



# UPSLOPE

## Newsletter of the Potomac Nordic Ski Club



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

November 2025

### UpComing Attractions In Winter UPSLOPE

- Ski Trips and Reports
- YOUR ski stories

### New Name, Same SKI FAIR!



The traditional PATC-STS Ski Fair will once again kick off the XC-ski season and our new existence as the **Potomac Nordic Ski Club (PNSC)** (see p. 2): It will take place a on **Saturday, November 1, from 1 to 4 PM** returning to the usual location, **PATC HQ** in Vienna. Sign up for the 2025-26 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

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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 PNSC Ski Fair as we kick off the 2025-26 season!

**When: Saturday November 1, 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 coordinators 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 coordinators 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:

- ☞ What is the Potomac Nordic Ski Club (PNSC) and HOW COME?—Steve Jarvis
- ☞ Skiing the High Adirondacks from Lake Saranac Village—Ralph Heimlich
- ☞ Colorado's Tenth Mountain Division Huts—Rick Royer
- ☞ Ski Gear for Backcountry—Steve Jarvis
- ☞ A Great Winter at Black Water Falls, WV—Dick Simmons

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Hello Nordic Friends!

Welcome to our new ski season starting with the Ski Fair on 1 November at the PATC Headquarters in Vienna, Virginia. PATC has once again graciously allowed us to use their large conference room to kick off the new season. So come join us!

And, that is a good transition to highlight the ongoing discussions between the Ski Touring Section and Mountaineering Section and PATC. The sections have had multiple meetings with PATC,

mostly separately. PATC was seeking greater control of the sections and their finances and initially offered around four options to the sections ranging from fully dissolving into PATC, being sort of a semi-independent legal entity but with greater PATC financial control, to full separation of the sections from PATC. In September, PATC changed the Ski Touring Section options to either 1) come under full control of PATC, cease to exist as a section, close our bank account, and send all funds to PATC bank account for future STS allocation; or 2) STS separates from PATC (retaining its own bank account and identity). The Mountaineering Section was not given a choice and told that they would no longer remain a section due to liability of their sport for PATC.

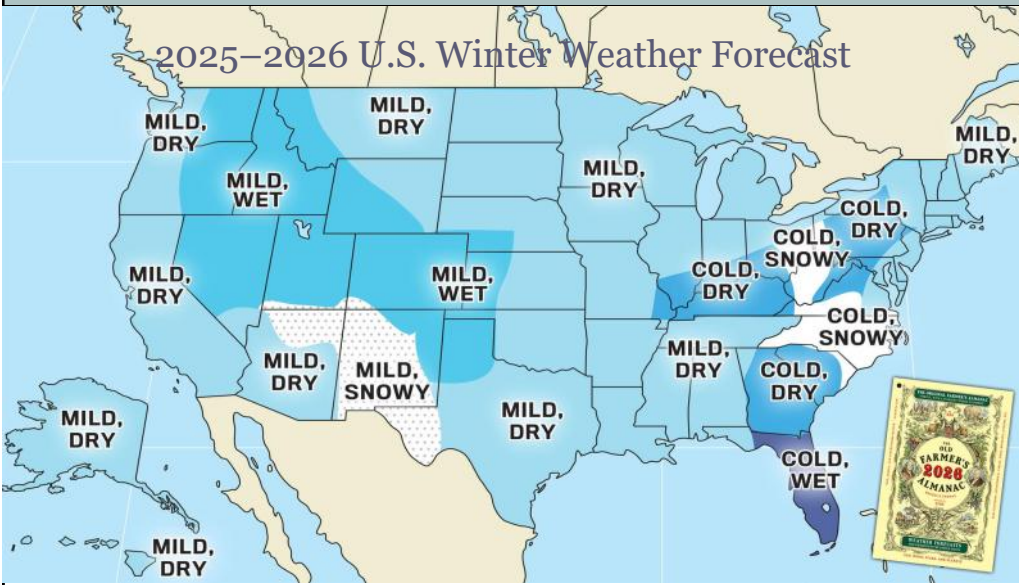
The STS Officers met and decided that the STS would separate from PATC after over 50 years together and become our own organization/club and we have notified PATC staff and volunteer leadership. Although I personally felt like the STS was getting “kicked off the island,” we have kept the communications open and want to keep the relationship amicable with PATC, which has also offered a future memorandum of understanding (MOU) to continue to foster a love of the outdoors and promote our mutual interests and benefit. The STS officers discussed a new name for our organization and decided on the “Potomac Nordic Ski Club” or PN\$C. We wanted to highlight the Nordic nature of our group while avoiding any confusion with alpine touring or Randonnée ski touring.

