UPSLOPE

Newsletter of the Potomac Nordic Ski Club

Visit Us On the WEB at https://pnski.org/

UpComing Attractions In Winter UPSLOPE

- Ski Trips and Reports
- YOUR ski stories

Inside this issue:

(blue links are live)

Your PNSC Officer Contacts	2
From the Slopes	2
2026-27 Winter Outlook	3
Videos on Excursion Trips	4
Ski Fair (cont).	4
Find Your Place Outdoors with PATC	5
Dues Update	5
Maine Woods Hut-to-Hut	6
Maine Woods (cont.)	7
PNSC Ski Schedule	8
Ski Schedule (cont).	9
Savage River Lodge	10
Winter Outlook (cont).	11
Electronic Dues Payment	11
Groups.io, New Banner	

Potomac Nordic Ski Club's FIRST SKI FAIR!



The Potomac Nordic Ski Club (new name folks!) 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 on **Saturday, November 7, from 1 to 4 PM** returning to the usual location, **PATC HQ** in Vienna. Sign up for the 2026-27 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

(Continued on page 4)

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 2026-27 season!

When: Saturday November 7, 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:

- Latest on the transition to POTOMAC NORDIC SKI CLUB—Steve Jarvis
- Skiing Garnet Hill and the Central Adirondacks of NY—Ralph Heimlich
- Blackwater Falls, WV, Skiing—Steve Jarvis
- Maryland's New Savage Highlands Park—Ralph Heimlich
- Maine's AMC 100-Mile Hut-to-Hut System—Ralph Heimlich

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FROM THE SLOPES – Chair Notes



Hello Again Folks and Happy Fall season!

It seems we slipped right into Fall this year and some enjoyable mild temperatures and a bit of rain recently. I think the recent Nor'easter may have helped the rain along but good to have. I like Fall because it means that our favorite season is coming next! Yay! So, we are getting ready for Ski Fair and have PATC Headquarters reserved again this year. **Ski Fair is November 7th** and will be a potluck as always with some nice slide presentations and opportunities to join fellow skiers for some camaraderie. The Ski Fair details are in this edition of the Upslope and will also be posted on the PNSC website. Bring your favorite dish to share and the Potomac Nordic Ski Club (PNSC) will provide beverages and a few food items, as usual.

The PNSC is starting our second season as an independent non-profit cross-country ski club after extensive legal coordination, incorporating with the IRS as a 501(c)7 non-profit sports club, and incorporating in the State of Maryland. We are now official! And, we have recently established new bank accounts as a new club. Whew! I never realized all the effort it takes to incorporate. Thanks to **Dick Simmons** for his help during this process. Although we were unable to stay with PATC, the PNSC maintains good relations with our former club and they have graciously allowed us to continue to use the headquarters for Ski Fair and our last annual officers meeting. We plan to continue to collaborate with PATC and support them and foster a common love of the outdoors, Nordic style.

As a result of the $3500+ legal fees for incorporation and dues being our primary income source, the PNSC officers voted to increase our annual dues to $25 (one year, single person), beginning January 1, 2027. We researched other local ski clubs (mostly alpine) and this amount is in the ball park. Folks will have the opportunity to initiate or renew their membership at the current rates, to include multi-year memberships, through December 31, 2026. Unfortunately, we have had a lot of expenses starting the new club and don't have many other income sources so thanks for your understanding.

