



UPSLOPE



Newsletter of the NORDIC Ski Touring Section of PATC

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

December 2014

UpComing Attractions In Winter UPSLOPE

- YOUR ski stories
- More BS from Ralph!

2014 Ski Fair

On November 1, 2014k, the Ski Touring Section's annual Ski Fair took place at the headquarters of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club in Vienna. The Section offered an exciting and broad range of ski trips for the 2014-15 winter season. Several of the trips were filled during Ski Fair (see table on page x.), but there are slots remaining on some trips. Contact the trip leader to grab the last few spots on this winter's trips.



Open Air Wear (Doug Lipton) was at the Fair as usual selling its great fleece and other winter outfits at reasonable prices.

Signing up for 2014 Trips—photo by Stan Turk

No matter how many times we've had the Ski Fair, there are always new and interesting offerings and better fabrics from Open Air Wear.

We had a full program of presentations on various ski locales by skiers who have visited there, including:

- * Banff National Park, Alberta *Rich Galloway*
- * Glacier Skiing in British Columbia *Doug Lesar and Jack Kangas*
- * Nordic Skiing in Colorado *Mark Lorie*
- * Skiing in the White Mountains of New Hamp-

(Continued on page 4)



Presentations—photo by Ralph Heimlich

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STS MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE!

Yet another membership renewal period is in effect for the Ski Touring Section of PATC. Memberships expiring in 2014 must be renewed before 1 January 2015 for membership to continue into the upcoming ski season. **The countdown is on!** Remember that your modest dues are used to stoke a revolving club account that finances advance payments for trip and excursion lodging. Think of it as an investment in future fun.

If you receive UPSLOPE electronically, look on the email subject line for your expiration date. For those receiving UPSLOPE by U.S. mail, examine the UPSLOPE mailing label. If you see 2014-12, your membership expires on the last day of 2014.

For a membership renewal form with my address and dues amounts, visit <http://www.patc.us/chapters/ski/> and press the MEMBERSHIP button on the upper right of the club's home page for a downloadable and edit-ready PDF file.

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

Doug Lesar
STS recordskeeper / duesmeister

ST\$ Officers

FROM THE \$LOPES – Chair Notes

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UPSLOPE

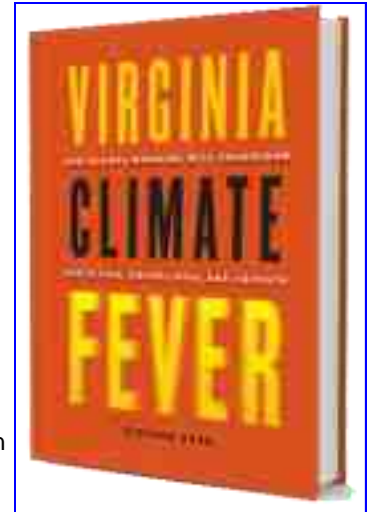
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Where are the snows of the future?

In the last Upslope issue I wrote a column based in part on Francois Villon’s 15th century poem *Mais où sont les neiges d’antan!* (But where are the snows of the past?). In this column, I’ll speculate a bit looking ahead to the years to come. Where will the snows be in the coming decades?

I am drawn to this theme by a book I recently read that details the likely effects of global warming over the remainder of this century in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The University of Virginia Press this year published a book entitled *Virginia Climate Fever* (<http://virginiacimatefever.com/>) by Stephen Nash, an environmental journalist teaching at the University of Richmond. The subtitle of the book is “How Global Warming Will Transform Our Cities, Shorelines and Forests.” Professor Nash discussed his book at a Sierra Club event in Old Town Alexandria last month. His presentation was in no way hyped or inflammatory in style; nor is the book. But the hard scientific data charted in *Virginia Climate Fever* speak volumes, and the inferences are not pretty. I would urge you to purchase the book and read it. It could save you a lot of money. Case in point: do not buy property on or near the coast. Its value when underwater is pretty close to nil. And in the several decades it may take for it to become permanently underwater, you would spend tons of money trying in vain to keep it above water during storm surges.



What does this dystopian future mean for our beloved sport of Nordic skiing? The prognosis is not good. As our winters become milder and our summers warmer, the average number of major snowfalls in the Mid-Atlantic region will almost certainly decrease. There will still be skiable snow at times during the winter for all reading this column, but it will be a diminishing phenomenon. How many of you remember the winters in the late 1970s when the Potomac River froze over for a week or more? The local records back in colonial times speak of the river freezing almost every winter in the Maryland/Virginia region when George Washington lived at Mount Vernon.