I will discuss this further in a presentation at Ski Fair but wanted to share the main points with you all here. We are still researching whether we should incorporate as something like a 501(c)7, non-profit social club, whether in Virginia or Maryland, or be an unincorporated organization. Also, we are probably going to be more oriented as a club which provides basic coordination for private individuals to ski together rather than leading “officially sponsored” trips. We would welcome any inputs from folks who have insight as we are still sorting things out.

More to follow and let’s keep kicking and gliding!

Steve

Winter Forecasts for Skiers



**The Farmer’s Almanac 2026 Winter Forecast is “Mostly Mild—with Pockets of Wild!”**

That’s the big picture: most of the United States can expect a typical or slightly milder winter—but some regions should brace for a sharper chill.

“Don’t lose track of your snow shovels and umbrellas,” says Editor Carol Connare.

“Most areas will experience **near-normal to slightly milder temperatures**, but from the Appalachians south through the Southeast and Florida, and westward across the Ohio Valley, we’re predicting a **colder-than-normal winter.**”

Forecast highlights across the continental U.S.:

- **Temperatures:** Near normal to slightly milder across much of the country—except in the Appalachians, Southeast, Florida, and the Ohio Valley, where colder-than-average

conditions are forecasted.

- **Precipitation:** Overall, drier than usual overall, with extended dry stretches likely. However, Florida, the Intermountain region, and the eastern Desert Southwest may see above-average precipitation.
- **Snowfall:** Near or below normal for most areas. However, greater amounts of snow are expected in much of the Carolinas, southern Appalachians, eastern Ohio Valley, southern Rockies, and eastern Desert Southwest.

**Remember: “Mild” is relative. It’s still winter.**

**Direct Weather Forecasts Snowy Winter**—As winter approaches people are eager to know what the 2025-2026 season has in store. Unofficial Networks forecast, based on insights from [Direct Weather](#), are for the upcoming winter to be a dynamic one, influenced by a rare neutral ENSO (El Niño Southern Oscillation) leaning toward La Niña. This setup promises a mix of cold, snowy conditions in some regions and milder, drier weather in others. Here’s a breakdown of what to expect across the U.S., with a focus on snowfall, temperature, and precipitation patterns for the winter season (December 2025 to February 2026).

The winter temperature outlook is heavily influenced by warm waters in the North Pacific, driving a positive Pacific-North American (PNA) pattern. This setup will push warm air into the western U.S., while cold Arctic air plunges into the central and eastern states. Precipitation will vary significantly across the U.S., shaped by the neutral ENSO and storm track dynamics.



**2025 - 2026 WINTER FORECAST**

🌀 **Southwest and Southern Plains:** A dry winter is expected in California, Nevada, the Four Corners states (Arizona, Utah, Colorado, New Mexico), Oklahoma, and Texas. High pressure and warm temperatures will deflect storms northward, limiting precipitation in these regions. **Northwest:** Marginally above-average precipitation is forecast for the Pacific Northwest, including Washington, Oregon, Montana, and Wyoming. Storms will bring active weather, particularly to mountainous areas.



🌀 **Great Lakes, Midwest, and Northeast:** Above-average precipitation is likely. That would be driven by clipper systems from Canada and storms moving up from the Gulf. The Great Lakes region will see significant lake-effect snow due to record-high lake surface temperatures, while the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic could experience frequent storm activity, including coastal systems.

🌀 **Southeast and Gulf States:** Active weather is expected, with storms brewing in the Gulf of Mexico. These areas may see occasional wintry precipitation, though significant snowfall is unlikely outside rare events.

For skiers like us, the [snowfall forecast](#) is what we really care for. Direct Weather’s chance-based snowfall outlook highlights areas with above- or below-average snow potential, based on temperature and precipitation patterns.

