

UPSLOPE Newsletter of the PATC Ski Touring Section

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February 2005

- UpComing Attractions In Winter UPSLOPE
- More reports from trips
- Plans for Apre's Ski Bash
- More destinations...near and far

Think Snow...But Pack Your Hiking Boots!

The 2005 Ski season has proven somewhat fickle, so far. We've had everything from blizzards to Bermuda highs—prompting harried leaders to hike, regroup, or cancel. Those willing to bet on Puxatawney Phil's prognostications should check out the balance of the 2005 Ski Season schedule on page 3. Read on for a sampling of trip reports.

October and November saw crews of hopeful snow bunnies swarming over trails at Laurel Mountain and White Grass to prepare them for our assault when the white stuff flew, guided by Dave Holton, Bert, and Steve Bergstrom. Perhaps the Snow Gods weren't happy with the turnout, so some of us need to think about helping with maintenance next year.

The season got off to a roaring start with early snow on the always-reliable Tug Hill Plateau, in a trip to the Salmon Hills led by Steve Brickel and Peggy Alpert. [See below.](#)

Jim Tomlin's early January trip to Blackwater Falls for intermediate skiers had hardly a flake (of snow), but he completed a long-planned crossing from Blackwater to Canaan Lodge and the mud was goood! [See page 4.](#) Snow arrived in time for later Blackwater trips by Jim and by Mary Vogel, but Steve Bergstrom's Elk River Lodge trip was postponed until March and Bert's Laurel Highlands trip was cancelled, as was Steve's long-distance Mount Rainier trip, all because of TOO MUCH snow to get places. The Tug Hill Plateau proved unreliable by mid-January for Rob Swennes, so the group diverted to New Hampshire's White Mountains. [See page 6.](#) Meanwhile, Ralph Heimlich had plenty of snow in Europe, scouting a location for the 2006 ski season. [See page 7.](#)

As February rolled in, the weather turned balmy again, another turn in this on-again, off-again season. This didn't dampen the enthusiasm for the nth Annual Ski/Dance. [See page 7.](#)

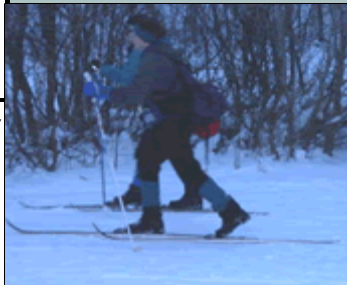
Plans for NEXT season are already percolating. Join PATC-STS at the Apres' Ski Party, April 10th. [See page 2](#)
Ralph Heimlich, Editor

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No Snow? Go...To Tug Hill Plateau/Salmon Hills



Although the 2005 New Year's trip was not perfect, it sure was fun. The skiing at Salmon Hills and Osceola (in Upstate New York) on December 28-30 would be rated near ego snow conditions in Canaan Valley and both the Wine and Cheese and the New Year's Eve parties were a success. The snow did turn to rain on December 31, but that didn't stop us from having a good time. Some of us spent a day at Syracuse, hiking on the sand dunes and visiting a War of 1812 historical village at Sackett's Harbor, which boasts an awesome coffee shop. All of us had a sociable and scrumptious

New Year's dinner at the 1880 House, followed by a long neighborhood tour led by Dooley (the 1880 House dog), topped off by as much champagne as we could drink. Visit the "slide show" section of the PATC-STS website for pictures <http://www.patc.net/chapters/ski/>.

Stephen Brickel

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Think Ahead to STS Officers—Apres' Ski Event

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PATC-STs Members:

It's time to start looking for a nominating committee to nominate a slate of officers for next year. Our annual Business Meeting/Apres' Ski Bash is scheduled for Sunday, April 10. We expect the business meeting to start at 3:30pm, and the party to start by 5 pm or earlier. I took a raincheck on hosting this event last year, and so have agreed that it's my turn this year. The event will take place at my house, [2349 Horse-ferry Ct Reston VA](#).

Does anyone have any suggestions for nominating committee members or members who would like be an STS officer? I'd like to have the nominations complete by the Apres' Ski party meeting on April 10th.

I am willing to be nominated for Chair again next year. Barbara Mandula has indicated that she will no longer be able to assume the office of Secretary; she will instead become an "elder statesperson" (sounds like good work if you can get it).