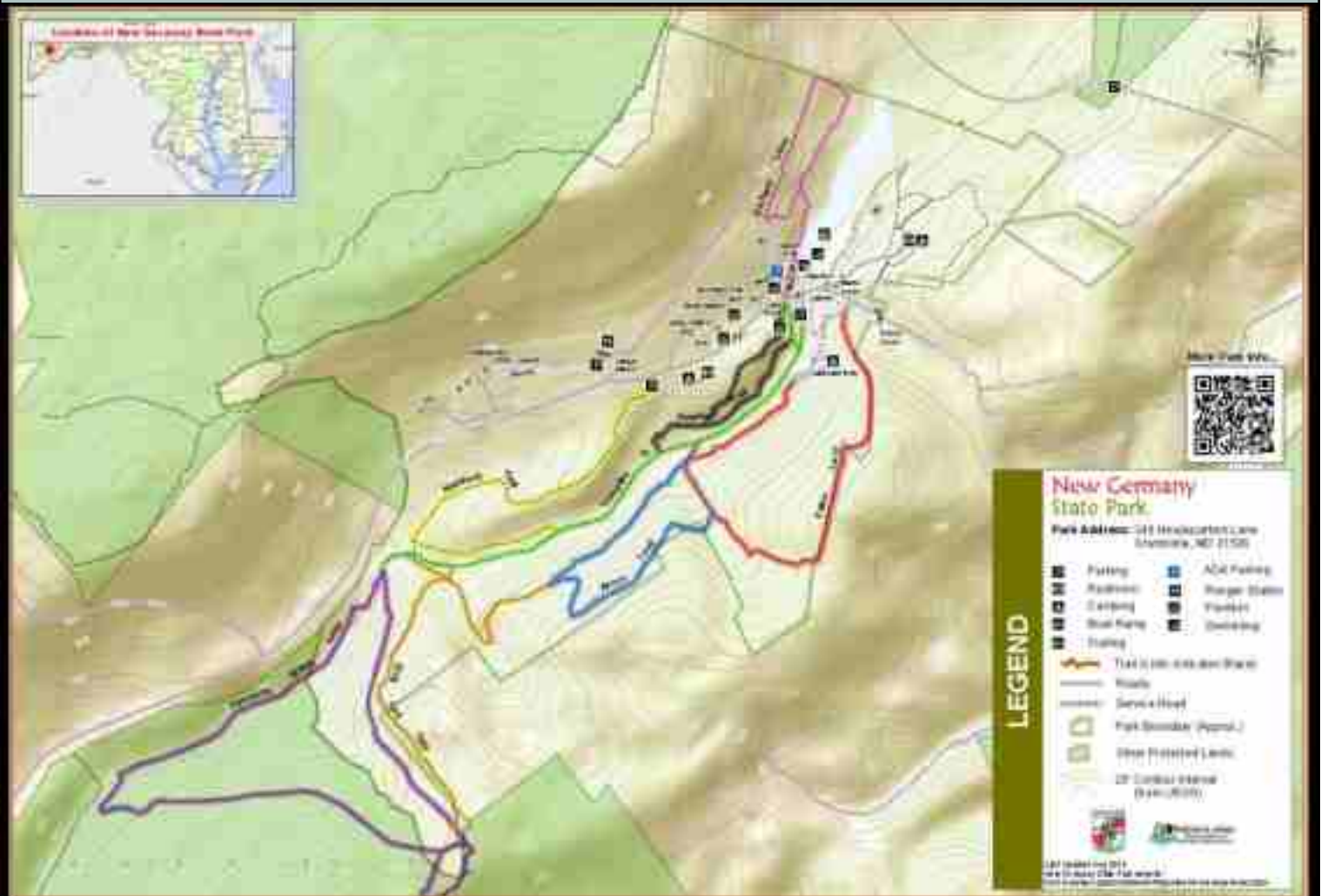
The Ski Touring Section in years to come may respond to these climate developments by proposing more trips to locations north of the Mid-Atlantic region and to higher elevations out West where there are better chances of skiable snow. We will work to adapt. We will treat as precious any good snow that comes our way. We will hope this prognosis is wrong. But the regional climate data collected in recent decades are hard and unforgiving.