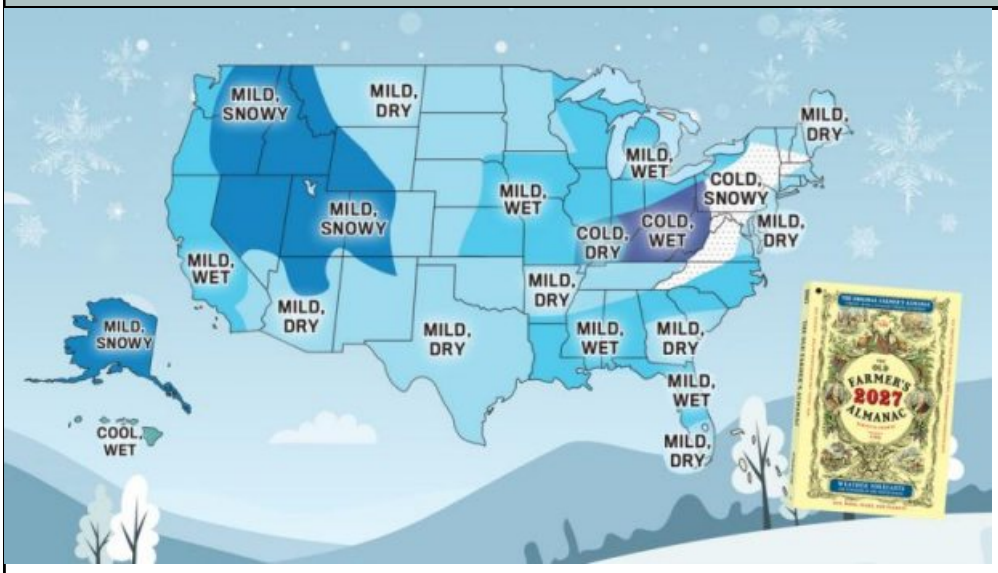
Now, back to ski talk! You all have probably heard about the strong El Niño weather pattern which seems to be firmly in place. I did a little search on the National Weather Service website and it appears the jet stream will shift to the south and bring the storm track over the southern tier of the US. What does that mean for us? We'll have to see! Be ready to go when there is snow!

I hope to see you at Ski Fair and ski with you this year!

Steve

PNSC Chair

Winter Forecasts for Skiers



The Old Farmer's Almanac 2027editor in chief Carol Connare predicts a milder winter through out the US. A milder winter doesn't mean the cold is taking the year off. Across much of the country, temperatures are expected to be near normal or warmer than normal. But colder-than-usual temperatures are expected from central New England south through the Appalachians and into the Ohio Valley. Hawaii will also be cooler than normal.

And remember: "Above normal" is relative. While it won't be as cold as usual, it's still winter!

Where Will It Be Snowy This Winter? Love snow? You may be in luck. A snowier-than-normal winter is expected from central New England through the Appalachians, in the Intermountain region and Pacific Northwest, and in Alaska.

"Winter won't look the same everywhere this year. While much of the country is headed for a milder season, some areas will still see plenty of cold and snow. Check the forecast for your region to see what's ahead."— Carol Connare, Editor-in-Chief, The Old Farmer's Almanac

Direct Weather's Winter 2026-27 forecast is flipping the script—After two straight La Niña winters, the pattern is turning. Forecasters are watching what could become the strongest El Niño ever recorded; and by a fairly wide margin. That alone makes the season ahead historic no matter how it plays out. The catch is that once an El Niño gets this strong, it tends to behave unusually, which leaves big question marks over which mountains cash in and which get left dry. **The honest answer up front:** there's more than one way this goes. Some outcomes are great for cold and snow lovers, and some are genuinely bad. Recent history gives us both.



For the West—Here's a useful wrinkle for Western skiers. A textbook El Niño favors the Southwest (think the southern Sierra, the mountains of Arizona and southern Colorado) while leaving the Pacific Northwest drier. That's the standard playbook, and the strong 2009–10 El Niño followed it closely, with a wet Southwest fed by an active southern jet and a drier north.

But the stronger the El Niño, the more that rule seems to bend—In the very strong 2015–16 winter, the Pacific Northwest actually ran wet, unusual for the setup, and the trend was toward higher overall precipitation across the entire West Coast, not just the Southwest. It's the weaker El Niños that keep the moisture bottled up in the Southwest. So if this one verifies as record-strength, the whole spine of Western ranges could see more total precipitation than a typical El Niño would deliver, rather than a sharp north-south split.



The temperature side is the worry—In 2015–16, a fast, warm Pacific jet screaming along near the US–Canada border dragged mild Pacific air onshore so quickly that the northern tier saw far-above-normal temps, one of the warmest winters in memory. For high-elevation Western resorts that can still mean plenty of snow, but it's a reminder that a strong El Niño can run warm even when it's wet.

Whether cold air makes it into the interior comes down to the pattern out West—A positive Pacific-North American pattern (PNA), driven by a warm Southwest ridge, can force the northern jet to dive southward instead of racing straight across Canada. When that happens, colder air unlocks for the central and eastern US. When the jet stays strong and fast, it wins, and the warmth pours in. Same El Niño, very different results

(Continued on page 11)

Videos on Excursion Trips

PNSC has two excursion trips 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.

- Lake Placid, New York in the ADK 2026
- 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.



