



UPSLOPE

Newsletter of the PATC

Ski Touring Section

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

January 2009

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- Trip Schedule
- Ski Trip Reports
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- Schedule Updates

TUG HILL NEW YORK – NEW YEARS 2009

It was as it used to be when Steve and I started coming here back in 1998—snow to ski on easily. We had some sparse years—2006 and 2007 were spent touring and hiking. But all is forgiven. The high expectation for snow comes from the fact that the “Tug Hill” area borders on Lake Ontario and benefits from “lake effect” precipitation and of course in the winter it is SNOW. This is why we go there. Except for those two years, we are generally guaranteed snow in the early part of the season.

There were 18 of us tucked comfortably at Brenda’s Motel—in Altmar about 7 miles from Pulaski. The house accommodates 6; 12 stayed in their private rooms in the motel. Because we had a house with all amenities, we did not have to trudge to the restaurants if we had good food to eat in our kitchen. And we did have good food, and we did eat heartily. There was much left over from our New Years Eve wine and cheese and from the group pot luck dinner on New Years Day. And we shared. And we played games. And we watched the *Da Vinci Code* movie. And some watched football games.



Peggy at Salmon Hills photo by Stephen Brickel

Oh, did you want to know about the skiing too? Some people arrived on Tuesday, the day before the scheduled trip and had a full day of skiing on Wednesday. Many of us arrived early Wednesday, coming from Binghamton where we spent Tuesday night. We often stop at the Highland Forest Ski Touring Center on the way to Pulaski, but did not on this trip. The area had a warm spell the week before, with much rain, and was not able to recuperate in time for our arrival.

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NEWS FLASH: OLD DOG LEARNS NEW TRICKS



Orange Trail, Laurel Ridge State Park photo by Eliot Brumberger

My wife Anne and I each grew up in Pennsylvania, but never skied while we lived there. We met in college, and married and moved to Oregon a few years later. Out there, we took up both XC and downhill skiing, what with Mt. Hood and its 20 feet of snow an hour away. When we moved back East a number of years ago, we rather quickly discovered Canaan Valley, Blackwater and New Germany State Parks, and the STS (not necessarily in that order). Oh, and the C&O Canal was (and still is—they haven’t moved it yet) half a mile away, available for those years when we see snow close to home. And, if I wanted something more exotic, the club had these neat trips to Upstate NY or New England.

Now, all of you know that as an STS member, and now as an officer, I kept hearing about a place, or as I processed it, maybe more a concept, referred to as the “Laurel Highlands”. Every year, some trip leader or several would announce an STS outing to that destination. OK, I’d think. I grew up in Pennsylvania, and even though I didn’t

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Between the Poles: Notes from the STS Chair

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.....and there will be snow during the winter months! So it is written but not always happening. I hope that those of you who have the inclination have been able to get to New York or Pennsylvania or West Virginia, or even Western Maryland and give your skis a workout. We have had some successful trips to different areas including the above mentioned weekend trips and also New Hampshire.

A reminder:

You are not considered a participant on a trip until the leader has received your application/waiver and a check for the trip cost. Do not expect the leader to do a last minute shuffle because of your delay, unless it was unavoidable. Please communicate with the leader as to your intentions/situation.

On a more pleasant note – our volunteer trip leaders are doing a great job of organizing these events. Much thanks to them.



Of course our continued appreciation to the following who don't miss a beat doing their thing: Doug Lesar, membership coordinator, Ralph Heimlich, UPSLOPE editor, Rob Swennes, Treasurer, Kathy Brumberger and Steve Bergstrom, trip coordinators, Al Larsen, secretary, Steve Brickel, webmaster, and Randy Kerr, UPSLOPE mailing coordinator.

Yours in Snow,
 Peggy Alpert

Special Event—Après Ski Party and Planning Session

This traditional end-of-season activity will be on **Sunday, March 29** at the home of Catherine Payne in McLean, overlooking the Potomac Gorge. We will begin at 4 PM with a short planning meeting, followed by socializing and a pot-luck feast. Details to follow from Social Secretary Al Larsen.

Tug Hill (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

But we did enjoy the trails at Salmon Hills and Osceola Ski Touring Centers. Winona State Forest trails were OK. They suffered the same fate as Highland—warm weather and rain and not enough time to recuperate. Some trails and parts of others were really good. And so concludes another New Years trip to New York State's wonderful, snowy Tug Hill Plateau.

