



# UPSLOPE

## Newsletter of the NORDIC Ski Touring Section of PATC



Visit Us On the WEB at <http://www.patcskitouring.us>

November 2024

### UpComing Attractions In Winter UPSLOPE

- Ski Trips and Reports
- YOUR ski stories

### Once Again, SKI FAIR!



The traditional PATC-STC Ski Fair will once again kick off the XC-ski season: It will take place a on **Saturday, November 2, from 1 to 4 PM** returning to the usual location, **PATC HQ** in Vienna. Sign up for the 2024-25 ski season trips and reunite with old friends and make some new ones, and learn about all things XC Skiing! We will have food supplied by the club, but please bring your

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### Come Out for the Ski Fair!

It's the time of year to start thinking about gliding on snow covered trails, breathing crisp air and the warming sun on your face. Join us for the STS Ski Fair as we kick off the 2024-25 season!

**When: Saturday November 2, 1-4PM**

**Where: PATC Headquarters**  
**118 Park Street SE, Vienna, VA 22180, just off Rt 123**  
 Just 1.5 blocks from W&OD trail if you are a cyclist.

Meet old friends, make new ones, and talk to trip leaders about cross country skiing opportunities this winter. Weekend trips are planned for snowy locations in Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Longer trips are planned to upstate New York as well as other destinations.

- ☞ Trips will be open for reserving a spot and leaders will be available for questions.
- ☞ Experienced skiers will be there to talk equipment, learning to ski, favorite ski venues, clothing and all things cross country.
- ☞ Light refreshments will be served and you are encouraged to bring a favorite dish to share.
- ☞ Bring your unneeded or unwanted gear for the equipment swap.
- ☞ Bring a friend and introduce them to cross country skiing!

There will be presentations on several ski related topics. At this writing, there will be talks and slides on:

- ☞ Lapland Lakes, ADK, NY
- ☞ Bend, OR
- ☞ New Germany, MD
- ☞ New Hampshire White Mountains
- ☞ Yellowstone NP

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**FROM THE SLOPES – Chair Notes**

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Hello again fellow Nordic skiers!

It's that time of year again when winter approaches and we think more and more about kicking and gliding along groomed tracks and in the beauty of the backcountry. (I like the backcountry best). And, you know, I just feel like we're going to get more snow this season. I'm not sure I understand all this El Niño and La Niña stuff but I just have this hunch that we will get more local skiing opportunities. I'm even willing to bet a cup of coffee or perhaps an adult beverage on it! Winter's approach

also means the Ski Touring Section Officers and Trip leaders have been crafting a schedule of local and excursion trips for your participation. The details are in this issue of the Upslope newsletter and posted on the [STS website](#), as usual.

Our annual STS Ski Fair will happen on Saturday afternoon, November 2, at PATC Headquarters in Vienna, Virginia—see the Ski Fair section for details. Our relationship with the PATC “mother club” is very good and we are grateful for their support. You will want to plan ahead before the Ski Fair so you can sign up at the Fair and make your trip payment and get your questions answered by the trip leaders. We'll also have presentations on last year's trips and upcoming venues, as usual.

With a new ski season, we have a new Trip Coordinator: Dave Jordahl. Dave is a long-time PATC member, hiker and trail maintainer, and has agreed to take on trip coordination duties. Look for him at the Ski Fair and say hello... and thanks!

Also, please consider attending the PATC TrailFest on November 8-11 at Caroline Furnace Camp and Retreat Center. I will be there reaching out for STS to help spread the love of Nordic skiing and would love to see you there.

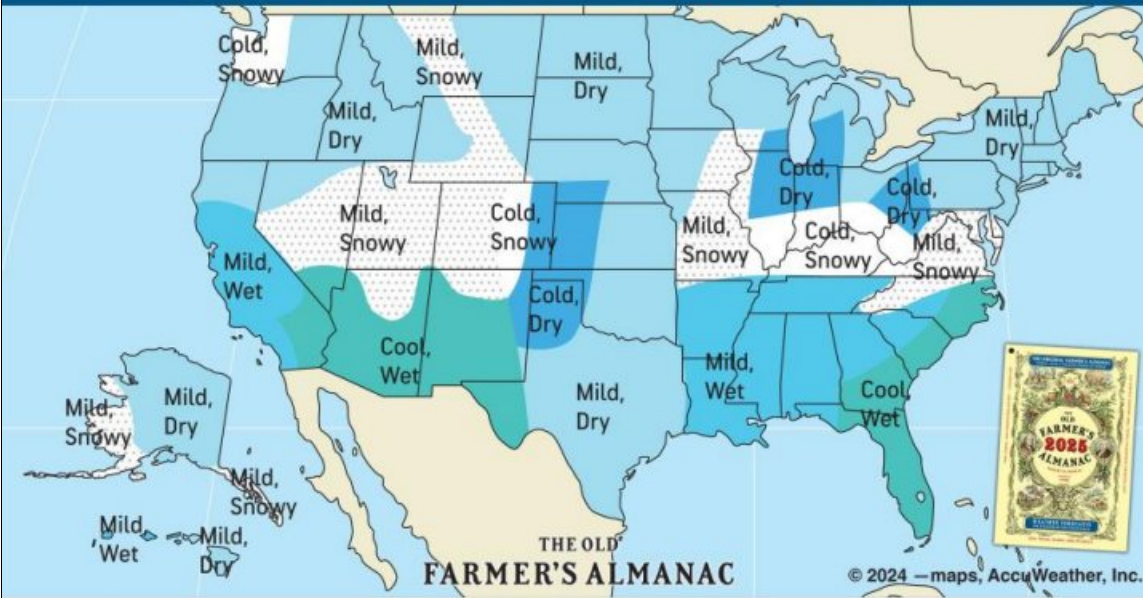
Finally, your STS officers have been working over the summer to provide for electronic payments through our website. You will now be able to conveniently join or renew your STS membership or make a donation to STS using your credit card, GooglePay or other electronic payment means. We hope this will make dues payments easier for you, but you can still submit the membership form and check if you so desire.