Other officers responding were:

- Vice-Chair: Steve Bergstrom will continue
- Secretary: Barbara Mandula (declined to serve again) VACANT
- Treasurer: Rob Swennes will continue
- Trip Coordinator: Susie Etcheverry
- Webmaster: Steve Brickel will continue
- UPSLOPE Editor: Ralph Heimlich will continue
- Membership Coord: Doug Lesar will continue
- Mailing and Publicity: Dave Holton

If you want to show pics of this year's ski adventures, let Barbara know and we'll arrange for whatever technology you need. Rob Swennes has indicated that pics of the White Mountains will be shown and Ralph Heimlich will preview Kandersteg, Switzerland.

Just "thinking snow" hasn't seemed to be as effective as it usually is. Does anybody have some stronger "medicine"? Bring it to the Apres Ski!!

The proposed agenda for the April meeting is:

1. Treasurer's report
2. Nomination and election of officers
3. Requests for trips and trip leaders

Bert Finkelstein

See The PATC-STs Photo Gallery

The STS slide show now includes pictures from Tug Hill (Salmon Hills/Osceola), White Grass and the Black Water Falls / Canaan valley trails. Go to <http://www.patc.net/chapters/ski/SkiPics/SkiTrips2005/image001.htm>

STS ListServ

Sign up for the Ski Touring Section listserv to stay up-to-date on trip closings, weather reports, impromptu trips, and reminders to check the web site for more info. We don't want anyone to miss out on skiing opportunities by not subscribing to the listserv. 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>

Remaining 2004-2005 Trips

For details and place descriptions, go to the PATC-STS website or call the trip leader, Trip Coordinator Suzie Etcheverry, Vice-chair Steve Bergstrom, or Chair Bert Finklestein.

March



- **4-6 Canaan Valley Trip Rescheduled**

Having reconsidered the delights of Spring skiing, the trip which was **OFF** is now back **ON**. Cost: \$99, two nights. We will be staying at the nearby Alpine Lodge. I have reserved 4 nonsmoking rooms with two beds each. If there is no snow, I will cancel just before the Alpine Lodge's deadline (Wednesday, March 2, 5:30 pm). This gives us a chance to change our minds at the last minute and get full refunds. Depending on depth of snow, we could go up around Bald and Weiss Knob, ski lower White Grass, go to the ski trails across the road in the valley at the State Park, or ski the flats on the north side of Blackwater Canyon. I don't think there will be enough snow cover for Dolly Sods, but you never know. Please mail your waiver, application and check to **Carl Modig** at 1635 Webster St NW Washington DC 20011 so that it gets to him by Monday, February 28.

- 26 Telemark Spring Ski Workshop, WV; *needs leader*

April

- 10 Apres Ski Party

Check online at http://www.patc.net/chapters/ski/STS_2005_Calendar.htm for calendar updates to the schedule and trip descriptions.

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Ralph Heimlich, UPSLOPE Editor

Two Takes On Hidden Valleys Near Hidden Valley, PA

After one of Larry Doff's excellent trips to the Laurel Highlands, I was to visit a friend north of Pittsburgh on Sunday. I was going to just ski around Kooser Lake and be on my way, but I recalled Howard Datz mention some trails across the street from the Hidden Valley downhill area. Across the street is a huge strip mine slag, but I decided to poke around and found an old fire road just east of the mine with some ski tracks. Following these uphill for about a mile I came onto what I learned later is the North Woods trail system. I skied on top of the massive slag pile, with a great view across the valley looking straight at the top of the downhill area and the sled run below. The trail system had new signs, with one pointing to the warming hut. A few miles later I found the warming hut, which was actually warm and had two jugs of "emergency" drinking water. Outside were fully stocked men's and women's out-houses. I skied back a different way and managed to talk to a few people about the trail system. Apparently the best way to access the system is off of Tunnel road which is just west of Hidden Valley. While visiting my friend, I headed an hour north to Oil City and Oil Creek State Park, which had an excellent groomed cross-country trail network with a very large warming hut with excellent trail map. Also, at each intersection, there was a posted map to show your location. I met Gale Books, who takes care of the trails, out filling in bare spots.

Bill Branson

Bert and I have been touting these former Hidden Valley trails for years. Just west of Hidden Valley past a mine on same side of the road at the crest of the road where the Laurel Highlands trail crosses Rt.31, on the same side of Hidden Valley are more hiking and snowmobile trails free to ski!