Peggy Alpert and Stephen Brickel



Jim Houghton, Rich Galloway and Greg Westernik at Osceola Ski Touring Center, photo by Stephen Brickel

PATC-STS New Germany Ice Hike and Frigid Picnic, January 9 - 11, 2009

Participants included Bob Leaf and Doug and Marcie Schubert. We made an effort to ski New Germany on Friday afternoon, but trails were patchy snow on ice with many exposed areas and a multitude of twigs and limbs due to a recent ice storm. We repaired to the Casselman Inn dining room for a stick-to-your-ribs dinner and planned the next day.

After a hearty Casselman breakfast on Saturday, we headed again to New Germany and faced unskiable conditions under threatening skies and temperatures in the low twenties. Despite the icy mix and freezing drizzle, we elected to hike and did the Green, Purple and Blue loops. Did you know that wet hiking jackets accumulate an icy coating when temperatures are below freezing? At the conclusion of our morning walk, we headed for the Warming Hut (Lake House) with the intention of dining around the circular fireplace. The warming hut restrooms were accessible, but the Great Room was closed, so we headed outside to the pavilion, cleared off the picnic tables and enjoyed our prepared lunches in 22 degree temperatures. Had there been other visitors to the park, they certainly would have thought us nuts, picnicking in the ice and snow. The absence of wind allowed our lunch to be enjoyable. After lunch activities included a visit to the New Germany State Park and Savage Mountain Ranger Station, where we were briefly detained due to closed roads on account of automobile accidents.

We made it back to the Casselman Inn and dined at the Penn Alps restaurant on Saturday evening. There was no snow during the night and Sunday looked to be a bust. We breakfasted leisurely at Penn Alps and decided to become local tourists. After checking out, we headed for Frostburg for a quick tour of the town; then to Cumberland, where we spent hours at the National Park Service C&O Canal exhibit and toured that immediate area. We stopped at, but were unable to visit the Sideling Hill museum because of early closing hours. This is on the next to-do list. Finally, a late lunch at Weaver's in Hancock, MD, rounded out the weekend. It was a very enjoyable weekend given the circumstances. In fact, it was a very enjoyable weekend, period.

Larry Doff

Laurel Highlands Trip Report 16-19 January 2009



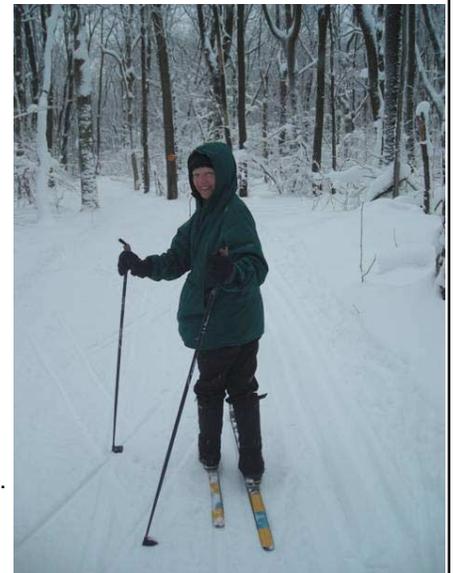
Elliot helps Kathy with her mittens in the warming hut at Laurel Highlands SP

Mother Nature blessed us with lots of snow for our MLK weekend trip! Our 18 skiers enjoyed Laurel Ridge State Park, Laurel Mountain, Kooser State Park, and the North Woods. Conditions were ideal and the best we've seen in the last 4 years, the best Erma Cameron has ever seen at Laurel Highlands, and the best Al Larsen has seen in the Mid-Atlantic ever (see his note on page 1). There were several skaters on all of the trails, as well as the "ski in the tracks" folks. Snow fell on and off during our stay, improving conditions.

Some skied on Friday after arriving and found conditions at Laurel Ridge State Park excellent. The entire group skied on the groomed trails of Laurel Ridge on Saturday with great conditions again. We all braved very cold weather.

Those who 'teed off' prior to mid morning experienced sub zero temperatures. Some of us went to the very scenic Forbes State Forest (Laurel Mountain) on Sunday and skied in excellent conditions.

Kathy on the Orange Trail at Laurel Ridge State Park



We had large group dinners at two local restaurants: Hoss's Steak and Sea, and the Pine Grill. On Sunday evening, two Chinese restaurants became the venue for two smaller groups of STSers.

