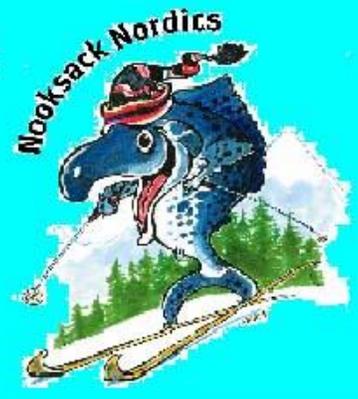


Snow News IS Good News



Newsletter of the Nooksack Nordic Ski Club

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

November 2011

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Jeff Rhodes 509-312-9846
- Vice President**
Vacant
- Secretary**
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- Treasurer**
Norm Miller 756-0170
- Board Members**
Dick Etter 734-3555
Elizabeth Martindale
393-4732
Jim Rhodes 734-8246
- Trips Coordinator**
Kurt Duey 820-4174
- Salmon Ridge Coordinators**
Kurt Duey 820-4174
Gail Garman 371-3554
Ed Halasz 647-3560
- Membership**
Jim Rhodes 734-8246
- Publicity**
Vacant
- Newsletter Editor**
Lynn Alderson 223-5859
- New Member Coordinator**
Richard Cochinos
671-4502
- Hospitality Chair**
Sharon Robinson
647-8606
- Webmaster**
Jackson Thomas 661-3095
- Day Trip Coordinator**
Don Hicks 733-4815
- Program Coordinator**
Joan Dudley 223-0225



Club Meeting

When – Thursday, November 3

New member orientation is at 6:30;
Meeting starts at 7:00.

Who - Anyone is welcome!

Where – ReStore Sustainable Living Center classroom, 2309 Meridian, Bellingham, WA. Enter from the alley behind the building, then up the stairs to the second floor.

Visit Our Website for the Latest Information: www.nooksacknordicskiclub.org

SALMON RIDGE WORK

A lot has been happening up at Salmon Ridge. Given a limited time to spend the remaining NRTP grant funds, we got permission to finally tackle the boggy parts of the Cougar Loop, located near each end of the Bagley Creek bridge.

So in August, Keats Garman and I helped Otis Allen, USFS, to flag, stake out and list numerous spots in bad need of culverts and drainage ditches. We also identified trees, stumps and boulders impinging on the trail that needed removed, laid out better turn-arounds for the groomer, and asked to get rid of the tank trap on the east side. It took a contractor with lots of heavy construction equipment and 4 loads of rock to do all the work, but now we have a much improved trail. It's wider and drier, instead of pooling water, so finally, with some good snow, Roy will be able to groom all the way to the bridge on both sides!

In addition, we've had 2 brush parties working on the trails (check out Kudos Corner), and the Razor Hone Road system and White Salmon Road will be mowed starting the last week of October. So it looks like it's going to be a great year for skiing and snow shoeing at Salmon Ridge with La Nina working her magic to bring us cool temperatures and moisture. I interpret that to mean snow!!!

Gail Garmen

KUDOS CORNER

Here's a big thank you to those who joined the brushing parties and worked on the Salmon Ridge trails! Lynn Alderson, Jackie Cochinos, Marj Leone, and Alan Richardson all joined Gail Garman to clean culverts and catch basins on Blueberry Bounce, followed by removing limbs from trees on the Cougar loop in to the west end of the Bagley Creek bridge. Jim Rhodes led another team including: Diane Sarich, John Sarich, Elizabeth Martindale and Robin Rhodes. They removed limbs on Anderson Creek, did culvert work on Razorhone and worked on Elk's snowshoe trail and Mom's trail.

Gail Garmen



RENDVOUS

Great hut mates make for an even better backcountry experience. The first installment on my two trip week of skiing, is to the Methow Valley to ski the Rendezvous Trail System. The NNSC trip to Gardner Hut included Debra Dempsey, Cindy Hassell, Amiee Frazier, Jeremy Brown and

myself, Kurt Duey. Our equipment was hauled in by snow-mobile and one picture shows us ready to start up the trail to Rendezvous Pass. We took a long gradual uphill to the pass and went a short distance from there to Gardner Hut, where our gear had already been delivered.