For this winter season consider perhaps a more ambitious ski trip if you, like me, really need to get in that winter “ski fix” on skinny skis. And ponder as a skier and as a citizen the longer term climate effects that seem to be edging our way.

Rob Swennes



New Trail Map for New Germany State Park Ski Trails



A new map of the trails at New Germany State Park can be downloaded for free. Please make sure to read the printing instructions and information for how to download the file to cell phones. The map is in a PDF format that requires Adobe Reader. [To get the free Adobe Reader go to Adobe.com.](#)

 [Click here to view the New Germany State Park Trail Map](#)

 [Click here to view the instructions for printing and downloading the New Germany State Park Trail Map](#)

Are You Already Part of YAHOO GROUPS? Facebook?

If you haven't joined Yahoo Groups, make sure to do it.
Go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PATC-STS/>
Ask to join the group. You will get a confirmation message in your email.

FACEBOOK: Please sign on to the STS Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Ski-Touring-Section-Potomac-Appalachian-Trail-Club/226549600733615> and "Like" us. You can easily locate it by putting the phrase "Ski Touring Section" into the search box at the top of the Facebook page. "Likes" are critical for getting status on Facebook and thus for helping others find us when they want information on Nordic skiing.

You can also join our Meetup, Nordic Skiers of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club at <http://www.meetup.com/Nordic-Skiers-of-the-Potomac-Appalachian-Trail-Club/>

Ski Fair (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

- shire *Rob Swennes*
- * Laurel Highlands, Pennsylvania Skiing *Bozena Sarnecka-Crouch*
- * Skiing in Vermont *Peggy Alpert*

These presentations included fine digital photos of the ski locations. The Section is hosting trips to several of these winter ski locals this season, so the information was timely and well received.

Erma Cameron organized the pot luck food table and procured wraps, beverages and other goodies to round out offerings brought by members.



A full roster of trips—photo by Stan Turk



Drawings for Open Air Wear prizes—photo by Ralph Heimlich

A large variety of used skis, boots, clothing, and other winter gear was swapped and given new homes at the Gear Swap. More importantly, it freed up the sellers to go out and buy new stuff for this season!

Ski Fair is always a bit raucous, given the number of folks meeting friends from earlier trips and wanting to recall old times and snowy adventures together. That's just one of the factors that drives conversation during the event. We hope new and old members alike enjoyed the opportunity to get together once more.

Now, on with the SNOW!

Learn to Ski Trips Scheduled

To first-time skiers (young and old)—For those who are first-time XC skiers or are women who have skied and want to pick up additional skills, Chip Chase has these activities planned at Whitegrass on Saturday of the **January 9-11 STS Learn to Ski weekend**. That leaves you plenty of time to sign up for the fun-filled ski trips we are offering throughout the winter. Don't miss out.

Winter Trails Day:

Free lessons / clinics and rentals to all first time interested skiers and snowshoers. XC lessons every hour and a 10am and 2pm clinic on types of snowshoes, clothing, and basic techniques, and outdoor winter snow travel, followed by a natural history tour on snowshoes into our neighboring National Wildlife Refuge.

Women's Winter Ski Day:

Refresh or pick up some new ski techniques. Instructions available for all types of skiers and experience levels from track and skate techniques to downhill control and telemark turns. Lunch included. 9am - 3pm.

If you are interested in participating in the **STS Learn to Ski Weekend**, please email ASAP (to bertanamo@gmail.com), as I may have some slots available. If you know of anyone who would like to learn to ski, pass this message on. The more the merrier.

Also, Chip has clinics for children scheduled for January 3 and 4 over New Year's weekend. If you would like to introduce your children to cross-country skiing, plan on visiting Whitegrass during that weekend. I will most likely be in Canaan that weekend.

See you in January
Bert Finkelstein

Whitegrass Work Trip



Repairing a bridge at Whitegrass (Standing: J. T., Cathy Collins, Doug Lesar; Kneeling: Dave Collins, [I don't know], standing in stream: Chip Chase)—photo by Erma Cameron

We had another great worktrip to Whitegrass Ski Touring Center in Canaan Valley, WV, November 8-9, 2014. There was a total of 7 STSers on the trip, and we were joined at Whitegrass by several locals. The work was the usual – replacing small bridges, cleaning out drainage channels, clearing trails of windfall – and one major bridge reconstruction (see photos below).

