



# UPSLOPE



## Newsletter of the NORDIC Ski Touring Section of PATC

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December 2007

### UpComing Attractions In Winter UPSLOPE

- Updated Winter trip listing
- More trip reports
- Snow forecast
- More destinations...near and far

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## White Grass Work Trip



Last year's work crew at WG

By Lynn Yates and Peggy Alpert

On Veterans Day weekend, November 10 - 12, thirteen hardy people met at White Grass Ski Touring Center to participate in another successful STS work weekend to help Chip Chase get the trails ready for the ski season. The following STS-ers: Catherine Kelleher, Erma Cameron, Doug Lesar, Peggy Alpert, Steve Brickel, John Tichenor, Joe Bachman, Bert Finkelstein, Carol Kearns, Sharon Reichlyn, Barbara and Sid Coon, and of course our energetic leader, Lynn Yates, were joined by Chip's dedicated crew and friends.

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## Skiing in the Rain...I'm Skiing in the Rain

By Doug Lesar

An unexpectedly large early December snow dump in Canaan Valley, WV, attracted two STSers (Mitch Hyman and Doug Lesar) for a weekend XC ski visit on December 8. That area experienced a whole range of seasons over a period of just a few days (late Autumn, early Winter, Mid-winter, Spring). Unfortunately, the true powder days came during when Mitch and I were logged in to stuck@work.com, and rising temps and drizzle were transforming the powder to a highly amended form by the time we arrived at White Grass on Saturday morning. Nonwithstanding the light rain and all-day fog, we two Peter Pans found ski conditions to be surprisingly satisfying. Mashed potato snow makes for epic climbing, and once you learn to take an aggressive approach to the downhill, the skiing was actually great! Trail skiing through the woods of Weiss Knob was also very enjoyable, and we encountered several



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**From the ST\$ Chair**

The long-awaited cross country ski season will begin with our first official ski trip to the Tug Hill region of upstate New York on December 28 (see [trip listing on page 4](#)). Last report indicated a 17 inch base. This is a good beginning!

I assume we all feel some frustration from not knowing what the weather will bring and therefore if the trips we planned will "go"; hopefully we will have enough snow to cover the rocks and tree roots on the trails we use.

Given the unpredictability of our activity, Rob Swennes and others have volunteered to organize "FLOATER SKI TRIPS". Please see the information for this new concept in trip planning on [pages 8 and 9](#) of this newsletter. We are grateful for members of our Club who extend themselves in order to make the most of our short and iffy ski season.

I hope you can take advantage of all the trip possibilities you desire. Remember to follow the instructions for sign-up, payments and other trip particulars. A cooperative spirit is essential in adding to a pleasant trip experience for all, especially for your trip leader.

I wish you a happy holiday, a great ski season, and a healthy, peaceful New Year.

Yours in Snow,  
 Peggy



**ST\$ MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE!**

Memberships in the Ski Touring Section of PATC that expire in 2007 must be renewed before 1 January 2008 for membership to continue into the upcoming ski season. To check your membership status, examine the mailing label on your this UPSLOPE. If you see a four-number field other than 0712 (0812, 0912 etc) you dues have been paid up beyond 1 January and there is no need for you to renew at this time. However, "0712" is the magic indicator that your membership expires when you hear the strains of Auld Lang Syne in 2007. For those of you receiving UPSLOPE electronically, your expiration date was included in the forwarding email header sent by Ralph our loyal and talented newsletter editor. Since you may not have saved that information, feel free to contact me at [dlesar@comcast.net](mailto:dlesar@comcast.net) for your dues status.

Doug Lesar, Membership Nagger

**Ski Season is Almost Upon Us**

**Check [http://www.patc.us/chapters/ski/TRIP\\$.htm](http://www.patc.us/chapters/ski/TRIP$.htm) for updates (see listing on page 4)**

All the Spring and Summer conversations about the kinds of trips we ought to do have turned into Summer and Autumn plans and schedules setting what we firmly intend to do. Now, the whole shebang is barreling into Winter outings that we are about to do. And, the first several will be nearly upon us by the time you read this. Some trips are full or nearly so, and some still have quite a bit of room. I'm going to mention the first three trips in particular, because I know they had some room as of a few days ago, and because time is so tight. Therefore, if you want to try to go on one of these, you'll need to call the trip leaders ASAP and ask.

