



UPSLOPE

Newsletter of the NORDIC Ski Touring Section of PATC



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April 2025

UpComing Attractions In Fall UPSLOPE

- Plans for Ski Fair
- 2025-26 Season Schedule

Winter 2025 Excursion Trip to Lapland Lake Nordic Vacation Center

by Jenny Plummer-Welker

I joined the Potomac Appalachian Club and the Ski Touring Section at the beginning of the year so that I could participate in one of Ralph Heimlich's ski trips. I have known Ralph for many years through the [Chesapeake Paddlers Association](#) and have heard him talk about the PATC ski trips. This winter, I would be able to join him for the trip to the Lapland Lake Nordic Vacation Center in the New York Adirondacks February 19-24, 2025.

The Lapland Lake Nordic Center was founded in 1978 by [Olavi Hirvonen](#), a member of the 1960 U.S. Olympic Ski Team. Thirteen people attended this trip: Ralph Heimlich, Althea Johnston, Bela and Leigh Hall Mariassy, Brian O'Kon-ski, Ron and Jan Tucker, Jane Shey, Lee Greathouse, Mary- anne Sacco, Larry Schoen, Marcie Weil, and me. Ralph has led several STS trips to Lapland Lake Nordic Vacation Center before*: the STS group would be the Lapin farmhouse, as in past trips, plus a "tupa" ("housekeeping cottage" in Finnish), the Tunturi ("Lapland Mountain") Tupa. The cost of the trip included dinners for five days and breakfast on the final day. We were responsible for our lunches, the other break- fasts, and beverages. I was extremely impressed and thank- ful that Ralph would be coordinating these meals and pur- chasing the provisions. In addition, Ralph invited Althea and me to join him on the drive to and from the Adirondacks.

Before the trip, I reviewed the PATC/STS's webpage of re- sources, including the "How to Dress for Cross-Country Ski- ing" article. I carefully reviewed the list of essential gear and other trail items. Ralph kindly answered my question about what he carries with him on his cross-country day trips. Most of the items I already had, many were part of my paddling gear. Another item I had but was not part of my kayak emergency gear: zip ties. I packed a few small and medium zip ties. Two items I did not have but wanted to add were a ski scraper and Maxiglide ski wax. I decided to wait to buy them from the shop at Lapland Lake, the Finnish Line. The zip ties would



Lapland Lake Nordic Vacation Center's Lodge. Photo by Ralph Heimlich

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APRES SKI PARTY Saturday, May, 17, 2025

Meeting at 3:30 PM Potluck at 5:30 PM



This is a POT LUCK PARTY: Everyone is to bring a dish or edible contribution that others will enjoy, either beautifi- cally healthy or sinfully rich—Your choice! The Section will provide beer and wine.

Please RSVP to heimlichfamily@comcast.net

NOTE: NEW LOCATION

Driving directions: Navigate to 3873 Paul Mill Road, Elli- cott City, Maryland 21042. Plenty of street parking. Look for the Ski Fair Sign out front and come up the driveway to the back patio. Ralph's number is 240-472-8825 if you are lost.

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FROM THE SLOPES – Chair Notes

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Hi Nordic Skiers,

Well, we had a heck of a season with so many “out the back door” ski opportunities and some peak resort snow moments, as well. As you’ll read in Dick’s article, it might have been the best snow yet in Canaan Valley, WV, during our early January trip. So much snow at White-grass and Blackwater Falls State Park! It was a great trip although it started warming up practically the next day and some of the trips later in the month and in February had to be cancelled due to rain and warming weather. Sometimes early season skiers get lucky and the opportunities for the local Maryland and Virginia skiing close to home were awesome while they lasted.

There are several noteworthy things I’d like to mention. First, a long time STS member, Ann Hitchcock, passed away in December after many years of cross-country skiing. I was able to ski with Ann in Colorado, Quebec, and Yellowstone and her ski exploits also included Norway and many other locations. She was a pillar of the National Park Service and had many important successes. Her husband, Richard Palmer, gave the STS a very generous donation in her honor. Thank you, Richard! May she rest in peace.

Second, our electronic membership system was a strong success. Thanks for working with us in the transition and to the STS officers and folks who helped.

Third, I want to thank all the folks who signed up as trip leaders: Stacey Dimaria, Greg Westernik, Ralph Heimlich, and Brent Lahaie (first time leader-thanks Brent!). Although some trips were cancelled, these folks help make the STS go. Please consider joining the trip leader group as it is actually fun and you get to tailor the adventure—and there are a few STS perks, too! We’ll help you get started and work with you, as well.