As usual, Whitegrass supplied us with ample lunches on both Saturday and Sunday – soups, sandwiches, brownies, cookies and fruit. Oh, and après-work beer and wine! Thanks to the generosity of a club member, we had a lovely vacation home in which to stay in Canaan Valley. Plus Bert Finkelstein graciously put up one of the participants at his vacation home. Thanks, Bert!

A good time was had by all.

Erma Cameron

Non-club trip to New Mexico/Colorado



Some of you who know me, know that I'm a bit of a train enthusiast. I've had an interest to ride the Southwest Chief over Raton Pass, a scenic and historic transcontinental rail route that may be shut down in the next year or so because the freight railroad that owns it has other, better routes they can use, and Amtrak doesn't have enough money to buy the tracks and fix them up. The Southwest Chief will continue running between Chicago and Los Angeles, but it will be rerouted over a more boring (from the scenery point of view) stretch of tracks. So I've been interested in riding this route for a while, but not all the way to LA. Where I had wanted to go is Santa Fe and northeastern New Mexico. Aside from a trip to Philmont Scout Ranch over 45 years ago, it's a part of the country I've never seen. Then I found out that Amtrak fares were lowest in January and February, and, low and behold, I realized that I could combine a train trip with ... cross country skiing!

About 20 years ago, my employer was sending me to Colorado for training classes. For some reason, they tended to be in February. Thus, I spent some time skiing in up by the Continental Divide, about 1 1/2 hours from where I was staying in the Denver area. It was good skiing, deep powdery snow, and I'd like to go back.

(Continued on page 7)

2014-15 Ski Schedule

Below is a the 2014-15 STS schedule of trips, updated for current openings at press time. Let me know if you would like to lead another trip. Kathy Brumberger kathybrum@verizon.net

<i>Date</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Leader</i>
Dec 30–Jan 3	Tug Hill, NY FULL Cancels if no snow	Peggy Alpert
Jan 9-11	Laurel Highlands Openings available Cancels if no snow	Bozena Sarnecka-Crouch
Jan 9-11	Blackwater Falls Lodge, Openings available WV Cancels if no snow	Joe Bachman
Jan 15-19 MLK	Jackson, NH White Mts. One female needed. No cancellation	Rob Swennes
Jan 16-19 MLK	Laurel Highlands, PA Openings available Cancels if no snow	Brian O'Konski
Jan 23-25	Laurel Highlands, PA One male needed Cancels if no snow	Laurie Welch
Jan 23-Jan 25	Blackwater Falls Cabin, WV FULL No cancellation	Ralph Heimlich
Jan 29-Feb 1	Canaan Valley Deluxe Cabin, WV FULL No cancellation	Doug Lesar
Jan 30-Feb 1	Laurel Highlands, PA Openings available Cancels if no snow	Greg Westernik
Feb 5-8	Blackwater Falls Deluxe FULL Cabin No cancellation	Kathy Brumberger
Feb 8-13	Stowe, VT CANCELLED	Peggy Alpert
Feb 10-19	Lake Louise/Banff National Park Openings available No cancellation	Rob Swennes
Feb 13-16 Pres Week end	Ski Dance, Laurel Highlands, Camp Sequanota Openings available No cancellation www.skidance.com	Eliot Applestein/Bob Mathis
Feb 13-16 Pres Week end	Blackwater Falls, WV Room for one female Cancels if no snow	Kathy Brumberger
Feb 20-22	Laurel Highlands, PA Openings available Cancels if no snow	Greg Rudl
Feb 20-22	Western Maryland One male needed Cancels if no snow	Ralph Heimlich
Feb 26-Mar 2	Upstate New York, (Lake Placid/Adirondacks/Tug Hill) Openings available Cancels if no snow	Greg Westernik



Tug Hill, New York, 2010

Non-Club New Mexico/Colorado Trip (cont.)

(Continued from page 5)

Thus, this proposed trip, 9 nights from Albuquerque to Denver:

- * Leave from Santa Fe, NM on Sunday Feb 1 and drive up to Taos.
- * Three nights in Taos (in what looks like a very nice house) (Feb 1,2,3)
- * Leave on Feb 3 for the 4-5 hour drive to Breckenridge, CO
- * Three nights in Breckenridge (Breckenridge house has more room) (Feb 4,5,6)
- * Depart on Feb 7 to Denver (a 1.5 hour drive) and fly home from Denver.