Peggy and Steve's New Year's weekend trip to **Tug Hill area in NY** is the first ski trip (i.e. not counting the Fall work trips). They have found a new lodging venue, and will be skiing at several different places in the area. I've been there, and this is a great outing. As of tonight as I write this, a major snow storm is headed that way. If a bad band, washed down with champagne that you wouldn't otherwise drink doesn't sound like your ideal New Years party, try this one instead.

Next is a new outing for STS. Max has set up a really interesting and fun weekend at **Backbone Ski Farm in Garrett County, MD**, near Deep Creek Lake. They have trails on site and he'll be leading an outing to the top of Backbone Mt. and Allegheny Heights, the 2nd highest point in MD, with an amazing view. If we don't have snow in the mid-Atlantic then, this trip will be moved to the end of February. Call Max on this one, at 301-334-5633.

Finally, Rob is leading a trip to **New Hampshire** in mid-January. You'll be staying in the Jackson, NH area, but skiing wherever the snow is best. Last year, the skiers on this trip were among the few who got to ski in January due to lack of snow elsewhere in the East. If there is snow, Rob finds it.

As I say, those three trips are almost upon us, so you need to call the trip leaders ASAP if interested. Contact info is on the trip schedule elsewhere in this Upslope. For the other trips, take a look and see what sounds good, given your interests—something new where you've never been, one of the old favorites, something far afield or something in your backyard. When you find it, contact the leader and see if there is room. You're not signed up until you give the forms and the moo-lah to the leader. Enjoy the trips. We worked hard to come up with the offerings, and think you will find something you like.

Al Larsen  
Trip Coordinator

**STS 2007 - 2008 Ski Trip Schedule**

(\* indicates trips requiring PATC membership  
Add \$10 for non STS members. \$9 for membership

**Dates:** Friday night, December 28, 2007 through Tuesday, January 1, 2008 (4 nights) NO SNOW, NO GO  
**Trip:** (\*) **Tug Hill Region, Pulaski, New York** (\*)  
**Lodging:** Brenda's Motel 3 bedroom house with full kitchen for our own breakfast, store lunch food etc. There are also 6 motel rooms with private baths and use of house kitchen. We will be using both.  
**Description:** Skiing at Osceola and Salmon Hills touring Centers, as well as Winona State Forest, and Barnes Corners. Enjoy a New Year's Eve wine and cheese party and group pot luck dinner.  
**Leader(s):** Peggy Alpert at [mountainmama15@verizon.net](mailto:mountainmama15@verizon.net), and Stephen Brickel at [sbrickel2003@yahoo.com](mailto:sbrickel2003@yahoo.com) or call at 301-946-4497  
**Cost:** \$240 Lodging only. Payable to Margaret Alpert. Refund if leaders cancel.

**Dates:** Saturday, January 12 to Sunday January 13, 2008 (if no snow, alt date February 29 to March 2)  
**Trip:** **Backbone Ski Farm, Garrett County, MD**  
**Lodging:** TBA  
**Description:**  
**Leader(s):** Max Dubanski  
**Cost:** TBA

**Dates:** Friday night, January 18 to Monday, January 21, 2008 (MLK JR. Birthday 3 nights) (WAIT LISTED)  
**Trip:** **Laurel Highlands, PA**  
**Lodging:** We will be at the Quality Inn in Somerset, PA in the heart of the Laurel Highlands. All rooms are double occupancy, non-smoking with 2 double beds. Amenities are indoor pool, hot tub, exercise room, and restaurant with bar. There are many good, reasonably priced restaurants in the area. We re planning a group dinner at a nice restaurant on Saturday evening.  
**Description:** We will ski at the groomed Laurel Ridge State Park (\$6/day-last year s price) and Forbes State Forest (no charge). Skis can be rented at Laurel Ridge SP. There are other ski areas as well: Laurel Mountain, Kooser State Park, and Hidden Valley (XC and downhill). All levels of skiers can be accommodated. The trip leaders will cancel this trip if there is no snow.