Fourth, our mother club, PATC, has been updating many of their policies and their relationships with the special interest sections: the STS and the Mountaineering Section. PATC has announced they are increasing their annual dues by \$10. (I and the mountaineering section and others voted against this). They are also now requiring all section members (STS/ Mountaineering) to be PATC members (and pay PATC dues) per PATC by-laws. With Doug Lesar’s help, we have compared STS membership rolls with PATC membership rolls and only about 41% of STS members are PATC members. There may be a one-time “grandfather” option but that is still to be determined. NOTE: all future STS members will likely have to be PATC members to participate on STS ski trips. In addition, PATC is trying to exercise more oversight over the sections. We have PATC financial reviews monthly and they are now asking us to fund ski trips from our STS bank accounts for greater visibility. PATC has also presented the sections’ leadership with new proposals for varying levels of “integration” with the mother club which the STS officers will need to assess. It’s a bit of a saga but we’ll work through it. My thoughts are continuing our good relationship with PATC while keeping something close to our current level of semi-autonomy without being burdensome to the officers or members. We still have to get more details and this will be the main topic at our annual meeting at the Après Ski Party.

You’ve probably already noticed that we switched our Après Ski Party location from Catherine Payne’s wonderful home. We decided to try a Maryland location to offer our Maryland members a shorter drive this time and Ralph graciously offered his home in Ellicott City for Saturday, May 17. Thanks, Ralph! Please join us for the pot luck party to share ski stories and memories. Bring any pictures on a thumb drive to share with the group and any favorite dishes, of course. See you there!

Steve
 STS Chair



Blackwater/ Whitegrass Jan 10-12 Powder Weekend!

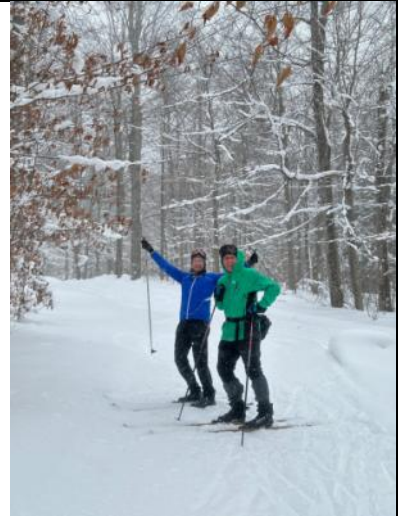
by Dick Simmons



Low bridge on the Dobbin House Trail, Blackwater Falls SP, WV

Cross Country skiing is always enjoyable but sometimes you hit exceptional conditions that make for a top 10 experience. Steve Jarvis' Blackwater Lodge trip January 10-12 was just that. Conditions were very good when we arrived Friday and only improved. Friday afternoon, Steve Vikell and I downhill skied at Timberline which was 100% open with good snow even on the steeps. Most of the group met at Hellbenders for a delicious Mexican dinner that night.

Snow was falling steadily Saturday morning when we met for a big buffet breakfast at Blackwater Lodge. Dave Jordahl, Steve Vikell and Kathy Bine decided to ski around the lodge and avoid driving. Ashleigh Smyth had scheduled a lesson at Whitegrass so Steve Jarvis and I decided to join her. Conditions at WG were the best I have ever seen! Powder was already all around with steady snow providing 'free refills' for your tracks. Unpacked snow was well over a foot deep. It was a 'go anywhere' day. We skied steeper trails that I would not normally attempt without issue. Trees were coated in sparkling white flakes.



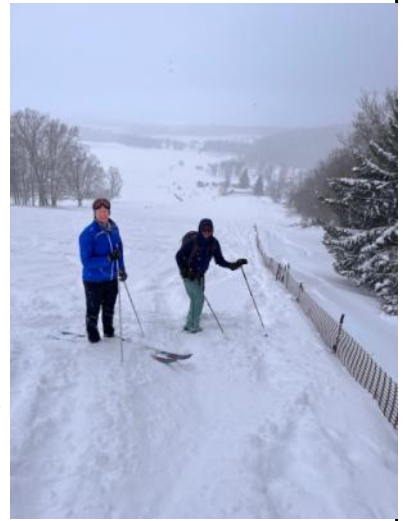
Ashleigh and Dick at White Grass, WV

Our telemark lesson with Tom Yarrow was very helpful with technique to ski downhill on XC equipment. After our lesson, we skied up the Springer Orchard side of the mountain to Sawmill Flats shelter where we enjoyed some of Chip's 'refreshment'. From there we skied to Roundtop and skied thru the trees off Three Mile. We topped it off with a cold beer at the bustling WG Lodge. There were smiles all around. Ashleigh brought her fiddle and stayed at WG to jam with the locals Saturday evening. Steve and I returned to Blackwater and took a soak in the Lodge hot tub. A group pizza dinner at Sirianni's completed an epic day.

Sunday cleared to a warmer and sunny morning when Steve Jarvis and I broke trail on the Dobbin House at Blackwater passing two ice fisherman on the lake. Snow coverage was several inches deep and the snow weight caused many branches to sag across the trail. We bushwacked a few times which added to the sense that we were the first to pass thru in a while. It was bright and sunny with glistening trees and just warm enough to be comfortable without melting the snow. We followed the trail which tracks the river and canyon and could see across the canyon at several points including views of Blackwater Lodge on the opposite side of the river. Dobbin House has a few ups and downs and requires a good bit of snow to be skiable. I had skied this trail a few years back and it was nice to be able to do that again.



