



UPSLOPE

Newsletter of the PATC

Ski Touring Section

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

November 2008

- Next UPSLOPE is December...

Trip Schedule

Ski Trip Reports

Schedule Updates

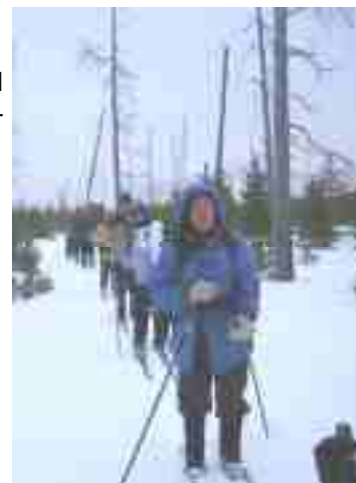
Skiing Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons February 13 – 21, 2009



Jack Kangas skiing in Yellowstone, February 2007 photo by Rob Swennes

As of this writing, only a couple of spots remain available on the Section's trip to West Yellowstone and Jackson Hole. The two dozen skiers participating will spend 5 nights in West Yellowstone, Montana, and ski at both organized ski touring centers in the area and on backcountry trails, both inside and outside Yellowstone National Park.

We will then shift and spend the last three nights in Jackson, Wyoming. There we anticipate skiing principally backcountry trails at several locations in the Grand Tetons National Park. If you are interested, contact trip coordinator: Rob Swennes robertswennes@hotmail.com



Erma Cameron leading skiers in Yellowstone backcountry photo by Rob Swennes

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Snow Business Likes Slow Business



Al Larsen on Last-Year's Skis (in Yellow) photo by Rob Swennes

Here's my theory, and I'm sticking with it: This slow economy may just reward STS members with a no lose proposition this ski season. Here's why. First, on our (the members') side of the ledger—XC skiing doesn't cost all that much per outing. If you have your equipment, and will be skiing this year anyhow, whether you go once, twice or thirty times, the incremental cost for each outing is pretty small. So, unlike an Alpine ski outing to Vail, say, this is just the kind of frugal activity that we're looking for at this point (unless you were single-handedly going to jump-start the economy with one of those cash infusions

(Continued on page 8)

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Between the Poles; Notes from the STS Chair

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What a wonderment!!!! I have already been "between the poles" and before Thanksgiving Day even. White Grass greeted us with a **very** skiable if uneven foot of snow. Chip is truly a superior snow farmer. It's a good thing that we had a work crew there the week before to help Chip get the trails repaired. Of course he had many other helpers – good folk from the Canaan community and others that also drove a distance. It's like an annual barn raising where everyone pitches in to help the cause. In this case, a most enjoyable activity.

There were about 12 STS'ers in attendance at this first ski of the season - the weekend of Nov. 22. We also met a new member from NC! Spirits were high and continue to be positive with the hope that the snow will fall abundantly these next few months.

So buddies: get out the gear, shake out the clothes, check the sun screen, the maxi glide, (be ready from top to bottom) the metal edges, boot laces etc. And do not forget to condition those muscles; pulled joints are no fun.

The updated accurate ski trip schedule is in this issue. Call the trip leader for more info.



Remember that your place on the trip is secured with the money and the trip application/waiver. Make sure that your STS membership is active. You will also need to be a member of PATC if you participate on the trips to NY, NH, and WY. – these are outside the PATC domain area. Check their web site for membership info-

<http://www.potomacappalacian.org/>

See you on the trails.

Peggy

STS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL\$ DUE!



Yet another membership renewal period is beginning for the Ski Touring Section of PATC. Memberships expiring in 2008 must be renewed before 1 January 2009 for membership to continue into the upcoming ski season. The countdown is on!

To check your membership status, examine the mailing label on your last UPSLOPE. If you see a four-number field other than 0812 (0912, 1012 etc) you dues have been paid up beyond 1 January and there is no need for you to renew at this time. However, "0812" is the magic indicator that your membership expires when you hear the

strains of Auld Lang Syne in 2008. For those of you receiving UPSLOPE electronically, your expiration date was included in the forwarding email header sent by Ralph our loyal and talented newsletter editor. Since you may not have saved that information, feel free to contact me at dlesar@comcast.net for your dues status.