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**Videos on Excursion Trips**

PNSC has one excursion trip [scheduled](#) this year. Excursion trips are outside our “normal” area (VA, MD, WV, PA). 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](#)

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



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

**Ski Fair (cont.)**

*(Continued from page 1)*

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

- ☞ What is the Potomac Nordic Ski Club (PNSC) and HOW COME?—Steve Jarvis
- ☞ Skiing the High Adirondacks from Lake Saranac Village—Ralph Heimlich
- ☞ Colorado’s Tenth Mountain Division Huts—Rick Royer
- ☞ Ski Gear for Backcountry—Steve Jarvis
- ☞ A Great Winter at Black Water Falls, WV—Dick Simmons

We urge you to bring your friends and relatives who might be interested in cross-country skiing to learn about skiing and the Potomac Nordic Ski Club. Come and hear more, discuss with the trip coordinators and meet and greet your ski friends at the 2025 SKI FAIR!



to

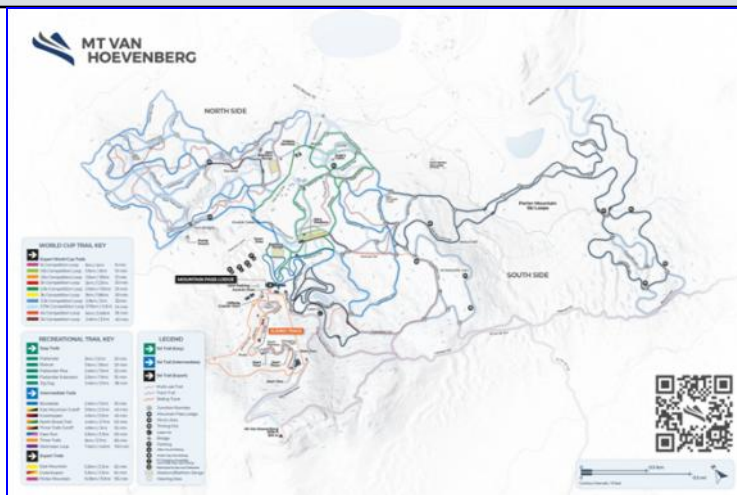


## In the Tracks of the Olympians at Lake Placid, NY

by Ralph Heimlich

Imagine a place in the U.S. so snowy in winter that it has hosted not just ONE but TWO Winter Olympics. This is Lake Placid, in New York's Adirondack Mountains, which was the scene of the United States' first winter Olympics in 1932 and the "Olympic Miracle on Ice" year of 1980. For Nordic skiers, vestiges remain of Olympic glory. Most notable are the two towering Nordic ski jump towers hovering above the main highway into town, and still-active Mt [Van Hoevenberg Olympic Sports Complex](#) that includes bobsledding and that famous cross-country ski course.

You can ski in the track of the Olympians on the 55 km of trails, 5 km of which have snow making. There is a pro shop renting equipment if you would like to try something new, or use your equipment.



But Nordic skiing near Lake Placid doesn't stop at Mt Van Hoevenberg. [Paul Smith's College Visitor Information Center \(VIC\)](#) is nearby with another 40 km of trails to ski.



There is also the [Scotts Cobble Nordic Center](#), with 15 km of groomed trails, and the [Dewey Mountain Recreational Center](#) in Harrietsville, NY, with another 15 km of groomed trails. The Adirondack Mountain Club's property [Adirondack Loj](#) at Heart Lake is a jumping-off place for numerous trails, although the Cascade Welcome Center Nordic trails will not be open this season. Snowshoeing is particularly appropriate on these trails.

For those with a back country yen, there are numerous trails and trailheads leading to skiable places (thanks to Greg Westernik for this list, which is not comprehensive).

**Lower Ausable Lake Road tour.** Difficulty: easiest. 8.5 miles round trip, Novice to Intermediate skill along a well graded road usually with packed snow eventually to drop down into a wind tunnel to see one of the most picturesque lakes in the northern ADK with steep hills on both sides. Starts in Keene Valley on the west side of Rt. 73, 3.3 miles south of Keene Valley Post Office. Have to walk a half mile from parking spot to trailhead. Bring lots of wind protective clothing including goggles you will need once you drop down to the lake level.

**Lake Colden.** 12 miles round trip from ADK lodge up thru Avalanche Pass. The climb thru Avalanche Pass is one of the most scenic in the ADK. Inter-

mediate skill. This can be very busy with snow shoers and climbers sharing same route. Some steep elevation change thru the Pass.

**Mt. Marcy.** 16 miles round trip from end of Marcy Dam road near ADK lodge. Trip climbs almost to top of NY's highest peak where climb takes most of the time, and the downhill when skiable is FAST and quick. Strong intermediate to expert skills. Better for snow shoes, but a long day.

