



# UPSLOPE

## Newsletter of the NORDIC Ski Touring Section of PATC



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

March 2019

### UpComing Attractions In Fall UPSLOPE

- Info on the Ski Fair for 2019-20 Season
- YOUR ski stories

### Quality Skiing in New Hampshire In January

By Rob Swennes

This year's ski trip to the White Mountains of New Hampshire was much improved over our visit a year ago. Then we had a warm rain on our first full day there and then very frigid, icy conditions the remainder of the trip. We snow shooed last year the first two days and then skied on the third at the Jackson Ski Touring Center (STC) on icy but well-groomed tracks.

This year was different from the start. Ann Hitchcock and I took a very early flight from Reagan National to Manchester, NH, on Thursday morning and were able to reach the White Mountains by



View of Mount Washington photo by Rob Swennes

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Bela Mariassy and Ann Hitchcock photo by Rob Swennes

early afternoon. We opted to ski at the Bretton Woods STC on our way to our lodgings in Bartlett, NH. The air was crisp and cold, and the sky was blue with no clouds. There was plenty of recent snow on the trails, so the skiing was good. The old yurt that we enjoyed for years as a lunch spot well out on the trails had been replaced by a well-insulated cabin with propane heater (plus nearby privy). The highlight of the ski was some remarkable views of Mount Washington and its mantle of snow under crystal clear conditions. It's common to spend a week in the area and never see the mountain at all. The famous weather station towers

(Continued on page 4)

### APRES SKI PARTY NOW ON

Sunday, April 7, 2019

Meeting at 4PM Potluck at 5PM

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

**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 left onto Balls Hill Rd (north 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.

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**This Was a Winning Winter Season!**

Life's journey is never a straight line. It's always an advancement by fits and starts with periodic retreats. That's pretty much the way winter snows have been over the past several years in many areas of North America. But this year we lucked out.

For many years I have rented minivans for my trips to New York, New Hampshire and other favorite skiing spots. That has worked O.K. most of the time. And minivans hold so much more gear and people than sedans or Sport SUVs. But this year I switched to SUVs for my ski trips, in part because I sensed that my luck with two-wheeled drive vehicles in winter was running out. It was a fortuitous decision.

On the Section's January trip to the White Mountains of New Hampshire we had plenty of snow and cold temperatures. Over the weekend it snowed heavily, but my AWD SUV performed well, even when ascending or descending the road from the highway to our rented lodgings. The skiers in the house had a great opportunity to refresh their skills in scraping snow and ice off their vehicles.



Digging out in Quebec

We had the same situation when almost two dozen STSers spent a week in Quebec. Except in that case we had to deal with over two feet of new snow. A good snowstorm is a transforming event. It almost feels like you are now living on a different planet. Life was good. So congratulations to those of you who had fresh snow for your skiing and snowshoeing adventures this winter.



I look forward to meeting many of you at the Section's annual meeting and après-ski social on Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at Catherine Payne's lovely home. You are encouraged to participate in the annual meeting beginning at 4 p.m. to get some insight into how the Section functions and to offer your suggestions. I love pot luck events such as the après-ski social that follows the meeting (around 5 p.m.). Can't wait to hearing your stories of the winter season just past and the group's ideas for Nordic ski trips for next winter!

**Are You Already Part of YAHOO GROUPS? Facebook? MeetUp?**

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.

**MEETUP:** 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/> Join this MeetUp group to help ease younger skiers or wannabes into the wonderful world of Nordic skiing!

**Skiing Hut-to-Hut in Maine**

By Ralph Heimlich (all pics by me)

Having had my eye on this place for several years, I finally got to try out one of the few organized hut-to-hut experiences in the U.S. Last year's Maine trip with Joe Bachman was a big inducement: We snow shoed up to Poplar Hut and got to see the accommodations and the trail conditions. Because last year (early March) had experienced a February thaw and freeze, conditions then were icy with just a shallow layer of new snow. This year, I booked our same cabin in the Carrabassett Valley to give our skiers (Barry Weston, Rich Galloway, Joy Saari, Al Larsen, Yvonne Thayer, Ann Hitchcock and Althea Johnston) an opportunity to acclimatize at the nearby Sugarloaf Outdoor Center Nordic trails before committing to the hut-to-hut trails. With this year's excellent snow conditions, we needn't have bothered.