I am renting a minivan and can take one more rider. The house in Taos sleeps about 6, and would fit either a couple and a single or two singles in addition to the three of us already going. The house in Breckenridge has a bit more space than the house in Taos, so if you want to come directly to Breckenridge from Denver, that's also a possibility. If we get three more people to come, the cost for lodging would be about \$350 for the 6 nights, plus food and transportation. A fourth person in the rental van would be about \$200 plus share of gas for van transportation between Santa Fe and Denver.

Ray, his wife, and I are taking the train from Chicago to Santa Fe, departing Chicago on Jan 30. The best way to get there by air is by flying to Albuquerque and taking a ground shuttle.

There are a bunch of XC opportunities in the area -- Breckenridge and Frisco have nice Nordic

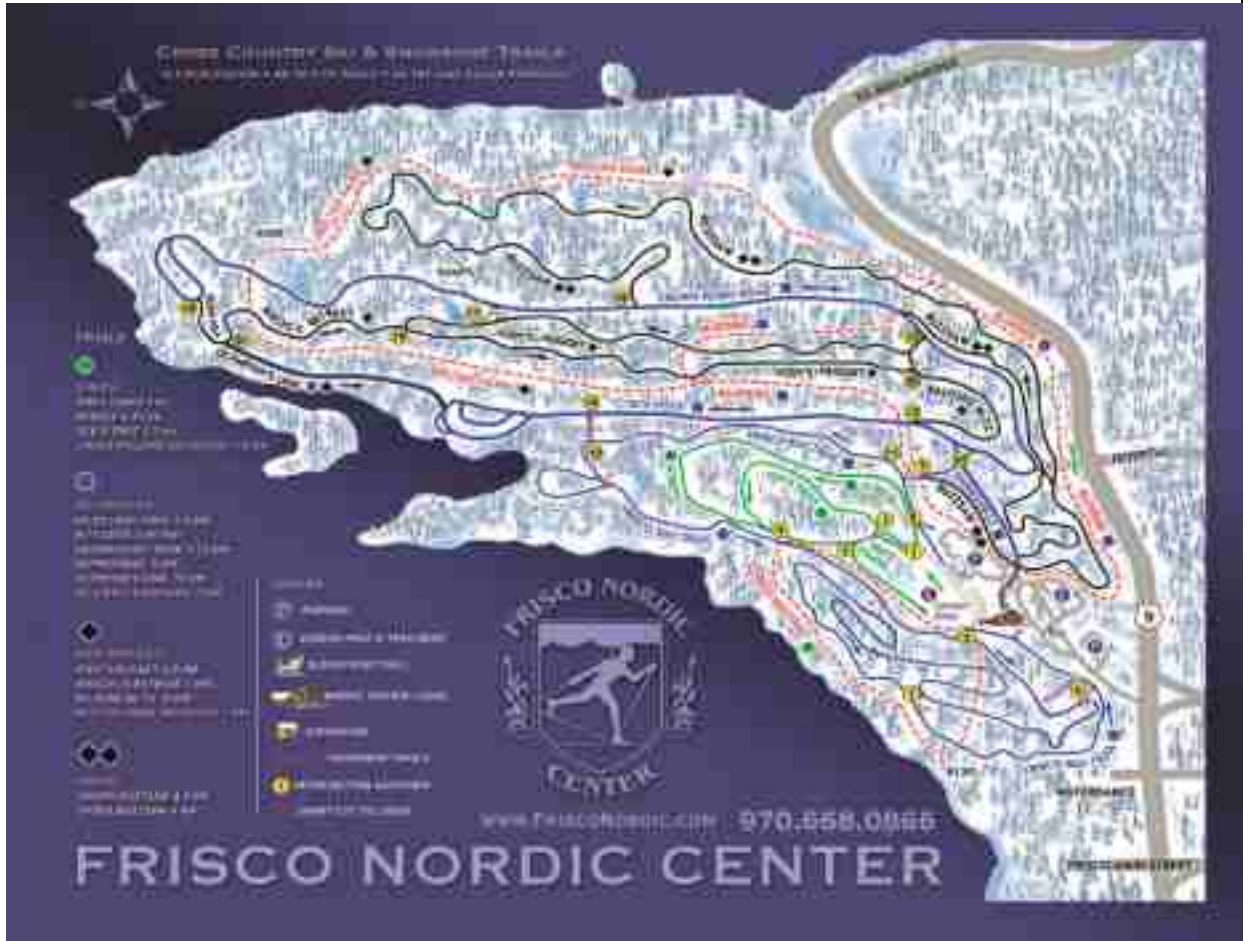
centers with groomed trails, there are a bunch of National Forest roads that head up to the Continental Divide that you can ski up a good way without having to worry about avalanches. There's some snowshoeing one can do, and I might even be interested in taking a downhill ski lesson at Keystone or Breckenridge. I wonder if anyone there teaches telemark?