For a handy membership renewal form with my address and dues amounts, visit <http://www.patc.us/chapters/ski/> and press the prominent red button on the upper right of the club's home page.

Happy Autumn to all of you and hope that the winter is wintry ...

Doug Lesar
 STS recordskeeper / duesmeister

White Mountains of New Hampshire, January 15 – 20, 2009



Rob Swennes and Mollie Casey on the Ellis River Trail, Jackson, NH January 2008

Over a half dozen people have signed up for this trip thus far. There is room for more. We have rented a beautiful new house in Bartlett, New Hampshire as our base of operations.



STS skiers at Bear Notch Ski Touring Center, Bartlett, NH January 2008

See <http://www.cyberrentals.com/rental/p208943>. If needed, we will rent a second house or a condominium apartment nearby. We look forward to convivial evening meals in the big house as we discuss which of the four nearby ski touring centers to visit each day. Backcountry skiing and/or snowshoeing up near Pinkham Notch or off the Kancamangus Highway are also options. Even with 4 full days of skiing, we are unlikely to exhaust all the available locations in this scenic area of New England that is well designed for winter sports. If you are interested, contact trip coordinator: Rob Swennes robertswennes@hotmail.com

Presidents' Ski-Dance Weekend: Enjoy Contra Dance and Cross-Country Skiing

This President's Weekend, February 13 - 16, 2009, the woods and mountains around Laurel Highlands, PA, will once again rock all day with the sounds of happy skiers and all night with the sounds of dancing. Sponsored by PATC-STS and the Sierra Club, the Ski Dance has a long tradition of family fun. Come join us in Pennsylvania's Laurel Highlands as we cross country ski (downhill skiing available near by), sled, contra dance, make music, and have lots of fun outdoors and indoors in a beautiful rustic setting. Bring your talents and instruments to share.



Ski Dancers (actually, you don't have to dance on skis, but it helps)



Dance Skiers (actually, you don't have to ski on the dance floor, but it helps)

Music by: [Dave Wiesler](#) (Piano & Guitar), [Laura Light](#) (Fiddle), George Paul (Piano, Drums, Accordion)
Contras called by: Victoria Barone & Bob Mathis
Where: Camp Harmony is near Somerset, Pennsylvania, and Seven Springs. Depending on weather, this is a four-to five-hour drive from Washington, D.C. or Philadelphia. We recommend car pooling.
Accommodations: Lodging is dormitory-style, that is, group rooms in heated cabins (Please bring your own linens and towels). Weekend begins on Friday evening with

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White Grass Trail Wonder Workers

The White Grass work trip weekend was a well-timed success and an all-around fun weekend. Eleven PATC-STs members participated including Erma Cameron, Darlene Wall Nelson and Rhon Nelson (traveling 5 1/2 hours to get there to help!), Bert Finkelstein, Catherine Kelleher, John Technor, Dave Collins, Lucretia Darling, Peter Dragen, and Marty Griffith. After popping out of the sleeping bags and fixing lunches for the trails on Saturday morning, we divided into two groups, and set out in light rain. One group, working with Chip, mucked out water drainage channels, replaced bridges, and spread yards of mulch to smooth out rocky trails. Chip was impressed with Lucretia's engineer-like eye for perfect placement of the bridges. The other group headed high with Chip's college-age son Morgan and other volunteers, to clip hanging branches, chainsaw away downed trees blocking trails, and generally clear, widen, and mark trails along Cabin Mountain and along trails leading to Ashram Rock; and then on to working on drainage along the pipeline and clearing and marking some trails in the National Nordic trail system.



L-R: Todd the Chaga Hunter, Lynn Yates, Dave Collins, Marty Griffith, Morgan Chase, Pete Dragen, Catherine Kelleher *photo by Lynn Yates*

The work groups returned in late afternoon to a warm and cheerful lodge and to Laura Little's delicious homemade soups and chili and Chaga tea and to a huge bounty of beer, wine, sodas, fruits, and snacks which Marty Griffith brought in huge bins! There was no need to go out to dinner! Everyone traded stories about the day and then Catherine, Dave, Peter, and Marty headed to Purple Fiddle while the remaining group fired up Chip's sauna -- a wonderful way to end a hard days work and we didn't even feel the incoming cold blowing snow as a cold front moved in bringing some moisture from the Great Lakes.

