



UPSLOPE



Newletter of the NORDIC Ski Touring Section of PATC

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March 2007

UpComing Attractions In Spring UPSLOPE

- Plans for Après Ski Party
- More trip reports
- More destinations...near and far

Inside this issue:

(blue links are live)

Your STS Officer Contacts	2
From the STS Chair	2
Ski Dance Are We There Yet????	3
White Grass Pickup Trip	4
Yellowstone (continued)	5-6
Garnet Hill (continued)	7

First STS Yellowstone Trip

By Ralph Heimlich



Margy, Jan, Ron and Jack on the Glenn Creek Trail photo by Ralph Heimlich

PATC-STS broke new ground this President's Day weekend with an expedition to the world's first national park, Yellowstone, in the northwest corner of Wyoming. Twenty-four intrepid STSers under the able leadership of veteran trip leader Rob Swennes spent a glorious week in the Rocky Mountains with great skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, and time to view the wildlife and geologic features up close.

Our trip began as the group coalesced at Bozeman's Gallatin Field airport. Because of stormy weather mid-week before our departure, flights were still unsettled, so we trickled in, hopefully eyeing the baggage returns for skis, packs, and suitcases. Eventually we all arrived and helped our Karst Stage driver load up, and then were off. A few travelers had arrived one or two days early, so our first stop was a local motel to pick

them up, then east on I-90 over the Bozeman Pass to Livingston, then south on MT-89 alongside the Yellowstone River to Gardner, the northern gateway to Yellowstone National Park, and the [Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel](#).

We enjoyed three nights at the old hotel, built in the 1930s near historic Fort Yellowstone, a post used by the U.S. Cavalry to patrol the park after its creation in 1872. Mammoth's attraction is two-fold: the hot springs and thermal features of the Upper Terrace, and the many wonderful cross-country ski trails accessible from the Terrace. On our first day, a glorious sunny big-blue sky morning, a free shuttle took us up to the Terrace, and a short (1.5 mile) loop allowed us to see most of the major ther-

(Continued on page 5)

Garnet Hill is a Gem

By Al Larsen



Outside the main lodge, from left, Marion, Caroline, Catherine, Anne, Jeffrey, Mona photo by Al Larsen

On February 23-26, ten STSers made the club's inaugural trip to Garnet Hill Lodge in the heart of the Adirondacks. To a person, we agreed it should not be the last. Most wanted to 1) place it on next year's outing list immediately, and 2) sign up now to ensure a place on the trip. Yes, it was that good.

Everyone left the DC area after work on Thursday evening and drove part way that night. Some went in a group van we rented and some drove separately. We all checked in by 1 PM on Friday, changed clothing and headed out on the trails for a full, sunny, crisp afternoon of skiing—right on the Lodge's grounds with its 55 km of trails.

GH is a destination resort northwest of Lake George,

(Continued on page 7)

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Think Après Ski: I went out to Canaan Valley this past weekend and there was plenty of snow for skiing. It seems as though the season has moved about a month later than it normally has been in the past. Next year, perhaps we can extend the STS season into March for local trips, but we'd have to find places that can cancel at the last minute. Perhaps there are venues that will offer us discounts for late-season skiing. We may not need to curtail the inexpensive local trips, but we can schedule more of the excursion trips. A trip to Canada would be possible next year—and it's relatively inexpensive. This discussion is just a teaser for the **Après Ski Party**.

The club officers would like to have an open, wide-ranging discussion about the nature of next season's outings. Given recent uncertain snow conditions, do we continue to concentrate primarily on mid-Atlantic trips, with a few more exotic domestic and international trips thrown in? Do we head into the season with a lot more trips that are farther afield on the schedule? Do we try to have a more formal impromptu system (is that oxymoronic)? If we change the nature of the line-up (e.g. more of the exotic trips), do we make it too expensive and therefore more exclusive than we want to? The only way we will have a really good discussion is if people come fully armed with their opinions!