Hope to see you at the Ski Fair and out on the trails this winter. I just know we're going to get some snow!

Steve Jarvis, STS Chair

Winter Forecasts for Skiers

WINTER WEATHER FORECAST 2024-25



A WINTER WONDERLAND!

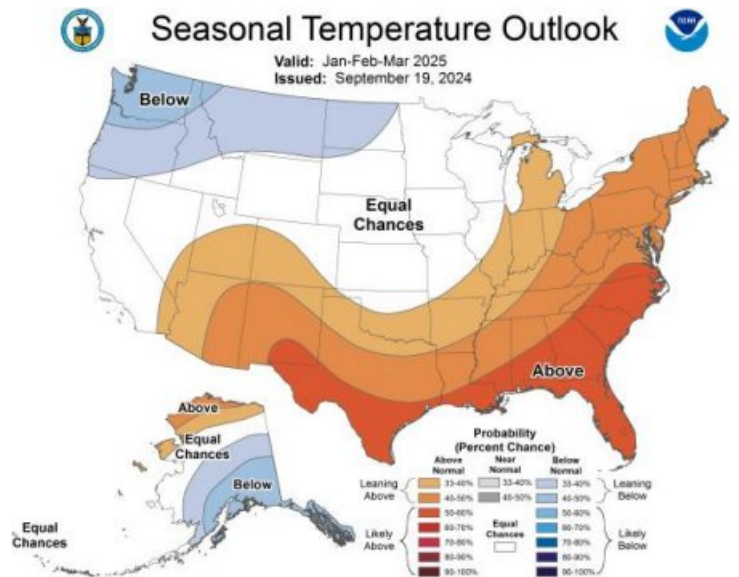
The 2025 [Old Farmer's Almanac](#) predicts "This winter, temperatures will be up and snowfall down throughout most of the United States," reports Carol Connare, the Almanac's editor-in-chief. "While there will still be plenty of chilly temperatures and snow for most slopes, the high heating costs associated with the season shouldn't hit so hard. We're predicting a temperate, uneventful winter—potentially a welcome reprieve from the extremes of recent years."

Heavy snowfall is expected in central and southern Appalachia, the western Ohio Valley, and the Rockies—calling all skiers and sledgers!

**Region 1: Northeast**—In the Northeast—Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, and eastern New York—winter is always cold and snowy. But the almanac is predicting a gentler-than-normal season that's not so rough and tough. Winter temperatures will be above average overall. January is expected to be 4°F above average in the far north of this region. The coldest periods will be mid-December and late February. There will be plenty of snow—however, precipitation and snowfall will be slightly below normal (1 to 1.5% below average). The snowiest periods will be in early December, mid-February, and early March.

**Region 2: Atlantic Corridor**—Including New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia, as well as major cities from Boston and NYC to Washington, D.C., and Richmond will have temperatures average to slightly above average during winter (though 2% colder than average during February). The region will also experience shots of cold in mid-December, early and late January, and late February. Precipitation will be slightly below normal this winter. In this region, snowfall will be below normal in the north and above normal in the south. The most snow is expected to arrive in late December and late February.

**Region 3: Appalachians (including Pennsylvania and Virginia)**—This year's winter should be more temperate than usual. Winter temperatures will be slightly warmer than normal, and below-normal precipitation is expected. The coldest periods will occur from mid-January into early February and in late February. Precipitation will be below normal across the region. However, we expect average snowfall in the north and above-normal snowfall in the southern Appalachians. The snowiest periods will occur in late December, late February, and early March.



NOAA Winter Outlook-

NOAA's seasonal outlook for Jan-Mar 2025 shows warmer temperatures for the majority of the southern half of the United States, including Colorado, New Mexico, the Mid-Atlantic, and well up into New England. This is based on a [general trend](#) of increasing temperatures during the past years and decades. Regarding precipitation outlooks (next page), Washington, Oregon, northern Idaho, Montana, the Upper Midwest, and much of New England are in the "Probability of Above Normal Precip" zone, which means that the odds of above-average precipitation are higher.