The Quality Inn was a very convenient place to stay as we were able to have breakfast in the restaurant in the hotel. And, since it was so cold the whole weekend, it was nice not to have to go out for breakfast! Unfortunately, the concession served its last meals during our stay. But they will now serve a complimentary continental breakfast which we experienced on Monday morning. This included the usual donuts, pastries, and bagels as well as cereal, juice and coffee.

To everyone's delight, we were able to refund \$32 to each participant because we got a better rate at the motel a few weeks before the trip!

Blackwater Falls January 23-25, 2009

Bob Leaf convened a group of 10 PATC-STC members at old reliable Blackwater Falls State Park lodge in Davis, West Virginia, for weekend of pretty good skiing. Things did not look so good on Friday afternoon, registering a high of 52 degrees on the bank clock in Keyser, WV. The two Ralphs (Fiorito and Heimlich) arrived early in the afternoon and immediately drove down to the Sled Hill to ski on a softening base of 4-6". Skiing was pretty good, but it was clear that we were either a) going to lose everything to continued high temps, or b) going to be skiing on ice if the temps dropped.

Bob and the Two Ralphs decided to take in the night life in "downtown" Thomas, driving over to the Purple Fiddle for excellent Turkey Reuben sandwiches and a live show of the Stereofidelics (Chris Padgett and Melissa McGinley at <http://www.thestereofidelics.com/index.html>) a very energetic couple on electric violin, acoustic and electric guitar, drums and keyboard. The music was very eclectic and LOUD!! But the 50 or so Fiddle customers were enthusiastic and we kept the pair at it until 11:30, after which the sidewalks were securely rolled up and stowed and we drove back to Blackwater. Seriously, a night out at the Purple Fiddle (<http://www.purplefiddle.com/>) is the highlight of night in Canaan Valley, unless the stars are out.

By Saturday morning, it became evident that the latter had occurred. Fortunately, the cold front was accompanied by enough moisture to bring a fine, light snow from breakfast through the day, adding 1-2" of fine powder on top of the frozen and rutted base. After convening for breakfast at the Lodge, the group (consisting of Bob, Erma Cameron, Yvonne Thayer, Merle Van Horne, Bozena Sarnecka-Crouch, and Lucretia Darling) made for White Grass Ski Touring Center, although Bozena and Lucretia were headed for the Canaan downhill area to take the lift up to the backcountry. We also ran into Dick Simmons and Steve Vikell from Baltimore, who had skied at Timberline on Friday and were headed to WG for XC on Saturday as well. The other members were Steve Bergstrom and Nicole Fall, who caught up to us at WG.



11" at the 4,000 foot stake, with Yvonne and Bob photo by Ralph Heimlich



The gang at Muttley's photo by R. Waitress

Conditions were windy, cold and blustery at White Grass, but the snow fences had worked and there was skiable base with a light dusting of powder when we arrived. We elected to climb up 3 Mile Trail to Round Top, but icy conditions had us worried that the downhill would be our downfall. Up at Round Top, who should appear but club stalwarts Doug Lesar and Jack Kangas, who had come up the short, steep way and were planning on skiing the good stuff at the top. Conditions on top, because of more base, less melting, and continued fine light snow, were very good. There was 11" at the 4,000 foot stake, and beautiful skiing.

The gang split into several different groups, orbiting around hot drinks and steamy glasses at Chip's WG Café and the good snow on top. Conditions on the other side of the Café at Gandalf's, Shay Trace, and Gandalf's Glen were also good, especially in the afternoon benefiting from 1-2" of new powder.

Eventually, we wore down and headed back to Blackwater Falls for the hot tub, swimming pool, and an impromptu "hotel room" party of wine, Polish vodka, Cognac, stale Moose Munch, and other snacks at the sign of the Two Ralphs. Bob had made reservations at Muttley's and we made our way to "downtown" Davis and raised the volume of the place with much conviviality. We were joined by Dave and Cathy Collins.



Two Ralphs at Lindy Point overlook photo by Pete Oswald

By Sunday, the short snow event was over and the sun shone on a cold day. Skiing around Blackwater was the order of the day, and we agreed at breakfast to try the Lindy Point portion of the Canaan Loop Road. Bob, Erma, and Merle drove down to the Sled Hill to start, the Two Ralphs took the low road on Shay Trace Trail from the lodge, and Dick and Steve took the high road up to the water tower and down Red Spruce Trail.