CPA skiers on Lake Placid, NY, ***photo by Ralph Heimlich***

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 to sell or trade.



Ski Fair is also an opportunity to renew memberships and to sign up for new membership. Existing members can get a great deal by renewing at the current dues rate, before rates increase in January 2027 (see page 5) See Doug Lesar when you come and bring your checkbook.

Presentations on trips and events:

- Latest on the transition to POTOMAC NORDIC SKI CLUB—Steve Jarvis
- Skiing Garnet Hill and the Central Adirondacks of NY—Ralph Heimlich
- Maryland's New Savage Highlands Park—Ralph Heimlich
- Blackwater Falls, WV, Skiing—Steve Jarvis
- Maine's AMC 100-Mile Hut-to-Hut System—Ralph Heimlich

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 2026 SKI FAIR!





Find Your Place Outside with PATC



Potomac Nordic Ski Club parted from the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) on amicable terms. We encourage all PNSC members to become PATC members as well.

For nearly 100 years, PATC has brought people together around a shared love of trails, mountains, and the outdoors. Today, PATC is a community of hikers, volunteers, outdoor learners, conservationists, cabin-goers, and people simply looking for new ways to get outside and connect with others.

There are countless ways to be part of the PATC community. Join a group hike, learn new outdoor skills through a class or workshop, spend a weekend at one of PATC's 45+ cabins, or roll up your sleeves alongside a trail crew. Volunteers help care for more than 1,300 miles of trails across the Mid-Atlantic, including 240 miles of the Appalachian Trail, while also maintaining cabins and shelters, protecting natural lands, leading hikes, supporting conservation work, creating maps, and introducing new people to the outdoors.

And you don't need to be an experienced hiker or trail maintainer to get involved. PATC offers opportunities for a wide range of interests and experience levels—from trail work and outdoor education to outreach, communications, mapping, and behind-the-scenes support. Many activities are also simply about exploring together, learning something new, and meeting people who care about the same places you do.

As PATC approaches its 100th anniversary in 2027, we're celebrating the generations of volunteers and outdoor enthusiasts who have cared for these special places—and welcoming the next generation into the community. Whether you want to hike, volunteer, learn, stay in a cabin, or just find more reasons to spend time outside, there's a place for you at PATC.

Come outside with us. Explore upcoming hikes, events, volunteer opportunities, cabins, and more at PATC.net.

POTOMAC NORDIC SKI CLUB (PNSC) MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE!

Yet another membership renewal period is in effect for the PNSC (formerly PATC-STS). Memberships expiring in 2026 must be renewed before 1 January 2027 for membership to continue into the upcoming ski season. As indicated in PNSC chair Steve Jarvis's article, the PNSC board has established the need to increase PNSC membership according to the following table:

	Membership Term		
Membership Type	1 year	2 years	3 years
Individual	$25	$48	$72
Family	$32	$60	$88

There is a grace period which runs now thru 12/31/2026 - current members whose membership expires in 2026 can renew for any term at the current rate. Also, new members will be able to join at current rates thru 12/31.

Your dues are used to fund advance payments for trip lodging, subsidize trip coordinator rooming costs (a small thank-you for their time and trouble), pay the yearly fee for the PNSC groups.io "listserve", purchase food and drink served at club social events, support the PNSC website and support sundry investments and donations made by the PNSC board to support some of our favorite mid-Atlantic XC ski areas and promote our sport.

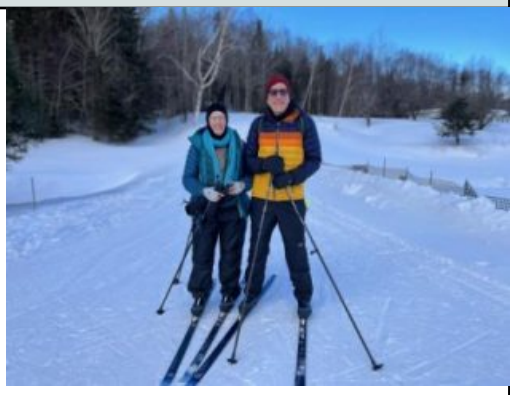
When receiving UPSLOPE electronically, your expiration date is always included in the forwarding email header sent by Ralph, our loyal and talented newsletter editor. Since you may not have saved that information, feel free to contact me at dlesar@comcast.net for a dues status check.