**Jackrabbit Trail.** Runs some 24 miles from Keene to Lake Placid to Saranac Lake. I remember one tour where we started on Mt. Van Hoevenburg's trail and headed west toward Lake Placid. In Lake Placid, we had lunch, then some shuttled back to Mt. Van Hoevenburg STC and a few skied back from LP to Mt. Van Hoevenburg. It is an intermediate trip if ski all this section. A one way ski good for weaker skiers and beginners. Mostly flat terrain, may need to pay a trail fee to access via commercial part of Mt. Van Hoevenburg system. There is another section of Jackrabbit starting in Saranac Lake. Starting near the Gymnasium it goes to McKenzie Pond for 2 miles, where you double back and complete a short 4 mile tour that novice and beginners and weaker skiers can do. However, for strong intermediate to experts you can continue from McKenzie Pond to the Whiteface Club house another 5 miles one way. The 5 mile trip goes up some steep terrain until it levels out near the Club House. If you leave some cars at the Club house before the ski, you can return via car from Club house to wherever you need to be.

**Whale Tail Tour.** Novice to intermediate. Shorter tour. From ADK prop-



Backcountry skiing at Avalanche Pass near Adirondack Loj

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**In the Tracks of the Olympians (cont.)**

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erty, head toward Avalanche Pass route. Before you start up the Pass, there is signage to take the easy Whale Tail Tour.

**Ridge Loop Trail.** 6.4 miles from Bark Eater Inn in Keene, NY. I have done parts of this trail without starting from Bark Eater Inn toward Pitchoff Mtn. Terrain is hilly and mountainous. Difficulty is at least more difficult. There is probably a fee to use the trail if groomed by Bark Eater. Not recommend for beginners or novices.

And there are many other trails within the closed summer campgrounds that dot the area (we canoed at Meacham Lake this fall and hiked a nearly-level skiable forest road for 6-7 miles leading to Debar Peak and Debar Meadows, and there are many others at Buck Lake, Wilmington Notch, and Taylor Pond.

Lodging for this trip will be Miracle Hill Lodge, a vacation rental home



**Miracle Hill Lodge, Lake Placid Village, NY**

in Lake Placid Village with 6 bedrooms, and 4.5 baths. Rooms and bed choices are limited. Close to Mirror Lake (8 min walk), Olympic Center Place, Olympic Center (8 min walk), Lake Placid Winter Olympic Museum Place (10 min walk), Lake Placid, NY (LKP) Airport (3 min drive). If sufficient demand exists, a second rental home may be contracted.

Driving time is 8 hours, 501 miles from DC via I-95, I-87, 9 hours, 546 miles from DC via I-81, I-88, I-87. Typical flights are, from BWI Southwest nonstop 1 h 15 min from \$255, from DCA American nonstop 1 h 18 min from \$271. You could take Amtrack from Union Station, DC 15 h 38 min from \$92 (to Port Henry, NY) or bus from Union Station, DC 10 h 50 min from \$60 (to Albany, NY). You would need rent a winter-worthy car if you took public transportation.



**Lake Placid Village, NY, in winter**

**Last Minute Two-Night Wilderness XC Ski Trip with TBD dates in 2026**

by Harrison Snow

You may be wondering about the TBD trip listed in this season's lineup. Shenandoah National Park (SNP) is seldom visited in the winter by the ski club. However, this national park is nearby and often has several days of snowfall sufficient for backcountry skiing. The natural beauty and solitude during the winter months are lovely, even magical, especially when the trees are all coated in white. I have made numerous winter PATC cabin camping trips over the years whenever there's at least 4 inches of new snow. Because of the extreme conditions this trip is for **experienced backcountry** skiers. The trailheads can be difficult to reach, and darkness comes early. The cabins in the park are not winterized. The ski in is uphill and long since the Parkway is closed. Each skier will need to pack in the food, sleeping bag and clothing required to deal with the elements. X/C skis with metal edges are recommended. The size of the group is limited because it's determined by the capacity of the cabin we end up renting. When and if a trip is scheduled the trip coordinator will send out a post on Groups i.o to our club members with more details including shared costs. Harrison Snow, trip coordinator, [teambuilder@msn.com](mailto:teambuilder@msn.com)