Steve J, Ashleigh, Dick, Stacey, and Steve V at Blackwater Lodge, WV



Ashleigh and Steve Jarvis on the Weiss Knob slope, White Grass, WV

Lee Greathouse joined us on Sunday morning for breakfast. Our happy group consisted of Ashleigh Smythe, Dave Jordahl, Kathy Bine, Lee Greathouse, Stacy DiMaria, Steve Jarvis, Steve Vikell and myself.

STRIPE Membership Payment Option A Success

The new-for-2024-2025 on-line membership application and renewal capability, enabled by the section's new STRIPE account, has been a success. Members have initiated 40 STRIPE transactions since implementation in late October 2024, with very few membership payments made by traditional USPS-mailed personal checks (which must be forwarded to the STS treasurer by a separate mailing followed by a deposit trip to the section's banking services provider). This new capability reduces section postal mailing expenses, exposure of checks to mail theft, and saves STS volunteers much time and trouble.

Thanks are extended to all the section officers and STS web services contractor Gregg Banse who made implementation of this long-overdue service a reality.

Doug Lesar
Membership Coordinator

Local Skiing Notes

Compiled from Groups.io chats after the first good snowfall locally at the beginning of January. Thanks to all who posted.

[J Boyce](#) Feb 14 #1734--Last Wednesday at Jones Point, just south of old town Alexandria. Not much in trails, but big open area mostly flat. Was fun for a couple of hours. Watching next week's weather. John Boyce



Jones Point photo by J. Boyce

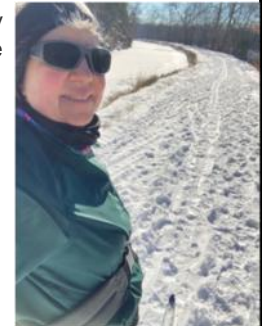


Oregon Ridge photo by Dick Simmons

[D Simmons](#) Feb 14 #1732--This has been one of the best local skiing seasons in several years. The snow Tuesday night made for great xc conditions Wednesday morning. These shots are Oregon Ridge Park north of Baltimore. That snow was soon gone but next week looks promising again. Hope to see you out there. Dick

[D Simmons](#) Jan 25 #1722--Skied the NCR Trail north of Baltimore this sunny afternoon. Good snow - still powdery in untread areas and total coverage. Trail is flat and scenic following the Gunpowder River much of the way. There are many access points but snow improves as you go north.

[C Bertaut](#) Jan 12 #1718--I am skiing now between Pennyfield and swings as with all the towpath locks, with in sight of any lock the trails are trampled, but you get a little further away and there's still some lovely trails, and the snow is soft if you have to go around a spot where someone without Maxi glide pulled some snow out of the tracks. Today I'm headed from Pennyfield to Swain's and it is absolutely lovely. I doubt it'll be very good past about noonish when it warms up too much, but for now it's lovely lovely lovely. Seventh consecutive day skiing in the DMV area. That's a first for me!



Pennyfield Locks photo by C. Bertaut



Mid-Patuxent Env Center photo by R Heimlich

[R Heimlich](#) Jan 8 #1679--I went out for a couple of hours to our local Howard County Conservancy trails just North of Rt 40 in western Ellicott City. Good snow, but a little wet, and like some others, I forgot to bring slickem for the skis, so it clumped up a bit. Nice to get out and start breaking in a new pair of Alpina Alaska boots I got for Christmas.

[R Heimlich](#) Jan 11 #1710--Another shot at local skiing, this time at the Mid-Patuxent Environmental Center trails on Trotter Road in Howard County. Ran in to some other skiers and it had been walked on (feet and dogs) but the couple of inches last night topped things off nicely. One steep pitch that I paralleled down most of the way (2nd photo; I was alone), but generally pretty flat. I've been watching the 1958 Chevy decompose in these woods for 30 years now. Bring your Maxiglide...this snow is still pretty wet, especially when the sun shines on it.

[A Larsen](#) Jan 11 #1704--The 2" of new powder that fell in the DMV overnight re-freshed the C&O Canal towpath quite nicely this morning (Sat.) after a lot of use (AKA trampling by walkers) on Thursday and Friday. As John Prine sang, "Pretty Good, Not Bad, Can't Complain". Worth heading back out, if you're on the fence. Al Larsen

[C Bertaut](#) Jan 8 #1688--I skied on the C&O towpath again today, but further out at Riley's Lock to Violette's lock on the C&O. I first headed North from Riley's but the trail was pretty trampled and lots of wet spots, so I turned around and headed the other way towards Violette's lock. The closer I got to Violette's lock the more untouched it got - and once I headed past Violette's towards Pennyfield lock, there was only a single walking path on once side and pristine soft snow on the rest of the path that I broke trail on. I saw 4 people in 3 hours. On the way home I drove to the Swains Lock parking lot and walked around, they have completely plowed the towpath going towards Great Falls, but the other way was not too trampled. But the path at Violette's was really amazing. I may have to work tomorrow but hope to get back out to Violette's tomorrow either before or after work.