For a membership renewal form with my address and dues amounts, visit https://pnski.org and enter the MEMBERSHIP page for a link to a downloadable PNSC membership renewal and application form in fillable PDF format. (This form will show the increased dues amounts after January 1). If payment by check through USPS mail is preferred, checks are to be made payable to "Potomac Nordic Ski Club". We hope that the upcoming winter is truly wintry ...

Doug Lesar
PNSC recordskeeper / duesmeister

February 2026 Cross-country Skiing Trip to the Appalachian Mountain Club's Maine Woods

By Peg Barratt and Jeff Clyman



Two days in New Hampshire—Because neither of us had been on cross-country skis in more than 25 years, we started with refresher lessons in New Hampshire. Staying at the Joe Dodge Lodge in Franconia Notch gave us coupons to the Great Glenn Cross-Country Ski Center. Karen patiently helped us put on the new skis and head out to the first small downhill. Not an unmitigated success. Actually, not a success at all. Jeff logged his first fall right at the start. Every day there was improvement from there!

Karen reviewed the snow-plow for downhill and where to put the poles for uphill. She took us out on the well-groomed trails to a shelter with a great view of the White Mountains covered with snow. It was sort of a set up – we ate our Peanut Butter and Jelly sandwich picnic and had to ski our way back on our own.



We did get back. The day was great, and we repeated the plan with Karen on the next day. The vocabulary is the same for kids learning to ski as for adults. The instructor or partner yells "pizza" at the tentative skier so as to remind them to put the skis into the shape of a pizza slice.

To Greenville Maine—The next day was the drive from New Hampshire to Greenville, Maine. We knew there was a shuttle service for cross-county skiers, but we had not read the fine print about needing a reservation. Enroute we left a couple of phone messages, and finally talked to a person at the general store about the shuttle service – as long as we arrived in time, we could join the scheduled shuttle.



Shuttling from Greenville involved various stops for various people's schedules. For us, we needed to first drop off our car at the winter parking lot where the trip would end. Then we were shuttled (ourselves, one allowed duffle bag each, and skis) to Medawisla Lodge.

The lodge is a well done contemporary building and some smaller structures with private rooms and bunk rooms. The land was acquired by AMC years ago, and funding was garnered to create the cluster of off-grid buildings housing close to 100 people. A family-style dinner welcomed us the first evening. Simple food, well put together. Prices are all-inclusive – breakfast, packed lunch, and dinner. And each lodge offers a late afternoon wood-fired sauna.



The next day was yet one more day of skiing preparation – we followed a groomed loop trail that was fairly level that took us out across a lake. The lake trail was marked with small trees. The bunk room had curtained off sections with bunk beds for 4. Overall the bunkrooms were quite accommodating, and the gathering areas were social as people collected around the wood stoves.

Hut-to-hut in the 100 mile wilderness—After Medawisla, we began the hut-to-hut skiing. We took only a daypack on the groomed trails, and AMC shuttled our gear to the next lodge. Medawisla, Little Lyford and Gorman Chairback are AMC facilities. They coordinate with the private West Branch Pond Camps – by including the private camp, each day's ski was under 10 miles. Keeping to beginner level trails required a section of skiing that was shared with snowmobiles – keeping WAY to the side made us feel fairly safe, but some snowmobiles were very fast. We stayed in a combination of bunkrooms and private

(Continued on page 7)

Maine 100-Mile Wilderness (cont.)

(Continued from page 6)

cabins – determined by their availability.

This remote 100-Mile Wilderness is a Dark Sky Park, and the nightly swath of the Milky Way was spectacular. The last day of skiing took us to the Winter Parking Lot and the car – our duffel bags were waiting.



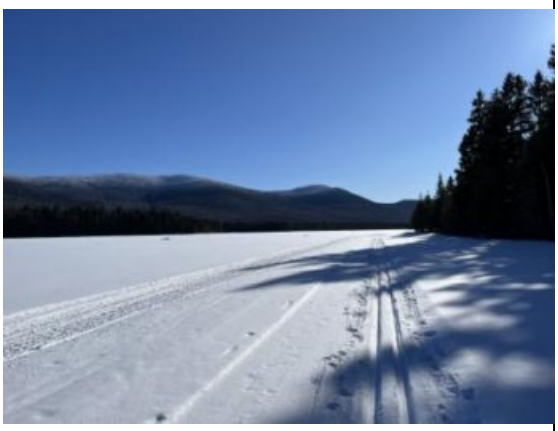
Summary—Snow was good and well groomed. Huts were cozy with wood heat and sometimes gas lights. Only two of the Huts reachable by car in the winter. Staff were helpful. Food was good, especially at West Branch Pond Camp where about 20 people ate in the cozy kitchen. Skies were spectacular. Other skiers and snow shoers were good company.