**Range View Cabin the winter of 2024 photo by Harrison Snow**

**Potomac Nordic Ski Club (PNSC) XC-Ski Schedule 2025-26**

Date	Place	Coordinator
Nov 1	PNSC Ski Fair, PATC HQ, Vienna, VA	Steve Jarvis, Dick Simmons
Nov 14-16	White Grass Work Trip	Stacey DiMaria
Jan 2-4	Available	Needs Trip Coordinator
Jan 9-11	Blackwater Falls, WV Lodge (cancels if no snow)	Steve Jarvis
Jan 16-18	Laurel Highlands, Somerset, PA #1 (cancels if no snow)	Greg Westernik
Jan 22-25	Canaan Valley SP Deluxe Cabin (no cancellation)	Ralph Heimlich
TBD as Snow Permits	PATC Schairer Trail Center, Eaton Hollow, Near SNP	Harrison Snow
Jan 30-Feb 1	Open	Needs Trip Coordinator
Feb 6-8	Laurel Highlands, Somerset, PA # 2(cancels if no snow)	Greg Westernik
Feb 8-13	Stratton Ski Area, Vermont in conjunction with Frederick Ski Club	Dave Jordahl
Feb 13-16	Ski Dance, Laurel Highlands, PA in conjunction with Sierra Club Potomac Region Outings (SCPRO)	Bob Mathis and Jody Blatt
Feb 15-23	Adirondacks from Saranac Lake Village, NY	Ralph Heimlich
Feb 20-22	Herrington Manor from Oakland, MD	Dave Jordahl
Feb 27-Mar 1 (make up if no snow previous weekend)	Herrington Manor from Oakland, MD	Dave Jordahl

All trips are PRIVATE TRIPS arranged between the Trip Coordinator and participants and not sponsored by Potomac Nordic Ski Club (PNSC) except as facilitated and advertised through the club.

**Dates—Nov 1, 2025. Potomac Nordic Ski Club Ski Fair**  
**Location—PATC HQ 118 Park St SE, Vienna, VA, off Rt 123**  
**Description—See front page article.**  
**Coordinator—Steve Jarvis**  
**Cost—Free**

**Dates—Nov 14-16, 2025 (Fri-Sun, 2 nights) Help Chip out preparing White Grass trails for Winter.**

**Lodging:** A house in Timberline has been donated for Friday and Saturday nights

**Description:** Every November, Chip Chase, owner of White Grass Touring Center, welcomes volunteers to help prepare the trails for the ski season. Work entails tasks such as clearing brush, establishing and maintaining drainage, repairing palette bridges, and others. No particular skills are needed. Work will be all day Saturday and Sunday morning. Join Stacey for the work, fun and camaraderie for which White Grass is well-known. . Lunch will be provided by White Grass for all workers. Bring work clothes, gloves, warm

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**Ski Schedule (cont.)***(Continued from page 7)*

layers, your own breakfasts. We usually eat out in Davis for dinners.

**Coordinator**—Stacey DiMaria 301-908-7115 or [staceydim@gmail.com](mailto:staceydim@gmail.com)

**Dates**—Jan 9-11, 2026 (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/>

**Coordinator**—Steve Jarvis, [jarsnv7@msn.com](mailto:jarsnv7@msn.com), 703-282-6752.

**Cost**—Approximately \$175 per room per night, which includes 2 beds in the room. A participant should make their own single occupancy reservation within the PNSC group block of rooms and then make their own arrangements with potential roommates to share the cost, if desired. Participants should coordinate with trip coordinator before making room reservations. Suggested donation to trip coordinator is \$25.

**Dates**—Jan 16-18, 2026 (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 2 offer groomed trails when snow permits. There is a walk option to meals from lodging. Chill out at local Somerset Fire and Ice Festival 2026 activities.

**Coordinator**—Greg Westernik, 571-552-7307, [gmwester@gmail.com](mailto:gmwester@gmail.com).

**Cost**—\$95/applicant, double occupancy. This cost covers lodging fee for double occupancy with free continental breakfasts.. Each room includes 2 beds in room.\$25 donation to cover administrative costs per participant paid directly to coordinator appreciated.

**Dates**—Jan 20-23, 2026 (Tuesday to Friday, 3 nights). **No Cancellation. BlackWater Falls SP, WV, Deluxe Cabin**

**Lodging**—Canaan Valley SP, Cabin.

**Description**—This is a four-bedroom cabin, featuring two rooms with queen-size beds at one end, and two rooms with twin beds at the other end. 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 Canaan Valley SP, White Grass Ski Center, Canaan or Timberline downhill areas, or Black Water Falls SP. Hike if no snow.