[C Bertaut](#) Jan 9 #1695--Did a sunset ski tween Violette's and Pennyfield lock this evening. Wind was barely around. Over 90 minutes saw 2 skiers and one dog walker. Ski tracks mostly untouched by walkers. 4th consecutive skiing day in the close-in DMV. I think that's a first!



Sunset on C&O Canal photo by C. Bertaut



Calvert County photo by Greg Welker

[J. Plummer-Welker](#) Jan 8 #1682--Greetings! The cross-country skiing in Dunkirk, Calvert County, Maryland was good today. Good person per park ratio, 2 to 1. No one else had skied here yet. The steepest hill had been sledged in the past two days. Beside the sledging hill, there was only one set of boot prints on the trails I skied, and only for a short distance beyond the bottom of the sledging hill. A bit breezy in the open in the parking lot areas at the park's highest elevation - the northwest wind blowing over 20 MPH. The wind was much calmer in the woods and down by the pond. I saw six deer and heard one snort. This is the second winter I've skied here and love the trails...reminds me a tiny bit of the trails near Kingfield, Maine. I waited over a decade to ski on these trails, having visited the property years ago with

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Lapland Lake (cont.)

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come in handy during the trip: it was put into service to replace one of the group's ski boot's zipper pull.

The trail map was available from the Lapland Lake's webpage. The map showed cross-country ski trails, snowshoe trails, and the lighted ski trail. Trails were categorized as green/easiest, blue/more difficult, and black/most difficult. Three sections of the black trails were identified with double black diamonds/experts only.

Leading up to our trip, I was checking the weather forecasts for Northville, New York, the closest town to Lapland Lake, and the center's Trails and Current Conditions webpage. The forecast was looking promising for good skiing conditions. This area of the Adirondacks was to get snow over Presidents' Day weekend. We would be arriving Wednesday afternoon of that week. The center extended its holiday/weekend trail hours, so that the trails would open at 9am instead of the normal weekday 10am opening.

Most of the group arrived by car, while one of the members flew from Baltimore Washington International Airport to Albany and then rented a car. Ralph drove Althea and me. We experienced clear roads almost the entire way to the Nordic Center. After we crossed the Mohawk River at Canajoharie, New York, the roads became partially covered with snow. The snow was most prevalent when we came to the open farm fields where the wind had blown the snow into drifts and across the road.

Ralph was assisted in meal preparation by Leigh Mariassy, who had a catering business in the past [Editor's Note: Ralph "assisted" mostly by staying out of the way;->]. Ralph had sent the draft menu in advance of the trip and revised it based upon the dietary issues participants identified. Twelve of us arrived on Wednesday, the thirteenth was expected the next day. For the first evening's meal, we had Leigh's Famous Gumbo Soup. Future dinners featured salmon fillets with asparagus and pineapple coleslaw, King Ranch chicken casserole and taquitos, and penne pasta with turkey sweet sausage. Each night there was a dessert (cross-country skiing burns the most calories of any outdoor exercise!): brownies, chocolate chip cookies, pie, ice cream, and cake, not all on same night, except the pie and ice cream. Althea baked a cake for dessert one evening, bringing the ingredients from home, and continuing the tradition started last year when she baked a cake for Valentine's Day.



Althea gets ready to cut and serve the cake she baked at the farmhouse. Photo by Maryanne Sacco.

The Nordic Center provides food services at the lodge from 11am to 3pm, plus catered tupa dinners for the overnight guests (orders must be placed by 3pm). While we did not take them up on the catered dinners, several of our group did take advantage of the lodge's food service: sandwiches, soups, cookies, pastries, etc. On Saturday, the Nordic Center's Ski Patrol had a pop-up tent food sales fundraiser. They grilled food and offered baked goods.

For our dinners and last-day breakfast, we took turns cleaning up after the meals. While the Lapland farmhouse can accommodate up to 10 people, it does not have enough plateware and silverware to accommodate 13 hungry skiers. The Tunturi Tupa residents brought over additional plateware and silverware.

Jan and Ron Tucker arrived early enough the first day to ski during the daylight hours. They reported that many of the trails were on rolling hills. Thursday was our first full day at Lapland Lake. Three of my Tunturi Tupa mates and I decided to ski the green trails on the east side of Lapland Lake Road, which runs past the lodge, farmhouse, and tupas to the private residences on Lapland Lake. It was a brisk 9 degrees Fahrenheit. We skied the Lake Trail, then the Erä Polka (Forest) Trail, then back towards the lake to the Olavin Uni (Olavi's Dream) Trail.

What a delight to ski on groomed trails! The Lake Trail is a two-way trail, while the other trails on the east side are one-way loops. The Lake Trail emerges from the woods to a clearing beside Woods Lake. When the lake ice is thick enough, the staff machine grooms the lake. When we got to the lake, Marcie unclipped her skis and sat in one of the chairs by the lake – looking quite comfortable in an Adirondack chair in the Adirondacks!