This outlook matches the general storm track of previous La Niña winters. For the upcoming 2024-2025 winter season, a [weak La Niña](#) looks to be in store. There is a 65+% chance that water temperatures will be below average and a 30% chance that water temperatures will be near average. Model forecasts provide us with a good signal for a weak La Niña through the 2024-2025 winter season. The official [Climate Prediction Center](#) outlook is also similar to these model forecasts.

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**Videos on Excursion Trips**

STS has one excursion trip [scheduled](#) this year. Excursion trips are outside our “normal” area (VA, MD, WV, PA), as defined by the PATC Executive Council and require prior approval by the Executive Council and participants being PATC members and filling out PATC liability waivers. If you haven’t skied in these locations, there are links to videos from past trips below that will give you a good idea of what they are like.

- ⚡ [White Mountains of New Hampshire](#)
- ⚡ [Lapland Lakes](#), ADK, NY and in [2023](#)
- ⚡ [Bend/Sisters, OR 2024](#) and [here](#)
- ⚡ [Maine Cabins and Hut-to-Hut](#) and in [2023](#)



Barry Weston atop Tumalo Mountain, near Bend, OR, photo by Rick Royer

and check out the [Photo Gallery](#) on our website for all trips.

**Ski Fair (cont.)**

*(Continued from page 1)*

favorite pot-luck salad or dessert to share. There will be an area for Ski Swap, so bring any unused or unneeded gear to sell or trade.

Ski Fair is also an opportunity to renew memberships and to sign up for new membership. See Doug Lesar when you come and bring your check-book.

Presentations on trips and events:

- ⚡ Lapland Lakes, ADK, NY
- ⚡ Bend, OR
- ⚡ New Germany, MD
- ⚡ New Hampshire White Mountains
- ⚡ Yellowstone NP



We urge you to bring your friends and relatives who might be interested in cross-country skiing to learn about skiing and PATC-STC. Come and hear more, discuss with the trip leaders and meet and greet your ski friends at the 2024 SKI FAIR!



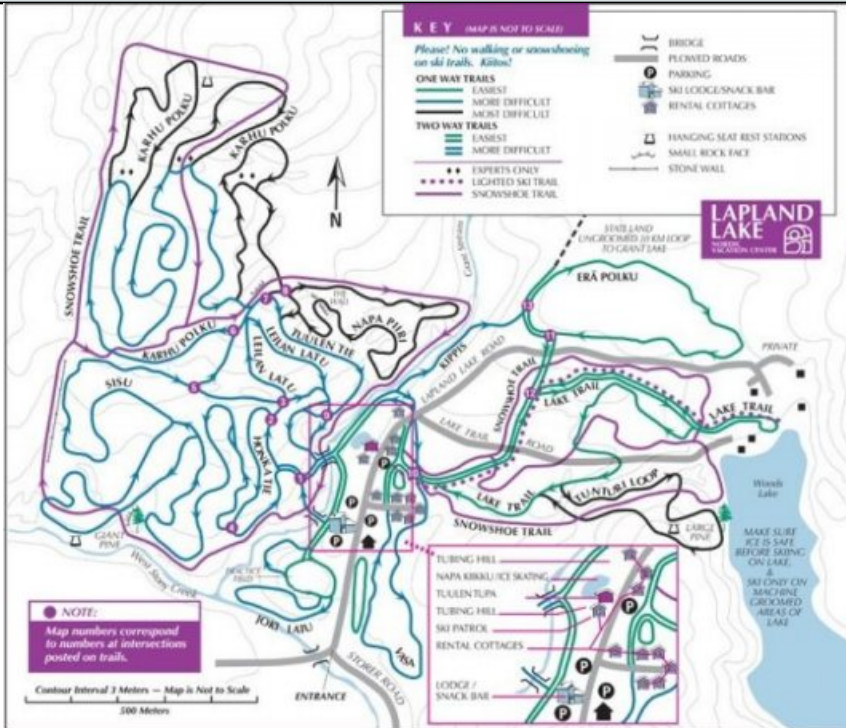
**Resort Skiing at Lapland Lakes, ADK, NY**

by Ralph Heimlich

Lapland is a region in the far north of Scandinavia, including parts of Norway, Sweden and Finland, and under some definitions, a portion of Russia. Lapland Lake is a year-round recreational resort in the Southeast Adirondacks. A group of 6 STSers spent a week there in mid-February 2024, finding very good snow for the Eastern US that winter.

According to a previous year participant Al Larsen, Finnish-American Olympic skier Olavi Harvonen founded Lapland Lake Resort in 1978, and designed its trail system. That was just two years after Bill Koch became the first US Olympian to win a medal (silver) in cross country skiing (Men's 30km). It was therefore a time when XC skiing was just becoming known and popular outside of a small niche group, arguably in no small part because of Koch's achievement seen on network TV. Remember the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat? By the way, it would be four decades until the US would win another Olympic medal in XC skiing. Bonus points if you can name who it was and the event. \* [see answer at the end]

Lapland Lake has 50 kilometers of on-site ski trails, with classic and skate-skiing, plus connecting trails to adjacent off-site wilderness trails, the Northville-Lake Placid Trail, as well as separate snow-shoe trails. The Lake Trail is lit at night, for starlight skiing. It has 11 separate housing units (cottages) called by the Finnish term *tupa*, that accommodate groups ranging from 2 to 10 people. Of course, they have an authentic Finnish sauna (more on that later), an outdoor fire pit, plus a full-service rental and sales shop called—wait for it—The Finnish Line.