The snow continued and by morning we awakened to a winter wonderland with several inches in the ground. John Tichenor and Dave Collins spent the entire day Sunday chainsawing and stacking a huge pile of very large logs dumped behind the lodge, while another crew cleared nearby glades including Anita's and Sawmill, with Chip. The group also cleared a new, very steep telemark trail near Anita's Glade which perhaps only the hardest of telemark skiers (Chip) will be brave enough to try! The entire time we were removing brush growth, branches, rocks, and hidden logs, we could hear Dave Collins' chain saw ripping through wood back toward the lodge. When we returned, the wood crib was neatly stacked and completely full with a winter's worth of wood for the lodge. Chip was very pleased with the help STS gave again this year—even naming us all Dudes of the Week on his website! Our help was just in time for the early snow and great skiing WhiteGrass has had each weekend since. If you didn't get to participate this year, mark your calendar for the second weekend in November next year and plan to join us—it was a super weekend!

Lynn Yates



L-R: Rhon Nelson, Bert Finkelstein, Chip Chase, Darlene Nelson, Lucretia Darling, Erma Cameron, John Tichenor, and an unidentified participant *photo by Lynn Yates*

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.

2008-2009 Ski Trip Schedule**PATC/STS 2008 – 2009 Ski Trip Schedule****Add \$10 for non STS members. \$9 for membership.****(* indicates trips requiring PATC membership**

Dates	Nov. 14-16 (Friday and Saturday nights)
Trip	White Grass Trail Maintenance and Clean-up
Lodging	White Grass Lodge (sleep on the floor), sleep outside (in tent, or car), stay at campground or motel. Your choice
Description	Help Chip get the ski touring center ready for the WHITE winter wonder land. Great camaraderie, great cause, lot'sa mud.
Leader	Lynn Yates <towson.lynn@gmail.com>
Cost	Your transportation and food
Dates	December 31 - Jan.4 (Wed-Sun, 4 nights) Cancels if no snow.
Trip (*)	Tug Hill Region, Pulaski, New York – (*)
Lodging	Brenda's Motel – 3 bedroom house with full kitchen for our own breakfast, store lunch food etc. and eat dinner (bring your food), lvg rm w/fireplace .There are also 6 motel rooms with private baths and use of house kitchen. We will be using both.
Description	Skiing at Osceola and Salmon Hills touring Centers, as well as Winona State Forest, and Barnes Corners. Enjoy a NewYear's Day wine and cheese party and group pot luck dinner.
Leader(s)	Peggy Alpert & Steve Brickel 301-946-4497 mountainmama15@verizon.net
Cost	\$240 –Lodging only, assuming minimum of 8 participants.
Dates	January 9-11 (2 nights) Cancels if no snow
Trip	Laurel Highlands, PA.
Lodging	Quality Inn in Somerset, PA in the heart of Laurel Highlands. Rooms are double occupancy, non-smoking with 2 double beds. Amenities are indoor pool, hot tub, exercise room, and restaurant with bar. There are many good, reasonably priced restaurants in the area.
Description	Ski at groomed Laurel Ridge State Park and Forbes State Forest (no charge). Skis can be rented at Laurel Ridge SP. Other ski areas: Laurel Mountain, Kooser State Park, and Hidden Valley (XC and downhill). All levels of skiers can be accommodated
Leader(s)	Carol Ruppel carbrw@verizon.net phone: 202-244-5984
Cost	\$90 per person for lodging only, assuming minimum of 10 participants
Dates	January 9-11 (2 nights) no trip cancellation
Trip	Western Maryland.
Lodging	Stay in the newer Motel section of the 180 year old Casselman Inn in Grantsville, MD. double rooms w/private bath, phone and color television. Original Inn has a parlor, gift shop, bakery and Mennonite dinning room, serving hearty meals. There are other restaurants in the area. Have dinner at the Inn on Friday evening. Dinner on Saturday at a local restaurant and tourist spot. Breakfasts will be taken at the Inn.
Description	Ski New Germany State Park, a rugged backwoods area with 12 miles of trails suitable for skiers of all levels. Many trails are groomed and maintained. Trail fee is approximately \$5. Skis, poles, boots and sleds are available for rent near the park, but participants will save time and money by renting at home and bringing equipment. Other cross country and downhill ski areas are nearby. If conditions are not skiable we will hike in New Germany State Park and Savage River State Forest. Space is limited. There will be a waiting list.
Leader(s)	Larry Doff, 703-615-3195, LDoff@yahoo.com
Cost	\$80 per person for lodging only, assuming minimum of 10 participants.
Dates	January 16-19 (MLK JR. B-day 3 nights) Cancels if no snow
Trip	Laurel Highlands, PA
Lodging	Quality Inn in Somerset, PA in the heart of Laurel Highlands. Rooms are double occupancy, non-smoking with 2 double beds. Amenities are indoor pool, hot tub, exercise room, and restaurant with bar. There are many good, reasonably priced restaurants in the area.
Description	Ski at groomed Laurel Ridge State Park and Forbes State Forest (no charge). Skis can be rented at Laurel Ridge SP. Other ski areas: Laurel Mountain, Kooser State Park, and Hidden Valley (XC and downhill). All levels of skiers can be accommodated. Weekend of the famous Fire and Ice Festival in downtown Sommerset
Leader(s)	Kathy and Elliot Brumberger kathybrum@verizon.net 301-774-7412
Cost	\$190 for lodging only, for minimum of 10 participants