(Continued on page 4)

## Preview of STS Ski Trips — Winter 2007-08

### STS TRIP SCHEDULE 2007-2008

Dates	Location	Leader
<b>December</b>		
28-Jan.1 (Fri-Tues)	Tug Hill, NY	Peggy Alpert and Steve Brickel
<b>January</b>		
12-13	Backbone Ski Farm, Garrett County, MD	Max Dubanski
18-21 (MLK JR. B-day) (wait listed)	Laurel Highlands, PA	Kathy and Elliot Brumberger
17-21 (MLK JR. B-day)	New Hampshire, White Mountains	Rob Swennes
25-27	Blackwater Falls, WV	Larry Doff
<b>February</b>		
1/31-2/3 (wait listed)	Canaan Valley, WV	Doug Lesar
1-3	Learn-to-Ski, Laurel Highland, PA	Greg Westernik
3-10	Canada, Quebec--Laurentians	Rob Swennes
7-10 (wait listed)	Canaan Valley, WV	Kathy and Elliot Brumberger
14-19 (Thu-Tues)	Stowe, Vermont	Peggy Alpert
15-18	Ski-Dance Camp Harmony, Laurel Highlands, PA	Eliot Appelstein
15-18	Laurel Highlands, PA	Bob Leaf
22-24	Blackwater Falls, WV	Larry Doff
<b>March</b>		
Feb/29-Mar 2	Backbone Ski Farm, Garrett County, MD (alt date)	Max Dubanski
Feb/29-Mar 2	Canaan Valley/Blackwater Falls or Laurel Highlands	floater
4-9 (Tues-Sun)	Bryce Canyon/Cedar Breaks, Utah	Rob Swennes
7-9	Canaan Valley/Blackwater Falls or Laurel Highlands	floater

(Continued from page 3)

**Leader(s):** Email Kathy and Elliot Brumberger at [kathybrum@comcast.net](mailto:kathybrum@comcast.net)

**Cost:** Cost is \$150 per person.

**Dates:** Thursday, January 17 to Tuesday, January 21, 2008 (4 nights)

**Trip:** (\*) **New Hampshire's White Mountains** (\*)

**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. Ski at cross-country ski touring centers such as Jackson Ski Tour Center. In the event of icy conditions near Jackson, we may ski daily at Bretton Woods, further north at The Balsams Grand Resort Hotel in Dixville Notch, NH, or at a higher elevation.

**Leader(s):** Rob Swennes 703-532-6101 or [robertswennes@hotmail.com](mailto:robertswennes@hotmail.com)

**Cost:** The cost of the trip is \$325. That includes lodging for 4 nights and in-house meals and beverages. Does not include transportation: airfare, vehicle rental.

**Dates:** Friday night, January 25 to Sunday, January 27, 2008 (2 nights) GO SNOW OR NO.

**Trip:** **Blackwater Falls, West Virginia**

**Lodging:** Blackwater Falls Lodge

**Description:** Ski beautiful Blackwater Falls State Park. The Park offers over twenty miles of park trails for beginning as well as more experienced cross country skiers. Many of these trails are groomed and maintained. A sledding hill, more than one-quarter mile long, is served by a rope tow available on weekends when snows are sufficient. Skis, poles, boots and sleds are available for rent at the Sled Run & Cross Country Ski Center. Each room has a private bath, phone and color television. The Lodge features a game room, a sitting room with a cozy fireplace, an indoor pool, a hot tub and a fitness room. The lodge restaurant offers breakfast, lunch and dinner. If conditions are not skiable we will hike in the adjacent Monongahela National Forest, A detailed trip itinerary, prepared in accordance with expected weather, will be provided to all registrants approximately one week prior to the trip.

Space is limited. There will be a waitin list.

**Leader(s):** Larry Doff 703-615-3195, [LDoff@yahoo.com](mailto:LDoff@yahoo.com)

**Cost:** \$101, lodging and lodge amenities. Transportation, food and other activities, extra.

(Continued on page 6)

## White Grass Work Trip (continued)

*(Continued from page 1)*

We were greeted with SNOW on Friday night on Rt. 93 near the power plant. Upon arrival at White Grass—there it was—white grass!!—a light covering of snow at the Center and more at the higher elevations. What a great beginning. It was a very pretty sight!