Greg Westernik

A Trio of Canaan Valley Trips

#1 Alas, a snowless weekend at lovely Blackwater Falls for a scheduled ski trip on January 7-9, but the hardy STSers who made the pilgrimage anyway did a fine job enjoying themselves nonetheless.

Despite all negative snow reports, the serpentine drive up onto the Allegheny Plateau still brought sunken hearts. Those of us who naturally expect to see lots of snow on the ground at the higher elevations, even when bare below, blinked in dismay to see the ground completely naked on the Plateau as well. The Lodge was rather empty of guests compared to snowy weekends, which gave it a remarkably peaceful ambiance. It was odd to sit in the great room without a TV blasting or anyone working on a picture puzzle. The quiet was enjoyable. The weekend trip had been originally designed to attempt the 9-mile traverse from Blackwater Falls Lodge to Canaan Valley State Park, via the Allegheny Trail,,on skis, that is. Despite the uncooperative rainy, gusty weather early Saturday morning, the group decided to attempt the traverse on foot with hiking boots.

We shuttled a car to Balsam Swamp Overlook in Canaan Valley State Park. The group of five hardy hikers departed the Lodge at 10:00am, just missing the last of the rain showers. Right away the hikers found very, very, very, very wet trails. The Ohio River was flooding downstream that day, and judging by what passed underfoot, there was going to be a lot more water where that came from. Trails were quagmires of mud and standing and running water, often stretching from left-side rhododendron to right-side rhododendron, leaving no option but to slog through.

The group ascended the Watertank Trail, turned left onto Red Spruce Riding Trail to the Blackwater Falls horse stable, and then turned right onto TR701, the Allegheny Trail. All trails were heavily sloshy all gradual 3.5 miles up to the ridge of Canaan Mountain. Even the soil around the trail shelter at the intersection of the Plantation Trail and the Allegheny Trail was a pond.

At the top of Canaan Mountain, we hikers turned right for 1.2 miles on Canaan Loop Road (FR13), in order to continue on the Allegheny Trail. For this segment, we traded slogging through trail mud and water (the road was in very good shape) for hiking directly into a stiff, cold, damp wind. At the trailhead, the group hunkered down for a quick lunch, then resumed the Allegheny Trail on a footpath. The remainder of the downhill hike along the Allegheny Trail (2.5 miles), the Railroad Grade Trail (0.3 mile), and Middle Ridge Trail (1.1 mile) to the car, was refreshingly less wet.

This route would have been suitable for experienced skiers, snow permitting. Some sections of the footpath were very narrow, but only a few of these were significantly steep to cause skiing concerns. The trails had been fairly well maintained and had a total of less than a dozen blowdowns (PATC lingo for "fallen trees") across them. A good amount of snow would be a requirement in order to have good steering possibilities through the narrow sections of trail (and to cover all the rocks in the tread).

For Saturday dinner, the group elected to try what appeared to be a new establishment, The Coyote Restaurant, along Rt. 32 north between Deerfield and Freeland Road. "Tex-Mex" was the allure, but inside we found the same old "MR Bears" restaurant it had been before, with an identical menu and indoor decor. Only three Tex-Mex dishes could be found in the varied Italian/Burgers/Pizza/Fish/Steaks full menu. The food was slightly above average for Canaan Valley, and the service was very good. The one Tex-Mex dish ordered, chicken enchiladas, were tasty but quite salty and required the use of power tools to separate the enchilada from the metal plate it was served upon.

Sunday dawned cloudy, but the clouds quickly burned off and the group was treated to a bright, mild day. To take advantage of the balmy snow-free conditions, the leader and two group members elected to drive the Canaan Loop Road starting from Canaan Heights about 10 miles west to the Table Rock Trailhead. This road is normally closed for foot travel in winter. The road was in good shape for this stretch (although the State Park Ranger cautioned us NOT to drive the Blackwater Falls Lodge end of the Canaan Loop Road, as two stream crossings and erosion made that part impassable). The 1.1-mile Table Rock Trail leads to a spectacular rocky viewpoint overlooking Canaan and Mozark Mountains, and many more ridges in the distance. One participant described the trip optimistically as "it was about as much fun as we could have had without snow!"

Jim Tomlin

#2 With the long warm spell the first half of January ("Juneuary"), things were pretty quiet. Once there was finally some local snow to shock the overeager daffodil shoots, some skiing finally took place.

