



UPSLOPE



Newletter of the NORDIC Ski Touring Section of PATC

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

October 2010

UpComing Attractions In Winter UPSLOPE

- YOUR Ski Trip Reports
- More Trips and Tips

Come to the Ski Fair

After the record snow of 2009-10, you may think that you can just ski out your back door again this Winter, but experience in the Washington area says that you'll need to travel a bit to hit the boards. What better way to plan a ski trip than at the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club Ski Touring Section's annual **Ski Fair**? Come on over and we'll put you on the ski trails this Winter. This annual kickoff event, eagerly awaited by the Nordic ski crowd all over the Washington Metro region, is on **Saturday, November 13, 12:30 to 4:30.**



Sign up for ski trips at the Ski Fair photo by Ralph Heimlich

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In addition to food, fun and a chance to lie about that 6 foot blizzard you say you skied through in downtown DC last winter, the Ski Fair is your entree to the STS trips for the 2010-11 Winter season, including some exotic new excursions and some old favorites. Be among the first to apply for trips scheduled from December 2010 through March 2011. STS trips are a travel bargain, fun, friendly and led by members with years of experience (some of whom have wool knickers, wooden skis and answer to names like Ole, Sven and Robert).

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

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

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

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ST\$ Officers

FROM BETWEEN THE POLES – Chair Notes

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Welcome to the beginning of a new skiing season! The snows have not arrived yet, but this is when Section members plan ahead to ensure they get their “ski fix” in the coming winter months. The key event in this planning period is the Section’s annual Ski Fair, scheduled for Saturday afternoon, November 13th. The ground level of PATC headquarters in Vienna, Va. will be crawling with veteran Nordic skiers, ski novices and ski wanna-bes. Those who have attended before know that it is an upbeat afternoon filled with stories from trips of the past, meeting old ski buddies, checking out the trip offerings for the coming winter, laughter, buying winter gear, picking up pointers from others, and a host of other benefits that only a fair atmosphere can bring.

A word to the wise: Bring your checkbook. You will need it in order to sign up for trips and may need it to buy winter gear (the ski swap and our friends from OpenAir). Many of the trips fill up at Ski Fair. You are not a registered member for a trip until you have paid the required amount to the trip leader, so be prepared to act. If you are unable to attend the Fair, you may want to contact in advance the leader of any trip you are interested in and sign up. The full schedule of trips and leaders is contained in this newsletter and is also available on the STS web site.

Finally, my personal thanks to Peggy Alpert who ably chaired this Section for the preceding several years. She exhibited great leadership in that role and, fortunately for me, continues to provide wise assistance to the new Section leadership.

Look forward to meeting each of you at Ski Fair and many of you on the snows of the winter to come!

Rob Swennes

BTW: the web site of the mother club has changed. The new web site is <http://www.patc.net/>.



Renew Your ST\$ Membership Now!

Doug Lesar, your long- (maybe too long) tenured membership coordinator here. Usually by this time I’ve received a bunch of early membership renewals for the approaching winter but for some reason this year my mailbox has had little but crickets chirping inside. What’s the deal? Still shell shocked from last winter or something? Seriously, **renewal time is here**, and if you don’t reboard the train by New Year’s it leaves the station.

This UPSLOPE, whether emailed or snailmailed, will have a membership expiration code either on the USPS mailing label or in the forwarding email from Ralph. The code 2010-12 denotes imminent expiration. Any other higher number (e.g. 2011-12) means you will not need to renew right now. Instructions for renewing may be found in www.patc.us/chapters/ski (MEMBERSHIP button on the far right of the top of the home page).

Thanks, and think about getting those skis prepped,

Doug Lesar

PATC-ST'S' New Yahoo Group Gains New Subscribers



STS is now served by a Yahoo Group

The address of this group is: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PATC-ST'S/>

Membership in the Yahoo Group has grown exponentially, as has message traffic. As a result, the ListServ was terminated March 30, 2010. If you wish to continue to receive the type of communications related to cross-country skiing, such as information on impromptu trips, equipment for sale and general technical articles, easy access to The Upslope Newsletter, as well as trip descriptions and schedules you can join the Yahoo Group by going to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PATC-ST'S/> and clicking on the join button. We will do the rest and approve your request for free access. Membership in the PATC-ST'S is NOT required, but at \$9.00 a year, it is a great bargain. (It also gets you a \$10 discount on PATC-ST'S trips!)

