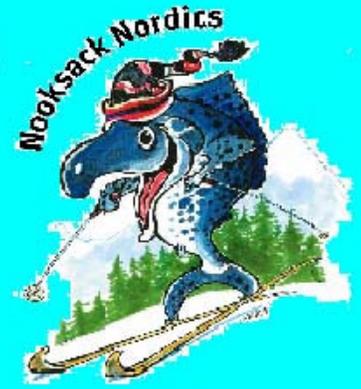


Snow News IS Good News

Newsletter of the Nooksack Nordic Ski Club

P.O. Box 28793, Bellingham, WA 98228
Website: www.Nooksacknordicskiclub.org



President

Ed Halasz 647-3560

Vice President

Vacant

Secretary

Jim Rhodes 734-8246

Treasurer

Mel Davidson 734-8782

Trips Scheduler

Vacant

Salmon Ridge Coordinators

Kurt Duey 820-4174

Gail Garman 371-3554

Ed Halasz 647-3560

Membership

Gail & Marty Haines
676-1344

Publicity

Don Hicks 733-4815

Newsletter Editor

Vacant

New Member Coordinator

Richard Cochinos
671-4502

Hospitality Chair

Sharon Robinson
647-8606

Webmaster

Susan McClung
675-9351

Day Trip Coordinator

Don Hicks 733-4815

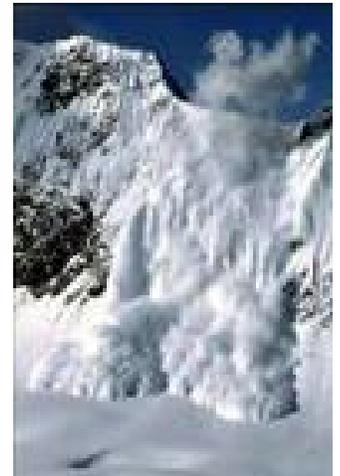
Program Coordinator

Kathleen Grimby
856-5622

March 2009



**NNSC Club Meeting
March 5, 2009**



Chris Gerston
from
Backcountry Essentials
Will do a presentation on
Avalanches

Club Meeting and Potluck

When - Thursday, March 5th, 7 - 9 pm
New member orientation is at 6:30; meeting starts at 7:00.

Who - Anyone interested in Nordic Skiing is welcome!

Where - ReStore, 2309 Meridian St., on the corner of Broadway and Meridian in Bellingham. The meeting room is on the second floor. To enter, park in the lot behind the building and walk up the outdoor staircase.

What Should I Bring? – In the interest of being green at the ReStore, bring utensils that you take home and wash. Real plates are available to put your food on and then wash in the dishwasher at ReStore. Bring food to share.

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Message from President Ed Halasz



As another season draws to a close, we should reflect on the successes we have had this year as a club:

- Providing a great cross country ski complex for skiers in Whatcom County and beyond
- A network of snowshoe trails so as to better serve the visitors to our multi-use Sno-park and take pressure of our groomed ski trails
- Trips opportunities for our members (although there could be more!)
- Interesting, informative meeting presentations
- Increasing membership #'s (despite the recession!)
- Last but not least, opportunities for great
- I want to thank the MANY volunteers who have worked together to make this another successful season!

Looking ahead, we can only continue to be a great, vibrant club with the support of you, the members. We will need volunteers this fall to help with trail brushing. We also need help with both our newsletter and future ski trip organization. I am CERTAIN you will all answer the call!

Ed, 'the Prez'

Your Volunteer Time Needed



The club is run and maintained by volunteers. You and your closest friends are needed to fill several positions:

- Publicity Chair
- Newsletter Editor
- Trips Scheduler

Call or email Ed Halasz to volunteer either your self or one or more of those friends.

Annual Business Meeting



The annual business meeting was held Jan. 8, 2009. Alice Litton chaired the nominating committee. The slate proposed by the nominating committee was:

Don Hicks agreed to serve a second term.

Joan Dudley agreed to join the board for a two year term.

There were no additional nominations from the floor. It was moved and seconded that the nominees be accepted as board members. Passed unanimously.

Continuing board members

Ed Halasz and Barbara

Davidson elected 2007

Norm Miller and Kathleen

Grimbly elected 2008

Marj Leone and Jim Rhodes

elected 2006 and again 2008

Board members can serve for up to two each two year terms consecutively.

Mel Davidson reported that the treasury is almost exactly where it was last year at this time.

Day Trips



Contact Don Hicks at 733-4815 if you would like to carpool and ski with companions for a day outing. Destination and transport decided by participants that Don gets together.

There is potential for good day trips in the area at Salmon Ridge, Hollyburn and perhaps Manning Park and Snoqualmie Pass.

So, decide to get out, call some friends, call Don, and go see what's happening in the area.