Yvonne went for a solo ski, but had plenty of four-legged company in the snowy glens of Blackwater Falls State Park. The deer are very brazen here, knowing that hunting is off limits in the park.

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2008-2009 Ski Trip Schedule

Dates	Jan. 30-Feb. 1 (2 nights) No cancellation
Trip	Blackwater Falls, WV
Lodging	Blackwater Falls Lodge Each room has a private bath, phone and color television. Lodge amenities: game room, sitting room with fireplace, indoor pool, hot tub, fitness room. The Lodge restaurant offers breakfast, lunch and dinner
Description	Ski beautiful Blackwater Falls State Park www.blackwaterfalls.com). There are over twenty miles of trails for beginners and more experienced. Many of the trails are groomed and maintained. A sledding hill is available when snows are sufficient. Skis, poles, boots and sleds are available for rent at the Sled Run & Cross Country Ski Center. If conditions are not skiable we will hike in the adjacent Monongahela National Forest (www.fs.fed.us/r9/mnf).
Leader(s)	Larry Doff, 703-615-3195, LDoff@yahoo.com
Cost	\$106 per person for lodging only, assuming a minimum of 10 participants.
Dates	Jan. 30-Feb. 1 (2 nights) cancels if no snow
Trip	Western MD.
Lodging	Oak-Mar Motel, Oakland Maryland
Description	Ski back country trails at Backbone Farm guided by the proprietor; also close to Swallow Falls and Harrington Manor State Parks' trail systems.
Leader(s)	Harvey Walden 301-588-0262
Cost	\$75 per person lodging only, assuming a minimum of 10 participants.
Dates	Feb 5-8 (3 nights) No cancellation
Trip	Canaan Valley, WV
Lodging	Canaan Valley State Park -four-bedroom deluxe cabin with well-appointed kitchen affords an opportunity for homey in-cabin meal(s) if group desires.
Description	One of the most convenient lodging locations in Canaan Valley for skiing at White Grass, the downhill resorts, and points in between. Good trip for eclectic skiers open to a mixture, of cross-country with telemark skiing and/or lessons at Timberline downhill area. Preference given to high skill-level skiers or mid-level skiers with high adventure quotient (contact leader for details)
Leader(s)	Doug Lesar 301-587-8041 dlesar@comcast.net
Cost	\$115 per person lodging only, assuming minimum of 8 participants. Note three-night stay
Dates	Feb. 6-8 (2 nights) cancels if no snow
Trip	Laurel Highlands, PA
Lodging	Quality Inn, Somerset PA in the heart of Laurel Highlands. Non-smoking, double occupancy rooms w/ 2double beds. Amenities are indoor pool, hot tub, exercise room, restaurant with bar. Many good, reasonably priced restaurants are in the area
Description	Join XC ski buddies gliding over 40 mi. of trails at favorites such as Kooser and Laurel Ridge State Parks, Roaring Run Natural Area, North Woods, Laurel Mountain, & Hidden Valley .
Leader(s)	Greg Westernik (gmwester@gmail.com), (571-276-7978)
Cost	\$90 per person for lodging only, assuming 10 person minimum.
Dates	February 13-16 (3 nights) (President's Weekend) CANCELLED, SORRY!
Trip	Canaan Valley, WV
Lodging	Canaan Valley State Park cabin
Description	Our main destination will be White Grass Ski touring Center in Davis, WV. where you may rent skis and also get instruction. There is always Blackwater Falls State Park, the trails around Canaan Valley Lodge and down hill at Timberline.
Leader(s)	Kathy and Elliot Brumberger kathybrum@verizon.net 301-774-7412
Cost	\$128 minimum of 10 participants.
Dates	February 13-16 (3 nights) no cancellation
Trip	Ski -Dance Camp Harmony - Laurel Highlands
Lodging	Camp Harmony: Small lodge with communal social rooms and dormitory-style sleep rooms; 8 meals included.
Description	The 25th Ski-Dance Weekend at Camp Harmony has cross-country skiing, sledding, contra dancing, and music making. Have lots of fun outdoors and indoors in a beautiful rustic setting. Dance to live music in the evening by Dave Weisler and the Avant Gardeners. Bring your talents and instruments to share. Trip begins on Friday evening with an informal potluck supper and dance and ends on Monday with lunch. Camp Harmony has over 100 acres available for cross-country skiing, slopes for sledding and several different types of habitat. Other cross-country and downhill skiing areas are nearby. Check out the website, www.skidance.com for more information and a registration form. The weekend will NOT be cancelled for lack of snow.
Leader(s)	Eliot Appelstein, (301) 984-6855, eliotapplestein@verizon.net & Bob Mathis, (301) 589-7539, talibob@starpower.net
Cost	Adults \$170 (\$160 for STS/Sierra Club members), Children 3-13 yrs. \$75, Infants – 2 yrs \$5