STS skiers at Lapin Farmhouse on the resort trails

Our STS crew arrived by cars, all of us driving from the DC-Baltimore area. Most arrived in time for a short ski outing on Sunday afternoon. Many of us also went out on the trails after dinner to take advantage of the section of trail that is lit, and ends up at the shore of frozen Woods Lake

(more on the night skiing later, as well). I always reserve the largest unit, Lapin Farmhouse, with full kitchen (where we cook all of our own meals), full dining room plus a kitchen nook, a large living room with fireplace and seating to allow after dinner story-telling about exploits on the trail, or at the sauna. In regard to the latter, it is very important to get the right info about which hour the men will be in the (clothing optional) sauna, and which hour will be designated for the women. On a previous trip, failure to do so led to much shouting and embarrassment.

I design a menu and purchase ingredients for dinners at Lapin Farmhouse and we share cooking and cleanup duties. Entrees vary from baked salmon, seafood mac and cheese, to chicken stir fry and vegetarian chili. Our stay included Valentines Day and Althea Johnston baked a splendid Red Velvet heart-shaped cake to mark the day.



Althea on the groomed trails

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**Lapland Lake (cont.)**

*(Continued from page 5)*

The Southeast ADK typically gets snow early (this year there was a dusting in early September), then has a late January or early February thaw which melts some of the accumulated snow. Generally, temperatures again plunge re-freezing the snowpack, and other storms provide a fresh covering to sweeten the frozen base. In 2024, the frozen base was intact and Lapland's groomer kept it in snowable condition, but our timing for the "freshening" cover was bad. The double black diamond loops of the trail system were not open and most of the backcountry skiing off the property was not in good skiable condition.



**Snow shoeing on the Northville-Lake Placid Trail**



**The "Edith Ann" swing on the creek trail**

A nice feature at Lapland Lake is that the trails are not long out and backs, but rather create a series of connecting loops. So, one can go for 30 minutes, one hour, four hours or whatever seems appropriate. That also allows for returning to the cottage for lunch if depositing your butt in a snowbank isn't what you prefer.

There are basically two sets of trails at Lapland Lake, with a very large set of combinations and permutations using those two. One is flatter and referred to as the "Lake Side". Very scenic, including a wide-open view from a lake edge. The other set is referred to as the "West side", and has more intermediate and expert trails. By choosing one turn instead of another, one loop instead of another, we could cover much the same territory on a subsequent day but have it seem totally new. The trail system was well thought out by ol' Olavi. A whimsical and fun feature was coming across a giant swing that served as a resting spot on one of the trails. I called it the "Edith Ann" swing after an old Laugh-In character who had her giant chair from which she spouted her wisdom.

Several evenings, most of us went back out after dinner and skied the lighted trail to the lake. The lights (wisely) end somewhat before arriving at the lake, so the night is totally dark and clear (good luck finding anything approaching it in the

DC-Baltimore area). The stars were amazing.

The Grant Lake Wilderness Trail that led offsite and connects to the Northville-Lake Placid Trail. After a couple of days of skiing the resort trails, including night skiing the lighted Lake trail out to Woods Lake, we decided to mount a snow shoe expedition on the N-LP Trail coming from the parking lot on the approach road to Lapland Lake. Snow shoeing was great because the snow coverage was icy and sometimes spotty, with rocks emerging from what is usually a hiking trail, rather than a ski trail. Snow shoes are also more stable on steeper downhills, across two-log bridges and up through rocky gorges along the trail.

For a great video of our trip by Ed Johnson see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PtnxwmxWfIY>

\* Jessie Diggins and Kikkan Randall won the team sprint in 2018 in one of the most amazing and determined come-from-behind efforts I've ever seen.



**Night skiing on a lighted trail to Woods Lake for stargazing**

**PATC-ST5 XC-Ski Schedule 2024-25**

Date	Place	Leader
Nov 2	Ski Fair, PATC HQ, Vienna, VA	Steve Jarvis
Nov 15-17	White Grass Work Trip	Stacey DiMaria
Jan 5-7	Available	Needs Trip Leader
Jan 10-12	Blackwater Falls, WV Lodge (cancels if no snow)	Steve Jarvis
Jan 17-19	Laurel Highlands, Somerset, PA #1 (cancels if no snow)	Greg Westernik
Jan 20-23	New Germany SP Cabin (no cancellation)	Ralph Heimlich
Jan 31-Feb 2	Blackwater Falls, WV Lodge (cancels if no snow)	Brent LaHaie
Feb 7-9	Blackwater Falls, WV Lodge (cancels if no snow)	Greg Westernik
Feb 14-17	Ski Dance, Laurel Highlands, PA in conjunction with Sierra Club Potomac Region Outings (SCPRO)	Bob Mathis and Jody Blatt
Feb 19-24	Lapland Lakes Ski Resort, NY (excursion)	Ralph Heimlich
Feb 21-23	Laurel Highlands, Somerset, PA #2 (cancels if no snow)	Greg Westernik
Feb 28-Mar 2	Available	Needs Trip Leader

Excursion Trips: PATC requires that all participants be members in good standing of PATC and fill out and sign a [PATC application and trip waiver](#) in addition to the [STS waiver and application](#).