Ski Clinic Report

By Marj Leone & Don Hicks



On Saturday, February 21st, Todd Eastman generously donated his time and considerable skills as a Nordic ski instructor during a two hour NNSC sponsored ski clinic at Salmon Ridge. The skies were blue, the snow was icy and twenty people showed up to improve their Nordic skiing. The first half of the class took place on multiple practice lanes that had been groomed and tracked into the area adjacent to the parking lot. After learning, or being reminded of, various components of Nordic technique, the class moved to Razorhorne to put it all together on the real trail. People of all abilities agreed that the clinic was very helpful.

Instructor Kathleen Grimbly conducted an afternoon session for beginners and first time skiers that was attended by spontaneous enthusiastic participants from the parking lot. A great outreach session to the community and recruiting for the NNSC.

Big Tree Meets Logger



By Joan Dudley

Kerry Thalhofer, from *Ecolog*, removed the big log across Hanagan Pass Rd. (and left it off to the sides) so the groomer can get in and groom the trail. He X-C skied in with a 50 pound chainsaw on his back! He noted that there were rocks on the trail. Kerry did this at no charge and deserves a big THANK YOU.

Salmon Ridge Update



The Washington State Parks Sno-Park Program has issued NNSC 200 weatherproof, 8x 11 1/2", black and white maps of the Salmon Ridge trails complex. These maps are available at club meetings and at the Glacier Ski Shop. They are also being handed out at REI when Sno-Park permits are sold. They do not include the new snowshoe trails. Look for updated maps next season, or go online to our website for the almost current, multicolored version. As of this writing, the snowshoe connector from the parking lot to the river trail is not depicted in the map available online. However, this very scenic and easy trail starts just to the left of the gate at Razorhorne Road entrance to the X-C trail.

Comments about the quality of grooming should be emailed to Gail Garmin as soon as you return from Salmon Ridge so she can pass them on to the state in a timely manner. The Sno-Park people, who fund the grooming, are based in Olympia and may go all winter without seeing the grooming at Salmon Ridge, so they are dependent on us to report either praise or report shortcomings.

On Feb 14, Kurt Duey was contacted by a forest service law enforcement officer. He stated that the signs restricting dogs from the trails had to come down because there was no law or code preventing their exclusion from the trails. He suggested that the club look into ways to get legal permission to do so, either with the forest service or Washington state

code. Since he could not enforce a no dog rule, he did not want any signage up that is anything more than an informational request to users. While the signs that he objected to states, "no pets, please!", the dog in the diagonally slashed red circle, apparently is causing dog owners to complain to the officers about exclusion of their pets from our ski trails.

Moonlight Ski



This is an annual event, typically enjoyed by all

- March 7
- Meet at Sunset for carpooling at 5 or at Salmon Ridge at 6
- Just a few days before the full moon, the moon will be high in the sky at 10 PM, promising an evening of fellowship and skiing under the moon
- This is a potluck. Bring food, your own eating utensils, firewood or fire building skills if you have either, and whatever else you want to stay comfortable for the evening.
- Yes, we know, the date overlaps with a couple other trips. The moon rise and fall times a week later are not very conducive to skiing reasonable hours. With concern for the other outings as well, we chose the weekend that makes it a fun event as opposed to a dark and dreary night.

China Ridge Trip Report

By Kurt Duey



On Feb 18 – 20 China Ridge had a 1' base. The temp. was 17 to 34 degrees. Clear skies with little to no wind. Trails were groomed while I was there, in excellent condition. This was my first time at this 30 kilometer trail system. It is about 3.5 to 4 hours from Bellingham, located about 8 kilometers above Princeton B.C. at 1000 to 1400 meters. I enjoyed the skiing. I never met more than 5 other skiers on any of the three days I was there. Dogs and snowshoes on designated trails only, though I didn't see either there. I met the local club members on the trails and they urged me to stay at their outer cabin. I spent Thursday night at the backcountry cabin, owned by the China Ridge Cross-country Skiing Assoc. No one had been there for some time. I set out mousetraps but caught nothing, which is always a good sign. The cabin was stocked with water, firewood, pots and pans, emergency supplies and the kind of solitude that we seldom experience these days. This cabin is not marked on the trail junction maps so as to minimize vandalism. If you want to use it contact the local club. I spent other two nights staying at the Riverside Motel, which has cabins built in the 30's, for \$50CAN/ night. They had cooking facilities and a refrigerator and television. This would make an excellent club trip. If anyone wants to go, contact me.

Hannegan Road Annual Trip Report

By Hattie and Cora



This has become an annual trip, but Cora's first to Hannegan. Cora was new to the family last winter and had to stay home while Hattie got a trip out alone. We arrived at Hannegan Rd mid-morning on Friday Feb 13 under broken clouds and intermittent sun. Us golden retrievers like to sniff and look around, and therefore prefer our humans to snow shoe instead of ski. Due to the hard snow, we didn't spend much time in the parking lot. Dad just shoved his snow shoes and Hattie's boots in his pack, and off we went.