On Saturday morning we awakened to mixed precipitation of snow, sleet, and light rain, which ended by late morning. Participants split-up into smaller groups on Saturday and Sunday to tackle various tasks that needed to be done. Some worked on clearing trail in some of the "Bowls" including Anita's, Sawmill, and Cathedral, to the right of the old Weiss Knob ski slope. On Sunday some of the group worked on the left of the slope, clearing the trails up "Jack Frost Bowl," opened up the cattle fences, and proceeded trail clearing to the overlook at Bald Knob, and the Breakfast Bowl.

For those of us staying around the Center there was much to be done: stone wall and bridge work near 3-Mile Trail, clearing gullies for water run-off, assembling another bridge along Gandalf's, and two bridges in Gandalf's Glade. Everyone got down and dirty; between the mud and cow pies (couldn't tell the difference) we came out the "Dirty (1/2) Dozen". Chip was especially happy because part of our group stayed back at the lodge to split and stack wood until the wood splitter ran out of gas! Another contingent cleaned and arranged the boots used for rentals.

We regrouped on Saturday night at the lodge to socialize, and some energetic souls headed to the Purple Fiddle in Davis. The band was really good. They were playing in Rockville on the following Tuesday but didn't start until 10pm. I don't know if anyone attended.

A special thanks to Laurie who made sure we were well fed with sandwich fixings, and 3 huge pots of HOT SOUP. For those of you who are interested in the mundane, some of us slept in the lodge, some in tents and others in cars.

We hope that the familiar names of the trails will awaken in you the fanatic longing of free heelers to get on the trail!!!! It was a good time of hard work and camaraderie, and everyone left with the satisfied feeling of accomplishment.



## Skiing in the Rain (continued)

*(Continued from page 1)*

other WG denizens from the Morgantown and Harrisonburg area, plus a Colorado transplant who declared the skiing to be "better than what she expected". We also ran into a climbing buddy of Mitch's who was camping in Dolly Sods, a "better you than me" proposition given the chill and (worsening) rain of the coming night! Apprehension over the quality of the final ski runs back to Chip's lodge were unwarranted, as the descents were absolutely a pleasure even with thinning cover toward the bottom!

The next morning brought heavy rain, and we lingered in bed longer than usual as it looked so depressing outside. The mood of the waiter / cook serving us breakfast matched the weather; this initially taciturn fellow eventually opened up with monologues on several disconnected subjects, one of them a lament along the lines of "where was all this rain when I was trying to grow my garden this summer??" XC was out of the question for Sunday, but we surrendered to the Dark Side by driving to Wisp Resort for a day of downhill telly, the very cheap lift ticket offering on Wisp's annual birthday weekend making up for the damp weather. The duo became a triplet when Lynn Yates joined us after an early morning drive from the Baltimore area. Though dense fog on the mountain was disorienting at times, the inclement weather kept the crowds to a bearable level and the mashed potato snow allowed us plenty of leeway to practice proper technique and the elusive "monomark" turn without frequent crashes and burns. Even the black slopes were skiable by ordinary human beings! Fortunately, the rain slackened or ceased entirely in the course of the day.

Skiing in rain sounds horrible, but in many ways it can be a fun experience ... sometimes a necessity in this area if you want to

**Trip Descriptions (continued)**

*(Continued from page 4)*

**Dates:** Thursday, January 31 to Sunday, February 3, 2008 (3 nights) GO SNOW OR NO (WAIT LISTED)

**Trip:** **Canaan Valley, West Virginia**

**Lodging:** Four-bedroom deluxe cabin in Canaan State Park

**Description:** One of the most convenient lodging locations possible in Canaan Valley for skiing at White Grass, the downhill resorts, and points in between. Well-appointed kitchen makes for good opportunity for homey in-cabin meal(s) if group desires. . Good trip for eclectic skiers open to a mixture, over the course of a longer weekend, of cross-country with telemark skiing and/or lessons at Timberline downhill area.