**Dates—Nov 2, 2024. PATC-ST5 Ski Fair**  
**Location—PATC HQ 118 Park St SE, Vienna, VA, off Rt 123**  
**Description—See front page article.**  
**Leader—Steve Jarvis**  
**Cost—Free**

**Dates—Nov 15-17, 2024 (Fri-Sun, 2 nights) Help Chip out preparing White Grass trails for Winter.** White Grass will provide lunch for those working Saturday and Sunday. Free lodging at a Timberline house Friday and Saturday nights. Bring work gloves and clothing appropriate for working outdoors, plus tools if you've got them.  
**Leader—Stacey DiMaria 301-908-7115 or [staceydim@gmail.com](mailto:staceydim@gmail.com)**

**Dates—Jan 10-12, 2025 (Friday to Sunday, 2 nights) cancels if no snow. Blackwater Falls State Park Lodge, WV**  
**Lodging—Blackwater Falls State Park Lodge, Davis, WV.**  
**Description—Start out the new ski year with fellow Nordic skiers at Whitegrass Cross-Country Ski Area and Blackwater Falls State Park trails. We will have a block of 2 double- bed rooms at the newly renovated Blackwater Falls Lodge in Davis, WV. Participants will make their own reservations and have the option to share a room or reserve a room on their own. <https://whitegrass.com> and <https://wvstateparks.com/park/blackwater-falls-state-park/>**  
**Leader—Steve Jarvis, [jarsnv7@msn.com](mailto:jarsnv7@msn.com), 703-282-6752.**  
**Cost—\$192/single occupant applicant, which includes 2 beds in room (fee covers only lodging). Participants make their own room single occupancy reservation within the STS group block, then may have the option after reservation to share a room (double occupancy) or keep room single occupancy. Additional \$25 fee per participant paid directly to leader.**

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**Ski Schedule (cont.)***(Continued from page 7)***Dates—Jan 17-19, 2025 (Friday-Sunday, 2 nights) Laurel Highlands PA Area XC Ski Weekend#1 (cancels if no snow) .****Lodging—**Days Inn on Lewis Dr. Somerset PA.**Description—**Join fellow Nordic skiers gliding at usual and less traveled favorites in the Highlands of SW PA (e.g., Laurel Mtn, Laurel Ridge, Roaring Run, North Woods, Laurel Hill) with more kms of trails and choices than time available. Only 1 of these 5 places charges a trail use fee, and there is a walk option to meals from lodging. Chill out at local Somerset Fire and Ice Festival activities.**Leader—**Greg Westernik, 571-552-7307, [gmwester@gmail.com](mailto:gmwester@gmail.com).**Cost—**\$110/applicant, double occupancy. This cost covers lodging fee for double occupancy with free continental breakfasts.. Each room includes 2 beds in room.**Dates—Jan 20-23, 2025 (Monday to Thursday, 3 nights). No Cancellation. New Germany SP, MD Rustic Cabin****Lodging—**New Germany SP, Cabin.**Description—**This is a four-bedroom cabin, featuring one queen-size bed in the downstairs bedroom, one queen-size bed in an upstairs bedroom, two twin-size beds in an upstairs bedroom, and three twin-size beds in an upstairs bedroom. The cabin also has a large living room, a large dining room, two bathrooms with showers, and a full kitchen. We will share responsibility for dinners. Ski at New Germany State Park and Herrington Manor State Park. Hike if no snow.**Leader—**Ralph Heimlich, [heimlichfamily@comcast.net](mailto:heimlichfamily@comcast.net)**Cost—**\$100 lodging and dinners, per person based on 9 people.**Dates—Jan 31-Feb 2, 2025 (Friday-Sunday, 2 nights) Blackwater Falls SP and White Grass STC, WV, XC (cancels if no snow).****Lodging—**Blackwater Falls SP Lodge, Davis, WV**Description—**Join fellow Nordic skiers gliding at scenic WV favorites. Travel to nearby White Grass Ski Touring Center or ski out the door along ten miles of ski trails within Blackwater Falls State Park. Enjoy the ambiance of Blackwater Falls SP lodge (e.g., dining room, fireplace, indoor pool and jacuzzi) and nearby downtown Davis WV.**Leader—**Brent Lahaie, 412-251-8999, [brentlahaie@gmail.com](mailto:brentlahaie@gmail.com)**Cost—**\$192/ single applicant, assuming room double occupancy. This cost covers lodging fee for double occupancy plus separate \$25 trip fee/applicant. Each room includes 2 beds in room (one queen + one twin bed). After application review, participants will make their own lodging room reservation within group trip reservation. STSers have the option after reservation confirmation to share their room (double occupancy) or keep room single occupancy paying twice the single occupancy rate. Each applicant pays trip application fee directly to leader at time of trip application.**Dates—Feb 7-9, 2025 (Friday-Sunday, 2 nights) Blackwater Falls SP and Whitegrass STC, WV, XC (cancels if no snow).****Lodging—**Blackwater Falls SP lodge, Davis, WV**Description—**Join fellow Nordic skiers glide and recreate among scenic WV favorites like Weiss Knob, Lindy Pt, Blkwtr Canyon, Pendleton Pt and Elakala and Blkwtr River Falls, with more kms of trails and choices than time available. Enjoy extra ambiance of Blackwater Falls SP lodge (e.g., dining room, fireplace, indoor pool and jacuzzi) and nearby downtown Davis WV. Ski right out the door at Lodge to avoid commute to Whitegrass if snow permits.**Leader—**Greg Westernik, 571-552-7307, [gmwester@gmail.com](mailto:gmwester@gmail.com).**Cost—**\$192/ single applicant, assuming room double occupancy. This cost covers lodging fee for double occupancy plus separate \$25 trip fee/applicant. Each room includes 2 beds in room. After application review, participants will make their own lodging room reservation within group trip reservation. STSers have the option after reservation confirmation to share their room (double occupancy) or keep room single occupancy paying twice the single occupancy rate. Each applicant pays trip application fee directly to leader at time of trip application..**Dates—Feb 21-23, 2025 (Friday-Sunday, 2 nights) Laurel Highlands PA Area XC Ski Weekend#2 (cancels if no snow). Lodg-****ing—**Days Inn on Lewis Dr. Somerset PA.**Description—**Join fellow Nordic skiers gliding at usual and less-traveled favorites in the Highlands of SW PA (e.g., Laurel Mtn, Laurel Ridge, Roaring Run, North Woods, Laurel Hill) with more kms of trails and choices than time available. Only 1 of these 5 places charges a trail use fee, and there is a walk option to meals from lodging.**Leader—**Greg Westernik, 571-552-7307, [gmwester@gmail.com](mailto:gmwester@gmail.com).**Cost—**\$110/applicant, double occupancy. This cost covers lodging fee for double occupancy with free continental breakfasts.. Each room includes 2 beds in room.*(Continued on page 9)*