**Coordinator**—Ralph Heimlich, [heimlichfamily@comcast.net](mailto:heimlichfamily@comcast.net)

**Cost**—\$200 lodging and dinners, per person based on 8 people.

**Dates**—TBD As Snow Permits in January or February (see article on p. 6)

**Lodging**—PATC Schairer Trail Center, Eaton Hollow, VA, near SNP or similar cabin.

**Description**—Last minute two-night wilderness XC ski trip to a PATC cabin in the Shenandoah NP.

**Coordinator**—Harrison Snow, 703-241-2421, [teambuilder@msn.com](mailto:teambuilder@msn.com)

**Cost**—\$40-80 per person for the two nights for lodging depending on cabin availability. Meals and personal transportation are borne by the participant. No lift ticket fees;->

**Dates**—Feb 6-8, 2026 (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 2 offer groomed trails when snow permits.and there is a walk option to meals from lodging.

**Coordinator**—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. \$25 donation to cover administrative costs per participant paid directly to coordinator appreciated.

**Dates**—Feb 8-13, 2026 (Sun-Thu, 5 nights) **Stratton, Vermont Combined Nordic/alpine ski trip with the Frederick Ski Club [frederickskiclub.wildapricot.org/ event-6324233](http://frederickskiclub.wildapricot.org/event-6324233); NO cancellation.**

**Lodging**—Black Bear Lodge at the base of Stratton Mountain

**Description**—Stratton alpine ski area, Stratton Nordic Center. Other nearby Nordic Centers, Timber Creek and Viking. Mix it up! One day of alpine, alternating with a day of Nordic. Or all week alpine or all week Nordic; participants choice. Stratton is an Ikon resort Must be Frederick Ski Club member to participate ([frederickskiclub.wildapricot.org/join-us](http://frederickskiclub.wildapricot.org/join-us)) ([www.ikonpass.com](http://www.ikonpass.com))

**Coordinator**—Dave Jordahl, 301-491-1356, [westpatc@hotmail.com](mailto:westpatc@hotmail.com)

**Cost**—\$620 double-occupancy; Lift (Ikon) or Nordic Center user fees extra

*(Continued on page 9)*

**Ski Schedule (cont.)**

**Dates—Feb 13-16, 2026 (Friday-Tuesday, 3 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!

**Coordinator—**<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 16-23, 2026 (Monday-Monday, 7 nights). No Cancellation. Ski Lake Placid, Adirondacks**

**Lodging—**Rental House

**Description—**Staying in Lake Placid village with various ski opportunities including Mt. Van Hovenberg Olympic XC course, Paul Smith’s Visitor Information Center (VIC) trails, Scotts Cobble Nordic Center, and various back country ski trails on DEC land. House has full kitchen and we will share dinner responsibilities.

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

**Cost—**\$690 per person, lodging and dinners, based on 10 people. If interest is sufficient, a second house could be rented.

**Dates—Feb 20-22, 2026 (Fri-Sun, 2 nights). Cancels if no snow. Garrett County, Maryland, Feb 27-Mar 1 Alternate weekend dates if no snow. CANCELS\_ for no snow on either weekend, unless there is interest in downhill skiing nearby.**

**Lodging:** Oak-Mar Motel, 208 North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street; Oakland, MD, 301-334-3965

**Description:** Nordic ski the trails at Herrington Manor (Sat) and New Germany State Parks (Sun)

Daily entrance fee applies or annual or senior lifetime pass. NOTE: If snow conditions inadequate for cross-country skiing, and if there is interest, downhill [option](#) at Canaan Valley (Sat) or Wisp (Sun).

**Maryland DNR to Purchase Savage River Lodge**

On September 11, 2024, 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 property is under renovation and is not yet available for rental by the public. 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 surrounding 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.)**

(Continued from page 3)

**Above-Average Snowfall:**

- ⚡ **Northeast and Mid-Atlantic:** Above-average snowfall is likely, especially in interior regions and along the coast, where big coastal storms could dump significant snow. Resorts like [Stowe](#) and [Killington](#) are poised for a strong season.
- ⚡ **Great Lakes:** Record-high lake temperatures will fuel intense lake-effect snow, benefiting resorts in Michigan, Wisconsin, and upstate New York. Expect epic powder days in areas like [Boyne Mountain](#).
- ⚡ **Southeast and Gulf States:** While rare, these areas could see occasional snow or mixed precipitation, particularly in higher elevations like the southern Appalachians.
- ⚡ **Northern Rockies and Northwest:** Mountainous areas in Montana, Wyoming, and the Dakotas are primed for above-average snowfall, despite milder temperatures at lower elevations. High-altitude resorts like [Big Sky](#) and [Jackson Hole](#) could see excellent conditions.