**Leader(s):** Doug Lesar [dlesar@comcast.net](mailto:dlesar@comcast.net) or 301-587-8041

**Cost:** \$105 per person, presuming minimum of 8-person occupancy. Payable to Doug Lesar. Note three-night stay (Thursday, Friday, Saturday). Meals and lift fees not included.

**Dates:** Friday, February 1 through Sunday, February 3, 2008 (2 nights)

**Trip:** **Learn-to-XC Ski Weekend, Laurel Highlands, Pennsylvania**

**Lodging:** Downtown Somerset, PA, ½ hour drive from ski area.

**Description:** Join a dozen or more students enjoying two days of beginner- level instruction from seasoned volunteers, ranging from dry land to fixed stations to instructional tours, emphasizing safety and fun. Leader will deter mine if conditions are ski-able for trip or not. Will cancel for poor conditions.

**Leader(s):** Greg Westernik at [westernik@earthlink.net](mailto:westernik@earthlink.net), 703-866-4098

**Cost:** \$80 application fee covers lodging, share of admin expenses and free instruction. Meals, travel and any equipment rental expenses by student not included in fee.

**Dates:** Sunday, February 3 through Sunday, February 10, 2008 (7 nights, through Sunday am)

**Trip:** **(\*) Laurentians , Quebec , Canada (\*) Passport Needed**

**Lodging:** Two Rental houses. We can have leisurely evening meals (with wine and great conversation, of course).

**Description:** Fly to/from Montreal; use rental vehicles to reach the Laurentians and commute to x-country ski touring areas in beautiful Quebec. Among these are Val-Morin, Val-David, Ste-Agathe-Des-Montes, and the two ski centers in the Mont Tremblant national park. A vacation in Quebec is like a vacation in Europe, without having to cross the ocean. The culture! The food! The snow! Les pistes! Nous avion le plus grand. Most Quebecois speak excellent English. (<http://www.skidefondmont-tremblant.com/eng/index.php>)

**Leader(s):** Robert Swennes 703-532-6101 [robertswennes@hotmail.com](mailto:robertswennes@hotmail.com)

**Cost:** \$600 (payable to STS) includes lodging, local transportation, in-house meals and beverages. Additional \$ for airfare, ski center fees, etc.

**Dates:** Thursday, February 7 through Sunday, February 10, 2008 (3 nights) GO SNOW OR NO (WAIT LISTED)

**Trip:** **Canaan Valley, West Virginia**

**Lodging:** We will stay in a deluxe cabin in Canaan Valley State Park. 4 bedrooms with 2 double beds, 2 baths, fireplace, living room, kitchen, and dishwasher...all the comforts of home. Indoor swimming pool, hot tub, and sauna in the lodge are just a short drive from the cabin.

**Description:** Ski on trails out the front door of the cabin or drive to White Grass Ski Touring Center or Blackwater Falls State Park! We will have a pot luck dinner on Friday night. If there is no snow, we will hike in Canaan Valley and/or Blackwater Falls State Parks or Dolly Sods wilderness. Optional dinner one night at the White Grass Cafe.

There will be no cancellations if there is no snow.

**Leader(s):** Kathy and Elliot Brumberger [kathybrum@comcast.net](mailto:kathybrum@comcast.net)

**Cost:** \$100 per person.

**Dates:** Thursday, February 14 through Tuesday, February 19, 2008 (5 nights)

**Trip:** **(\*) Stowe, Vermont (\*)**

**Lodging:** Butternut Inn, Bed and Breakfast, with lounge areas, refrigerator etc.

**Description:** Over 200 miles of trail in the Green Mts. (just as beautiful as NH), some right out the door and 5 minutes away. Ski touring Centers include Trapp Family Lodge, Stowe Trails, Craftsberry, Bolton. Excellent restaurants for dinner.

**Leader(s):** Peggy Alpert, 301-946-4497, [mountainmama15@verizon.net](mailto:mountainmama15@verizon.net)

**Cost:** \$325 (payable to Margaret Alpert) for 6 min. includes lodging and breakfast. Additional \$ for airfare (to/from Burlington, VT), car rentals, lunch and dinner.