Resources:

https://www.outdoors.org/resources/itineraries/lodge-lodge-skiing-medawisla-lyford-gorman/

https://westbranchpondcamps.com/



https://easternslopes.com/2012/11/01/greenville-maine-and-the-100-mile-wilderness-finding-snow-in-the-winter-that-wasnt/

https://www.mainetrailfinder.com/trails/trail/gulf-hagas

Interactive map: https://trailhub.org/ts/WK8ShhCpt4qo8nze9gMa

100-Mile Wilderness Map: https://amcstore.outdoors.org/search?q=100+mile $9.95

[NOTE: PNSC is running a Maine 100-Mile Woods Hut-to-Hut trip in 2027. Only 4 slots available. see here.]



Potomac Nordic Ski Club (PNSC) XC-Ski Schedule 2026-27

Date	Place	Coordinator
Saturday Nov 7	PNSC Ski Fair, PATC HQ, Vienna, VA	Steve Jarvis, Dick Simmons
Friday Nov 13 – Sunday Nov 15	White Grass Work Trip, Canaan Valley	Stacey DiMaria
Friday Jan 1– Sunday Jan 3	Available	Needs Trip Coordinator
Friday Jan 8	Day Trip to New Germany State Park, MD (cancels if no snow)	Dave Jordahl
Sunday Jan 10	Alternate date – Day Trip New Germany State Park, MD (cancels if no snow)	Dave Jordahl
Friday Jan 15 — Sunday Jan 17	Laurel Highlands, Somerset, PA #1 (cancels if no snow)	Greg Westernik
Friday Jan 22—Sunday Jan 24	Blackwater Falls State Park Lodge (cancels if no snow)	Steve Jarvis
Friday Jan 29—Sunday Jan 31	Available	Needs Trip Coordinator
Friday Feb 5 — Sunday Feb 7	Available	Needs Trip Coordinator
Monday Feb 8 —Sunday Feb 14	Garnet Hill, NY (Adirondacks) Rental House (no cancellation)	Ralph Heimlich
Friday Feb 12 — Sunday Feb 14	Available	Needs Trip Coordinator
Friday Feb 19 — Sunday Feb 21	Laurel Highlands, Somerset, PA #2 (cancels if no snow)	Greg Westernik
Monday Feb 22 — Sunday Feb 28	AMC 100-mile wilderness hut-to-hut, ME (no cancellation)	Ralph Heimlich
Friday Feb 26 — Sunday Feb 28	Herrington Manor State Park, MD (cancels if no snow)	Dave Jordahl
Friday Mar 5 — Sunday Mar 7	Blackwater Falls State Park Lodge (cancels if no snow)	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 7, 2026. 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 13-15, 2026 (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

(Continued on page 9)

Ski Schedule (cont.)

(Continued from page 8)
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 layers, your own breakfasts. We usually eat out in Davis for dinners.
Coordinator—Stacey DiMaria 301-908-7115 or staceydim@gmail.com

Dates—Jan 8, 2027 (Friday—DAY TRIP ONLY) New Germany State Park
Description—Ski on the groomed trails at New Germany State Park. Maryland State Park pass required or pay day-use entrance fee. Carpool meeting location at the Myersville Park & Ride located just south of I-70 at the Myersville exit. About a two hour drive to the park from Myersville. Trip will cancel for inadequate snow (or no) snow conditions.
Trip Coordinator—Dave Jordahl (westpatc@hotmail.com); 301-491-1356
Alternative date if needed will be **January 10, 2026 (Sunday)**

Dates—Jan 15-17, 2027 (Fri-Sun, 2 nights) Laurel Highlands PA Area XC Ski Weekend #1(Cancels if no snow) .
Lodging—Red Roof Inn on Waterworks Road in Somerset PA.
Description—Join fellow Nordic skiers gliding at usual and less traveled favorites in the Highlands of SW PA (e.g., Laurel Mountain, 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 inn if interested. Chill out at local Somerset Fire and Ice 2027 Festival activities.
Coordinator POC—Greg Westernik, 571-552-7307, gmwester@gmail.com .
Cost—$115/applicant assuming double occupancy .This lodging fee cost for double occupancy includes 2 full beds per room.

