



UPSLOPE



Newsletter of the NORDIC Ski Touring Section of PATC

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

April 2007

UpComing Attractions In Fall UPSLOPE

- Planning meeting for 2007-08 season

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Après Ski Party



Everywhere but Oswego County New York, it's been tough putting snow on the ground this winter, until Winter was well over (see picture to left). We lost more trips than usual at the beginning of our schedule in December and January due to no snow. So, to make it up, we're extending the season in the only way we can.

No, not with more snow—despite the news from White Grass. Instead, we're putting together our annual **Après Ski** gathering for the entire club. This gala event will be doubly festive this year, as it will also serve as a Cinco de Mayo party. That's right. We're gathering on Saturday, **May 5**, at the home of club member Catherine Payne, from 4-8 PM. Catherine has a lovely place overlooking the Potomac River, just off the Beltway on the Virginia side near the Rt. 193/GW Parkway exit (7035 Green Oak Drive, McLean, VA 22101). A beautiful wooded setting, with access down to the river, birds, wildflowers, a sitting rock, maybe even some piano entertainment, depending on the refreshments. So, start gathering your pictures and enthusiasm and plan on being there.

White Grass, April 18, 2007. 8"-12" fell on April 16.

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APRES SKI PARTY

Please RSVP STS Secretary **Isabella Zandberg** at
izandberg@aol.com

This is a POT LUCK PARTY: Everyone is to bring a dish or edible contribution that others will enjoy, either beatifically healthful or sinfully rich—Your choice

STS Officer Slate



Elected officers of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, Ski Touring Section, include the Chairperson, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. Other appointive posts are the Trip Coordinator, Membership Coordinator, UPSLOPE editor, Web Master, and Mail Coordinator (see masthead on page 2). We will be holding the election for the coming year at the business meeting which will be held in conjunction with the party, beginning at 4:15 PM.

Secretary Isabella Zandberg and Treasurer Rob

ST\$ Officers

From the ST\$ Chair

Chair

Bert Finkelstein
 H: 703-715-8534
bertanamo@gmail.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

Randy Kerr
 H: 703-937-3920
lerrkerr@aol.com

I'm stepping down from the position of STS Chair this year after four years of leading the club and watching our trips expand to more distant and exotic locations. To say the least, it's been a very enjoyable time for me, especially when our hard work comes together at the Ski Fair that marks the start of each ski season and we present our eagerly-anticipated trip lineup to the members.

None of the trips, good times, and new friendships would have happened without the long hours and hard efforts of our officers and active members. First of all, I'd like to thank Rob Swennes, Doug Lesar, and Dave Holton. Rob, Doug, and Dave have been officers for longer than I've been a member. I can't even imagine the cumulative time they've put into the club over the years and all the events they've led. Without them, our club wouldn't have the needed stability and continuity from year-to-year. Rob led our groundbreaking "excursion" trip to Germany four years ago. This trip was the forerunner of our trips to Canada and France. This year, Rob led a trip to Yellowstone, paving the way for more trips out West in search of more snow and exotic locations.

STS wouldn't exist without trips. It takes a special kind of person to be a trip coordinator—one with imagination, perseverance, patience, persuasion, and determination—like herding cats. Debbie Ryan, Susie Etcheverry, and Al Larsen have all stepped up to the challenge and presented us with a wide range of trips throughout the ski season. Our volunteer trip leaders make all this happen. Many of the trip leaders have a loyal following that consistently fills trips fast and have waiting lists. Steve & Peggy's Tug Hill trip, Rob's Tug Hill trip, Dave's Laurel Mountain Trail trip, Julie's Learn to Ski, and Doug's Canaan Valley cabin trip are examples, among others. Other trip leaders have just started leading their trips or are building up their own following. All of them are committed to making their trips fun and enjoyable for all of you.

I can't begin to imagine what the STS would be like without our *UPSLOPE* editors. We read an interesting newsletter that keeps us informed of club activities and intriguing trip reports that make you feel as though you're a participant. What you read is not what the editors start with, though. Greg Westernik and Ralph Heimlich start with a blank piece of paper and have to call to obtain content. Once they get the articles (after many follow-up calls), they work their editorial magic on it to make them more readable and interesting. I can vouch for that! To make matters worse, they work under close deadlines (after getting their content late), yet put together a polished newsletter that's out just in time. This newsletter is an extreme example. I'd like to thank Greg for all his efforts to teach me the ropes when I started as Chair. Ralph has been instrumental in bringing the Upslope into the 21st Century by distributing it electronically (the color photos look great and the layout snappy).



Finally, I'd like to thank the Secretaries, Izabella Zandberg and Barbara Mandula, and the Vice Chair, Steve Bergstrom for their organizational efforts in making the Ski Fair and Après Ski party the successes they've been over the years.

Most of all, I'm thankful for having the honor to meet and share our love of skiing and the outdoors with so many of our uncommonly adventurous members.

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.

Skiing in the Time of Global Warming

On May 5th we'll be getting together to share our trip experiences, see everyone you've skied with this winter, and swap ski stories. We'll also be creating the core trips of next year's ski season you'll anticipate until the Ski Fair next November. Will we be going to Canada or Europe next year? Will we be finding snow in Colorado during December and January? Find out at our party.