2008-2009 Ski Trip Schedule (continued)

Dates	January 15 – 20 (5 nights) No cancellation
Trip (*)	Jackson, White Mountains, New Hampshire (*)
Lodging	Condos in the Jackson-Glen area
Description	Ski one of the most scenic venues on the East Coast--the White Mountains of N.H at cross-country ski touring centers such as Jackson (http://www.jacksonxc.org/), Bretton Woods (http://mtwashington.com/xcountry/ski/) and Bear Notch (http://www.xcskinh.com/bear_notch.cfm) in nearby Bartlett, NH. In case of icy conditions near Jackson, we may ski further north at The Balsams in Dixville Notch, NH (http://www.thebalsams.com/) at a higher elevation. Many backcountry ski and snowshoe trails are in the area, such as AMC lodge at Pinkham Notch
Leader(s)	Rob Swennes 703-532-6101 robertswennes@hotmail.com or Keith Chanon, keithchanon@yahoo.com , 703-752-0245.
Cost	\$450, for ground transportation from the DC area, lodging (5 nights), and in-house food and beverages. Skiers pay for STC fees, any restaurant meals, and incidental costs. Check with trip leaders if you drive your own vehicle or stay only 4 nights. Participants will travel by rented minivan to NH on Thursday & return on Tuesday. Four full days of skiing in NH!.
Dates	Jan 23 – 25 (2 nights) cancels if no snow.
Trip	Canaan Valley / Blackwater Falls, WV
Lodging	Blackwater Falls Lodge, Thomas, WV
Description	Our main destination will be White Grass Ski Touring Center in Davis, WV., where you may rent skis and also get instruction. There are always Blackwater Falls State Park, the trails around Canaan Valley Lodge and down hill at Timberline.
Leader(s)	Bob Leaf 301-977-6561; roberto.leaf@gmail.com
Cost	\$115 per person (lodging only) for a minimum of 10 participants
Dates	Jan. 23-25 (2 nights) cancels if no snow
Trip	Learn-to-XC Ski Wknd, Laurel Highlands of SW PA
Lodging	Downtown Somerset, PA, ½ hour drive from ski area.
Description	Join a dozen or more students enjoying two days of beginner- level instruction from seasoned volunteers, ranging from dry land to fixed stations to instructional tours, emphasizing safety and fun. Leader will determine if conditions are ski-able for trip or not. Will cancel for poor conditions.
Leader(s)	Greg Westernik at (gmwester@gmail.com), (571-276-7978).
Cost	\$80 fee covers lodging, and instruction. Assuming a minimum of 10 participants
Dates	Jan. 30-Feb. 1 (2 nights) No cancellation
Trip	Blackwater Falls, WV
Lodging	Blackwater Falls Lodge Each room has a private bath, phone and color television. Lodge amenities: game room, sitting room with fireplace,
Description	Ski beautiful Blackwater Falls State Park (www.blackwaterfalls.com). There are over twenty miles of trails for beginners and more experienced. Many of the trails are groomed and maintained. A sledding hill is available when snows are sufficient. Skis, poles, boots and sleds are available for rent at the Sled Run & Cross Country Ski Center. If conditions are not skiable we will hike in the adjacent Monongahela National For-
Leader(s)	Larry Doff, 703-615-3195, LDoff@yahoo.com
Cost	\$106 per person for lodging only, assuming a minimum of 10 participants.
Dates	Jan. 30-Feb. 1 (2 nights) cancels if no snow
Trip	Western MD.
Lodging	Oak-Mar Motel, Oakland Maryland
Description	Ski back country trails at Backbone Farm guided by the proprietor; also close to Swallow Falls and Harrington Manor State Parks' trail systems.
Leader(s)	Harvey Walden 301-588-0262
Cost	\$75 per person lodging only, assuming a minimum of 10 participants.
Dates	Feb 5-8 (3 nights) No cancellation
Trip	Canaan Valley, WV
Lodging	Canaan Valley State Park -four-bedroom deluxe cabin with well-appointed kitchen affords an opportunity for homey in-cabin meal(s) if group desires.
Description	One of the most convenient lodging locations in Canaan Valley for skiing at White Grass, the downhill resorts, and points in between. Good trip for eclectic skiers open to a mixture, of cross-country with telemark skiing and/or lessons at Timberline downhill area. Preference given to high skill-level skiers or mid-level skiers with high adventure quotient (contact leader for details)
Leader(s)	Doug Lesar 301-587-8041 dlesar@comcast.net
Cost	\$115 per person lodging only, assuming minimum of 8 participants. Note three-night stay