Dates—Jan 22 - 24, 2027 (Friday to Sunday, 2 nights) Blackwater Falls State Park Lodge, WV (cancels if no snow)
Lodging—Blackwater Falls State Park Lodge, Davis, WV.
Description—Join fellow Nordic skiers at Whitegrass Cross-Country Ski Area and Blackwater Falls State Park for a fun weekend. 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, 703-282-6752.
Cost—Approximately $175 per room per night, which includes 2 beds in the room. Participants must coordinate with trip coordinator before making room reservations. Once screened by coordinator, 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. Trip cost is $25 paid to Potomac Nordic Ski Club.

Dates—Feb 8-14, 2027 (Mon-Sun, 6 nights) North Creek/Garnet Hill Ski Trip; NO cancellation.
Lodging—Rental House in Garnet Hill see **https://www.vrbo.com/9127803ha?dateless=true**
Description—Ski Garnet Hill Ski area, North Creek Ski area, Great Lodge Santonini (Newcomb), Siamese Ponds Wilderness trails and others. Easy access to Gore Mountain for Alpine skiing. Includes dinners, does not include ski area passes.
Coordinator—Ralph Heimlich at heimlichfamily@comcast.net
Cost—$365 per person, lodging and dinners, based on 11 people.

Dates—Feb. 19-21, 2027 (Fri-Sun, 2 nights) Laurel Highlands PA Area XC Ski Weekend #2 (Cancels if no snow) .
Lodging—Red Roof Inn on Waterworks Road in Somerset PA.
Description—Join fellow Nordic skiers during this February weekend gliding at usual and less traveled favorites in the Highlands of SW PA (e.g., Laurel Mountain, 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 Inn if interested.
Coordinator POC—Greg Westernik, 571-552-7307, gmwester@gmail.com
Cost—$115/applicant assuming double occupancy. This lodging fee cost for double occupancy includes 2 full beds per room.

Dates—Feb 22-Mar 1, 2027 (Mon-Mon) Maine Hut-to-Hut Skiing in the 100-Mile Wilderness (NO Cancellation)
Lodging—AMC Huts, West Branch Pond Cabin, and motels on the drive to and from skiing. Limited to 5 participants.
Description—Ski hut-to-hut in Maine's 100-mile Wilderness. Skiers will carry a small day pack and backcountry ski 8-10 miles per day. We will have a two-day layover at the AMC Chair Back Lodge to explore the Gulf Hagas, Maine's Grand Canyon. We will drive in at least 2 cars, stopping overnight at motels in Pittsfield, ME on the way, and Hartford, CT on the way home because of the long drive time. I will carefully screen skiers for ability to keep up with the group on this trip.
Coordinator—Ralph Heimlich at heimlichfamily@comcast.net
Cost—Approximately $1200 per person for 9 nights (2 nights traveling and 7 nights skiing) includes meals while skiing and gear shuttle from hut to hut. Does NOT include meals while traveling and your share of gas and tolls driving in shared vehicles.

(Continued on page 10)

Ski Schedule (cont.)

Dates—Feb 26-28, 2027 (Fri – Sun, two nights) Western Maryland (CANCELS if no snow)
Lodging—Oak-Mar Hotel; Oakland, MD; 208 North 3rd Street; Oakland, MD (oakmarmoteloakland.us)
Description—Ski options in far western Maryland include nearby Herrington Manor State Park for Saturday and New Germany State Park after check-out on Sunday. Participants will make their own reservations and have the option to share a room or reserve a room on their own.
Trip Coordinator—Dave Jordahl (westpatc@hotmail.com); 301-491-1356
Cost—Approximately $150 per room per night, two beds per room. Participants should coordinate with trip coordinator before making room reservations. Booking through intermediary sites such as Priceline may offer better rates. Cancellations need to be made 48 hours in advance. $25 administrative fee to be paid to the Potomac Nordic Ski Club due at signing. Trip will cancel for lack of snow and the $25 administrative fee will be refunded.