The next day found five inches of new snow. When everyone else went off on another group ski, I lay about the cabin, reading and enjoying the solitude. I left around 1100 to ski to Fawn Shelter, about 11 kilometers from Gardner Hut. Most of the trails in this mountainous terrain is either up or down. Last year's trip here had found icy snow. This year the five inches of new snow made for much better skiing. I easily reached Fawn Shelter, which I failed to do last year.

On the way back I came upon a flock of Clark's Nuthatches foraging an area of ground that a squirrel was trying to keep to itself. The squirrel was smaller than the birds, who are members of the Corvid family and related to crows. The birds would avoid the squirrel but didn't let its efforts deter them from going about the feeding station at their own pace. I timed my return to Gardner before dark, arriving as the light failed. An early full moon inspired the group to go round Cougar Loop but I was tired from my long trek to Fawn Shelter and didn't want to ski anymore that day. I was into the second day of a eight day ski adventure, tying two trips together and knew that exhaustion would find me if I didn't pace myself. I took a

photo of the rest of the members going off on their moonlight ski. When they returned, they were in high spirits. It had been a clear night with a full moon to illuminate the snow-covered landscape. I would be sorry I hadn't gone, as the next two nights hosted clouds which decreased the light and no one went skiing.



Skiing at Rendezvous

Jeremy Brown prepared two of the suppers and boy can that guy cook! He definitely gets a gold star as a first class hut mate from me and he doesn't snore. What's not to like? As for the three ladies, they seemed to be seriously blissed out, even with large predators in the area.

The next day I skied Cougar Loop with the other members and a pair of cougars crossed the trail between the party. We had spread out and Debbie Dempsey was out front. The cat tracks covered her ski tracks. No cougar were sighted but I certainly kept a close eye on the uphill scenery while skiing! I also skied over to the

Rendezvous Hut, which is nearby. It is similar to Gardner but I preferred the one we were staying in, with an over the top outhouse. Two toilets and a urinal! Very curious, but new and certainly more than adequate. Our last day there we skied out with some taking the route the freight is hauled up by. I took the longer route, enjoying the scenery and the snow, not falling down once on the trip. I can't speak for the group but I would certainly be interested in this trip next year.

Kurt Duey

SKIING IN A NATIONAL PARK – AT SALMON RIDGE?

When we ski at Salmon Ridge, we are enjoying one of the greatest natural areas around. With the Nooksack River flowing by and the mountains surrounding us, it is always a beautiful ski trail. It is truly a unique area, and is in fact so unique that it is now being considered for National Park status.

The American Alps Legacy Project has been working to expand the boundaries of the North Cascades National Park. Last January, they gave a presentation to our club on their proposal. At that time, however, their proposal did not include the Salmon Ridge and White Salmon areas and was supported by the club. Since that time, their proposal has changed to include these areas in the "Nooksack Headwaters" part of the park expansion. Details of their

current proposal can be found on <http://www.americanalps.org/>

For us skiers, is this good or bad? That's a question we all have, and it is not a simple, obvious answer. We did some research on Nordic ski areas in National Parks, and Jeff Rhodes, Gail Garman and I had a meeting with the superintendent of the North Cascades National Park to discuss some of our concerns.

So first the good news. Nordic skiing is a very common activity in National Parks, and many National Parks have groomed cross-

country ski trails. This area would not be designated as a wilderness area, so we would still be allowed to use all of our grooming and maintenance equipment. There would be no separate entry fee to enter or use the National Park, and the Washington State Snow Park system could still be used.

On the other hand, NNSC has worked for many years with the Forest Service and the Forest Service has helped us in many ways, including with grants for trail expansion and maintenance. And the Anderson Creek trail would still remain in the National Forest, so the NNSC would now have to work with two different federal agencies.

There are also many intangible things to consider, such as which agency is likely to be better funded in the future. Given the existing political situation, this may be almost impossible to predict.