2008-2009 Ski Trip Schedule (continued)

Dates	Feb. 6-8 (2 nights) cancels if no snow
Trip	Laurel Highlands, PA
Lodging	Quality Inn, Somerset PA in the heart of Laurel Highlands. Non-smoking, double occupancy rooms w/ 2double beds. Amenities are indoor pool, hot tub, exercise room, restaurant with bar. Many good, reasonably priced restaurants are in the area
Description	Join XC ski buddies gliding over 40 mi. of trails at favorites such as Kooser and Laurel Ridge State Parks, Roaring Run Natural Area, North Woods, Laurel Mountain, & Hidden Valley .
Leader(s)	Greg Westernik (gmwester@gmail.com), (571-276-7978)
Cost	\$90 per person for lodging only, assuming 10 person minimum.
Dates	February 13-16 (3 nights) (President's Weekend) cancels if no snow
Trip	Canaan Valley, WV
Lodging	Canaan Valley State Park cabin
Description	Our main destination will be White Grass Ski touring Center in Davis, WV. where you may rent skis and also get instruction. There is always Blackwater Falls State Park, the trails around Canaan Valley Lodge and down hill at Timberline.
Leader(s)	Kathy and Elliot Brumberger kathybrum@verizon.net 301-774-7412
Cost	\$128 minimum of 10 participants.
Dates	February 13-16 (3 nights) no cancellation
Trip	Ski -Dance Camp Harmony - Laurel Highlands
Lodging	Camp Harmony: Small lodge with communal social rooms and dormitory-style sleep rooms; 8 meals included.
Description	The 25th Ski-Dance Weekend at Camp Harmony has cross-country skiing, sledding, contra dancing, 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. Bring your talents and instruments to share. Trip begins on Friday evening with an informal potluck supper and dance and ends on Monday with lunch. Camp Harmony has over 100 acres available for cross-country skiing, slopes for sledding and several different types of habitat. Other cross-country and downhill skiing areas are nearby. Check out the website, www.skidance.com for more information and a registration form. The weekend will NOT be cancelled for lack of snow.
Leader(s)	Eliot Appelstein, (301) 984-6855, eliotapplestein@verizon.net & Bob Mathis, (301) 589-7539, talibob@starpower.net
Cost	Adults \$170 (\$160 for STS/Sierra Club members), Children 3-13 yrs. \$75, Infants – 2 yrs \$5
Dates	February13-21 No cancellations
Trip (*)	Yellowstone / Tetons, Wyoming (*)
Lodging	Kelly Inn in West Yellowstone and Days Inn in Jackson
Description	The principal focus will be on backcountry skiing in both locations. West Yellowstone also offers a superb groomed trail network. There will be 6.5 days of skiing and/or snowshoeing. Skiers will fly to Salt Lake City and rent minivans for the drive up to West Yellowstone. Groomed trails (35 km.) are available on the edge of town in the Rendevous ski complex (http://www.rendevousskitrails.com/). An hour's drive north lies Lone Mountain Ranch (http://www.lmranch.com/) with its 85 km. groomed ski trail system plus separate snowshoe trails. Many options exist for backcountry skiing into Yellowstone Nat. Park. In Jackson Hole there are 17 km. of groomed trails at the JH Nordic Center (http://www.jacksonhole.com/info/ski.nordic.asp#cross) and many backcountry skiing options in the Grand Tetons Nat. Park.
Leaders	Rob Swennes, 703-532-6101, robertswennes@hotmail.com
Cost	\$575, includes lodging, breakfasts (8 days) and ground transportation out West. Skiers pay for air transport, other meals, any trail fees, and incidental costs.
Dates	Feb. 20-22 (2 nights) No cancellation
Trip	Blackwater Falls, WV
Lodging	Blackwater Falls Lodge. Each room has a private bath, phone and color television. Lodge amenities: game room, sitting room with fireplace, indoor pool, hot tub, fitness room. The Lodge restaurant offers breakfast, lunch and dinner.
Description	Ski beautiful Blackwater Falls State Park (www.blackwaterfalls.com). There are over twenty miles of trails for beginners and more experienced. Many of the trails are groomed and maintained. A sledding hill is available when snows are sufficient. Skis, poles, boots and sleds are available for rent at the Sled Run & Cross Country Ski Center. If conditions are not skiable we will hike in the adjacent Monongahela National Forest (www.fs.fed.us/r9/mnf),
Leader(s)	Larry Doff, 703-615-3195, LDoff@yahoo.com
Cost	\$106, per person for lodging, assuming minimum of 10 participants