Larry Doff

Ten Reasons For Trying the Yahoo Group PATC-ST'S

10. You will continue to keep abreast of cross-country ski trip news from the Ski Touring Section of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club.
9. You will be able to personally control the frequency at which you will receive PATC-ST'S messages.
8. You will be able to personally control the content of PATC-ST'S messages, i.e., full, summary, digest or just subject line.
7. You will be able to personally control the form of PATC-ST'S messages, ie text or full html.
6. You will be able to post your own messages regarding ski trips, items for sale or sought and other cross-county skiing subjects.
5. You will be able to go back to look at archived messages by subject, date or content.
4. You will be able to upload or read attachments, photos, documents and other material related to PATC-ST'S activities.
3. You will be able to communicate directly with other members *enmasse* or individually, publicly or privately.
2. You will be able to control your own privacy settings and protect yourself from SPAM.
1. The old ListServ is history and the PATC-ST'S Yahoo Group is now the sole method of web communication among and between members of the PATC-ST'S, other than our super web-site, which is one-way only.



They found about this trip on the Yahoo!Group photo by Al Larsen

Check the new PATC-ST'S Yahoo Group out at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PATC-ST'S/>

Ski Fair

(Continued from page 1)

Featured attractions at the Ski Fair include:

- Destinations and dates for ski weekends in nearby Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania
- Info on excursions to New York’s Tug Hill Region, New Hampshire, Quebec City, Vermont’s Stowe and Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, site of the 1936 Winter Olympics.
- Meet STS trip leaders and get details on all the trips—sign up so you don’t miss out
- Ski clothing from Open Air Wear
- Learn how to start XC skiing—gear, safety, lessons

Swap gear, tales, and tall stories.

STS Excursions are trips out of the PATC domain organized by STS trip leaders. You must be a member of STS AND PATC to participate on excursion trips. Because trip leaders must often make an early commitment for lodging accommodations, signups for these trips are accepted in advance of Ski Fair. You are not part of the trip until the trip leader receives your application form, liability waiver and check. To get the flavor of an STS Excursion, read Rob’s trip report on last January’s [New Hampshire White Mountain Trip \(page 8\)](#).



Buy and sell ski gear at the Ski Fair photo by Ralph Heimlich

PATC/STS 2010-2011 Trip Schedule

() indicates trips requiring PATC membership*

Dates	Nov. 5-7, 2009 (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	Email Lynn Yates: towson.lynn@gmail.com
Cost	Your transportation and food
Dates	Nov.13 Ski Fair 12:30-4:00 Cancels if snow! Just kidding!
Where	PATC Headquarters, Vienna, VA
	Free
Dates	Dec. 29 - Jan. 2 (Wed-Sun, 4 nights) Cancels if no snow.
Trip	(*)Tug Hill Region, Pulaski, New York
Lodging	Headwaters Motor Lodge for one night (Dec. 29) in Booneville (w/pastries and beverages in AM). Double Eagle Lodge in Pulaski for 3 nights, with breakfast. Bathroom in each room.
Description	Skiing and snowshoeing on the BREIA trails in Booneville, at Osceola ski touring center, Winona State Forest and Barnes Corners.. Enjoy a New Year’s wine and cheese party/ group pot luck dinner. Check with Peggy for food suggestions/need. Transportation by carpooling.
Leader	Peggy Alpert & Steve Brickel 301-946-4497 mountainmama15@verizon.net
Cost	\$280 –Lodging and food as indicated above, assuming minimum of 8 participants.

STS Trip Schedule (continued)