We discussed these questions with the NNSC board at their September meeting. The board's emphasis is not on whether this change should take place or not. Their emphasis is to make sure that any change that does occur will not affect our use and maintenance of these trails. To this end, we have several areas of concern that need to be followed up on to make sure they do not affect our skiing. These are items such as user fees, grants, future trail expansion and fee enforcement. We are currently working with Maria Cantwell's office, which is actually writing the proposal to be introduced in the U. S. Senate. We want to make sure that our concerns are addressed beforehand and included in the language of the new law as needed.

This has been an interesting process that caught us all by surprise this summer. We obviously do not know when or even if this whole expansion will be approved by congress, but we will continue to work to make it a positive change.

John Sarich

DAY TRIP SCHEDULE

Don Hicks is our day trip Coordinator. When these events occur, please meet at the SE corner of Sunset Square parking lot near Cost Cutter and the rock wall.

Contact Don Hicks at
360-733-4815

LAST MINUTE DAY – TRIPS/CARPOOLING EMAIL LIST SERVER

Don Hicks, Day-Trip Coordinator, has configured an NNSC Email List Server hosted by GoogleGroups.com.

The primary purpose of this Email List Server is to facilitate the organization of last minute day trips and carpooling to our home trails near Mt. Baker and other local destinations such as Cypress Mountain, Stevens Pass, Manning Park, etc..

With the highly variable weather and snow conditions in the Pacific Northwest, it is often a last minute decision to go skiing in a few days. So, if you are going out and wish to invite others to join you for company and companionship or just carpooling if you have room to share or a need for a ride, you will be able to just send an email to

NooksackNordics@GoogleGroups.com. Also the list may be used to ask questions and for other discussions between all members of the list on the general subject of XC skiing.

Membership in this Email service is voluntary and restricted to NNSC members. This list is independent of and does not affect official communications from the club leaders to the entire club membership. Only members of the list can send emails to the list so you will receive no SPAM. You may easily unsubscribe from the list at any time (see the links at the bottom of every email you receive). All email addresses are kept private. Also all replies to messages are only sent to the person who sent the original message and

not to the entire group (unless you "Reply All").

If you are not already a member of the list, watch for an invitation to join the list in your email if you are a current member of NNSC. You may then accept membership in the list or decline by simply ignoring the invitation. You may join this list at any time later by sending an email to the list moderator, Don Hicks, hicks46@netzero.net.



STAKE & LOGAN LAKES & KANE VALLEY

TWO TRIPS !!

Dec. 29 - Jan. 1, 2012
(New Year's Weekend)
Coordinated by Kurt Duey

Feb. 17 - 20, 2012
(Presidents' Day Weekend)
Coordinated by Don Hicks

This high altitude ski destination has three different settings to ski in: ultra-groomed Stake Lake, semi-groomed Logan Lake, and

seldom groomed Kane Valley offering a variety of ski opportunities. We will be staying again at the luxurious Highland House B&B in Logan Lake, BC. The cost of \$248 per person includes meals with special dietary needs accommodated. There is a maximum of 10 or 11 people.

For more details go to our web site, <http://www.nooksacknordicskiclub.org/>, and select Calendar of Activities or contact Don at 360-733-4815 or hicks46@netzero.net or Kurt at 360-820 - 4174 (after Nov. 22) or Kurt.Duey@comcast.net (before and after Nov. 22).

These trip have been very popular in past years and fill very quickly. To hold a space send a check for the full amount made out to NNSC to the trip coordinator, Don Hicks, 1546 Hillsdale Rd., Bellingham, WA, 98226 or Kurt Duey, 2601 N. Park Dr., Bellingham, WA 98225.

MANNING PARK SKI TRIP

Jan. 13 – 16th, 2012
(Martin Luther King Birthday)
Coordinated by Elizabeth Martindale

Cross Country Ski Trip to Manning Park in British Columbia. Ski four days (stay three nights). Groomed trails, snowshoe trails, hot tub, sauna, steam room and swimming pool. This is always a great trip. Chalet members plan the meals for their group and we share the cost of the food. We will have three dinners and three breakfasts. Bring your own food for lunch. Alcohol is not included in the food costs.