Dates—March 5-7, 2027 (Fri – Sun, two nights) Canaan Valley, Blackwater Falls State Park (CANCELS if no snow)
Lodging: Blackwater Falls State Park Lodge; Davis, WV
Description—Close out the 2027 ski season with fellow Nordic skiers at White Grass Ski Touring Center (http://www.whitegrass.com) and Blackwater Falls State Park trails. Participants will make their own reservations and have the option to share a room or reserve a room for themselves. Blackwater Falls Lodge reservations can be made through https://wvstateparks.com/park/blackwater-falls-state-park/
Trip Coordinator—Dave Jordahl (westpatc@hotmail.com); 301-491-1356
Cost—Approximately $175 per room per night, two beds per room. Check with the lodge directly for exact price. Participants should coordinate with trip coordinator before making room reservations. Cancellations need to be made 48 hours in advance. $25 administrative fee to be paid to the Potomac Nordic Ski Club due at signing. Trip will cancel for lack of snow and the $25 administrative fee will be refunded.

Savage Highlands State Park, Maryland, Opens





Savage Highlands is located about ten miles west of Frostburg, MD, near the Alleghany Front and Eastern Continental Divide in Garrett County. At 2,500 feet in elevation on Big Savage Mountain, the park and the surrounding Mt. Aetna Tract of Savage River Forest allows for about 8 miles of trails for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.

Purchased in September 2024, the park's accommodations include the Highlands Lodge (not yet open for stays), yurts, and cabins. Amenities include public wifi,restrooms, a large indoor wood-burning fireplace and indoor and outdoor seating.



The park will be operated as a unit of the New Germany State Park. Their 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. Purchase of the park expands public overnight opportunities in Western Maryland where campsites and park lodging are often at capacity by converting an existing lodge-and-cabin property into a user-friendly state park rather than building from scratch. Yurts are open for lodging now and cabins will soon follow. Stays in the lodge itself are in the future.

"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://dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/western/savagehighlands.aspx

Winter Forecast (cont.)



(Continued from page 3)
depending on that one lever.

Mid-Atlantic is where the strong-El-Niño track record is most encouraging for skiers and riders—Even in the blow-torch-warm 2015–16 winter, a major blizzard buried Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, and DC under feet of snow, proof that these strong El Niños still open narrow, high-impact windows even when the overall pattern is mild. The East Coast tends to see plenty of precipitation and a parade of nor'easters riding up the coast in these years.

2009–10 took it further—That El Niño ran historically cold across the central states and Southeast and delivered back-to-back-to-back major storms to the Mid-Atlantic (Maryland, southern Pennsylvania, New Jersey, northern Virginia, West Virginia, DC, and Delaware) one of the snowiest winters the region has seen. Two of the strongest recent El Niños both hammered the Mid-Atlantic. That's worth circling on the calendar.

The cold, if it comes, is most likely to favor the southern Plains, Deep South, lower Midwest, Mid-Atlantic, and Southeast rather than the far northern tier—Places like Maine and Washington State could even lean mild.

More than El Niño—The PNA out West decides whether the northern jet can be nudged south. And up in the Arctic, the Arctic Oscillation (AO) matters enormously: a mostly negative AO drags cold air into the US regardless of El Niño or La Niña, while a mostly positive AO keeps the truly Arctic air locked away no matter what else is happening.



Bottom line for the mountains—A record El Niño loads the dice toward a wetter West overall and a live Mid-Atlantic snow threat, with real warm-winter risk on the northern tier. The finer details, how cold, and where, hinge on the PNA and AO, and those are the pieces to be tracking through fall and into winter.

Come Work Out on White Grass Trails...It's FUN!

by Stacey DiMaria

The White Grass Work Trip is scheduled for November 13-15. We always have a lot of fun clearing trails, repairing the many pallet bridges that you'd never even know were there and enjoying the food and friendship of White Grass. You may actually get to ski the snow farm! It feels good to help and Chip is always very appreciative.



Out clipping brush from the trail



The whole work gang at the maintenance shed

Info on Groups.io Listserv

The PNSC group is reachable at the address https://groups.io/g/PNSC. 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 occasionally gives users trouble 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 January 1st through December 31st 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 out website at https://pnski.org/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 "Potomac Nordic Ski Club" to:

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

	Membership Term (Note: Dues are going up January 1, 2027 so join now at reduced rates see p. 5)		
Membership Category	**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**