Poplar Hut

The Maine Huts & Trails hut-to-hut system is the brainchild of Sugarloaf Ski Center's founder Larry Warren, who envisioned a non-profit organization channeling the resources of numerous commercial and governmental organizations to provide a series of backcountry huts that would allow multi-day Nordic ski trips from Moosehead Lake to the Mahoosuc Mountain Range; a model inspired by the hut-to-hut treks throughout the European Alps. To date, there are four backcountry eco-lodges connected by 80 miles of trail open year-round from West Forks to Stratton, with eight more huts planned. In the 30 years since the idea was hatched, Maine Huts & Trails has evolved into much more than a great place for a backcountry adventure. As a nonprofit, the organization has become a valuable community resource for Western Maine. Besides drawing thousands of environmentally conscious visitors to the area every year, Maine Huts & Trails benefits the local community in many ways, maintaining a non-motorized trail system free to the public year-round, offering diverse educational opportunities for students from Maine and beyond, protecting fragile natural habitats from potentially destructive development, and ensuring low-impact access to nature for generations to come. Learn more at <https://mainehuts.org/>.



Flagstaff Hut

For our modest entrée into hut-to-hut, I chose a simple out-and-back strategy that took us only 3.3 miles (uphill!) the first day to Poplar Hut, then 11.5 miles overland the next day, stopping for

lunch at Halfway Yurt, and over-nighting at Flagstaff Hut on frozen Flagstaff Lake. We then retraced our route, getting back to the Airport trailhead in the middle of day four. Some opted to drive on to other trips or to the airport to fly home, while some of us enjoyed a night in Portland before heading home.

The snow conditions were superb, thanks to a 12" dumper the week before we arrived. That fell on an already adequate base and provided plenty of new snow, but enough time for the trail to be broken by other skiers and snowshoers using it before we got there. The trails themselves are generally wide, with plenty of room for controlled plowing on downhills and herring-boning up hills. The topography varied from relentlessly uphill from the Airport trailhead to rolling hills, swamps (with causeways), and regrowing forest between the two huts.



Sleeping hut

Calling the main lodge buildings "huts" is a vast understatement. Poplar Hut is two stories, with lots of glass and impressive views from its mountain top location. The interior décor is high camp with lots of natural wood, heavy wood and leather furniture, glowing woodstoves, and stone floors. Flagstaff Hut is one-story, but set beside the lake in a dense evergreen forest. Each of the main hut buildings has a kitchen, staffed by young, enthusiastic outdoor educators, a dining room, lounge with woodstove, a library/game room, bath and shower rooms, and a heated drying room to get your sweaty gear dried out. You sleep in separate 4-, 8- or 12-person sleeping huts with radiant floor heating driven by the central air-tight wood furnace. The toilets are Clivus Mulstrum composting units with a sophisticated waste management system. Each hut derives power from a large solar array and is designed to be environmentally sound.

*(Continued on page 5)*

**New Hampshire Skiing (cont.)**

*(Continued from page 1)*

were also visible in the photos we took. The snow was good enough that we decided to take the Coronary Hills trail down on our return to the ski center. No problems. I would not have tried that route under icy conditions.

We met the remainder of our skiing group at the Attitash Loop home that we have rented for most of the past decade. The only problem with our group was that it was small. There were only five of us occupying a house that could easily house nine or ten skiers. Where were you??? You missed a great skiing opportunity. Bela and Leigh Mariassy and David Adams rounded out our group. I discovered that Leigh is a remarkable cook. Her most defining specialty is to make a healthful and great tasting meal out of whatever ingredients happen to be around the kitchen. We ate well.