We explored several side trails made by skiers and snowshoers alike that went off a couple different times away from the river to creek sides with small meadows, wide banks, and streams to sloppily walk in. Down just past the Nooksack Cirque intersection a bit, we wandered off down a side logging spur road and out onto the river bank for a nice romp



As we approached the Goat Mt. trailhead, the road kept getting icier, so we stopped in a nice,

sunny spot and had dog treats for lunch. Dad wouldn't share his bananas.

Being it was Friday, there were not too many other dogs or humans out, but everybody was very nice and considerate of others.

What a day, with views, sun, lot of good sniffing, and swimming to boot. We don't type too well, so dictated this prior to falling asleep after a great (and legal) dog snow hike.

Callaghan/Whistler Trip Report

By Susan McClung



February 12 -16 Jerry and I spent happily skiing at Callaghan Country and the adjacent Whistler Olympic Nordic ski trails. These two offer excellently groomed trails on powder snow (over 90 K combined), tremendous scenery, a fine value, and two really different atmospheres.

It is a very scenic 40 minute drive to the two ski areas from Brackendale, north of Squamish where we stayed for 3 of the 4 nights at the Meadowbrook B & B. Our last night we stayed at the Brew Creek Lodge, 15 minutes from the ski areas.

The snow was lovely powder. There was 3 feet of snow on the ground, with more at higher elevations.

We bought a book of 10 tickets, which are good for the entire season. This lowered the cost quite a bit. The tickets can be bought at either Callaghan or Whistler and are the same price. It is literally skiing two areas for the price of one.

Callaghan's trails are all recreational. There is a recreational trail connecting Callaghan to Whistler, which takes just a few minutes to ski. Whistler's trails are divided among recreational, and competition level. You can ski on all trails. We skied a little bit on a trail above the stadium, on the biathlon course, and of course on the recreational trails. We even skied on the "Pooched Loops" the only trails open to skiers with dogs. We did discover "Easier" and "More Difficult" do not necessarily mean the same thing everywhere. Some of the trails have some pretty steep hills on them. Among our favorite trails "Top of the World" and "Norwegian Woods." And then there was Mountain View, and Maddingly Creek Loop, and well you get the idea.



On another visit we want to ski the 8 miles to Callaghan's back country lodge. Day skiers can have lunch at the restaurant there, but have to buy vouchers at the base camp lodge.

Overnight lodging is available there. To Jerry and me it seems

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quite expensive and something to be saved for a special occasion.

We did not try out any of the groomed snow shoe trails both areas offer.

We did take one of the tours, to the top of the tallest Olympic Ski jump. We rode the lift both ways, though we could have gone on a snowshoe tour after the ski jump, and walked back down to the lodge.

We thought the Callaghan side, as I called it, has the quietest atmosphere. The lodge is very simple, but adequate. The "facilities" are across from the lodge. The parking area is much smaller, and access to the trails is immediate. Since the Whistler side was built for the Olympic Games in February of 2010, the lodge is far more elaborate, has a ski shop, a restaurant, a huge amount of parking, and is a little further from the recreational trails.

Upcoming Trips



Kurt Duey has a trip to Whistler Olympic Park scheduled for Mar 5 - 7. He has reserved a room at D's B&B in Garibaldi Highlands.B.C. It contains two

bunkbeds, at \$103CAN/night. Excellent grooming. Call or email Kurt.

Susan McClung is planning 1 day less over the same weekend to [Whistler Olympic Nordic Center](#) and [Callaghan Country trails](#). One trail pass makes it possible to ski both areas. Skiing costs:Day rate \$20 (about \$16 US) Adult, \$12 CDN Youth13-18, \$10 CDN, Children 6-12, \$40 CDN Family (2 adults and dependent family living in same household. The Night rate (begins at 3 PM) is half price. Book of 10: \$160 CDN (about \$127 US). It gets even better: if there are 10 or more of us, we get a 20% discount on a book of 10, or about \$13 US per day pass.

Lodging is at The Meadowbrook B & B. There are 4 bedrooms, 2 with twin beds. 2 of the 4 have private baths. There is a full breakfast included. Each room has a small refrigerator. There are 3 restaurants within really easy walking distance. (about 2 minutes) Since we will be staying two nights, the price is \$120 CDN (about \$97US) per room.

D's B & B, where Kurt has lodging booked, is nearby. Daniela has available a 2-bedroom suite,each room with its own bath, and sleeping up to 3, \$99 CDN (about \$80 US) and the room with the bunk beds. Each of the lodgings has a hot tub.

See the NNSC web site for more detailed information.

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