Dates	Jan 13-17 (Thursday- Monday, 4 nights) MLK Weekend 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/xcountryski/ and (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	Rob Swennes 703-532-6101 robertswennes@hotmail.com
Cost	\$370 includes ground transportation from the DC area, lodging (4 nights), and in-house food and beverages. Participants requiring a single bed must pay an additional \$75. Others will share queen sized beds or larger. Skiers pay for ski touring center (STC) trail fees, any restaurant meals, and incidental costs. Check with trip leader if you plan drive your own vehicle. Participants will travel by rented minivan to NH on Thursday & return on Monday. Van drivers will be rebated part of the trip cost. Three full days of skiing in NH!
Dates	Jan 20-23 (Thursday-Sunday, 3 nights) No cancelation
Trip	Canaan Valley, WV
Lodging	Canaan Valley State Park Cabin w/complete kitchen for breakfast, pot luck and/ or individual dinner.
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	Doug Lesar 301-587-8041 dlesar@comcast.net
Cost	Cost \$125 per person lodging only, assuming minimum of 6 participants. Note three-night stay and carpooling to be arranged.
Dates	Jan 21-23 (Friday-Sunday, 2 nights) Cancels if no snow
Trip	Laurel Highlands. PA Learn to Ski
Lodging	Super 8, downtown Somerset PA
Description	Join a dozen+ students enjoying two days of beginner- level, free instruction in cross-country skiing from seasoned volunteers, ranging from dry land to fixed stations to instructional tours, emphasizing safety and fun. Learn more in two days than years of skiing on your own. Car pool transportation.
Leader	Greg Westernik 703-763-3833 or gmwester@gmail.com
Cost	\$75 covers only lodging, double occupancy. Meals, ski equipment rental extra.
Dates	Jan 28-30 (Friday-Sunday, 2 nights) Cancels if no snow
Trip	Blackwater Falls, WV
Lodging	Blackwater Falls Lodge (www.blackwaterfalls.com). Rms have private bath, phone, TV. Lodge amenities include game room, great room with fireplace, indoor pool, hot tub and fitness equipment. Hearty meals available at Lodge Restaurant.
Description	*Ski beautiful Blackwater Falls State Park with twenty +miles of trails for all levels of skiers. Many trails are groomed . Sledding hill available when snow is. Skis, poles, boots and sleds can be rented at Sled Run & Cross Country Ski Center.
Leader	Jennifer Bine 703-533-2436 j.bine@verizon.net
Cost	TBA
Dates	Feb 4-6 (Friday-Sunday, 2 nights) Cancels if no snow
Trip	Laurel Highlands, PA
Lodging	Super 8, downtown Somerset PA
Description	Join a dozen + fellow skiers gliding at favorites (Laurel Ridge STC, Laurel Mtn, Roaring Run Natural Area, North Woods, Hidden Valley) with more kms than you ever do in a weekend.
Leader	Greg Westernik 703-763-3833 gmwester@gmail.com
Cost	\$80 covers only lodging, double occupancy

STS Trip Schedule (continued)

Dates	February 16-21 (Wed-Mon, 5 nights) no cancellation
Trip	(*) Stowe, Vermont
Lodging	Fiddlers Green Inn (B&B), in the heart of Stowe. Community trail out the door.
Description	Over 200 miles of trails in the Green Mts. Ski touring Centers include Trapp Family Lodge, Stowe, Craftsberry, and Bolton. Down hill also available. Will fly into Burlington, VT
Leader	Peggy Alpert, 301-946-4497, mountainmama15@verizon.net
Cost	\$ 327/person (pay to Margaret Alpert) includes lodging, breakfasts and one dinner. Based on minimum of 8 participants. Additional \$ for airfare, car rental, trail fees and food.
Dates	Feb 10-13 (Friday-Monday, 3 nights) No cancelation
Trip	Canaan Valley, WV
Lodging	Canaan Valley State Park Deluxe Cabin: Each room has 2 double beds. The lvg rm has TV, phone, fireplace. There is a full kitchen. We will have a potluck dinner on Saturday night. After a long day of skiing we can use Lodge amenities: hot tub, sauna, and pool.
Description	Ski at White Grass, the cabin area at Canaan Valley State Park, and Blackwater Falls State Park.
Leader	Kathy and Elliot Brumberger 301-774-7412 or kathybrum@verizon.net
Cost	\$125 Lodging only, double occupancy, assuming 8 participants
Dates	Feb 18-21 (Friday-Monday, 3 nights) No cancelation
Trip	Ski-Dance Weekend. Laurel Highlands area, PA
Lodging	Camp Harmony, PA a beautiful rustic setting
Description	27 th annual cross-country skiing, sledding, contra dancing, and music making. Lots of fun outdoors and indoors in. Dance to live music in the evening by Dave Weisler and the Avant Gardeners. Bring your talents and instruments to share. Lodging dormitory-style at Camp Harmony. Trip begins on Friday evening with an informal potluck supper and dance and ends on Monday with lunch; 7 meals included. Camp Harmony has over 100 acres available for cross-country skiing, slopes for sledding and several different types of habitat. Laurel Ridge, Laurel Mts. And Forbes State Forest areas are nearby. Check website, www.skidance.com for more information and registration form.
Leader	Email: eliotapplestein@verizon.net ; H: (301) 984-6855 or Bob Mathis (301-589-7539) talibob@starpower.net
Cost	Adults \$180 (\$170 for STS/Sierra Club members), Children ages 3-13 \$85, Infants – 2 years \$5
Dates	Feb 18-27 (8 nights, Friday - Sunday) No cancelation
Trip	(*) Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany
Lodging	Vacation apartments in Garmisch
Description	Seven days of skiing in and around Garmisch and at other locations nearby in Bavaria and northern Austria. Fly from Dulles to Munich and drive to our lodgings. Most skiing will be done on groomed trails in and between local villages. Downhill skiing on the Zugspitze and at other venues is also an option. If the weather is warm in Garmisch, we will ski in valleys at higher elevations in Austria. Last day and night to be spent in Munich. We will cook most of our meals, sharing favorite recipes. 12 person maximum.
Leader	Rob Swennes 703-532-6101 robertswennes@hotmail.com
Cost	\$1200/person for lodging, local travel expenses, and in-house food and drink. Extra\$\$: Participants purchase their airline tickets to/from Munich, restaurant meals and other local expenses..
Dates	Feb 27-Mar 4 No cancellation
Trip	(*) Camp Mercier, Quebec, Canada
Lodging	Cabins at Camp Mercier
Description	Skiing in and around Camp Mercier, part of a large national park in Quebec (Reserve Faunique des Laurentides) 50 km. north of Quebec City. Most skiing will be done on prepared tracked trails. Option to arrange downhill skiing in the area available. Fly from Dulles to Burlington, VT. Drive to destination about a 5 hour drive. Maximum 12 participants.. Track skis will work fine, given the terrain.
Leader	Kathryn Good 571-218-9225 avignon7@aol.com
Cost	\$850/person for lodging, local travel expenses, in-house food, Camp trail fees. Participants arrange their airline tickets to/from Burlington, car rental expenses. restaurant meals. some trail fees and other local expenses are extra\$.