At this year's gathering, the club officers would like to have an open, wide-ranging discussion about the nature of next year's outings, and in reality the future direction of the club. Given recent uncertain snow conditions, do we:

- * Continue to concentrate primarily on mid-Atlantic trips?
- * Through in a few more exotic domestic and international trips?
- * Head into the season with a lot more trips that are farther afield on the schedule?
- * 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?



We will only have a really good discussion if people come armed with their opinions—and having been on our trips, I know you have opinions!!

Expanding our distance trips (e.g., Europe, National Parks, Wyoming, Oregon, Washington, British Columbia, Quebec, etc) can be done because we already have several great leaders for this and we can train more. We would need an additional four distance trip leaders next year.

Keeping our local program can't be neglected with uncertain weather. During that wonderful winter of four years ago, excellent conditions made for an excellent season. If we short the local trips is Mother Nature going to surprise us? (maybe we should just to tempt her...)

Does STS have the depth of leadership to carry out both options? We can if everyone pitches in, but with a caveat that a change to more distance trips will over-tax our Chair, Trip Coordinator and Trip Captains unless more people step forward to help.

Perhaps we should limit the number of local trips per weekend, particularly for the 3-day weekends, to encourage an additional long distance trip or two. Another factor is the cost of distance trips. What will the members' budgets allow?

STS Officer Slate (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

Swennes are running for their current offices. Trip Coordinator Al Larsen, Membership Coordinator Doug Lesar, UPSLOPE Editor Ralph Heimlich, Web Master Stephen Brickel and newly appointed Mail Coordinator Randy Kerr continue to serve in their appointed offices.

STS must continually keep an eye out for an infusion of new folks into the leadership ranks, and needs to actively draft folks as trip leaders, co-leaders, helpers on the Ski Fair and other events, and for leadership posts. If you are interested in running for an office, please contact Bert Finkelstein or one of the other officers prior to the May 5 Après Ski Party, even if you cannot attend.

Après Ski (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

As has become our tradition, we'll have good food, the fun of re-living this year's trips, and a reunion with your trip participants. The officers would like to see the largest possible turnout for this year's event, even if you haven't gone to these in the past. That is because, at this year's gathering, the club officers would like to have an open, wide-ranging discussion about the nature of next year's outings, and, in reality, the future direction of the club given recent uncertain snow conditions (see article on page 5).

As usual, this will be a pot luck dinner—so bring a dish of your choosing.

We'll start with enjoying Catherine's lovely setting, then move to the meeting portion of the agenda at about 4:15 PM. The business meeting will be about 1.5 hours, with time for the treasurer's report, the membership chair's report, election of officers, and a serious stab at discussing the kind of trips we want to plan for next winter. The nice thing about this business meeting is that it won't run late—if we do prattle on, all the people showing up to party will get all the food and drink!

After enjoying the potluck dinner and some drinks, we can relive this year's skiing and renew those friendships that were forged by the common experiences with pictures (both "traditional" 35 MM if you have them, and digital versions). Please let STS Secretary Isabella Zandberg know if you're coming, by e-mail at izandberg@aol.com.



Driving directions: Capital Beltway to Exit 44, Georgetown Pike, Rt. 193. Turn onto Georgetown Pike inside the Beltway, toward Langley, not outside toward Great Falls. Almost immediately, turn north onto Balls Hill Rd (toward the River, not south toward McLean). Take the first left off Balls Hill Rd, which is Live Oak Road, a bridge going over the Beltway, and then paralleling the Beltway. Take first left, onto Green Oak Drive. Follow to end of cul de sac, and take the driveway to the left of the large eagle statue/sculpture. Catherine's house has the green roof, number 7035 Green Oak Drive. Her phone is 703-827-0370. homepage to look for them. Google maps link at : <http://maps.google.com/maps?q=7035%20Green%20Oak%20Drive%2C%20McLean%2C%20VA%2022101&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8&client=firefox-a&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&um=1&sa=N&tab=w1>

This will be a beautiful spot overlooking the Potomac, where you can relive this year's outings. But, this year's party is more important than usual, because we truly want to talk about the nature of our future outings. This is your chance to shape that future. In that regard, STS has to find new leaders—trip leaders as well as club officers—although we don't have any organized or ongoing talent search operation. "American Ski Idol" probably wouldn't cut it as a process. If you are interested, or have even given a fleeting thought to helping out in some way, please come and discuss your interests at the meeting and with me or one of the other officers.

Finally, if you definitely are interested in leading a specific trip next year (or even think you might be), please come with that information to the Apres Ski party. We won't hold you to it, but it will greatly assist in getting a running start on putting together next year's trip line-up.

Al Larsen
Trip Coordinator



Driving directions: Capital Beltway to Exit 44, Georgetown Pike, Rt. 193. Turn onto Georgetown Pike inside the Beltway, toward Langley, not outside toward Great Falls. Almost immediately, turn north onto Balls Hill Rd (toward the River, not south toward McLean). Take the first left off Balls Hill Rd, which is Live Oak Road, a bridge going over the Beltway, and then paralleling the Beltway. Take first left, onto Green Oak Drive. Follow to end of cul de sac, and take the driveway to the left of the large eagle statue/sculpture. Catherine Payne's house has the green roof, number 7035 Green Oak Drive. Her phone is 703-827-0370.

Pictures from 2006-2007 Ski Season

Are you in the picture? Get in the picture in 2007-2008—Participate!!!



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

APRIL 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 |