Carpooling is preferable. We can work together setting up carpools.

The chalet has 2 double beds 8 bunks, 3 baths, full central kitchen and dining/social area. Bedding and linens supplied with BASIC dishes and cutlery, a small microwave, a coffee pot and some cooking utensils. Washing the dishes is our responsibility.

More information will be added about this trip as it becomes available. Coordinator is Elizabeth Martindale at 393-4732. emartindale@comcast.net

LAKE WENATCHEE AREA IN WASHINGTON

Feb. 3 – 6th, 2012
Coordinated by Lynn Alderson

This area offers seven different skiing locations within 16 miles of where we are staying. Accommodations are in Plain WA at Beaver Valley Lodge. Stay is for 3 nights and 4 days of skiing. Lodging is estimated to be \$230 per person.

A Sno Park Permit is required and also a Special Groomed Trails Permit sticker. Members will share the cost of the Special Permit. Meals will be planned and members will share the cost of the food. There will be three dinners and three breakfast. Bring your own food for lunch. Alcohol is not included in the food costs.

More information will be added about this trip as it becomes available. Coordinator is Lynn Alderson at 223-5859.

RENDEZVOUS IN METHOW VALLEY

Feb. 13– 16th
Coordinated by Mary Dubrow

Rustic ski-in huts on world class trail system outside of Winthrop, WA with outhouse, propane lights cook stove and oven, and a wood stove for heat. Platform beds provided. You bring your own bedding and food. Trails groomed frequently for track or skate skiing. Two-way freight haul included in cost, so we can ski in and out light. The ski trail is about 6 miles with about a 1400 foot elevation gain. The cabins are located in the pass, so each day starts with a downhill leg and ends with an uphill leg back to the cabin. We'll plan on 4 to 6 people per cabin. We have Gardner and Rendezvous huts reserved.

More information will be added about this trip as it becomes available. Stay is 3 nights with 4 days of skiing.
msdubrow@msn.com

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Monthly meetings are the first Thursdays, 7-9 PM

November 3
December 1
January 5



Nooksack Nordic Ski Club Membership Application and Sno~Park Order Form

Use this form to purchase Sno~Park permits, or to join the club or to renew your membership.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____
Street/PO Box City State Zip

PHONE 1: _____ (Home, Cell, Work) PHONE 2: _____ (H, C, W)

EMAIL 1: _____ EMAIL 2: _____

(Please check the appropriate items)

NNSC MEMBERSHIP DUES: \$30 per individual _____ \$45 per household _____

Student \$15 _____ Sno~Park permit*: \$40 _____ Total amount: _____

*Vehicle License _____

Please read this agreement carefully before signing and dating:

In signing and submitting this form, I recognize that cross-country skiing involves strenuous activities, is potentially hazardous, and involves inherent risk. I knowingly and voluntarily assume all responsibility and risk for my actions and my family's actions while cross-country skiing, during travel related to Nooksack Nordic Ski Club (NNSC) activities, and during use of facilities and equipment. This includes, but is not limited to falls, collisions, effects of weather, conditions of equipment and trails and other areas while skiing or participating in NNSC activities. I hereby for myself, my heirs, administrators, or anyone else who may bring claims on my or my family members' behalf, covenant not to sue, release and discharge the NNSC, its Board and Committee members, and all related organizations or individuals, from any and all claims of liability for death, personal injury, or property damage arising from my or my family members' participation in NNSC activities.

Name (Print please): _____

Signature: _____

Other family member(s): _____

Other signatures: _____

Date: _____

Please distribute my contact information to the membership. We omit street address from the distribution list, showing only city, phone and email address(es), (Please note, if you decline to be listed, then you won't get the list, either)

Yes _____ No _____

Please check preferred alternative for receipt of Snow News is Good News newsletter:

Email: _____ U.S. mail: _____ or NNSC website: _____

Please make checks out to: Nooksack Nordic Ski Club and mail with this form to:

Nooksack Nordic Ski Club, P.O. Box 28793, Bellingham, WA 98228