The trip to Stowe was on target this year. I can't wait to see the slides from Yellowstone. **Après Ski** is a lot of fun, especially the trip reunions. It's much more fun to show slides when most of the trip participants are there to share their experiences with the rest of the club. Keep tuned in to developments on this STS traditional party venue.

As the 2006-07 ski season winds down, it is appropriate to recognize some outstanding volunteer efforts. PATC-STS is an all volunteer organization—if nobody volunteers to step up and do the things shy people need to do, nothing happens!

And, Thanks: I'd like to especially recognize and thank **Dave Holton**, long-time member and volunteer who has served as UPSLOPE mail distribution coordinator since 1998 And has been active as publicity chair and in countless other ways. Dave is stepping down from this responsibility. As always happens in STS, as Dave is stepping down, **Randy Kerr** stepped up to volunteer. His name and contact information replaces Dave's in the lower left hand corner of this page as our new Mailing Coordinator.

I would also like to thank all the trip leaders who volunteered to lead trips yet again this year:



Stephen Brickel and Peggy Alpert, Rob Swennes, Julie Nash, Kathy and Elliot Brumberger, Larry Doff, Doug Lesar, John Ausema, Eliot Applestein, Jack Wise, and Lynn Yates. Thanks also to Al Larsen, who coordinated the schedule and led trips himself.

The officers who work for the club every day also deserve your recognition: Steve Bergstrom, Izabella Zandberg, Rob Swennes, Steve Brickel, Doug Lesar, and Ralph Heimlich. You may only think about STS when the snow is on the ground, but these folks are thinking about and working for STS from early Summer through late Spring every year.

Bert

Sign up for the PATC-ST\$ 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.

23rd Annual Ski Dance Rightly Considered



Best skiing for Ski Dance ever photo by Eliot Applestein

By Eliot Applestein

"An adventure is an inconvenience rightly considered," says G.K. Chesterton. And so I thought at 6 AM Sunday morning, the second day of Ski-Dance Weekend. Charlie, the camp's jack-of-all-trades had just informed me that the water pipes to the pump house had frozen. "The kitchen's melting snow for cooking breakfast."

For those of you uninitiated, Ski-Dance Weekend is a most unique ski trip co-sponsored by STS and the Sierra Club. This year 68 people participated. Held at Camp Harmony in the Laurel Highlands of Pennsylvania, Ski-Dance is in its 23rd year. Camp Harmony is situated in the heart of the Laurel Highlands overlooking the Quemahoning Dam in Somerset County and is surrounded by magnificent hardwood forests and pine trees. We cross-country ski during the day and then toss off our skis for more comfortable footwear for evening contra dancing (line dancing) accompanied by live musicians. Our musicians are highly professional and well known in the folk/dance communities. They are Dave Wiesler on keyboard, guitar, mandolin; Laura Light on fiddle and her husband George Paul on keyboard and accordion. Our callers for dances were Susan Hankin and Bob Mathis. Bob is the creator of Ski-Dance.

The event began with a pot-luck dinner on Friday night of President's Day Weekend. Then we had an energetic dance that lasted until 10 p.m. The next morning we checked out conditions for cross-country skiing. While the camp had a base of about 10 inches of snow, they had experienced some icing during the week before our arrival. I was a bit apprehensive that conditions would not be satisfactory for skiing since there was some crust. While conditions were not great, we were able to ski and some of us skied down the one and a half logging road to the Quemahoning Dam. This run is entirely downhill and straight. Of course you get your aerobic workout on the return trip.

Because conditions were OK but not fantastic, some of our group drove out to Laurel Ridge State Park which is about 20 miles away. The groomed trails were in good condition. As one who hates to get into my car once I've arrived at a ski trip, I stayed at the camp.

One Saturday evening, it began to snow lightly. By morning, there was about 2 inches of new snow on the ground. Then the Alberta Clipper hit and for the rest of the day and into the evening, it snowed continuously. About eight inches of fantastic powder fell and skiing went from OK to the best we've ever had! We skied for hours with snow falling around us. A few hearty people drove the short distance to Laurel Mountain State Park. This 493 acre park is not groomed but the consensus from those who went was that the skiing was the best they had ever experienced at the park.