2008-2009 Ski Trip Schedule (continued)

Dates	February 13-21 No cancellations
Trip (*)	Yellowstone / Tetons, Wyoming (*)
Lodging	Kelly Inn in West Yellowstone and Days Inn in Jackson
Description	The principal focus will be on backcountry skiing in both locations. West Yellowstone also offers a superb groomed trail network. There will be 6.5 days of skiing and/or snowshoeing. Skiers will fly to Salt Lake City and rent minivans for the drive up to West Yellowstone. Groomed trails (35 km.) are available on the edge of town in the Rendezvous ski complex (http://www.rendezvouskitrails.com/). An hour's drive north lies Lone Mountain Ranch (http://www.lmranch.com/) with its 85 km. groomed ski trail system plus separate snowshoe trails. Many options exist for backcountry skiing into Yellowstone Nat. Park. In Jackson Hole there are 17 km. of groomed trails at the JH Nordic Center (http://www.jacksonhole.com/info/ski.nordic.asp#cross) and many backcountry skiing options in the Grand Tetons Nat. Park.
Leaders	Rob Swennes, 703-532-6101, robertswennes@hotmail.com
Cost	\$575, includes lodging, breakfasts (8 days) and ground transportation out West. Skiers pay for air transport, other meals, any trail fees, and incidental costs.
Dates	Feb. 20-22 (2 nights) No cancellation
Trip	Blackwater Falls, WV
Lodging	Blackwater Falls Lodge. Each room has a private bath, phone and color television. Lodge amenities: game room, sitting room with fireplace, indoor pool, hot tub, fitness room. The Lodge restaurant offers breakfast, lunch and dinner.
Description	Ski beautiful Blackwater Falls State Park (www.blackwaterfalls.com). There are over twenty miles of trails for beginners and more experienced. Many of the trails are groomed and maintained. A sledding hill is available when snows are sufficient. Skis, poles, boots and sleds are available for rent at the Sled Run & Cross Country Ski Center. If conditions are not skiable we will hike in the adjacent Monongahela National Forest (www.fs.fed.us/r9/mnf).
Leader(s)	Larry Doff, 703-615-3195, LDoff@yahoo.com
Cost	\$106, per person for lodging, assuming minimum of 10 participants
Dates	February 27 - March 1 (2 nights) No cancellation
Trip	Laurel Highlands, PA
Lodging	Quality Inn in Somerset, PA in the heart of Laurel Highlands. 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.
Description	Ski the groomed trails at Laurel Mountain State Park, starting from the Warming Hut, at which snacks are available. Trail fee is approximately \$5. Ski rentals are available nearby, but participants are urged to rent skis in their local area. Skiers seeking more challenging ski areas will find them at Laurel Ridge and Forbes State Parks. Downhill ski areas are also nearby. All levels of skiers can be accommodated. This trip will go, snow or no. If conditions are not skiable, we will hike the Laurel Ridge area. A detailed trip itinerary, prepared in accordance with expected weather, will be provided to all registrants approximately one week prior to the trip.
Leader(s)	Larry Doff, 703-615-3195, LDoff@yahoo.com
Cost	\$90 per person includes lodging and two breakfasts, assuming a minimum of 10
Dates	February 27-March 1 (2 nights) Cancels if no snow.
Trip	Western Maryland
Lodging	Oak-Mar Motel, Oakland MD
Description	Ski back country trails at Backbone Farm guided by the proprietor; also close to Swallow Falls and Harrington Manor State Parks trail systems.
Leader(s)	Harold Datz 703-742-8938 harold.datz@gmail.com
Cost	\$75 per person lodging, assuming 10 participant minimum
Dates	March 29 (Sunday)
Description	Special Event— Après Ski Party and Planning Session —This traditional end-of-season activity will be on Sunday, March 29 at the home of Catherine Payne in McLean, overlooking the Potomac Gorge. We will begin at 4 PM with a short planning