2008-2009 Ski Trip Schedule (continued)

Dates	February 27 - March 1 (2 nights) No cancellation
Trip	Laurel Highlands, PA
Lodging	Quality Inn in Somerset, PA in the heart of Laurel Highlands. Rooms are double occupancy, non-smoking with 2 double beds. Amenities are indoor pool, hot tub, exercise room, and restaurant with bar. There are many good, reasonably priced restaurants in the area.
Description	Ski the groomed trails at Laurel Mountain State Park, starting from the Warming Hut, at which snacks are available. Trail fee is approximately \$5. Ski rentals are available nearby, but participants are urged to rent skis in their local area. Skiers seeking more challenging ski areas will find them at Laurel Ridge and Forbes State Parks. Downhill ski areas are also nearby. All levels of skiers can be accommodated. This trip will go, snow or no. If conditions are not skiable, we will hike the Laurel Ridge area. A detailed trip itinerary, prepared in accordance with expected weather, will be provided to all registrants approximately one week prior to the trip.
Leader(s)	Larry Doff, 703-615-3195, LDoff@yahoo.com
Cost	\$90 per person includes lodging and two breakfasts, assuming a minimum of 10
Dates	February 27-March 1 (2 nights) Cancels if no snow.
Trip	Western Maryland
Lodging	Oak-Mar Motel, Oakland MD
Description	Ski back country trails at Backbone Farm guided by the proprietor; also close to Swallow Falls and Harrington Manor State Parks trail systems.
Leader(s)	Harold Datz 703-742-8938 harold.datz@gmail.com
Cost	\$75 per person lodging, assuming 10 participant minimum

(Continued from page 1)

we've been reading about). Then, on the other (vendor) side of the ledger—with times tight, and people hanging onto their money a little more vigorously, it's going to be easier to get last-minute lodging, and those few items that we do have spend for in order to get out there on the skinny skis.