**Below-Average Snowfall:**

- ⚡ **Southwest and Southern Rockies:** Dry conditions and warmer temperatures will limit snowfall in California, Nevada, and southern Colorado.
- ⚡ **Southern Plains and Deep South:** Areas like Texas, Oklahoma, and southern Florida have a near-zero chance of significant snow, though fleeting flurries are possible.



**Regional Highlights for Skiers**

- ⚡ **Northeast and Great Lakes:** This region is the sweet spot for snow lovers, with big storms and lake-effect snow promising a blockbuster season. [Sugarbush](#) and [Gore Mountain](#) could see heavy snowfall.
- ⚡ **Southeast:** While mostly rain, higher-elevation resorts like [Beech Mountain](#) could see occasional snow events.
- ⚡ **Southwest:** A dry, warm winter will challenge resorts in California and the southern Rockies. Snowmaking could be crucial for places like [Heavenly](#) and [Purgatory](#).
- ⚡ **Northwest and Northern Rockies:** Expect a solid season for resorts in Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho. Above-average precipitation could be fueling powder days. [Whitefish](#) and [Sun Valley](#) are ones to watch.
- ⚡ **Central U.S.:** The Rockies will act as a barrier, with cold, snowy conditions east of the range. Resorts in Colorado's Front Range, like [Winter Park](#), could see decent snow, while the northern Plains brace for brutal cold.
- ⚡ **Winter Battle Zone:** The forecast anticipates a mix of snow, ice, and rain in the Ohio Valley and lower Midwest, creating messy but potentially snowy conditions for resorts like [Perfect North Slopes](#).

**Why This Winter Could Be Special**

The neutral ENSO leaning toward La Niña is a rare setup. That's historically linked to some of the coldest and snowiest winters. Combined with warm Pacific waters and active storm tracks, this winter could bring dramatic contrasts. For skiers, the Northeast, Great Lakes, and northern Rockies offer the best shot at deep powder. Unfortunately the Southwest may require patience and strategic trip planning.

**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!!**

**POTOMAC NORDIC SKI CLUB (PNSC) MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE!**

Yet another membership renewal period is in effect for the PNSC (formerly PATC-STC). Memberships expiring in 2025 must be renewed before 1 January 2026 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 coordinator rooming costs (a small thank-you for their time and trouble), pays the yearly fee for the PNSC groups.io "listserve", purchases food and drink served at club social events, supports the website and supports sundry investments and donations made by the PNSC 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 dles-sar@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 PNSC membership renewal and application form in fillable PDF format. Note that despite the group's recent separation from PATC, checks are to be made payable to Ski Touring Section. We hope that the upcoming winter is truly wintry ...

Doug Lesar  
PNSC recordskeeper / duesmeister

**Info on Groups.io Listserv**

The PNSC group is reachable at the address <https://groups.io/g/PATC-STC>. 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



**Potomac Nordic Ski Club**  
**c/o Doug Lesar**  
**14 Bitterroot Court**  
**Rockville, MD 20853**



To:

## Potomac Nordic Ski Club Membership Form

*The Potomac Nordic Ski Club (PNSC) provides quality services and benefits to its cross-country skiing members while promoting and supporting 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 PNSC, 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, 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" (our checking account has not been changed) to:

**Potomac Nordic Ski Club, c/o Doug Lesar, 14 Bitterroot Ct, Rockville, MD 20853**

Membership Category	Membership Term		
	1 year only	2 years	3 years
Individual	\$15	\$29	\$43
Family	\$19	\$36	\$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 Groups.io so I can get ad hoc announcements of local XC ski activities.**

**PNSC is an all-volunteer organization. We cannot function without the efforts of our members. IF you are interested in volunteering to help in any of the following areas, please check the box and you will be contacted.**

Officer/Coordinator	Publicity	XC Ski Instructor
Ski Fair	Ski Trip Coordinator	General Volunteer