A small STS group enjoyed an extended Inauguration Day Canaan State Park cabin super-weekend on January 20-23. For me, the trip experience was a bit mixed, as a cold / flu malady laid me low for a day, but skiing in Canaan Valley was extra good after sporadic new snowfall starting early Saturday. Aches and lethargy on Friday were forgotten during an extended tour of the White Grass highlands on Saturday. The powder snow came at a price, however, with very cold temperatures and strong wind gusts necessitating tight buttoning up when on the trails. Arctic weather conditions prevailed on Sunday, with single digit temps and wind gusts persisting. Tours had to be kept on the short side, with an indoor lunch break a must for comfort if not survival.

(Continued on page 5)

Skiers in this group also found opportunities in Canaan State Park trails, with good conditions, especially on Railroad Grade Trail. Trails on the north side of Blackwater State Park and adjacent Monongahela Forest lands near Pendleton Point were also pleasing, as they usually are. A few skiers had a mixed skiing experience during a search for a (different) Railroad Grade Trail near Lindy Point, where pesky stream crossings and rocky conditions underfoot made for extra challenges.

Meals were a highlight of this trip; Carl Modig and his pasta and bratwurst meal on Thursday, Joe Bachman with a beef bourguignon and vegetable feast on Friday, and a dinner out at Deerfield Village on Saturday that pleased flesh-eater and vegetarian alike. Not to be forgotten was Peggy Alpert's delicious birthday cake (for hers and mine), and the several wine bottles put away as fuel for lively discussions by political extroverts Steve and Pope (though quieter drinkers contributed too).

A great trip, marred only by my sickness, which was, at least, temporary!

Doug Lesar

#3 Mary Vogel led another fine ski trip from Blackwater Lodge, WV, over the weekend of 29-30 January. The return of normal winter weather during the previous two weeks made for a successful outing, with skiing available at all the usual sites (Blackwater, Canaan, White Grass). This nice weekend began with a Friday evening at the [Purple Fiddle](#) in Thomas, which is becoming a popular trip kickoff venue for STSers.

As has usually been the case this somewhat fickle winter, the highest 4000 feet+ elevations between White Grass and the Sods offered the best powder conditions, with icy surfaces prevailing elsewhere. Of course, one has to climb to get to these choice sites, and several of this group endured a somewhat arduous ascent on Saturday morning on iced-over trails providing very little purchase. Those with the largest patterned areas on their skis did best. The compensation, however, was great, with beautiful powder in the spruce woods and just enough snow cover on top of deadfall and downed limbs to make for fun downhill bushwhacks toward the fabled cabin in the crease below Weiss Knob and in the Nato Breakfast Bowl.

One of these bushwhacks required a drastic course change when the group realized that the direction of travel was wrong by a whole 180 degrees. It pays to be able to distinguish between the tops of Weiss Knob and Cabin Knob! Thank goodness for clear weather allowing that orientation clue.

Sunday's tour took advantage of a modest wet snowfall that turned tracked trail surfaces from slippery ice to grippy glue. Climbing turned from a chore to a snap, with less than an inch of mucilage-like snowy substance. The touring wasn't bad either on the semi-wooded top of Bald Knob and other environs. In a doubtful winter, climb high and you will be rewarded.

Many thanks to leader Mary Vogel, who ran the proverbial extra mile to provide the group with enlightening information regarding the ongoing effort to convert Blackwater State Park to a National Park, with protection given to the development-threatened Blackwater River canyon.

Doug Lesar

A Debut Trip to Laurel Highlands

New STS trip leaders Elliot and Kathy Brumberger put together a fine outing in Pennsylvania's snowbelt, the Laurel Highlands southeast of Pittsburgh, over the February 4-6 weekend. Warming weather and dazzling sun provided a welcome change from the clouds and strong winds prevailing in previous weeks, with the snow cover staying relatively well-preserved at both Laurel Ridge and Laurel Mountain. On Saturday, STSers dispersed among the hills, dales, and flats of the Laurel Ridge trail complex according to their desires and abilities, with the lengthy orange trail attracting long distance trekkers, the highly sloped yellow trail enticing descenders and climbers, and the blue and red trails occupying the less ambitious. Just a lovely day to be out.

Saturday evening's dinner featured a repast at Lamonica's, a favorite STS hangout just outside Jennerstown, where the author experienced a somewhat bizarre exchange with a earnest waitress who seemed not to have been acquainted with the tasty brownish liquid called "ale". (Despite the fact that the establishment featured a bar. At any rate, the Genesee lager went down well).