While we were bushed from all of our skiing, we still found the energy to dance Sunday night. By then, poor Charlie, who had worked all day trying to solve the frozen water problem, had finally succeeded and the hot showers were greatly appreciated!

Be sure to join us next February for the 24th Ski-Dance Weekend. Registration information will be posted at www.skidance.com around September 2007.



The dancing is always superb!! photo by Eliot Applestein

Are We There Yet?????



By Peggy Alpert

Our trip to Stowe, Vermont was most excellent, except for a very hesitant start. Dateline: February 15, 2007, departure day. At 4PM I received a call from Dave Collins. He and Kathy were to drive to Stowe. They were in Harrisburg at the time, in a motel—not to go anywhere—they were snow-stuck! They did not get to Vermont.

Our flight was scheduled to leave from National at 8:59PM, arriving in Burlington at 10:30. At 6:30-ish, we received a recording stating that our flight was delayed for take-off to 10:30. We were all (Peggy Alpert, Steve Brickel, Randy Kerr, Brian Okonski, Bert Finkelstein, Izabella Zandberg, Eli Meltzer, and Liv Smelkinson) at the airport by 8:30. While we were checking in, someone read the departure kiosk: our flight was now leaving at 11:40PM. There was no way that we

(Continued on page 4)

A Pickup Trip at White Grass—Love That March Snow



Here are a couple shots taken at WG the last weekend in Jan. My friend Steve and I went on our own and ran into all kinds of STS'ers. Bert Finklestein and Carl Modig are in both photos. The group shot includes Doug and Marcie Schubert.

Had some great skiing this year. Went to Lone Mountain Ranch in Montana while we were downhill skiing. Also spent a week in Stowe, Vermont. Skied at Trapp's and Mansfield in superb conditions. I saw you got to Yellowstone. Bet that was a great trip! We thought about a day trip from Big Sky, but opted for Lone Mountain instead.

Dick Simmons



Are We There Yet?? (continued)

(Continued from page 3)

would get to the car rental desk by 12:30! Brian called an airport motel from the AAA book we had. Yes they had rooms and free shuttle service to and from the airport.

We were on board the plane by 11:45 PM, but then there was the bathroom door that wouldn't open. Regulations would not allow the flight with no bathroom access—of course. Diapers would have been an option. If an astronaut can wear them for hours...so could we. After a futile attempt to fix the door, the airline decided to "deplane" us. Imagine the jokes that ensued.

Our luggage was transferred to a quieter plan that took us to Burlington, with luggage arriving at 2:15AM. How to spend the 4.5 hours before the car rental desk opened at 7AM? The most logical and practical solution was to get comfy at the airport. We found a sunken area outside an arrival gate. There were only 7 sofas. In the arrival area, there were tempting recliners. Bert entered the doors that said "do not enter". Izabella and I could not sleep and therefore witnessed 2 security police escorting Bert out of the "area". After awhile we found one of the officers involved; he took us to Bert—snuggled in a sofa on a mezzanine above the check-in area.

Finally STOWE, where the snow was abundant, the weather cold, accommodations warm and comfortable, and great restaurants. Stowe received a 50 inch dump on the day before we arrived, so some trails were not accessible and the backcountry (ungroomed areas) were a challenge. Conditions were changing by the hour, as grooming equipment burrowed through the mass of white. There are connecting trails from Stowe to Trapp and on to Bolton; and there are the Long and Catamount trails that go all over the Green Mountains. These are usually ungroomed areas, so access was limited, but some were available. We often found ourselves hip-deep in the "STUFF". Negotiating the massive snow was a workout in itself.

Ski Touring Centers: **Trapp** was 25-90% open. Some of us took advantage of the Austrian Tea Room there. Hot beverages, delicious pastries and a great view were much enjoyed. **Stowe**, was about 5km (2%) to about 12 km (20%) available. **Edson Hill** was closed. **Craftsbury** was about 70% open. **Bolton** was about 75% open. Percentages are not exact, and were increasing daily, since grooming was a constant every day, all day, for the 5 days we were there. Needless to say the conditions were GRRRE-ate, the scenery marvelous and the group fantastic.