Friday we opted to return to Bretton Woods. There had been some additional snow, so the trails were even better than the day before. Ann, Bela and I took a false trail around the historic Mount Washington Hotel and found that we were on the wrong side of the creek. We eventually had to backtrack and start again from the ski center. We returned to the warming hut from the day before, and when leaving encountered Adir Aronovich and Greg Rudl. Later we came upon Keith Channon and Dan Peed. All of those fellows have skied in the area for years with the club.



Adir Aronovich, Ann Hitchcock, Bela Mariassy and Greg Rudl at Bretton Woods photo by Rob Swennes



The Warming Hut along the Ellis River trail photo by Rob Swennes

The next day we skied at the Jackson STC, which is often the first center we visit in New Hampshire. As I recall, it had received some new snow the day before, so conditions were good. We primarily skied the Ellis River Trail, which is a long out-and-back route. It tracks the Ellis River, which descends from Pinkham Notch. While most of the trail is rated green, a healthy section near the middle of the trail's length is an advanced blue due to some challenging climbs and descents. An avalanche about a decade ago wiped out that section of the green trail along the Ellis River. The Center ultimately decided to build the more challenging detour up the mountainside. That point in the trail separates the newbie skiers from those more advanced. There's a nice warming hut along the trail that many enjoy stopping in for a break. Ann Hitchcock and I wanted to make it out to the river crossing near Dana Place, but the afternoon was too advanced to do so, so we had to turn around.



Digging out our vehicles on Sunday morning on Attitash Loop photo by Leigh Mariassy



Bela and Leigh snowshoeing by the Saco River photo by Bela Mariassy

Saturday night we got slammed with snow. After extracting our vehicles on Sunday, four of us opted to do a snowshoeing trek along the Saco River near the Bears Notch STC on US highway 302. It snowed on and off that day. The trek along the Saco River was beautiful as always.

We oftentimes try to ski for a few hours on Monday morning (the Martin Luther King, Jr. federal holiday) before heading back home. This visit we did not, having had a great time already with plenty of winter sports adventure.

Keep the New Hampshire trip in mind for next January. We would like to see the Attitash Loop house filled again!

**Maine Hut-to-Hut (cont.)**

*(Continued from page 3)*

Hut-to-hut perfectly describes how you get around. Basically, we spent a good part of each day cross-country skiing the trail to get to our next night's lodging. The preferred packing list is a light sleeping bag (the sleeping huts are heated), a change of clothes for inside the lodge, some minimal toiletries, and some basic trail survival gear, lunch and water. My pack was about 25 pounds, and I was carrying an excess of first aid and survival items for the group. You can also arrange to have a bag shuttled between huts, but it is pricey. We skied about 6 miles to the Halfway Yurt, where there was a wood stove and plenty of wood to warm up and eat our lunch, then did the remaining 5.5 miles to our next hut. Nobody complained of a "Bataan Death March" getting around—it was very enjoyable skiing.



Halfway Yurt (bigger than it looks)



Backside of Bigelow Mountain from the trail

Next year, I'm already planning to do another hut-to-hut, probably covering more of the trail system and staying at more huts. Stay tuned, because Maine Huts & Trails is cool as a Moose!

Finally, the food. You are provided with breakfast, items to make your lunch, dinner, and an evening snack. Beer and wine are available for purchase. The food was an excellent combination of locally-sourced vegetables and meats done up in delicious, imaginative recipes by the hut staff of two. Everybody had plenty to eat, and most of the comments about the food were very positive. Vegetarian options were available by pre-arrangement.