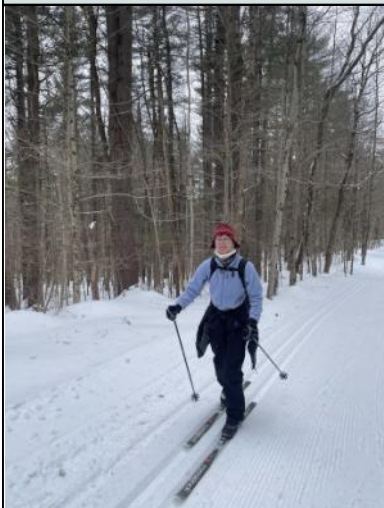
Marcie sitting in an Adirondack chair in the Adirondacks. Photo by Jenny Plummer-Welker.

We took a break for lunch and headed out for more skiing. The afternoon had warmed up to 19 degrees. We skied one of the trails on the west side and observed a group of youths skiing on the practice field. It seemed to be some kind of game with hula hoops with the young people skiing without their poles. Marci, Maryanne, and I finished the Joki Latu ("Trail by the Stream") Trail, and headed back to the east side. We skied the Lake and Olavin Uni Trails, and then tried the more difficult Vasa ("Baby Reindeer") Trail. It was fun to ski past our tupa. Combining our morning and afternoon skiing, we skied over 6.5 miles. At dinner people shared highlights from their day.

Larry, Marci, Maryanne, and I took an hour lesson on Friday morning. It was warmer than yesterday morning, 16 degrees, partly cloudy with wind about 15 MPH from the west-northwest. Tom, our instructor, had us start at the practice field, where we observed him fall and get back up and those of us game to try practiced falling and getting back up. We

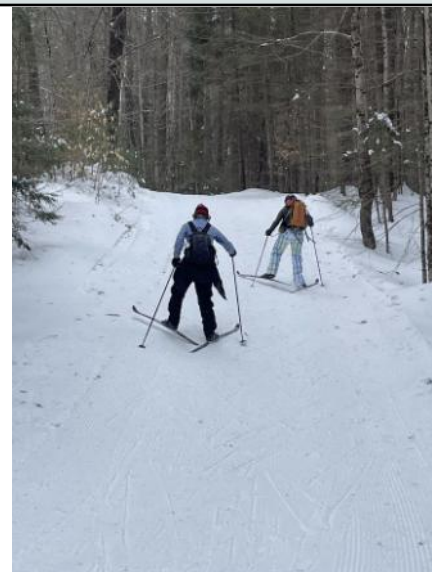
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Lapland Lake (cont.)



Jenny skiing at Lapland Lake. Photo by Maryanne Sacco

learned a couple of things: first, it is more difficult to roll on your back when you have a backpack or hip pack strapped on, and second, it may be easier for some to roll up to one's left knee rather than the right. Tom asked us to ski some of the practice loop to observe us skiing. He then gave us pointers, including bending more at the ankles and looking up not down at the trail. Next, we headed down the gentle loop of the Joki Latu Trail along the creek. Next, we headed to the steeper section of the trail: Maryanne, Marci, and my nemesis from the afternoon before. Tom answered our questions and coached us for the downhill steep section. We each skied down the slope much more confidently than the day before. He then gave us tips on how to ascend the steep portion, options included a quick jogging pace with skies parallel to each other or the wide herringbone method. We thought it was a good strategy to ski the first day and take a lesson on the second day. Later we learned that Tom is an avid photographer and has taken many beautiful photographs. Later that morning, one of our group members took a ski skating lesson.



Jenny and Marci herringbone up one of the trails. Photo by Maryanne Sacco

After our lesson, our quartet skied the Sisu ("Determination") Trail. We paused by the "hanging seat rest station" to sit on the swing and take selfies. A family of four skied up and offered to take our photos. We reciprocated and took their photo.



Larry, Marci, Jenny, and Maryanne taking a break by the stream. Photo by an anonymous passerby

Some members took advantage of the opportunity to use the Finnish sauna in the lodge. The sauna is available from 4 PM to 6 PM. There is schedule for males and females, which alternates each day. Some days the men get the first hour and the women the second. The next day women will be first, followed by men. The lodge provides plush white and blue striped towels. There is a sauna journal on display in the changing/shower room. Some people have written that they have gone from the sauna and jumped into the snow. A couple of young girls wrote that they made snowballs and brought them back to the sauna.

We anticipated there would be more people on the trails on Saturday. Some of our group opted to drive offsite and snowshoe. Three of my tupa mates and I decided to stay onsite and ski. We heard it was General Electric (in Schenectady, NY) Day; there would be a group of GE employees skiing today. We noticed there were more people on the trails, but not too many to make us wish we were not skiing. We skied the Sisu Trail and then the connector over to the Karhu Polku ("Bear Path") Trail. At the start of the Kahru Polku, we saw the trail's namesake, a log carved in the shape of a bear. We stopped to take a few photos with the bear. We enjoyed talking to a family on the Kahru Polku Trail. The two teenage sons were lounging in the snow underneath the "Experts Only" black diamond trail. The sons downhill ski and seemed to be tolerating cross-country skiing with their parents.