Cross country skiing and snowshoeing in Taos is at Enchanted Forest Nordic center Taos Valley (about 45 minutes from Taos) (<http://www.enchantedforestxc.com/>)

In Breckenridge, there are two nordic centers: Breckenridge (<http://www.breckenridgenordic.com/>) and Gold Run (<http://www.townofbreckenridge.com/index.aspx?page=1015>) as well as a nordic center at Frisco (<http://www.frisconordic.com/>) and a lot of backcountry terrain.

If you've never tried that fluffy western powder, here's a good chance to do so.

If you're interested, drop me an email, and I'll tell you more.



Joe Bachman
joseph.bachman@verizon.net

They're Skiing in the Adirondack; Already!!

Garnet Hill Lodge Trail Conditions and Weather

Date: 12/13/14

Ski Day Number: 14

High Temperature: 33

Trails Open: 40k

Track Set: 25 k

Garnet Hill Lodge has had a wonderful gift from mother nature over the last several days. Our base depth is over 8 inches and the weather will be perfect for cross country skiing today.

See a live webcam at <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/19481468>

Trail Grooming status for 12/13/2014

Name		Open	Groomed	Groomed Today	Name		Open	Groomed	Groomed Today
4H Trail	●	Yes	Yes	Yes	Andys Run	□	Yes	Yes	Yes
Apple Way	●	Yes	No	Yes	Beach Trail	□	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bewilderness	□	No	No	No	Blue Jay Way	□	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bobcat Run	◆	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cougar Run (Lower)	□	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cougar Run (Upper)	□	Yes	Yes	Yes	Coyote Pass	□	No	No	No
Cutoff Trail	□	Yes	Yes	Yes	Duffany's Run	◆	No	No	No
Hagan	□	Yes	No	No	Hi Boy Hill	□	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hooper Loop	□	Yes	Yes	Yes	Joe Pete's Run	◆	No	No	No
Lifeline	□	Yes	Yes	Yes	Loggers Loop	●	Yes	No	No
Moose Run	□	Yes	No	No	Mountain View	●	Yes	No	Yes
Old Faithful	●	Yes	Yes	Yes	Porcupine	●	No	No	No
Putty Pond Trail	●	No	No	No	Ravens Run	□	No	No	No
Red Fox Run	□	No	No	No	Skullbuster	◆	Yes	Yes	Yes
Solitude	◆	No	No	No	Sugar House Trail (Upper)	□	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sugar House Trail (Lower)	◆	Yes	Yes	Yes	Tamarack	●	No	No	No
Trapper Bypass	□	Yes	No	No	Trapper Trail (Lower)	□	Yes	Yes	Yes
Trapper Trail (Upper)	□	Yes	Yes	Yes	Wagon Wheel Way	●	Yes	Yes	Yes
White Tail Way	●	Yes	Yes	Yes	Wilderness	□	Yes	Yes	Yes

White Grass Ski Report 12/13/2014

12/13/2014—Robbie and Adam groomed the snowfarm, lots of new cold fresh blown in powder. Bill Berlin skied to Weiss Knob solo and is still alive yet he said after 10 skiers it may wear out. 25 degrees, 5 kilometers in FANASTIC condition, no drizzle yet, not too windy, close to ideal for this time of the year and for the warm forecast ahead. The time is now!



Shop Open / Cafe open Sat & Sun * [Top 50 Albums 2014](#) * [NPR best songs 2014](#) * T'Line opened Friday * 5 km groomed @ WG



PATC-Ski Touring Section

c/o Doug Lesar

2507 Campbell Place

Kensington, MD 20895



White Grass Work Trip, 2014

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:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <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 |