Since we were there on a holiday weekend, restaurants were mobbed, and the more popular trail surfaces soon became packed. We were told that there were over 9,000 people on the lift lines in the downhill area. Blessings, all ways, to the FREE HEEL.



Yellowstone (continued)



STSers at Jupiter Terrace, Mammoth Hot Springs photo by Ralph Heimlich

(Continued from page 1)

mals (sometimes requiring us to leave our skis for the boardwalks) and some panoramic vistas of the old fort and hotel, 1,000 feet below us. More challenging skiing included the climbing 700 feet from Upper Terrace, over Snow Pass (7,450'), to descend into the Glen Creek valley to Swan Lake Flats and the road at Rustic Falls. The snow-covered Grand Loop "road" is closed at the snowmobile center at Upper Terrace and only traversable by snowmobiles, snow coaches, and venerable Bombardier tracked vehicles, of which, more later.

On the other side of the road is the 6-mile long Bunsen Peak Trail, which drops 960 feet in 2.5 miles in a series of linked switchbacks along the scenic Gardner River gorge and the Gallatin Mountains. Many of us skied the Upper Terrace loop, Snow Pass trail and Bunsen Peak Trail (1.5 + 4.2 + 6 = 11.7 miles) the same day, and still had to take off our skis and walk 1.3 miles on the road back to Mammoth Hot Springs. I did more skiing on that one day than most of the previous two years.

Sunday found many of us taking a snow coach ride (unlimited free use with our "Nordic Heaven" package) to Indian Creek, about 7 miles south of Mammoth Hot Springs on the Grand Loop road. We traveled up through the Silver and Golden Gates of Yellowstone (named for the color of the rocks) and pushed off from the Indian Creek warming hut. The Bighorn Loop trail winds out of the woods across gulches and hills along Indian Creek with fine views of Antler Peak (8081'), Bighorn Pass, Bannock Peak (7777'), Quadrant Mountain (9885'), Electric Peak (11,115') and Sepulcher Mountain. The reason we were able to see these distant sights was that the trail passed through some of the many "burn zones" caused by the extensive forest fires of 1988. With only a few scattered burnt trunks still standing, what had been mature lodgepole pine forest was now in the process of re-growing. We encountered these burn zones on many of the trails that we skied, both at Mammoth Hot Springs and at Old Faithful. The wind had blown so hard, and the powder was so light that the trail was bit "thin" on the ridges, and overwhelmingly deep in the gulches as we skied the loop. A group of us decided to ski back from Indian Creek, crossing Obsidian Creek and the Gardner River on the steel bridges and taking the Sheepeater Trail along the flats west of the Gardner River to join up with the Bunsen Peak Trail. A few opted to ski down through Golden Gate on the Grand Loop road, but others (including Michael Smith) took the longer way down east around Bunsen Peak and the long descent. Unfortunately, Michael took an awkward, twisting fall and injured his knee (again). Michael managed to ski the rest of the trail and even walked most of the way back to town before a passing truck offered him a lift, but his injury put an end to the skiing part of his holiday.



Warren Overholt looking toward Electric Peak, with our Snow Coach photo by Ralph Heimlich

On Monday morning, we packed up and boarded snow coaches (a regular 12 passenger van with triangular tracks replacing the wheels) for a 4-hour tour south along the snow-covered Grand Loop road through Norris Geyser Basin and on to [Old Faithful Snow Lodge](#). The weather was sunny, but cold, as our expert guides pointed out the sights, wildlife, and geologic wonders along our tour. We stopped often and piled out to view the Native American quarries on Obsidian Cliff, pose in front of Roaring Mountain, see the vista of Norris Geyser Basin, watch "chocolate pots" bubble, smell the sulphurous odor of Beryl Spring, watch the tumbling waters of Gibbon and Firehole Falls, or look at fresh wolf tracks. Along the way, we watched elk grazing in the Firehole River, and were detained by a herd of frisky Bison who must have sensed Spring in the frigid air.