**Minutes of PATC Ski Touring Section
Annual Business Meeting
March 1, 2010**

May Day, May Day. That was just the date of the meeting, not a distress signal, as the STS faithful gathered at the house of section member Catherine Payne for our annual end of season meeting and party. Outgoing Chair Peggy Alpert asked that everyone introduce themselves. After some awkward moments reacquainting certain members with the basic points of Roberts' Rules of Order, the members approved the minutes from last year's meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Next, Rob Swennes presented the Treasurer's Report. Among other points reflected in the report, Rob noted that, compared with recent years, more trips had successfully gone out this year (with the good snow), so there were both more actual expenses and more revenue than the figures in the budget. Some leaders choose to run certain expenses through the club account, and others do not. That is, a lodging deposit, for example, might be paid initially with a club check and then repaid to the club by the trip leader, or the leader might front the money and then repay himself with the participant funds. The former approach would show up in the treasurer's report in both the actual expense and actual income lines.

Rob noted a line entry for computer equipment. That was for the Section's purchase of a projector that works with photos loaded to a computer. The projector will be used at a variety of events, such as the Fall Ski Fair, the annual meetings, and other gatherings where we want to show photos from trips, etc.

With the assembled group having learned from the handling of the previous agenda item, this time, there was a motion, a second to the motion, and a hearty round of "ayes", resulting in a declaration from Chair Alpert that the Treasurer's Report was approved.

Membership Report

Doug Lesar reported that during the past year, the Section gained more new members than it lost previous members, for a net gain. After performing a sophisticated statistical regression analysis, Doug presented his findings: "membership follows snow". It was a good snow year, so membership was up. He declared that we thus "arrested" the drop off of recent years. Presumably the Mountaineering Section would be proud of our self-arrest.

Doug noted that about 60% of members now elect to receive the Upslope newsletter electronically. Once again a plug—for environmental responsibility and cost savings for the Section—anyone who can do so is encouraged to receive the e-mail version rather than the hard copy US Post version. Finally, in keeping with his recent excellent track record of colorful metaphors, Grim Reaper Doug noted that, with the switch to a new e-mail list serv during the past year, and the need for people to take an affirmative action to "opt in", the "chaff had been culled" from the STS e-mail list. You chaff-ers know who you are.

Trip Coordinator

Peggy announced that Trip Coordinator Kathy Brumberger, along with husband Elliot, had departed the DC area for a few months and were [cue the envy music] serving as hosts in Yosemite National Park. As a result there was no Trip Coordinator's report, but Peggy thanked Kathy for her terrific work during the year.