Menu from Flagstaff Hut



Dinner at Flagstaff Hut

**Wintry Wanderings in the West Virginia Highlands**

By Doug Lesar

The cabins and cottages in Canaan (WV) State Park must have their charms, as I have organized three-day STS weekends using those premises every year in late January since 2002 save one (2003; what happened that year anyway?). That makes for 17 trips now, with the 2019 occurrence being the most recent. As anyone who pursues XC skiing in the central Appalachians well knows, skiing opportunities are variable and ephemeral; some years feature fortunate blizzards (remember blessed 2010?) and others disappoint (this year and last). Nevertheless, the folks who come on this trip despite all odds are a resourceful and self-starting bunch, and never lack for activities even when the ski trails are muddy dirt and grass.

The eight members of the 2019 Canaan cottage crew pursued a mixture of pastimes all over the map. Some relaxed by the fire in the cabin, others stewed on slow-cook in the main lodge hot tub, some enjoyed the park's ice rink (less than ideal rental skates be hanged), a few spent time at the White Grass lodge basking in the vibe that exists nowhere else, and two spent a good day at the Canaan downhill area before the slopes got polished down to their icy foundations. Several others of this party had special ambitions.

On the first full day of the trip, Valerie, Kathryn, and myself traveled on foot deep into Dolly Sods, that fragment of the Canadian Boreal Forest that graces the higher uplands of the Mountain State. On the following day, Sponge Bob Squarepants-loving Dave joined us on a second similar excursion. Extremely low snow cover made these hikes possible since FS80, a road leading uphill from the White Grass STC entrance that I shy away from attempting to drive in winter, was passable by passenger car up to a parking area just short of the final vehicle barrier point. Hikes of moderate distance leading to varieties of scenery and terrain are possible from that site, and an Alpine start from White Grass with a very long approach and return is not required.



Doug, Dave and Valerie at Red Creek Forks

The factors making these hikes remarkable are, (1) there was not nearly enough snow to even think about skiing but there was a thin and slick sprinkle on the ground, (2) ice was abundant everywhere, often a thin skim on puddles and rills, and (3) where chunks, slabs, and odd pieces of ROCK were not underfoot the ground was completely, thoroughly, and irredeemably WET. How did we manage without soaking boots and socks to the point of misery and risk of immersion foot? Valerie and Kathryn came equipped with the ideal problem solutions: "Kahtoola Microspike" traction devices attached to their boots! Without the bulk and heaviness of crampons, these clever gizmos made for completely confident striding in icy conditions that would leave many bare-boot walkers flat on their can (and probably liberally splashed with cold water) multiple times during the day. These also provided greater underfoot stability confidence when executing stream crossings. I did not own these but possessed snowshoes, which had requisite teeth but were otherwise clumsy overkill that slowed your pace and clattered in extremely annoying fashion on bare rock. They worked for the purpose but

were not ideal.

Nevertheless, we reached the windswept and exposed reaches of Harman Knob along Rocky Ridge Trail and continued onto Dobbin Grade until reaching the west (left?) fork of Red Creek. Kathryn was able to ford, but it would have been awkward and risky on my snowshoes, so we doubled back, completing seven miles in the process. The weather was cold and clear (though quite windy in exposed areas) and the scenery of huckleberry barrens, scattered spruce groves, and rime-covered shrubs was spectacular.

Given that ski conditions had not improved significantly despite some new snowfall, we resolved to hike again the next day, but Doug's now beat-up snowshoes deserved retirement from duty. A thorough check by phone call to every outfitter in the valley uncovered no Microspike seller, but White Grass did offer less rugged "Yak Tracks" (uses coils instead of prongs). Doug and Dave, a new join-up to the hiker gang, opted to purchase Yak Tracks and give them a try. Unfortunately, one of the attachment points on Dave's Yakkers failed only 10-15 minutes from the car! Though the gimpy Yacker kept trying to slither off Dave's boot, he soldiered through the 8-mile hike to the Forks of Red Creek via Breathed Mountain Trail, being so sure-footed that he did not even rely on repurposed ski poles for balance. Forging Red Creek (surely



Doug on snow shoes



Dave and a bundled-up Kathryn

*(Continued on page 9)*

## New Trail Groomers in the Highlands: STS Ski Trip in the Highlands

By Greg Westernik

A group of four STSers (myself, Stephen and his son Andy Miller, and John Tichenor) along with two other familiar faces (STSer Eli Meltzer and Helene Tambet, who were also at the Econo Lodge but with their own rooms) braved the marginal snow of this first skiable 2019 weekend (January 11-13). We were rewarded with plenty of generally good gliding on select trails with few snow snakes. By careful trail selection we managed to slide around most snow snakes, and avoided the rockier sections of trails at Laurel Ridge STC and Laurel Mountain in the Highlands.

