delays and security screening and frustration of flying from the DC area up to Manchester, NH. Flying—if all had gone well—would probably have gotten us to our rented townhouse about 5 hours earlier, but not soon enough to do any meaningful skiing. And driving the whole way saved us the expense of airline tickets plus still having to rent a van once we reached Manchester. We chose a route that kept us away from New York City and thus saw a great deal of beautiful countryside on the drive.

The members of this intrepid band: Rob Swennes (leader), Bozena Sarnecka-Crouch, Barbara Mandula (who had flown in from Seattle, WA for this trip and to visit friends), Joe Bachman, and Marie-Louise (Malo) Bernal (a new STS member recruited by Bozena).

We rented a townhouse in Intervale, NH, which is very close to the Jackson ski touring center (STC) and only about a half-hour drive from the ski touring center at Bretton Woods. Having invested already a full day in traveling up to New England, would the weather report for The Balsams prove to be accurate? We left our townhouse on Friday morning with the temperature just above freezing. The temperature rose and fell during the lengthy drive north to Dixville Notch. But when we climbed into the notch, the temperature dropped significantly into the upper 20s. And we found snow—skiable snow in a wilderness area graced by one of the great grand hotels from the 1920s.

The Balsams has its main ski trails on a plateau-like area another several hundred feet above the hotel itself. There are two routes up to this area—one more arduous than the other—but once there, there

are numerous well-signed ski trails classed from easy to challenging.

We skied on the hotel's trails till 5 p.m. (though they "officially" close at 4) and then adjourned to the hotel's main tavern for some après-ski happy-hour refreshments. We were thus in a good mood for the 1.5-hour drive back to the Jackson area and a late supper in our townhouse.

We woke on Saturday morning to find the little snow cover in the Jackson area fast melting and a temperature of 43 degrees F. Ouch! Had our luck run out after only one day of great skiing? With a sense of dread, we piled into our van for the drive north, fairly certain that the day would be a bust. By the time we arrived at the hotel, the local temperature awaiting us was 23 degrees—a drop of a full 20 degrees! We couldn't believe our good fortune. Apparently a cool front was beginning to come in, but it was the higher elevation of The Balsams (over 2,000 feet) that seems to be the principal reason for its consistent low temperatures and good snow.



Apres ski at the Balsam's Tavern photo by Rob Swennes

(Continued on page 6)

UP\$LOPE JANUARY 2007

To the Balsams (continued)

(Continued from page 5)

On our second day of skiing, we met up with Keith Chanon—a former (and future) STS member now living in Montreal. He had come down to join us for some skiing once he received confirmation from us on Friday evening that the conditions were good. Apparently The Balsams was still a superior skiing venue to many of the normal ski locales in lower Quebec.

While most of the other skiers on Friday had been skate skiers, on Saturday and again on Sunday the classic track skiers seemed to predominate, so we did not feel out of place. We all enjoyed skiing several new trails on Saturday and again visited the hotel's tavern for an après-ski libation. One of the unique features of The Balsams hotel that we visited on this trip was a room on the second floor called "The Ballot Room". Here for the last several decades the residents of Dixville, NH have cast the first ballots in the presidential primary races in late winter and in the following general presidential election in November. The precinct results are tabulated and distributed to



Keith Chanon on The Balsam's trails photo by Rob Swennes

the press shortly after midnight on each election day. As a result, many presidential aspirants have made the trek to Dixville Notch, NH, to speak in person to this small community of voters and seek their support. The Ballot Room in the hotel is where most of these meetings (and the later voting) take place. The room is lined with photographs of presidential aspirants and the local citizenry stretching back into the 1950s.

Keith drove back with us to our townhouse and enjoyed Saturday night pizza with us from a locally famous pizzeria. Sunday morning we again made the pilgrimage up to Dixville Notch and found that two inches of new snow had fallen during the night. Sweet! Some of the lower trails which had been somewhat icy the day before were now much easier to manage and a lot of fun. And the higher plateau trails were better than ever. Keith had to drive back to Montreal by mid afternoon, and the rest of the group ended our final day of skiing a bit early so that we could do most of our packing and cleaning up that evening in anticipation of the long drive back on the Monday holiday.

We celebrated the success of our journey north by a fine dinner out in North Conway at The Spicy Lime—a Thai restaurant with food comparable to that of the best Thai restaurants in the Washington, DC area. We had likewise dined at this restaurant at the end of a ski trip several winters before. The weatherman predicted a winter storm with appreciable snow to begin Monday morning, and it had begun snowing before we drove away from the condo about 8 a.m. Though steady snow slowed the first couple of hours of our trip back, the snow in time shifted to sleet and later to rain as we progressed further south. The mid 20s temperature of the morning became the mid 60s as we arrived back in Baltimore (where Joe lives) and in DC on Monday evening. It felt like arriving back in the tropics after the several days of fine skiing with temperatures in the teens and twenties.