**STSers at Stowe, VT**

**Dates:** Friday night, February 15 through Monday, February 18, 2008

**Trip:** **Ski -Dance, Camp Harmony - Laurel Highlands, Pennsylvania**

**Lodging:** Camp Harmony: Small lodge with communal rooms and dormitory-style rooms; meals included.

**Description:** This unique event in its 24th year combines daily cross-country skiing with evening contra dancing accompanied by live musicians and callers. No dance experience is required. Music performed by Dave Weisler and the Avant Gardeners. Dances called by Susan Hankin & Bob Mathis. Camp Harmony has over 100 acres for cross-country skiing (depending of course, on snow conditions), which

*(Continued on page 7)*

**Trip Descriptions (continued)**

*(Continued from page 6)*

include several different types of habitat. There are large open fields, mature forest areas, and more. Camp Harmony is adjacent to the Que-mahoning Reservoir. Other cross-country skiing areas and downhill skiing are available at Hidden Valley, Seven Springs, and Laurel Ridge State Park which are only a short drive away. Singles, couples, and families are welcomed to this event. The weekend will NOT be cancelled for lack of snow. More information at [www.skidance.com](http://www.skidance.com).

**Leader(s):** Eliot Applestein [eliotapplestein@verizon.net](mailto:eliotapplestein@verizon.net), 301-984-6855, and Bob Mathis, 301-589-7539, [talibob@starpower.net](mailto:talibob@starpower.net)  
**Cost:** \$5 for infants - 2 years; \$75 for children 3 - 13 years; \$160 for adult members of PATC (STS) and the Sierra Club; \$170 for all others.

**Dates:** Friday night, February 15 through Monday, February 18, 2008 (3 nights) NO SNOW, NO GO

**Trip:** **Laurel Highlands, Pennsylvania**

**Lodging:** Super 8 Motel, Somerset, Pennsylvania

**Description:** Ski at Laurel Ridge State Park (ski rentals available), Forbes State Forest, Laurel Mountain, Kooser State Park, and Hidden Valley (XC and downhill). All levels of skiers can be accommodated.

**Leader(s):** Bob Leaf 301-977-6561; [roberto.leaf@gmail.com](mailto:roberto.leaf@gmail.com)

**Cost:** \$110 per person, payable to Robert Leaf. Non STS members \$120. Meals extra; car pools to be arranged.

**Dates:** Friday night, February 22 through Sunday, February 24, 2008 GO SNOW OR NO

**Trip:** **Blackwater Falls, West Virginia (trip goes if no snow)**

**Lodging:** Blackwater Falls Lodge

**Description:** Ski beautiful Blackwater Falls State Park. (see above) A detailed trip itinerary, prepared in accordance with expected weather, will be provided to all registrants approximately one week prior to the trip. Space is limited. There will be a waiting list.

**Leader(s):** Larry Doff [Doff@yahoo.com](mailto:Doff@yahoo.com) or 703-615-3195

**Cost:** \$101 which includes lodging and Lodge amenities. Transportation, food and other activities, extra.

**Dates:** Friday night, February 29 through Sunday, March 2, 2008 (alt date if January has no snow)

**Trip:** **Backbone Ski Farm, Garrett County, MD**

**Lodging:**

**Description:**

**Leader(s):** Max Dubanski

**Cost:**

**Dates:** Friday night, February 29 through Sunday, March 2, 2008

**Trip:** **Canaan Valley / Blackwater Falls, WV or Laurel Highlands, PA**

**Lodging:** TBD

**Description:** This is a floater trip discussed on [page 8](#)

**Leader(s):** TBA

**Cost:**

**Dates:** Tuesday, March 4 through Sunday, March 9, 2008

**Trip:** **(\*) Bryce Canyon & Cedar Breaks, Utah (\*)**

**Lodging:** 1 night in Las Vegas and 4 nights at grand Ruby's Inn complex just outside Bryce Canyon.

**Description:** This is a "guaranteed snow" trip. How can we make that rash a prediction for March? Simple. Elevation. Bryce lies at 8000 ft. and Cedar Breaks at 10,000 ft. Both are landscapes of gently rolling hills with a mix of evergreen forests and snow-covered grasslands. Both have red-rock canyons and astounding "hoodoo" sandstone features found nowhere else in the world. The color contrasts of red cliffs, green trees, and white snow overlay are magical. (see <http://www.utahoutdoors.com/pages/brycewinter.htm>).