We left town with no guarantee if any additional snow would fall on Saturday and Sunday. We did snow dances, and fortunately for us, Alberta clippers huffed and puffed lake effect snow all weekend. Two clippers combined with below freezing weather all weekend to refresh the trails both Friday night (2 inches of new snow on top of 2-4 inch base), then on Saturday (2 more inches), and finally another inch or more by the end of Sunday.

Rather than go offsite for breakfasts, we all ate the "free" continental breakfast at the Econo Lodge in the lobby both mornings. This year Econo Lodge added hard-boiled eggs to their fixings.

The crowds at Laurel Ridge STC were absent on Saturday, with the usual bevy of ski skaters most conspicuously absent. Where this STC's trails had not been groomed, most of the snow cover was skied off after 1 or 2 skiers. Our group generally stuck to the red and orange trails as advertised as best groomed. I found a ½ mile section of the green trail half skiable and half nearly snow barren. First picture is of Eli Meltzer showing his prowess finishing off a downhill run on red trail.



Eli Meltzer showing his prowess finishing off a downhill run on red trail *photo by Greg Westernik*

We were impressed by new-to-DC-area resident Helene who generally skied 2 or 3 times as much distance as the rest of us in less time on both days, in keeping with her advanced ski skill set.

On Saturday evening, our group enlarged to six as we headed for dinner at the Eat'n Park restaurant in downtown Somerset, PA. The views of falling snow during the meal looking through a glass section of wall was a nice bonus. On Sunday, we caravanned off to ski trails at Laurel Mountain, sticking to our skiing plan of using best graded trails for our gliding pleasure. None of the trails at Laurel Mountain State Park



Ski Jorlers going to the dogs *photo by Greg Westernik*

were machine-groomed due to low snow cover. We chose to ski tour the J.E. Miller trail (no relation to STSers Steve and Andy Miller) to Bobcat trail, then Wolf Rocks trail and overlook and back on the south end of the state park, avoiding most of the snow snakes except on the Wolf rocks trail. Helene started ahead of everyone, did all of J.E. Miller trail, skipped the overlook on Wolf Rock and for extra credit skied out and back on Silvermine to Locust Camp trails, finishing before the rest of us.

Our slower gang of four, plus Eli, started out at the parking lot off Summit Road, where it meets J.E. Miller trail. To our surprise our gang were outnumbered by all the dogs on the first mile of the trail today. The company we kept was literally going to the dogs as we shared this part of the trail with all these dog-sledders and ski jorlers (see next picture). These dogs provided such excellent trail grooming for the rest of us that we wondered if these regulars were "unofficial" trail groomers.

This J.E. Miller trail is so wide that you can easily ski four persons alongside each other. The dogs were the first to break trail on Sunday. We did not even try to keep up with the speed of the dog sledders and ski jorlers, and only caught up when they stopped and did a reverse.

The trail is largely flat with four or so wide, gentle rolling hills and is well graded, a condition missing on most XC ski trails of Laurel Mountain.

After sliding and hopping around the snow snakes on Bobcat, at the intersection of Wolf Rocks and Bobcat trails, we saw an unbroken trail to the Overlook. At this point we had to detach our skis and walk 5 minutes to safely reach the Overlook due to low snow cover. While so detaching, a group of 6 young hikers appeared from Wolf Rocks trail and passed me to be the first to the Overlook. No one had yet been to the overlook this Sunday. By the time I made it to the Overlook, it was a good time to chat and lunch while enjoying the view. Since there was too much snow on the rocks to hide the crevices between the rocks. I did not venture too far on the ledge.