At the top of one of the hills, perhaps it was the Tuulen Tie (Way of the Wind), we stopped to talk to Jeff, one of the Ski Patrol members. When asked about the need to use his radio on the trails, he said most of the incidents happen in the parking lot, people slip and fall. Each morning was getting a bit warmer. Saturday's morning temperature when we began skiing was 18 degrees with a light wind out of the west. When I looked at the GPS track of our morning outing, it looked like an octopus, eight arms and a mantle. We took a break for lunch and a rest. Then headed out to ski the trails on the east side, once again skiing out to the lake.

At dinner, we heard about the snowshoe contingent's trip on Northville Lake Placid Trail. Ralph, Bela, Brian, Althea, Jan, and Ron drove to a nearby trailhead. During their outing the group side stepped across a wood bridge. After dinner, Althea and Ralph suited up to night ski on the lighted Lake Trail. They seemed to have a good time, judging by their smiles in the selfies.

Sunday was our last full day at Lapland Lake. My companions and I had enjoyed the Sisu and Karhu Polku so much yesterday, we decided to ski them again. A balmy 27 degrees this morning with 10 MPH winds from the west. It was cloudy with snow flurries. After lunch, I continued resting while the other



Brian, Jan, and Bela ascending the snowshoe trail. Photo by Ralph Heimlich

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Lapland Lake (cont.)

(Continued from page 6)

skied some more. After dinner, five of us (Bela, Larry, Maryanne, Marci, and I) changed into our ski clothes and skied the Lake Trail. It was lit in places and dark in others. Using a headlamp helped in the dark areas, until we got to the lake-shore, where we turned off our headlamps and looked up at the night ski. It was about 1.3 miles round trip. One night trip was not enough for Larry, Maryanne, and me, so we skied the Lake Trail again.

On the last morning, Ralph made perfect golden pancakes. What a treat to have pancakes topped with New York maple syrup! Some of the group skied one last time in the morning before leaving. Paul, Kathy, and the rest of the Lapland Lake Nordic Center staff were very helpful, whether it be providing advice on what length of skis to rent, handing out towels for the sauna, answering questions about the grooming machine (they have two backups), or responding to requests to adjust a hinge on a tupa door.

* For additional information about the Lapland Lake Nordic Vacation Center and trail descriptions, refer to Ralph Heimlich's article, "Resort Skiing at Lapland Lakes, ADK, NY" in the November 2024 edition of *The Upslope*. The article begins on Page 5 and is available online at <https://patcskitouring.us/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/upslop102.pdf>.



Althea night skiing on the lighted Lake Trail. Photo by Ralph Heimlich

Local Skiing (cont.)

(Continued from page 4)

other staff as a possible acquisition for a public park. Enjoy the snow while it lasts!

[A Larsen](#) Jan 8 #1681--As many of our STS friends have noted to this email group over the past two days, when great snow gets dumped at our doorstep, local venues can be terrific. For me--fifteen minutes from doorstep (Arlington) to putting on the skis at the C&O Canal. Way better than a 3 1/2 hour drive (WG) or 8 hour drive (ADK), let alone a cross country flight (as it were). Often when we "go local", it's for convenience, not for quality of the snow. Often, we dash out when the six inches arrives, before the temps climb to 45 degrees three hours later and turns the white stuff to mashed potatoes, or even worse, getting 30 minutes into the outing when the rain arrives and washes the snow away altogether. Yeah, you've been there. But, not this week. I went out on the C&O Canal towpath. Powdery snow, and (don't want to jinx it) the walkers were observing trail etiquette by walking beside, and not on top of ski tracks. Yesterday AM was terrific. As I returned to my car hours later, the temp had crept above freezing. So, when I went out again today, I expected crust and icy foot tracks. Nope. Still powdery and relatively untrammled. With temps staying down, I'll be going out to another section tomorrow. If you've been reading all these posts about local wonders, believe them and head out while this lasts. Al Larsen

[R Zeidner](#) Jan 7 #1674--Very nice in the woods. Thanks to whomever set tracks for me. Siberia-esque in the open fields - big winds that send snow immediately to cover tracks. Don't repeat my rusty skier mistake: Remember to treat your skis if you haven't used them in a while. Nothing ruins the fun quite like a sticky ski. Rita Z

New Photo Galleries and Video on our Website



Ed Johns with his Go-Pro strapped on photo by Ralph Heimlich

New photo galleries and video from this season's ski trips are online at our website. Albums from the Bend, OR, Lapland Lakes, NY, and Blackwater Falls, WV, January trip are posted. There are also two new videos from the Bend trip and a video from the Blackwater trip.

Check them out at <https://patcskitouring.us/photo-gallery/>

While you are there, check out the whole collection of photos and videos from past trips. I especially like the Go-Pro videos produced by Ed Johnson. Ed wears his Go-Pro right on his chest and captures a near-constant stream of action while he skis. His editing skills are impressive and the final product gives a very good idea of what it was like on the trail each day and the trip overall. Good armchair adventure, and very useful when planning a trip to a new area for skiing.