(Continued from page 4)

We all found the portion of the loop road between Sled Hill and the Lindy Point overlook trail in very good condition, with frozen base and 1-2" of new powder. The narrow, twisty track through the rhododendrons to Lindy Point was challenging on skis, and we all eventually shed the boards to walk in. On our way, the two Ralphs caught up with Pete Oswald, long-time PATC trail maintainer, who was finally getting back on skis after a long knee problem. The view of Blackwater Canyon from the observation platform on this clear day was magnificent. Too soon, we turned back to begin the long trek home. All in all, a very good ski weekend at our old favorite, Blackwater Falls and Canaan Valley.

Ralph Heimlich

Old Dog (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

ski, I had heard of the Poconos, and many state parks, but never the "Laurel Highlands". I did remember from my 7th grade Pennsylvania history class that Mountain Laurel is the State flower—but heck, that grows at 500 feet above sea level, and isn't exactly in the same league as a Glacier Lily, as an indicator of the immediate and sustained presence of snow anywhere in the vicinity. And, to top it off, these trip announcements would usually indicate that the lodging associated with the trip was going to be one or another budget motel just off the PA Turnpike. So, some sort of "Hey, I have skied the Cascades and the Adirondacks" snobbery must have kicked in, because I never had any interest in trying out one of those trips.

Until this year. I'm trying to remember what happened on that warm November afternoon at this year's Ski Fair. I think I was having trouble mustering enthusiasm for the long travel required to get to New York or New England, and realized that waiting for a foot of snow on the C&O hasn't been a winning strategy lately. Anyhow, Anne and I decided we would try Laurel Highlands. Let's be open minded, and all that stuff. So, a few weeks ago, on the weekend before the Inauguration, we headed off for Somerset PA. I'm not writing a trip report here. That appears in another article (see [page 3](#)). Let me just tell you my reaction to the whole experience, summed up in the sentence—Man, what had we been waiting for! Laurel Highlands area had the best skiing I've encountered in the mid-Atlantic region. I urge all of you members who have never tried a trip there to do so. There is probably still an opportunity this year [Feb. 6-8; Feb. 13-16 Ski Dance; Feb. 27-Mar.1], and you can certainly sign up for such a club trip next year. Let me just say that there were multiple venues about 30 minutes from Somerset, with trails suited for every skill level and adventure level. Groomed track, back country trails, flat, hilly, in the woods, in the open. Local clubs and their volunteers do a great job with the trails, and the places we went to had warming huts with picnic tables, water, snacks and toilets. So, we could essentially be out in the wilds, and then wander back to creature comforts. Nice combination.

Now, in the interest of full disclosure, let me confess that long-time member Erma Cameron (who, by the way, led a trail maintenance outing to Laurel Highlands this past fall) was with us on the trip and said the snow that weekend was about the best she had ever seen there. So, we did have a special outing in that regard. Nevertheless, the skiing rivaled anything I had ever done in the Cascades or the Adirondacks. So my karmic repayment is to acknowledge my mistaken prejudging of a place I had never even been to, and let everyone know that this is truly a great place for quality skiing less than three hours away. And, oh, those budget motels just off the Turnpike? Because they are there in great numbers, it's actually possible to find accommodations on short notice, meaning that when it snows on a Wednesday, you can grab your skis and the phone, in whichever order makes most sense and is least physically challenging and dangerous to you, and find a place for that very weekend. So, dear members, may you benefit from my mistake, and not wait as long as I did to give Laurel Highlands a chance. It's in my home state. Named for the state flower, you know.



At Laurel Mountain on the Spruce Run trail, Rainer, Kathy, Mary, Bill and Renate pause for a photo by Eliot Brumberger

Laurel Ridge State Park Nordic Ski Area Thu Jan 29 2009 04:02PM 313
Temperature 24.2° F Humidity 74%



Web cam at PACCSA, Laurel Ridge State Park see
<http://www.paccsa.org/webcam.htm>

Al Larsen
STS Secretary

PATC-Ski Touring Section
 c/o Doug Lesar
 2507 Campbell Place
 Kensington, MD 20895
 January 2009



Blackwater Canyon from Lindy Point Overlook
 photo by Ralph Heimlich

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 ____