The Old Faithful area has four major lodges, including the spectacular 8-story Old Faithful Inn with its 12 foot square central fireplace built in 1904. We stayed at the winterized Snow Lodge and cabins, the only lodge open in winter. You can ski out the door, and cabin dwellers were obliged on more than one occasion to ski to breakfast before the groomers made an appearance to firm up the powder.

Old Faithful runs two Bombardier shuttles. One goes to the trail head for the Divide Trail (2.6 miles up to the Continental Divide Pass at 8,590' and 8 miles back) and the Spring Creek Trail (8 miles along a series of gentle up and downs along a heavily forested creek). The Spring Creek Trail leads into another loop, which took us to the Lone Star Geyser (erupts every 3 hours). You can return on the Kepler Cutoff, or take the more advanced Howard Eaton Trail (which also goes to the Continental Divide at Grant's Pass via another trail). The second shuttle is out to Biscuit Basin, to catch the trail past the Excelsior Geyser Basin and Grand Prismatic Spring to Fairy Falls and the Imperial and Gray Geysers. That trip is 11 miles, including the return on the Biscuit Basin Trail. Other ski trips directly from the Lodge include the Mallard Lake (6.8 miles, out and back) and Mallard Creek Trails (12 miles round trip), the Fern Cascades Loop (3 miles), the

(Continued on page 6)

Yellowstone (continued)

(Continued from page 5)

Mystic Falls Trail (7 relatively flat miles), and the Black Sand Basin trail (4 easy miles).

A trip to Yellowstone in winter is not complete without spending some time on Geyser Hill. Starting at namesake Old Faithful (erupts about every 90 minutes), this paved and boardwalk trail meanders through dozens of named geysers, thermal pools, bubblers, spouters, and other geothermal wonders—the largest collection of such geologic oddities in the world. Some go absolutely “Geyser GaGa”, and even those who can take them or leave them acknowledge that 2.2 million acres of Yellowstone National Park owe their very existence today to a determination that “Coulter’s Hell” be preserved for posterity.

The list of things to do at Yellowstone in winter includes at least 3 more items: Snowshoeing, Snow Coach Tours, and Snowmobiles. The powder was so deep, especially along Spring Creek, that a group of us donned snowshoes to try that other ancient winter exercise. It proved a bit too much for some (breaking trail in 2-3 feet of fresh powder is WORK!!), but our skinny skis sometimes proved no match for the billowing drifts. On untracked snow, woe betide you who blunder off the trails (you know you are off when the snow reaches your waist (armpits?!)). The one thing we all thought Yellowstone could use more of is those little orange trail markers. This was especially true on the Mallard Creek trail. Jack Kangas wasted a total of about 40 minutes searching for trail markers in two separate incidents, while breaking trail through about 8-12” of new snow. This experience was enough to make him turn back rather than attempt to complete the Mallard Creek loop as he had originally planned.

Snow coach tours of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, the Tower Area, the Lamar Valley, and Yellowstone Lake are a great way to see more of the scenic wonders than was possible on skis. Some in our party really enjoyed these excursions, either to see new sights, or renew old acquaintance with summer vacation memories of long ago (Are we THERE, yet!??).

It may be viewed by some as heresy to even mention snowmobiles, but they are a prominent feature in the Park, and an issue of some controversy has arisen about appropriate limits on them. Snowmobiles today are a far cry from the 2-stroke noise kings of yesteryear. Modern snowmobiles have 4-stroke engines that are less polluting and far quieter. NPS requires that a guide lead all snowmobile trips, and that they follow proper vehicle protocols with regard to wildlife. A few of our number suited up like winter gladiators and took snowmobile tours to see the Park from that vantage. The only time snowmobiles were somewhat annoying is when we had to ski on the roads around Old Faithful—a few hundred feet off the roads on ski trails and you don’t hear, see, or smell them. Another point is that by accommodating each other, skiers, snowshoers, photographers, Geyser Gazers, and snowmobilers reinforce each other’s demand for winter access to the Park, which would probably not be possible to keep open for each of our pursuits alone.