**Ski Schedule (cont.)**

**Dates—Feb 14-17, 2025 (Sat-Mon, 2 nights) Ski-Dance Weekend**

**Lodging—**Camp Sequonota Conference Center

**Description—**Cross-country, snow shoe, or Alpine ski in the Laurel Highlands of Pennsylvania during the day and contra dance at night! Do you have two left feet? Bring both of them because Janine Smith, our fabulous caller, will have you moving to the music of Dave Wiesler and friends. Not sure how to cross country ski - no worries, free ski instruction is provided! Lots of fun!

**Leader—**<https://www.skidance.org> or call Bob Mathis at 240-858-9341 or email [rjmathis62@gmail.com](mailto:rjmathis62@gmail.com) or Jody Blatt at [jody-blatt@hotmail.com](mailto:jody-blatt@hotmail.com)

**Cost—**\$150 - \$475 (estimated cost depending upon accommodations) including lodging, all meals and program costs .

**Dates—Feb 19-24, 2025 (Wednesday-Monday, 5 nights). No Cancellation. Lapland Lake, NY Ski Resort, Adirondacks**

**This is an Excursion Trip.** PATC requires that all participants be members in good standing of PATC and fill out and sign a [PATC application and trip waiver](#) in addition to the [STS waiver and application](#).

**Lodging—**Rental Tupa (house) on resort.

**Description—**Staying on a XC-ski resort with 44 km of groomed ski trails and an hour to Garnet Hill trails, Gore Mountain and Oak Mountain (downhill resorts). House has full kitchen and we will share dinner responsibilities. <https://www.laplandlake.com/>

**Leader—**Ralph Heimlich at [heimlichfamily@comcast.net](mailto:heimlichfamily@comcast.net).

**Cost—**\$750 per person, lodging and dinners, based on 8 people

**Maryland DNR to Purchase Savage River Lodge**



On September 11, the Maryland Board of Public Works approved the purchase of an exceptional 42-acre lodge property surrounded by Savage River State Forest in Garrett County. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources was approved to purchase the property—which also includes cabin and yurt facilities—and will expand overnight accommodations in an area where amenities are in high demand.

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources received the board’s approval to acquire the Savage River property from Russell-Dreisbach LLC for a negotiated price of \$8.7 million. The department anticipates taking ownership of the property and incorporating it as part of the New Germany State Park complex in late 2024 or early 2025.

“We’re always looking for new opportunities to expand access to scenic natural areas in Maryland for the enjoyment of residents and visitors,” said Department of Natural Resources Secretary Josh Kurtz. “Savage River Lodge and the surround-

ing property enables us to address the significant public demand for cabins, yurts, and camping locations in beautiful Mountain Maryland as well as acquire a property that is surrounded by existing state forest land.”

The New Germany State Park team has extensive experience managing similar facilities and amenities, including historic full-service cabins; ski equipment rental; large rooms available for conferences; trail networks; a pool; nature programming; and more. The department’s ownership of the lodge will also increase recreational opportunities for hiking, biking, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, and fishing, in addition to expanding public access to the hunting area in Savage River State Forest.