If you have photos or video from a recent trip, send a link to the downloadable source to Ralph Heimlich and I'll put it on the website.

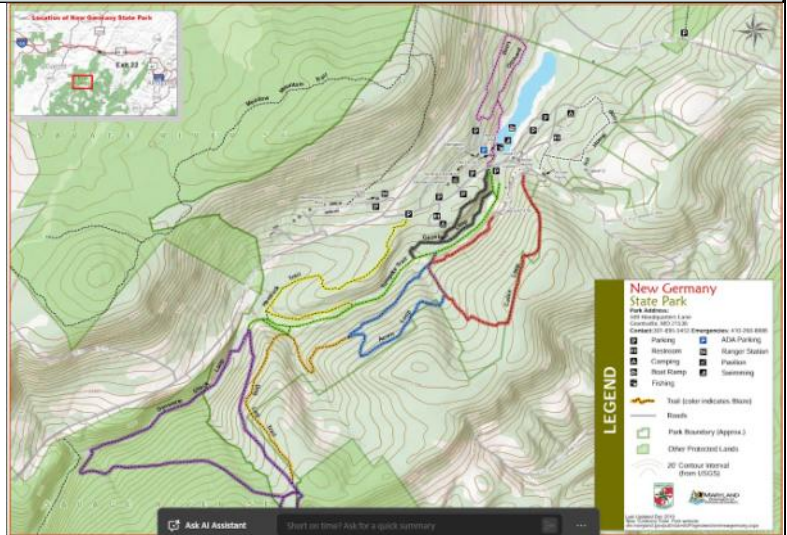
New Germany State Park, Maryland, A Snowy Destination

by Ralph Heimlich

One of our under-rated local ski destinations hides discreetly in the mountains of Western Maryland: New Germany State Park. While the snowfall is less consistent than Canaan Valley, WV, and Laurel Ridge, PA, when it does snow it is abundant and the terrain is excellent for Nordic skiing and snowshoeing. Another issue with New Germany is that there are a limited number of cabins (only 11) and they must be reserved early in the season. This was the third trip I've led to New Germany and the second with gratifyingly deep snow.

Eight PATC-STS skiers (Jan and Ron Tucker, Marcie and Doug Schubert, Rick Royer, Connie Richards, Althea Johnston and I) enjoyed the comforts of Cabin 11, the former HQ for the CCC encampment constructed in 1933 (don't worry, it's been completely modernized...it even has indoor plumbing!), Adding to the significant snow base from previous storms, we had an additional 2-6" of new snow just before we arrived and frigid temps (-9 deg F one morning) so nothing was melting.

The "main drag" at New Germany SP is the Turnpike Trail, a long,



New Germany State Park, MD, Ski trails ([Click to visit their website](#))



Cabin 11, the former HQ of the CCC built in 1936 *photo by Marcie Schubert*

flat run along the rhododendron-covered creek. At the end of the Turnpike Trail, a lovgng uphill ascent is the first leg of the Dynamite Shack Loop, a triangular trail that climbs, follows a gentle contour and finally descends to the creek valley again. From the top of the Dynamite Shack loop, you can also take the Dog Leg Trail, connecting to the Acorn Loop, and the Cabin Loop at mid-elevation contours on the southeast side of the creek valley. On the northwest side of the Turnpike Trail lies the Hemlock Trail, another contour-following loop overlooking the creek. At the north end of the park, the Orchard Loop winds through old apple orchards and pine woods alongside the reservoir. At the dam and main road, a cozy warming center with a welcoming fire, rest rooms, a snack bar and ski rentals sits at the center of the trail system. In addition to the formal trails, there are snow-covered roads and bush-whacking snow shoe trails all over the park property.



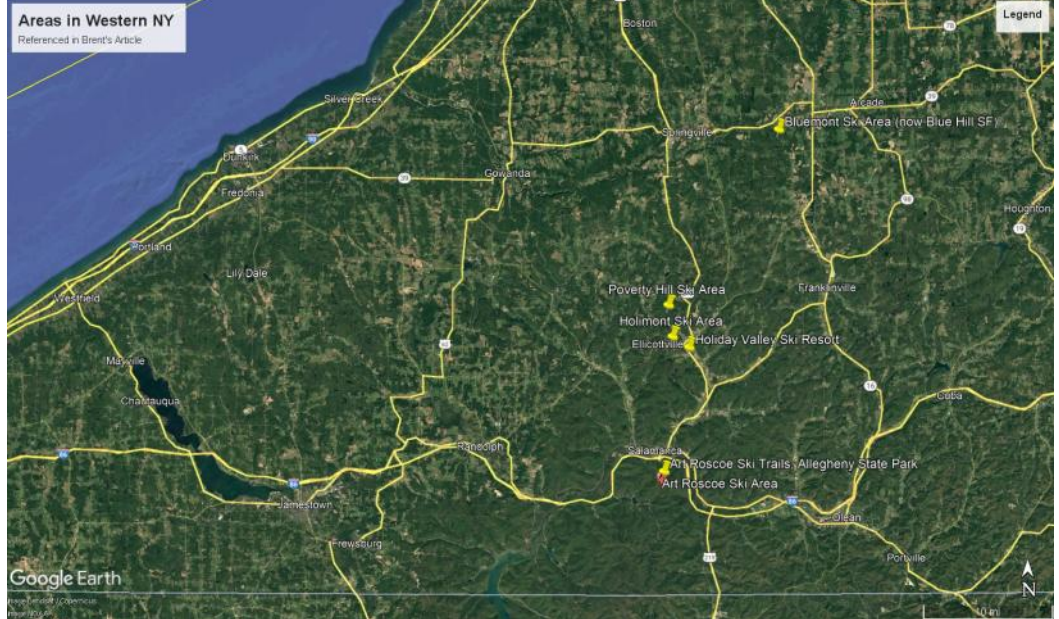
Doug descending Dynamite Shack Loop *photo by Marcie Schubert*