Balsam's Trails photo by Rob Swennes

The adversity that our scheduled ski trips have experienced the first half of this winter has its silver lining: it is allowing the Section to focus more clearly on those venues where skiers are more likely to find good skiable snow when conditions overall may not be that favorable. The Tug Hill plateau in New York is a great skiing location, but if the weather is warm there, it fairly uniformly impacts the whole plateau since there is little elevation change. There can be a meaningful difference in ski conditions between the Jackson STC and the Bretton Woods STC. But the real difference is between those two centers and The Balsams.

I am willing to lead another STS trip to the Tug Hill plateau in mid-January 2008, and the owner of The 1890 House has already penciled us in for the holiday weekend. But based on this year's events, I am even more willing to encourage people to plan for a fall-back trip to the White Mountains (and probably to The Balsams in the Great Northern Woods section of New Hampshire) if skiable con-

ditions in New York do not develop in time. The total trip cost is fairly comparable to both locations once the van transportation cost (about \$90/person) is factored in.

But most importantly, it gives the participants the maximum chance for a fine winter skiing vacation—which is why we joined the Ski Touring Section in the first place!

U P \$ L O P E JANUARY 2007

Laurel Ridge \$kiing

(Continued from page 1)

Next morning, one contingent drove from our convenient lodgings at the Super 8 in Somerset to Laurel Ridge. These included Kathy and Elliot, Fred Lindahl, Terry McAndrews, Catherine Kelleher, Eli Meltzer, Dave Jordahl, Diane and David Payne, Janis and Ron Tucker, and Tim Williamson. A second group, fearing the "bones" likely to be sticking up through rougher trails, opted for the Allegheny Passage rail trail near Rockwood. They included Liz Glynn, Merle Van Horne, and Beth and Ralph Heimlich.

One favorite ritual is determining the day's skiing plans based on final input of weather conditions, personal preferences, vehicle availability and local knowledge. In the battle of the packrats, Eli Meltzer brought along the most extensive map collection of the area. With the contributions of other trip members, discussions were held and potential options formulated. It was a pleasure to have a group of sixteen converge on a consensus plan in relatively short order.



Beth Heimlich and Merle Van Horn on the Allegheny Passage



The group at Lamonica's Restaurant photo by Ralph Heimlich

Saturday night, the group ventured further afield to a traditional locale: Lamonica's Restaurant in Boswell (nearly to Jennerstown). No snow Saturday night, but it stayed cold, so we had snow on Sunday. Several returned to Laurel Ridge, while other contingents split off to explore some less-visited options. Eli, Dave Jordahl, Merle, and Catherine investigated Kooser State Park, adjoining the Hidden Valley Ski Resort (which also has a Nordic center). It's a beautiful park and the group found enough snow to ski on. One short stretch could best be described as "heavily weeded", but earlier skiers had packed the snow nicely and it was passable. Other areas under the big hemlocks and spruce had guite an acceptable quantity of snow. One of the more amusing aspects of the day was encountering the tubing area of Hidden Valley. At the urging of a passing local skier, the STSers dodged the tow rope and continued across to check out more of the trail.

It began to snow again about noon on Sunday. Some remained to ski at Laurel Ridge (Eli was staying over an additional night in Somerset), but most of us broke off to begin the long drive

home. Beth and I did a little investigating at the Pine Grill, near the motel, which had been recommended as an alternative to Lamonica's by the staff. We found the food good, and the local after-church crowd definitely like the place.

Another group assessed the Quality Inn facilities conveniently located next to the Super 8 in Somerset. The bar provided a pleasant area for a *post mortem* of the day's skiing, and the breakfast buffet was pronounced more than adequate for a full day on the trail. The pool and hot tub are pluses, too. For anyone considering a trip to the Laurel Highlands, the Super 8 or Quality Inn and other various motels in Somerset, right off the Pennsylvania Turnpike, make a ready base for heading out to the surrounding ski areas. For those who enjoy the benefits of learning about an area from a group, Kathy and Eliot are planning another foray to Somerset next year to continue exploring skiing opportunities in the Laurel Ridge-Laurel Mountain vicinity.

Regardless, we all look fondly at our "near miss" weekend of skiing in nearby Pennsylvania.



Catherine, Dave J., and Merle at Kooser State Park photo by Eli Meltzer

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

November 2006



To:	
· · ·	

PATC \$ki 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): NEW Membership: Request is for: Address:___ _____ Today's Date: _____ - New Address: _____ _____ 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 vol

o lo all all voluntool organization. We	carried fariotion without the accidiance of ca	i membere: ii yea are interected
lunteering to help STS in any of the foll	owing areas, please check the box and you w	vill be contacted:
STS Officer	Publicity	XC Ski Instructor
Web Content Assistant	Ski Trip Leader	Special Events Coordinator