**Skiing In North Creek, NY**

By Ralph Heimlich

Another great cross-country ski destination in the great snowy North is the Adirondacks. After the 1932 Olympics at Lake Placid, GE employees from Schenectady talked the NY Central into running a Ski Train every Friday at 4 PM that trundled happy skiers to the little town of North Creek on the upper Hudson River. Local farmers bid for skiers to share bed and board, then drove them to the top of local mountains for a day skiing back to the village. North Creek is thus a cradle of cross-country skiing in the U.S.

A group of eight STSers (Bela and Leigh Mariassy, Peggy Kenney, Maureen and Fran Wright, Ray Natter and Beth and Ralph Heimlich) journeyed to North Creek to inhabit an old farm house known as the Lodge at Dancing Waters, and ski the local slopes. We primarily skied four local venues:

- \* The ski trails at Garnet Hill Lodge—55km of groomed trails in a former garnet mining area, topped by an old fashioned Adirondack log lodge with hot drinks and home-made pie.
- \* Great Camp Santanoni—backcountry ski trails on old country roads leading to one of the iconic Adirondack



Bela at Great Camp Santanoni



Beth skiing Siamese Ponds trails

Great Camps on Newcomb Lake and Lake Harris. On two separate days we skied 10 miles round trip to the lodge building and 2 miles round trip to the remains of the farm that serviced it.

- \* North Creek/Gore Ski Bowl—Only 5km of groomed trails, but also lighted for night skiing and providing access to the lower lifts of the Gore Mountain downhill area. This was the original ski center at North Creek.

- \* Wilderness Trail to Siamese Ponds—Located near Garnet Hill, these trails lead back into the Siamese Ponds Wilderness Area and traverse the upper Sacandaga River drainage. Beth and I skied back here and discovered that the bridge was out.