Elk in the Firehole River photo by Ralph Heimlich

A word about wildlife. Our tour did not include the Lamar Valley, in the northeastern corner of the Park, which is reputed the “Serengeti of North America”, but we saw multitudes of elk and bison, Pine Marten, Ruffed Grouse, Gray-Crowned Rosy Finch, and tracks of dozens of other critters. The thing that is different in Yellowstone is that wildlife are home here and we are the intruders. The Park requires that you stay at least 25 yards from bison and elk and give way to them. On the morning of our departure, several of our party were nearly marooned by a herd of bison that wandered down the paved path below Geyser Hill, nearly keeping us from catching our snow coach out. We eventually detoured onto a side board walk that took us around the stubborn grazers, but we came close to getting Buffaloed.

We enjoyed another 4-hour snow coach ride back to Mammoth Hot Springs for one last night. Our departure coincided with an International Buffet at the dining hall, featuring dishes from the Mediterranean, Far East and Latin America. Our bus ride out Saturday

morning was in bright sunlight, a contrast to the darkened ride down the Yellowstone the week before. Once again, storms were disrupting air travel all over the East, but we were content to ride above the snow, having memories of Yellowstone’s deep powder beneath our skis.

In the course of our adventure in Yellowstone we came into contact with six other STSers who were there to ski in the park. Three other couples traveled independently on different days, but our paths crossed during the course of the trip, and we were able to exchange Yellowstone trail recommendations. This trip proved to be so popular (and booked out so early) that trip leader Rob Swennes is already thinking about proposing a follow-on STS trip to the Yellowstone area two years from now.



Buffalo grazing along Spring Creek photo by Ralph Heimlich

Photos and video at <http://picasaweb.google.com/ralph.heimlich/YellowstoneSkiTrip>

Participants included Rob Swennes (trip leader), Erma Cameron, Barbara Mandula (now of Seattle), Ron & Jan Tucker, John, Robin & Warren Overholt, Ralph Heimlich, Rainer Kurznel, Renate Kloepfinger-Todd, Marie-Louise Bernal, Caroline Neads (London by way of Seoul), Lee Greathouse, Mollie Casey (who made it to Bozeman but fell ill and returned home), John Tichenor (who drove from Seattle), Barbara and Sidney Coon, R. Michael Smith (who hurt his knee and left early), Jack Kangas (who skied every trail—twice), Margery Perko, Julie Nash, Bonnie Resnick (who still hasn’t forgiven Howard Eaton), Carl Modig, and Joe Bachman and Bill Collins (who “lurked” unofficially).

Garnet Hill (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

near Gore Mountain downhill area, above and overlooking Thirteenth Lake. The main lodge has dining room, rec room, a huge fireplace (with garnets embedded in the locally quarried rock), lounge chairs for reading or conversation, a bar for an after-ski draught or wine, and even a piano. I earned a free glass of wine from the bartender for my renderings—but they're miles from anywhere. It has the feel of a 1920s Adirondacks Great Camp—because that's essentially what it is. Cozy, inviting, relaxing—my wool knickers seemed very appropriate. But, right next to the piano was free internet service. So, it's perfectly up-to-date.

Our group gathered for dinner Friday evening and compared notes on the afternoon's skiing—sharing ideas for the next day's adventures. We decided that most of us would head out together initially, while some would take a lesson at the on-site ski shop, and some would mosey down in slippers for a leisurely breakfast and later start. After a few hours of skiing by the main group, some headed back to the lodge, some caught a free shuttle ride offered by the lodge (that allows one to ski the trails heading generally downhill and away from the lodge without doing the return climb) and some skied to the far reaches of the GH trail system. One nice feature at GH is that everyone can head off at their own desired time, without having to meet for joint transportation to the actual skiing venue. We literally put our skis in the rack at the door of the lodge and skied out from the lodge. Likewise, anyone could go back for a cup of soup or tea at any time, could take a mid-day rest and head out again, or could stay out all day.