With ski races leaving much of Laurel Ridge out of bounds on Sunday, the group opted for Laurel Mountain's trails on the trip's second day. Trail conditions were quite good on the plateau on the road's west side near the warming hut, but trails elsewhere were beginning to get rocky after a full day of warmth and sun. Ski time was somewhat lessened as a result, but a late lunch picnic on the steps of the warming hut was a very pleasant way to end the day before hitting the turnpike for home. Very few snowmobilers buzzed around the mountain, making for blessedly quiet surroundings. The author took advantage of the re-opened neighboring Laurel Mountain downhill ski area by skiing to the mountaintop lodge, buying a "relatively"* cheap lift ticket (\$34) and making several runs down some of the green and (easier) blue slopes. The California Sierra weather, the sparse crowd with few screaming banshee boarders to dodge, and absolutely no lift lines made it a nice diversion. It seems that choosing Superbowl Sunday to partake of a downhill resort is a good strategy! But let's hope that Laurel Mountain's current tenants are able to make a go of it as it is a great place for downhill technique practice coupled with some ski touring.

Doug Lesar

The Long Rearrangers

The first weeks of the 2004-2005 winter did not bode well for cross-country skiing in the mid-Atlantic region. Abnormally warm temperatures and a lack of snow were persistent problems. I had my annual mid-January ski trip arranged to the Tug Hill area of New York, but as the holiday weekend approached, there was little or no snow in the area.

It was decided to look for an alternate location with snow. Our group was not interested in a "ski or hike" trip. I looked for snow somewhere closer in the East. Somewhat to my surprise I discovered that the White Mountains of New Hampshire had a reasonable amount of snow on the ground. Since that area has a large number of ski touring centers, the odds of finding good conditions for skiing rose significantly. We ultimately rented a townhouse in Glen, New Hampshire—one that I later discovered was the same one our STS group used on a trip to New Hampshire four years ago.

Seven people agreed to shift the holiday weekend's skiing trip from New York to New Hampshire and made travel arrangements. As luck would have it, however, those of us flying up to Manchester on the Thursday morning were unsuccessful in traveling that day since the New Hampshire airport was shut down due to very heavy ground fog. It was produced by warm, moist air that hovered over the colder, snow-covered ground. That day's delay led three of our party to call it quits. But the rest remained convinced that skiing awaited us in the hills of New England.



Three of us—Mary Lamb, Barbara Mandula, and I—returned to Dulles Airport on Friday morning and had no problem with the flight that day to Manchester. One member of the group—Joe Bachman of Baltimore—had arrived in New Hampshire on Thursday afternoon, having taken an early train to Boston and then a rental car up to the White Mountains. Joe stayed in a local motel Thursday night—he and the eight lobsters and innumerable clams he had purchased in Massachusetts on the way up, anticipating a group feast on Thursday evening. Fortunately he was able to get the seafood cooked that evening, and the bulk of it was waiting for us when we joined him on Friday afternoon. Joe made a fantastic lobster and clam chowder that was the centerpiece of our evening meal that night.

The warm and rainy weather had, by that time, been replaced with below-freezing temperatures and icy conditions on the trails. We called several ski centers on Saturday morning. The best conditions for track skiing appeared to

be nearby at the Jackson Ski Touring Center (STC) in the town of Jackson. STS members have skied at Jackson on every trip that the Section has made up to this area over the past 6 or more years. It seems that each year more centers are giving heightened attention to skate skiing rather than to classic track skiing. Thus we were careful to inquire of each center how much tracked trail was open—not just how much trail in general had been groomed.

When we arrived at the Center, parking was difficult to find. A ski race event was taking place on some of the Jackson trails, and there appeared to be at least 150 people involved. The Center itself was bustling. It took several minutes to purchase trail passes for the day. All of this activity suggested that we had come to the right place. And this proved to be the case. While the golf course trails near the Center were somewhat icy, the rolling, miles-long trails on the other side of the main road had been beautifully groomed. The most scenic of these trails runs north along the Ellis River up towards Pinkham Notch. Despite the crowds at the Jackson STC headquarters, there was plenty of open space and relative solitude skiing parallel to the river.

I skied most of the day separately from Barbara, Mary and Joe, though we agreed to meet back at the Center at 4 p.m. After covering part of the Ellis River Trail, I switched to the Hall Trail which lay at a higher elevation.