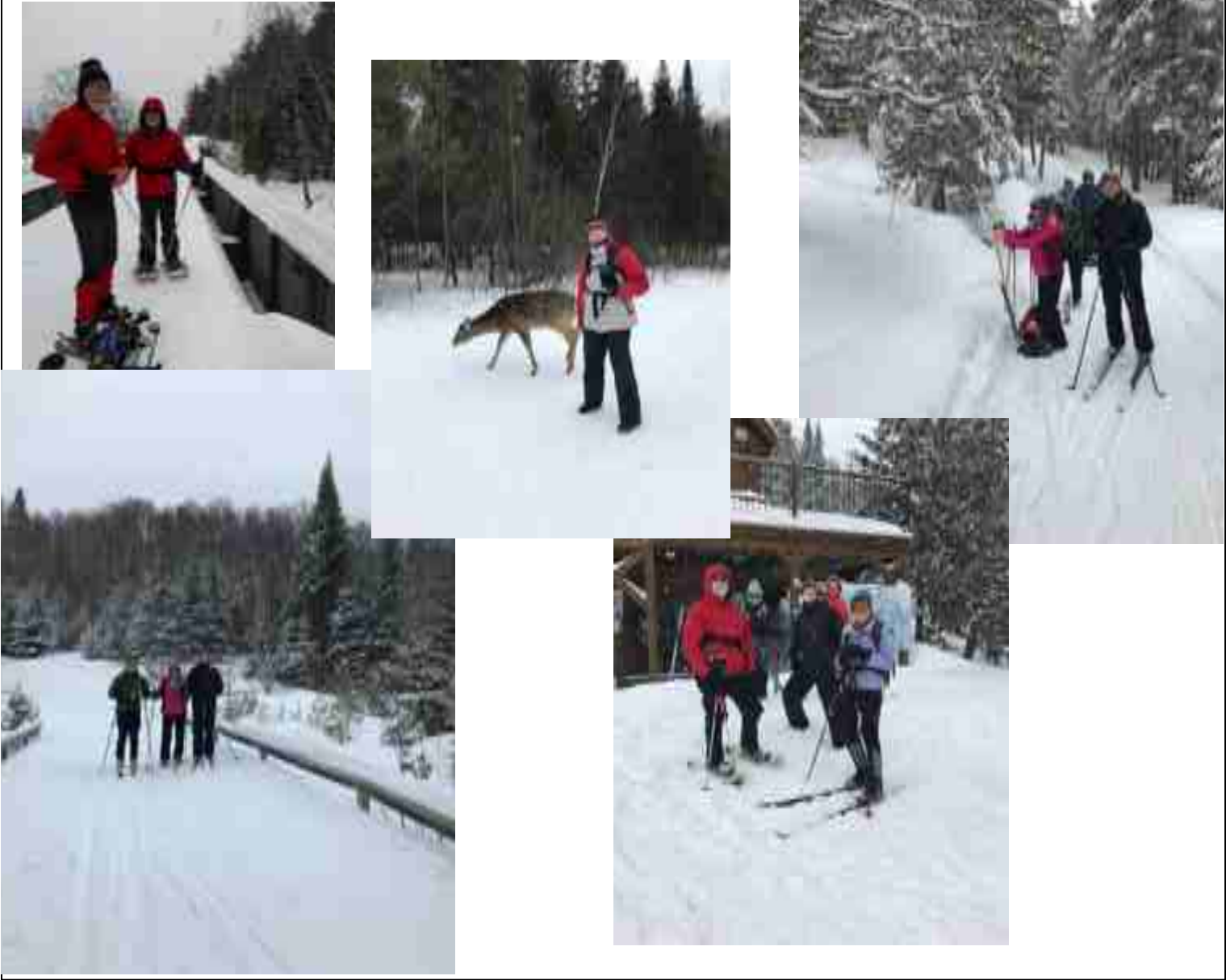
View from the top of the North Creek/Gore Ski Bowl

We enjoyed home-cooked meals at our house (thanks mainly to the efforts of Leigh Mariassy) and even invited STS member Jen Bine to dinner one night from her ADK home. We also took in a community fundraiser “Souper Bowl” where Bela connected with fellow Buffaloans from his youthful haunts.

There are lots of places to ski and things to do at North Creek.



**More Pic\$ from \$ki Trips**



**Winter Wanderers (cont.)**

*(Continued from page 6)*

flowing strong from a solid year of record-setting rain) to accomplish a loop via Blackbird Knob Trail proved impossible, so we instead enjoyed the scene of rushing water at the Fork's Falls and returned the way we came, through laurel thickets, spruce and hardwood stands, and beaver-engineered meadows. Not as windy as the day before, but still cold and crisp. Lovely winter hiking weather on both days!

AS for my Yakkers, one of mine failed in the same way as Dave's on the final day, while taking the advice of White Grass staffers of walking instead of skiing on descents at White Grass (was able to rig skis onto my pack for the downhill phase). These gadgets may be okay for traversing winter-slippery sidewalks and driveways, but they are not up to the punishment of rough hiking trails in the woody boonies.

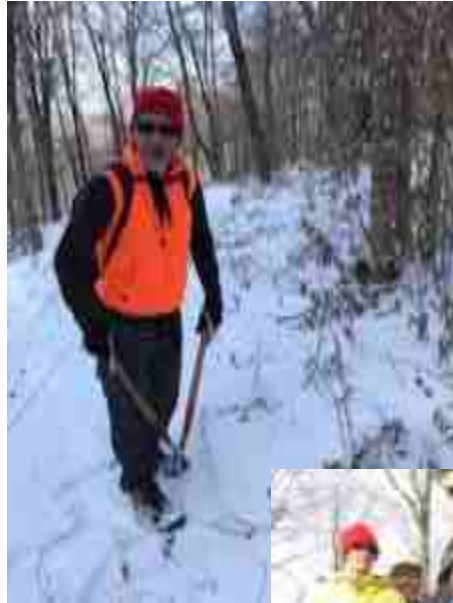
In conclusion, the 2019 Canaan cabin trip did not get the privilege of skiable snow, but the thorough enjoyment of the outing by everyone proved the wisdom of preparation and adaptability. Bring snowshoes and traction devices for your boots on these Canaan Valley STS trips! Their availability may have a large payoff.