Peggy called for trip leaders for the coming year. As always, this is the key to the success of the STS—having folks who are willing to conceive of a trip, or execute a trip someone else suggests. Peggy reminded the members that the trip leader's lodging is paid for as part of the fees collected from the trip participants. If a person is willing to lead a trip, but does not want to come up with an idea for a trip, the Trip Coordinator can match that leader up with a destination, and provide assistance in understanding what needs to be done to pull off a trip.

New Business

During the past ski season, when member use of the list serv (section e-mail system) was heaviest, some members raised questions about receiving e-mails in different ways, such as digest version, periodic lump dumps, etc. Larry Doff took the initiative to investigate, and then execute a move to Yahoo Groups for the STS system. As noted during the Membership Report, those interested in being part of the new yahoo Groups system must take affirmative action to join. One does not have to be an STS member to join the Yahoo Group. Doug Lesar and Steve Brickel are the monitors for the list serv group. To sign up, use the web site link that forwards a request to Doug and Steve. The address for that is on the STS website.

We have now phased out the previous list serv system, one that served us well and for which the Section is very thankful. The section expressed its public gratitude for those who have made that system available to us for all these years at no cost to the club, especially Stuart Barkley and Doug Lesar, who handled most of the requests of adding or removing members

The PATC wants the proposed schedule for STS Excursion Trips (i.e. those outside VA, MD, DC, PA or WV), sent to its Executive Committee in advance of publishing anything about the schedule. STS can do this by e-mail, not requiring an in-person presentation. They would like an explanation of leaders, where the skiing will occur, what lodging will be used, etc. For any Excursion Trip, they want all participants to sign a PATC release form (in addition to the STS release form). A continuing requirement (from previous years) is that participants in Excursion Trips must be members of PATC (again, not just STS).

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2010 Après Ski Meeting Minutes

(Continued from page 7)

An issue arose during last season regarding room arrangements on trips. This can especially be an issue when the lodging is at a house or a condo, and specifically, the sharing of beds by a non-couple. Generally, STS gives trip leaders the discretionary authority to assign two same sex people to a single bed if the bed is queen-sized or larger. Some people are not comfortable with such an arrangement. So, it was agreed that the trip leader could assign a premium price to be paid by such a person in order to have the whole bed, and not be obligated to share. However, when there are multiple beds in a single room, the leader will not be able to allocate a whole room to just one person.

Election of Officers

Outgoing Chair Peggy Alpert conducted the election of officers for the coming year. She presented a slate of those willing to serve, and she called for further nominations. There were no additional nominations. The presented slate was as follows:

- * Chair—Rob Swennes
- * Vice Chair—Jennifer Bine
- * Treasurer—Brian O’Konski
- * Secretary—Al Larsen

The full slate, as presented, was elected.

Peggy next announced the non-elected leadership positions, that are filled by appointment. These were as follows:

- * Trip Coordinator—Rich Galloway
- * Membership Coordinator—Doug Lesar
- * Mailing Coordinator—Randy Kerr
- * Upslope Editor—Ralph Heimlich
- * Webmaster—Steve Brickel

The following roles/positions are unfilled due to lack of volunteers for these tasks:

- * Publicity Coordinator
- * PATC Liaison (to fill in if Chair cannot attend a PATC meeting)

If a member is interested in serving in one of the latter two roles during the coming year, please contact Chair Rob Swennes. John Tichenor volunteered to work with Steve Brickel to establish a more visible presence on the internet for the STS.

The assembled multitude then thanked Peggy for her years of service to the STS in multiple roles. Peggy responded that she’s not going anywhere—just taking a break from official responsibilities, but will continue to help out.

As Peggy prepared to execute her final official act, of calling the meeting to a close, those nearest the door, realizing that Peggy had relinquished the gavel, bolted for the food.

Respectfully submitted,
Al Larsen, Secretary

Skiing New Hampshire’s White Mountains



Andrew & Faith in a silent walk up the snow-clad hillside at Crawford Notch *photo by Rob Swennes*

Last January the Section sponsored what has become an annual excursion to the several skiing locales within the White Mountains of New Hampshire. While we in the Washington area were blessed (nonskiers might say cursed) with an abundance of snow in February, in mid January conditions were not great for skiing in the mid-Atlantic area and many places further north. The New Hampshire ski touring centers (STC) were an exception to that bleak scenario. Those who travelled to New England over the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday weekend enjoyed an abundance of skiing.