Much of the Hall trail lay on an unplowed, wide roadway. There were several significant climbs up the trail, which made for fast descents on the return. The temperatures all weekend hovered in the low 20s during the day, and there was little wind.

The four of us met back at the Center at 4 p.m.—tired but satisfied that our stubborn determination to ski that weekend had paid off. Dinner that night was pizza from Kringles, a local popular pizzeria. Everyone was in bed by 9 p.m.

Sunday we returned to the Jackson STC, having determined by a couple of phone calls that it still offered the best track cross country skiing opportunities. We got onto the trails an hour earlier that day and met again at 4. The trails were actually a bit nicer on Sunday, probably since they had all been groomed a second time. Joe and Barbara spent part of the afternoon trek-



king on snow shoes on some of the hiking trails near the Center. Joe had brought his own pair with him, but Barbara was able to rent a set at the Center. Joe and Mary went over to the adjacent Thompson House Eatery (T.H.E.) for an après ski coffee.

That evening, three of us opted to dine at a well-recommended Thai restaurant (Spicy Lime) in the nearby town of North Conway. It was a fun social conclusion to a satisfying weekend of good skiing. The waiter at the restaurant told us that the temperature the following night was predicted to drop to -15 degrees Fahrenheit. It looked like we were leaving town at the right time. Our drive back to Manchester and flights down to the D.C. area on the holiday Monday were pleasant and uneventful. Although the trip cost a bit more than what we had originally planned for that weekend, it was money well spent.

If you are a cross-country skier, you have to be willing to go where the snow is. Waiting for it to come to you can be a long wait these days in the mid-Atlantic states. Fortunately there are several established—even historic—ski touring areas in New England, only an hour's flight away. The White Mountains area of New Hampshire is one of the most enticing of these, in part because of the majestic beauty of the surrounding mountains. If you have thus far only skied within a couple of hours' drive of Washington, D.C., it may be time to set your sights on more distant, snowy landscapes

See more pics at <http://www.ofoto.com/l.jsp?c=gyist5q.a04m6iq&x=0&y=botv6o>

Rob Swennes

Kandersteg, Switzerland—A Possible Long Range STS Trip



Thanks to a business trip in Paris, my wife Beth and I had the opportunity to scout a possible location for another ICSM (intercontinental ski-touring mission). The little village nestled below the Bernese Oberlander Alps at left is Kandersteg, Switzerland, an hospitable and welcoming destination for Nordic and Alpine skiing, European tobogganing, snowshoeing, and "Winterwanderwegging" along more than 90 km of groomed skate and track ski trails and another 55 km of trails for Nordic walking. Lifts to the hanging glacial valleys of Oeschinensee Lake (1578 meters) and Sunnbuel (1920 meters) give access to more Nordic and Alpine runs.

Kandersteg is excellently served by Swiss Rail, north thru Spiez, Thun, and Bern, and south through the Lotschberg Tunnel to Brig, Zermatt and on to Lausanne and Geneva. We were able to ski in the morning, tour Bern in the afternoon, and be back for dinner in Kandersteg. For more info see

http://switzerland.isyours.com/e/guide/berner_oberland/kandersteg.html

Accommodations range from the bunk rooms of the International Scout Centre and similar hostels to 5-star hotels, with every price range in between. There are also rental condos and apartments. The hotels have restaurants, and there are a variety of independent eateries.

I'd be interested in co-leading an expedition with someone who has had a bit more experience organizing these ventures. I'd be interested in hearing from people who would consider participating.

Ralph Heimlich



Another Successful Ski Dance



More than 90 men, women and children attended yet another Ski/Dance weekend at Camp Harmony, near Laurel Highlands, Pennsylvania. While the skiing was only so-so, the nights were devoted to sing-alongs and contra dance to the music of Laura Light, Dave Wiesler, George Paul, and some local talent, with contras called by Robin Schaffer and Bob Mathis. Kids enjoyed the tubing at the newly re-opened downhill ski area on Laurel Mountain, and the trails were good for hiking when they couldn't be skied. See pictures from last year's event at <http://skidance.com/> Organizers Elliot Applestein/Marta Vogel and Bob Mathis will issue a more complete report later, but a preliminary census of smiling faces seemed to indicate another successful year at Ski/ Dance.

Ralph Heimlich

February 2005

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 ____