As a club officer, but relative newcomer, I've been surprised and pleased by how little our STS outings generally cost. These trips are truly a great way to treat yourself, and not bust the bank. You've read elsewhere, no doubt, about the range of outings that your Trip Coordinators and Trip Leaders have put together for this season, but let me just mention a few things from my own perspective. I love the Blackwater Falls trips—a very scenic stay in the old lodge, with so many options for skiing—head right out the door, or go off into the surrounding National Forest. This year, we'll have something new in the "local" (i.e. Mid-Atlantic) category—an outing built around Backbone Ski Farm, over in Garrett County MD. We'll be skiing on the trails there, and Max has planned a trip extending off the farm and up to a wonderful lookout spot. Of course, Herrington Manor and New Germany are nearby for additional skiing as part of that trip.



Mr. and Mrs. Larsen and STS skiers at Garnet Hill Lodge, New York

After two previous seasons that can only generously be described as marginal, it looks as though the weather (i.e. the snow) will actually be pretty darned good in our region this year. What a great development in a year when most of us don't want to spring for a big whoop-de-doo outing to exotic places at exotic prices. Look at your good old STS schedule—and the price tags on these "specials". You'll see that we have nothing to fear but fear itself, and crevasses, frostbite, sunburn....

Al Larsen
Secretary

(Continued from page 3)

an informal potluck supper and dance and ends on Monday with lunch. Eight meals, starting with Saturday breakfast, are included. Sorry, other than meatless entrees, Camp Harmony cannot provide for special diets.

Skiing: Camp Harmony has over 100 acres for cross-country skiing (depending on snow conditions), which includes several different types of habitat. There are large open fields, mature forest areas, a wet land area, small seasonal creeks and more. Camp Harmony is adjacent to the Quemahoning Reservoir. Cross-country skiing is also available at Laurel Ridge State Park and at Hidden Valley and Seven Springs downhill ski resorts, only a short drive away. Members of PATC Ski-Touring Section will offer free cross-country ski lessons for beginners at Camp Harmony on Saturday and Sunday mornings as snow conditions permit.

Dancing: American contra and square dances and/or workshops will be held on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evenings. Dance instruction will be provided for beginners.

Other Activities: Camp Harmony has great slopes for sledging (depending on snow conditions); bring your own sled or tray. They also have two enclosed volleyball courts. Parents, consider bringing some non-computer/non-video board games, playing cards, etc. for your children.

Fees: \$5 for infants - 2 years; \$75 for children 3 - 13 years; \$160 for adult members of PATC (STS) and the Sierra Club; \$170 for all others.

For more info: Eliot Applestein/Marta Vogel (301-984-6855) eliotapplestein@verizon.net; Bob Mathis (301-589-7539) tali-bob@starpower.net



Accommodations, as if you'll have any time to sleep with the skiing and dancing

Early Winter Hit; White Grass; in Januvenber



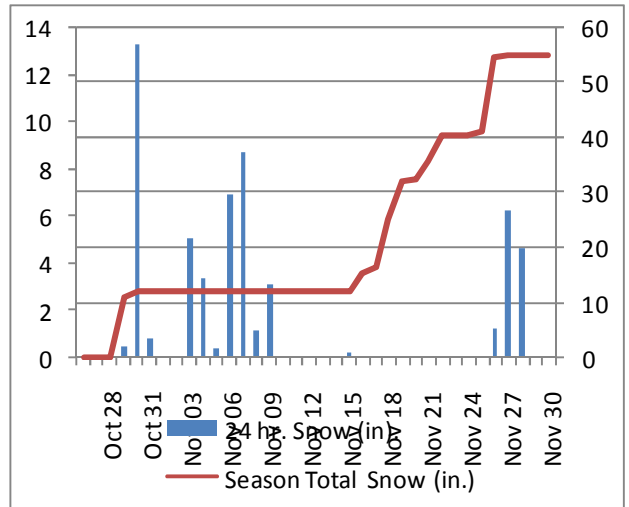
White Grass Café and Ski Touring Center



White Grass up in the trees

You can't strike out every season! White Grass Touring Center in Canaan Valley has had 55 inches of snow already (as of November 30), so you haven't got any excuse not to ski this year.

Weather and Climate of Davis 3SE, Tucker County, WV, located at the 3700-ft summit of Canaan Mountain online at <http://canaanweather.4t.com/>



PATC-Ski Touring Section
c/o Doug Lesar
2507 Campbell Place
Kensington, MD 20895
November 2008

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 _____