Our group lodges in rental housing in the Jackson-Glen-North Conway area not far from Pinkham Notch. Much of the area is within sight of Mount Washington—on days when the weather is clear enough to see the peak. There are three good STCs within a few miles of our lodgings that offer classic skiing as well as skate skiing trails. The Jackson STC (<http://www.jacksonxc.org/>) is traditionally where we ski on our first day, and we did so again this year. The Ellis River trail is several miles long and offers a gently rolling out-and-back experience for skiers like ourselves who are just working to get our ski legs back after 10 months or so of warmer weather activity. Several other trails loop off of the Ellis River trail for those seeking more challenges. And some of those trails can be quite challenging, so one has to pick carefully. Some years we spend a second day at Jackson and ski the East Pastures area, which is a fair distance from the large Jackson ski center building. For those

less ambitious, there are numerous small restaurants in town near the ski center where one can buy a nice lunch in the early afternoon after a few hours on the trails. Jackson is a charming New England hamlet with a steady tourist traffic year around. But fortunately many of those

Ski Trip Schedule (continued)

(Continued from page 8)

in town in winter are Nordic skiers looking for the same fine snow as us.

The second day our group opted to ski at the Bretton Woods STC about 20 miles northwest of our lodgings. The center's trails surround the historic Mount Washington Hotel, which has some great views of the Presidential Range of mountains. The skiing was fine at Bretton Woods that day.

A small contingent opted, however, to spend the day snowshoeing a short distance away beginning at Crawford Notch. We drove through the notch (think gap, as in Snickers Gap) on the highway from the Jackson area over to Bretton Woods. Barry Weston, an intrepid STS member from Durham, NC, had hiked the Crawford Path (we would say trail here in the mid-Atlantic) the previous summer and thought it would make for a good snowshoeing experience as well. He was right. The trail was sufficiently steep in most places to rule out cross-country skiing. We met several dozen snowshoers over the course of the day ascending and later descending the trail.

The Crawford Path is historic and much beloved by people in the area. It was a challenging climb. In the course of the ascent the snow on the surrounding trees changed dramatically. And when we reached the alpine area on the upper reaches of Mt. Clinton, the wind and frozen fog beat at us relentlessly. We stopped at a rime-covered collection of signs for a few photos and then scurried back down the mountainside in search of wind protection. It was twilight before we made it back to Bretton Woods.



The horizontal ice rime on the visible sign showed that conditions were bitter near the top of the mountain. Only the lowest sign had been cleared of ice and snow; the remainder stayed covered in frozen water deposited by the frigid clouds that enveloped the mountain peaks. The winds were severe. We stayed here only long enough to take a couple of pictures and then began our descent photo by Rob Swennes



We ski to EAT photo by Rob Swennes

The third and final skiing day up in New Hampshire was spent on the ski trails at The Balsams (<http://thebalsams.com/>)—another of the grand hotels built mostly during the Gilded Age. A tourist inn was first established on this site just after the Civil War. The property is many thousands of acres in size. It boasts 95 km. of cross-country ski trails. Though it is a two-hour drive north of the Jackson-Glen area, The Balsams offers some of the most dependable Nordic skiing in the eastern United States. On those rare occasions when skiing in the Jackson-Glen area is marginal, The Balsams has always met our needs. And it offers a wonderful apres-ski venue with live music, free munchies, and a wide selection of excellent wines and beers. Once again the skiers considered the trip up and back to The Balsams to be well worth the travel time.

This trip runs from Thursday through the holiday Monday (the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday). Thursday and Monday are the travel days, so we have three full days of skiing in between. The Section normally prices the trip to include minivan transport from the DC area. If skiers want to drive their own vehicles to New Hampshire or instead fly to Manchester and make their own rental car arrangements there, they only pay the Section the cost of the lodging and in-house meals.

This is a popular trip that over the last few years has grown to about two dozen skiers. For the coming winter we have reserved a larger house that should accommodate most of the participants and offer a central location for evening socializing.

More pictures are online at

http://www.kodakgallery.com/gallery/sharing/shareRedirectSwitchBoard.jsp?token=724837226506%3A1868804796&sourceId=533754321803&cm_mmc=eMail-_-Share-_-Photos-_-Sharee

PATC-Ski Touring Section

c/o Doug Lesar

2507 Campbell Place

Kensington, MD 20895

October 2010



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 New Yahoo Group so I can get infrequent, adhoc announcements of local XC Ski activities: ___
- 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 Content Assistant

Ski Trip Leader

Special Events Coordinator