**Leader(s):** Rob Swennes 703-532-6101 [robertswennes@hotmail.com](mailto:robertswennes@hotmail.com)

**Cost:** \$325/person for 5 nights of lodging and all ground transportation in Utah. Skiers pay for their air fare to/from Las Vegas and for all meals.

**Dates:** Friday night, March 7 through Sunday, March 9, 2008

**Trip:** **Canaan Valley / Blackwater Falls, WV or Laurel Highlands, PA**

**Lodging:** TBD

**Description:** This is another floater trip discussed on [page 8](#)

**Leader(s):** TBA

**Cost:**



Rob at Bryce Canyon, UT

## STS Floater Ski Trip – a New Concept



By Rob Swennes

Unwilling (or unable) to sign up two-to-four months in advance for a ski trip sponsored by the Section? Hesitant to lock yourself into a “ski or hike” weekend when the uncertainty of snow cover is the only certainty? Perhaps the Section’s new “floater trip” concept will work for you.

The idea is that some members of the Ski Touring Section will respond positively if a formal STS trip is announced and populated with willing skiers within a few days after good skiing conditions appear at one of our nearby skiing venues—in this case either Canaan Valley or possibly New Germany State Park. Keith Chanon and Rob Swennes have stepped forward to test this concept, which is a kind of hybrid mix of our traditional Section trip model and the kind of last-minute, private trips that are often arranged through our listserv when snow comes to the mid-Atlantic region. This is how the floater trip will work this winter:

**Window of opportunity:** Within the last half of February (ideally over the Presidents Day holiday weekend)

**Possible skiing venues:** Canaan Valley or western Garrett County, Maryland (esp. New Germany State Park)

**Sign up:** This is a multi-step, rapid-response process.

**First step:** If interested in possibly participating in this group ski event, send an email to Rob Swennes (robertswennes@hotmail.com) now and indicate that you would like to be added to the floater trip contact list.

**Second step:** If snow conditions seem good at one of the identified skiing venues within the window of opportunity, the leaders will send an email out to the skiers on the contact list, indicate what the specifics of the proposed trip are (dates, location, type of lodging, lodging cost), and ask for email word back from those who wish to be part of the ski group for that trip.

**Third step:** Those signing up for the trip must then immediately download from the Club Info section of the STS web site (<http://www.patc.us/chapters/ski/>) the STS trip application form and the waiver of liability form. These forms must be completed and mailed along with a check for the trip lodging cost to the address provided in the leaders’ earlier email. This should all happen within 24 hours of the initial trip announcement message.

**Fourth step:** As completed trip applications are received by the trip leaders, they will contract for lodging near the skiing areas (probably either condos or motel rooms), deposit the lodging checks, and notify the individual skiers that they are signed-up members of the trip.

**Fifth step:** The leaders will notify the participating skiers by email about who has joined the group and provide if, time allows, the phone numbers of the participants so that people can search out others to form car pools, if they wish. Participating skiers will be notified of the lodging location and the directions to drive there.

**Sixth step:** Travel to the snow and ski!

**Rules of the floater trip:**

1. The STS will arrange only for the lodging for skiers participating. All transportation, meals, trail fees and other expenses are those of the individual participants, so adequate funds should be brought along. Skiers are responsible for their own ski equipment.
2. The trip leaders will not direct where people will ski, but they will offer suggestions. Participants may split among several different skiing locations on a particular day. People can join whichever group for the day that they wish so long as they can arrange transportation. The only key rule is not to ski alone. Remember that the volunteer ski leaders are there to ski too, not to manage on site group dynamics!
3. Participants are encouraged to bring along their own food to their lodgings—whether it is brought from home or purchased along the way. Each skier should bring his own lunch materials and a small backpack or waist pack for carrying trail food and water. Skiers can eat in at night or choose to go out to restaurants in the area—their call.
4. If any individual sends in the required forms and check and does not hear back from



*(Continued on page 9)*

## ST\$ Floater Ski Trip – a New Concept (continued)

(Continued from page 8)

a trip leader, he should presume that he is NOT signed up as a trip participant. If he has not heard back within two days after sending in his materials, he should contact the trip leader to confirm his status. If he cannot be accommodated on the trip, his check will be either mailed back or shredded.