Under department management, the lodge property will offer family-friendly recreational amenities at affordable prices.

“This beautiful, forested property will complement and expand our western region outdoor recreation portfolio and increase the availability of overnight accommodations in an area where they are frequently in high demand,” said Maryland Department of Natural Resources Assistant Secretary for Land Resources Paul Peditto. The New Germany complex includes New Germany State Park, Dans Mountain State Park, Big Run State Park, and Casselman River Bridge State Park.



For more information on the property, see <https://www.savageriverlodge.com/>

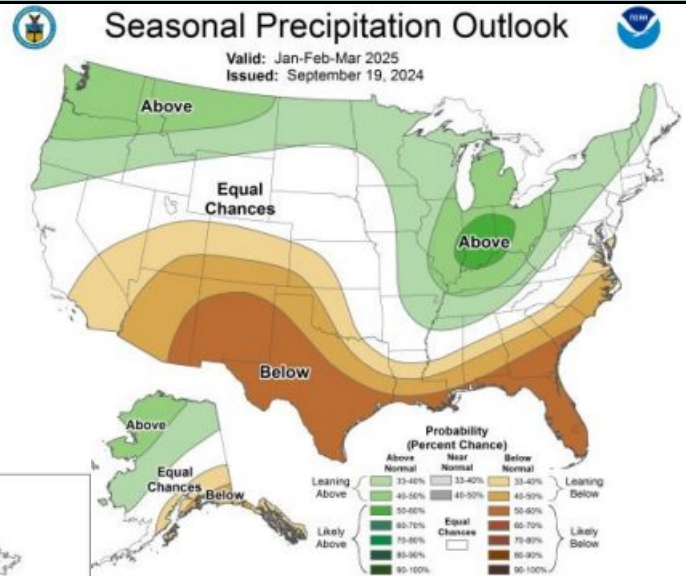
Winter Forecast (cont.)

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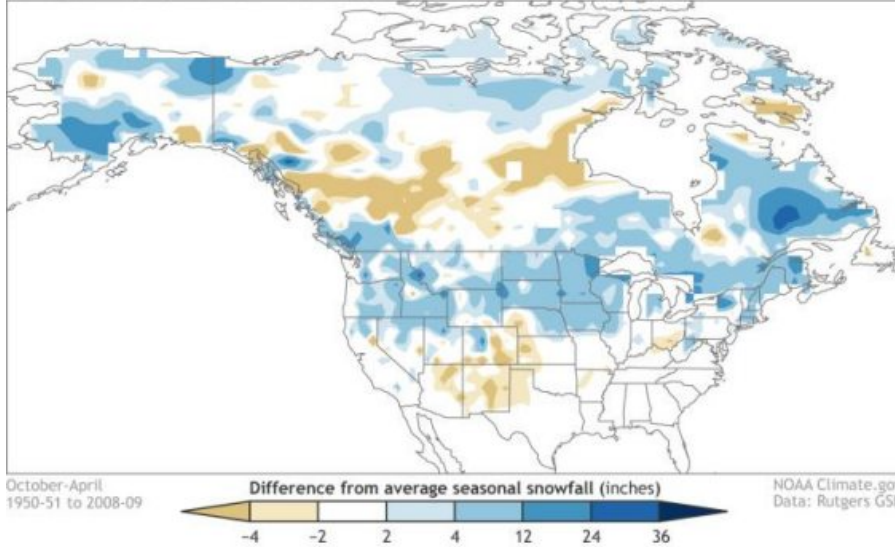
The CPC is giving a 74% chance of La Niña persisting during the 2024-2025 winter season. Weak La Niña patterns are associated with the snowfall pattern shown below, according to [Dr. Stephen Baxter](#) who is a NOAA Climate Prediction Center (CPC) meteorologist.

WARNING: [Long-range forecasts are rarely accurate](#). These forecasts cover three months but we know that skiing quality improves and degrades with storm cycles that last a few days to a week. Paying attention to the 1-10 day forecast ([All-Access only](#)) is the way that you'll find powder and give you the best information for your weekend trip or destination ski vacation.

All we really know for sure is that you ALL have to **THINK SNOW!!**



Average snowfall patterns for weak La Niña years



Ending U.S. Mail Distribution of UPSLOPE

Over the last 5 years, increases in the cost of postage and copying have driven PATC-STC's costs for U.S. mail distribution of UPSLOPE from about \$200 per year to over \$700 per year. With costs increasing faster than revenues even with the recent dues increase, the officers agreed to end U.S. mail distribution of UPSLOPE starting with the beginning of the 2024-25 skiing season. Accordingly, members who have been receiving UPSLOPE in the mail will need to provide a current email address to begin receiving UPSLOPE electronically via a download link sent by email.