**White Grass Work Trip**

By Ralph Heimlich

Mostly work trips are just that: WORK necessary to get the ski trails in good shape prior to the ski season. Many of us give back to Chip Chase and others who maintain the ski areas we enjoy in the snowier month. Well, the ski trip that Bert Finkelstein organized in October was very different than most, we had several inches of very good quality snow. On top of that, Chip opened up the rental skis for us to do our trail work on SKIS. How cool is that?

Here are some pics from Edna Trimm, Jack Kangas and I that captured the action in October. I promise we'll have exactly the same kind of conditions if you sign up for the work trip next season.



**Laurel Mountain Work Trip**

Not to be outdone by the White Grass group, Greg Westernik passed on this message from the PA DNR to those working on the Laurel Mountain trails last fall:

Hi Everyone:

Thought our Laurel Highlands trip leaders and editor would appreciate hearing how volunteers have been getting some of our mostly Laurel Mtn trail conditions mentioned in Rachel's email below ready for our XC skiing pleasure.

Pass the good news onto the membership!

Greg Westernik

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Mahony, Rachael** <[rmahony@pa.gov](mailto:rmahony@pa.gov)>  
 Date: Wed, Oct 24, 2018 at 6:03 PM  
 Subject: Forbes State Forest - Laurel Mountain Volunteer Group Thank You!  
 Attention Laurel Mountain Volunteers:

Thank you to everyone who came out to any or all Laurel Mountain Volunteer Group work days at Forbes State Forest this season. Your hard work and dedication has helped us to address numerous trail maintenance needs that will continue to benefit visitors for years to come. Some of the notable accomplishments from 2018's work days include re-armoring wet sections of trail along JE Miller Road, rechanneling stream along Spruce Run Trail, graffiti clean up at Beam Rocks, building a new bridge along Lookout Trail, splitting and stacking firewood for both the Schafer Run and Laurel Mountain warming huts, re-armoring Wolf Rocks Loop Trail, re-armoring Towhee Trail, and lastly, removing dozens of fallen trees from several different trails. Pheewwww, you guys sure have been busy!

From the maintenance, education, and management staff at Forbes State Forest, we want to thank you for all that you've done this year. We would like to wish you a happy and healthy holiday season and we hope to see you on the trails in 2019!



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**Rachael Mahony** | Environmental Education Specialist  
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**PATC \$\$ Webmaster Position Open**

This position requires the ability to develop and maintain html frames, edit word documents and converting them to web pages, ftp htm and PDF files.

- \* The website has a web frame architecture with menus and sub menus, which uses an auxiliary PATC server shared with the mountaineering division.
- \* Time sensitive posting of the trips schedule with modifications as requested by either the trip coordinator or trip leaders. Bulk of work around October with anticipated revisions thru January.
- \* Updating the upslope directory and main directory for addition of several issues of our newsletter per year.
- \* Other menus should be periodically maintained such as the web links and telephone numbers of different SKI AREA, Contacts (Staff) personal information (email and phone number) and NEWS menu options.
- \* These web pages were developed by a combination of MS FrontPage Express, Dreamweaver and notepad.

Training and mentoring is available from the current webmaster until trainee becomes self reliant. Contact **John Tichnoer** [johnjohn5670@yahoo.com](mailto:johnjohn5670@yahoo.com).

**PATC-Ski Touring Section**

**c/o Doug Lesar**

**2507 Campbell Place**

**Kensington, MD 20895**



Digging out in New Hampshire

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 |