5. Two unrelated skiers of the same sex are expected to share a queen-sized bed. Single beds for singles are ideal but are often not easy to come by in motels and condos. Unrelated skiers will not be asked to share double beds. Unrelated male and female skiers will not be asked to share a room.

6. This floater trip will in no case exceed 24 participants, and the trip leaders in their discretion may choose to limit the size of the trip even further.

7. The Section will not provide lodging for, or have any legal responsibility for, any friends of participants who may show up to ski. All participants in the trip must be STS members in good standing or have paid in advance the \$10 guest fee in addition to the stated trip lodging fee.

8. Once an individual's lodging has been booked by the leaders, he cannot drop out and receive any refund unless another skier steps forward in a timely fashion to take his place. The leaders cannot accommodate skiers who wish to vary the trip lodging dates.

The time from initial emailed trip announcement to participants' arrival at the skiing location will likely be only 5 to 7 days! We wait to see how this trip model works out for Section members.

## \$KI Dance: Presidents' Ski-Dance Weekend Enjoy Contra Dance and Cross-Country Skiing



Come join us in the Laurel Highlands of Pennsylvania. We cross country ski (downhill skiing available near by), sled, dance, make music, and have lots of fun outdoors and indoors in a beautiful rustic setting. Bring your talents and instruments to share. Sponsored by the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (Ski-Touring Section) and the Sierra Club. See a video of last year's Ski Dance at <http://www.skidance.com/>

**When:** February 15 - 18, 2008 in the Laurel Highlands, PA

**Where:** Camp Harmony is in the Laurel Highlands of Pennsylvania

near Somerset and Seven Springs. Depending on weather, this is a four- to five-hour drive from Washington, D.C. or Philadelphia. We recommend car pooling. Maps and Directions c

**Accommodations:** Lodging is dormitory-style, that is, group rooms in heated cabins (Please bring your own linens and towels). Weekend begins on Friday evening with an informal potluck supper and dance and ends on Monday with lunch. Eight meals, starting with Saturday breakfast, are included. Sorry, other than meatless entrees, Camp Harmony cannot provide for special diets.

**Skiing:** Camp Harmony has over 100 acres for cross-country skiing (depending of course, on snow conditions), which includes several different types of habitat. There are large open fields, mature forest areas, a wet land area, small seasonal creeks and more (see photos). Camp Harmony is adjacent to the Quemahoning Reservoir. Other cross-country skiing areas and downhill skiing at Hidden Valley and Seven Springs are only a short drive away.

**Dancing:** American contra and square dances and/or workshops will be held on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evenings. Dance instruction will be provided for beginners. Music provided by Dave Wiesler (Piano & Guitar), Laura Light (Fiddle), George Paul (Piano, Drums, Accordion) Contras called by: Susan Hankin & Bob Mathis

**Other Activities:** Camp Harmony has great slopes for sledding (depending on snow conditions); bring your own sled or tray. They also have two enclosed volleyball courts (see photo). Cross-country skiing is also available at Laurel Ridge State Park (directions). Hot tubs (bring your swim suit) and other activities can be found at Hidden Valley (directions) 21 miles away. Parents, consider bringing some non-computer/non-video board games, playing cards, etc. for your children.

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

**Cancellations and refunds policy:** The weekend will not be cancelled for lack of snow. Daytime dance workshops and other activities will be scheduled instead. If you need to cancel, a full refund will be given if the request is post marked by January 10, 2007. Requests for refunds after that date will be subject to your space being filled, and a \$25 cancellation fee will be deducted.

**For more info:** Eliot Applestein/Marta Vogel (301-984-6855) [eliotapplestein@verizon.net](mailto:eliotapplestein@verizon.net); Bob Mathis (301-589-7539) [talibob@starpower.net](mailto:talibob@starpower.net)



**PATC-Ski Touring Section**  
**c/o Doug Lesar**  
**2507 Campbell Place**  
**Kensington, MD 20895**  
**December 2007**



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 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:

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