At dinner in the main lodge, from left: Anne, Al, Mona, Polly, Catherine, Caroline, Chris, Nancy photo by lodge owner Joe Fahy



Ski tracks in middle of frozen Thirteenth Lake photo by Mona Alderson

Saturday night we again all gathered for dinner—this time for the traditional GH Saturday night buffet which offers a wide variety and copious quantities of very good food. We all lied to each other that we had burned off many more calories than we were taking on board that night. I told the group that I had spoken to the ski shop folks, and they were willing to shuttle us on Sunday morning to a trailhead on state forest land, allowing us to ski a beautiful single track un-groomed (but broken) trail back to GH. Everyone opted to join in, and we had a great time helping each other meet the challenges we encountered. Some used downhill turning skills they didn't realize they had; others skied in deeper snow than they ever had (3 to 4 feet); and some learned the art of climbing out of a snow hole of said depth.

In the afternoon, everyone broke up into small groups to explore the features of GH, skiing out onto and across frozen Thirteenth Lake, or to the sugarbush (the maple syrup gathering operation) or to Skullbuster Hill (a downhill ski run posing as an xc trail).

Sunday dinner was our last evening meal together and I polled the group members on their reaction to Garnet Hill. We all agreed it was the best STS outing we had been on and that it is a trip the club should offer again. We had a nice

chat with Joe Fahy the owner, who liked our group (we were on good behavior). Joe is very willing to work with us on a tailored outing if we choose to come back.

The snow—ah the snow. Three to four feet of light fluffy stuff that the GH staff had groomed into a terrific condition. They have set tracks for classic skiing, side by side with untracked stuff suitable for skate skiing or classic. Unlike many resorts, classic style clearly predominated at GH. There was terrain for all tastes—easy-does-it to gonzo. We could see over to the High Peaks of the Adirondacks, including Mt. Marcy, the highest in NY State. The many miles of available state forest trails were skied upon but not trampled, a tranquil wonderland where you would just get into a rhythm, exalting in the 10-15 degree air temperature with the sun on your face.

So, here is your moment of Zen: When the whole group agrees we need to go back, we need to go back.

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

March 2007



To:

PATC Ski Touring Section Membership Form

The PATC/STS provides quality services and benefits to its cross-country skiing members while promoting and supporting the PATC and cross country skiing in general. Whether a novice, recreational, citizen racer or telemark skier, STS has something for every XC skier. Imagine yourself floating on the snow, climbing across hill and dale in the quiet of winter, stopping for lunch in brilliant sunshine on a vista with a view of snow-covered ridges and valleys stretching to the horizon, and then making a descent back to home. Our membership enjoys ski touring in the hills with the comradeship and safety of a group. When you become a member, you receive all issues of the club's newsletter UPSLOPE and other useful information. UPSLOPE is published six times a year by PATC/Ski Touring Section, a non-profit, educational and recreational group of cross-country skiing enthusiasts based in the Maryland, DC, Virginia, PA and West Virginia areas. UPSLOPE provides information about STS trips and events (e.g., Learn-To-XC-Ski weekends, Telemark instructional clinics, and mini-week ski trips). One year membership runs from October 1st through September 30th of the next year. If you join in April or later, your one year membership will run through September of the next year. To insure uninterrupted membership for more than one year, you may provide advance dues for up to three years. To join, select your desired membership category and term from the table below, complete this Form legibly, and send it with a check appropriate to your membership choice (payable to PATC Ski Touring Section) to:

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

Membership Classes

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

PLEASE PRINT or TYPE THE INFORMATION BELOW !!!

Name(s): _____ Request is for: - NEW Membership: _____

Address: _____ Today's Date: _____ - New Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ - Renewal: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

- Add me to Annual member directory but do not list my: Home Ph.: __ ; Work Ph: __ ; Email: __; Postal Address: __
- If checked, add me to 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:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> STS Officer | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity | <input type="checkbox"/> XC Ski Instructor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Web Content Assistant | <input type="checkbox"/> Ski Trip Leader | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Events Coordinator |