Turnpike Trail *photo by Rick Royer*

Poverty Hill: A Lost Ski Resort in Western NY

By Brent Lahaie



Areas in Western NY
Referenced in Brent's Article

Google Earth

I've grown to love cross country skiing since moving to Pittsburgh. I typically ski in the Laurel Highlands, particularly at the [North Woods](#) area of Forbes State Forest where I am a Mountain Host for the [Laurel Highlands Nordic Ski Patrol](#).

I've also really grown to love White Grass and Canaan Valley, WV. I have been skiing on Nordic gear on increasingly challenging terrain over the years, and White Grass offers the unique opportunity to ski on what used to be the Weiss Knob downhill ski area while surrounded by an amazing community of people. It's a bit farther drive for me, but it's worth the trek.

Skiing in this region is a hit-or-miss activity, and you have to take the few opportunities that present themselves. When the potential for snow was in the forecast around Presidents Day weekend in February, I had a chance to get in what turned out to be my last skiing of the season. I had also recently purchased some climbing skins for my Nordic skis and was anxious to try them out.

Given that Canaan Valley was expected to receive more rain than snow, I turned north and instead headed to western New York. My initial plan was to get a special two-use lift ticket at Holiday Valley to get up to their cross country ski trails located at the top of the resort and from there access the adjacent state forest lands to do some exploring along forest roads. After finding the skiing there to be a disappointment, I made a few runs down the resort's slopes and also skinned back up once just for the hell of it. Even though they have an uphill policy there, I received a lot of funny looks and "you're going the wrong way" comments, and even some of the staff didn't know about the policy, though they also didn't seem to mind.

I stopped by City Garage Ski Shop the following morning and staff there told me of a nearby abandoned ski resort, Poverty Hill, and suggested I try skiing there. Following his advice, I drove a few miles north from Ellicottville and found the trailhead. I put on my skis, put my skins back to work and got a few good runs in before I had to head back to Pittsburgh.

Later I looked more into the history of the site and found out that Poverty Hill Ski Resort opened as one of the largest ski areas in Western New York in 1963. However, the resort could not compete with the nearby Holimont and Holiday Valley ski areas (perhaps in part due to its unfortunate name), and the owners filed bankruptcy after just one season. It was later re-opened as the private Concord Ski Club and lived on until the late 80's before permanently closing.

The area remained privately owned until the land was eventually purchased by the State of New York and opened to the public as [Poverty Hill Wildlife Management Area](#) in 2021. The area is managed primarily for hunting, while "other non-wildlife dependent activities such as hiking and cross country skiing may be allowed as long as these activities do not impede or interfere with the primary uses of the area." Access to the ski slopes is best obtained from the trailhead located east of the slopes on Poverty Hill Road.



Brent skiing at North Woods

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Poverty Hill certainly does not have the same sense of community as White Grass. What it does offer is solitude, as while I did see other ski tracks I was the only one in there that day. Maybe it



Ski trails at former Poverty Hill Ski Area

(Continued on page 10)

wasn't the best idea to go alone should anything go wrong but I did at least have perfect cell service the entire time.

But it was a whole lot of fun to ski on backcountry style Nordic skis. While there is only around 400' of vertical, there are a lot of trails to explore. The area would perhaps also be fun on alpine touring gear for a beginner or as somewhere to go to get your fix in between bigger trips. Its proximity to Holiday Valley and Holimont make it a nice side trip for alpine skiers, and I hear that the nearby [Art Roscoe Ski Trails](#) offer excellent groomed country skiing within Allegany State Park. There is also the possibility to explore another lost ski resort in the area, [Bluemont](#), with the State of New York's purchase of that property this past September.

Overall it seems that public access to Poverty Hill is still a fairly new development and I wanted to get the word out to our group. If anyone wants to get out there next season and possibly explore Bluemont, hit me up. Or maybe you know of other hidden areas worth visiting during those few magical days of snowfall that we are granted each winter.



More trails at former Poverty Hill Ski



Abandoned lift shack at former Poverty Hill Ski Area



Signage for former Concord Club Ski Area on the Poverty Hill property



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 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, 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