Ending U.S. Mail Distribution of UPSLOPE



Registration is now open for TrailFest November 8 – 11. Visit [www.patc.net/trailfest](http://www.patc.net/trailfest) for more information and to register. TrailFest is centered at the Caroline Furnace Camp and Retreat Center ([www.caroline-furnace.org](http://www.caroline-furnace.org)) in the beautiful Massanutten Mountains surrounded by George Washington National Forest. PATC members are encouraged to come, and activities abound for the whole family. Arrive Friday afternoon, November 8, and stay until Monday morning, November 11, or come for just Saturday or Sunday activities. STS Chairman **Steve Jarvis** will attend and make a presentation about the Ski Touring Section and our 2024-25 ski schedule.

**PATC-ST\$ MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE!**

Yet another membership renewal period is in effect for the Ski Touring Section of PATC. Memberships expiring in 2024 must be renewed before 1 January 2025 for membership to continue into the upcoming ski season. A yearly single membership cost is \$15, with other membership options higher.

Remember that your modest dues are used to fund advance payments for trip lodging, subsidizes trip leader rooming costs (a small thank-you for their time and trouble), pays the yearly fee for the STS groups.io "listserve", purchases food and drink served at club social events, supports the website and supports sundry investments and donations made by the STS board to support some of our favorite mid-Atlantic XC ski areas and promote our sport.

When receiving UPSLOPE electronically, your expiration date is always 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 a dues status check.

For a membership renewal form with my address and dues amounts, visit <https://patcskitouring.us> and press the MEMBERSHIP button for a link to a downloadable PATC- STS membership renewal and application form in fillable PDF format.

We hope that the upcoming winter is truly wintry ...

Doug Lesar  
STS recordskeeper / duesmeister

**Info on Groups.io Listserv**

The STS group is reachable at the address [https://groups.io/g/PATC-ST\\$](https://groups.io/g/PATC-ST$). The user interface has, apart from one exception discussed below, all basic operations front and center. "Log In" and "Sign Up" appear upon first entry, and "post", "subscribe" and "unsubscribe" are handy buttons on the "home" dropdown. Postings are available for perusal via the "messages" dropdown.

The one function that gave subscribers trouble during last season was the classical "reply to all" versus "reply to sender" choice, a matter of group mailing list etiquette that occasionally leads to subscriber annoyance. At the bottom of any posting, see the options gathered under the heading "Groups.io Links": "You receive all messages sent to this group. View/Reply Online (#797) | Reply To Group | Reply To Sender | Mute This Topic | New Topic | Your Subscription | Contact Group Owner | Unsubscribe"

Particularly note "reply to group" and "reply to sender". "Mute this topic" is also helpful. If you simply execute an email client reply, your response goes to the whole group and you may not intend and/or want that.

Doug Lesar  
Groups.io Admin

**Join or Renew PATC-ST\$ Memberships Online**

Thanks to the efforts of PATC-ST\$ officers and our web contractor Gregg Banse, STS members will soon be able to join or renew membership and make donations online and make electronic payment using credit cards or GooglePay. When implemented, the STRIPE payment portal will be on PATC-ST\$'s website at the "Membership" page (<https://patcskitouring.us/about-patc-ski/membership/>). Members will continue to be able to mail paper membership renewals and checks as before (see form on UPSLOPE last page), but look for the new, more convenient payment method the next time you renew your membership.



**PATC-Ski Touring Section**  
**c/o Doug Lesar**  
**14 Bitterroot Court**  
**Rockville, MD 20853**



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.*

When you become a member, you receive all issues of the club's newsletter UPSLOPE and other useful information. UPSLOPE is published three to five times a year by PATC/Ski Touring Section, a non-profit, educational and recreational group of cross-country skiing enthusiasts based in the MD, DC, VA, PA and WV areas. UPSLOPE provides information about cross country skiing, STS trips, and events. You also may join our Groups.io online and email discussion group.

One year membership runs from October 1<sup>st</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup> 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, you may pay electronically (preferred) through our website at <https://patcskitouring.us/about-patc-ski/membership/> or select your desired membership category and term from the table below, complete this Form and mail it with a check payable to "Ski Touring Section" to:

PATC-Ski Touring Section, c/o Doug Lesar, 14 Bitterroot Ct, Rockville, MD 20853

Membership Category	Membership Term		
	1 year only	2 years	3 years
Individual	<input type="radio"/> \$15	<input type="radio"/> \$29	<input type="radio"/> \$43
Family	<input type="radio"/> \$19	<input type="radio"/> \$36	<input type="radio"/> \$53

PLEASE TYPE THE INFORMATION BELOW!!!!

Name(s):

Other Family Name(s):  Today's Date:

Address:  NEW Membership

City:  State:  Zip:  Renewal

Home phone:  Cell phone:  email:

Add me to the Member Directory but do not list my Home ph:  Cell ph:  email:  Address:

If checked, add me to PATC-STS Groups.io so I can get ad hoc announcements of local XC ski activities.

Are you currently a PATC member? (STS encourages PATC membership, which is required on STS excursion trips.)

STS is an all-volunteer organization. We cannot function without the efforts 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"/> Officer/Coordinator	<input type="checkbox"/> Publicity	<input type="checkbox"/> XC Ski Instructor
<input type="checkbox"/> Ski Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Ski Trip Leader	<input type="checkbox"/> General Volunteer