

Snow News IS Good News

Newsletter of the Nooksack Nordic Ski Club

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



Board Members

President
Pete Tryon 922-7065

Vice President
Jim Rhodes 734-8246

Secretary
Dana Downs 325-3480

Treasurer
Lynne Oliver 592-9005

Program Coordinator
Dick Etter 734-3555

Gail Garman 371-3554
Wendy Nichols 306-0306
Bill Laughlin 961-2725

Other Volunteers

**Salmon Ridge
Coordinators**
Gail Garman 371-3554
Jim Rhodes 734-8246

Membership
Jim Rhodes 734-8246

Publicity
Wendy Nichols 306-0306

Hospitality Chair
SharonHolmes 647-8606

Newsletter Editor
Lynn Alderson
509-885-6342

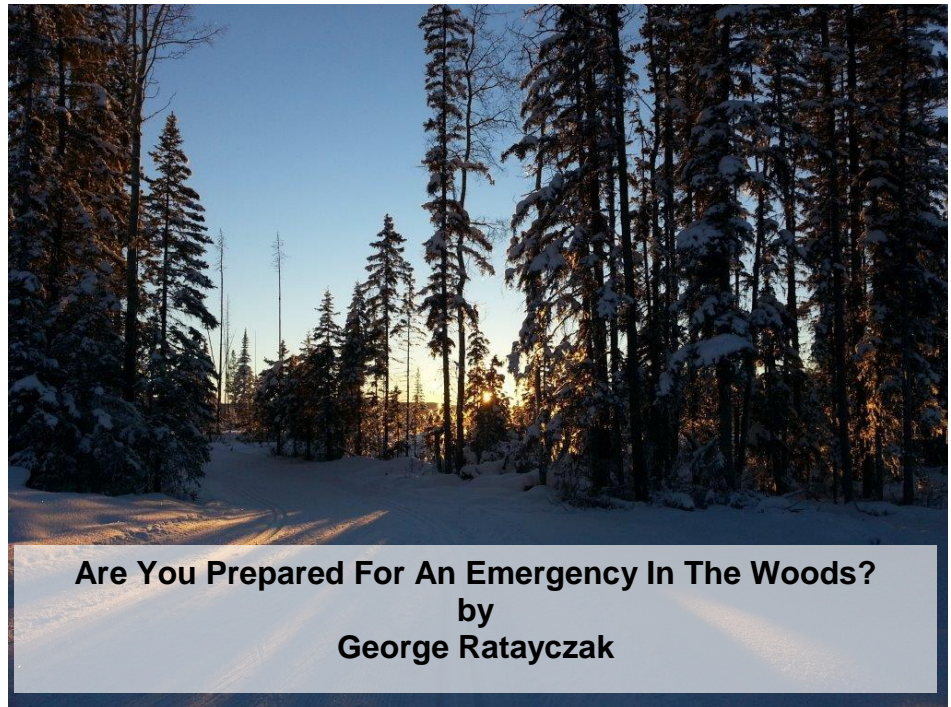
Webmaster
Pete Tryon
ski@tryonhaves.com

Trip Coordinator
Kurt Duey 820-4174

Day Trip Coordinator
Don Hicks 733-4815

Grooming Coordinators
Joe Nolting 656-6995
Peter Tryon 922-7065

February 2016



Are You Prepared For An Emergency In The Woods?
by
George Ratayczak

Club Meeting

When – Thursday, February 4th

Membership Orientation at 7:00 PM
Meeting starts at 7:30 PM.

Who - Anyone is welcome!

Where – Garden Street Methodist
Church at 1326 N. Garden St. in
Bellingham, WA

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

FOR SALE



Feeling a little out of shape for the cross-country experience? I have an extra Nordic Track ski machine that I would be happy to sell to anyone who wants to get ready to ski.

For more details contact Kurt at 360-820-4174 or kurt.duey@comcast.net.

FEBRUARY'S PRESENTATION

Our speaker for February 4th is George Ratayczak. For 12 years George was one of only 2 Emergency Rescue experts serving Whatcom County. Today he is a Deputy Sheriff. He will cover his experiences and explore what we need to do if we find a person in distress on a trail in a remote area. What emergency materials we all need to be sure to carry in our packs. What are the first things to do if a person appears to be suffering from hypothermia?

BOARD MEETING SUMMARY



The NNSC survey has had 80 responses to date, with about 1/3 from NNSC members. Responders want Razorthone groomed and about 50% are in favor of using the special

groomed sticker to obtain more frequent grooming.

Annual board elections will take place at the February general meeting. Pete, Jim and Dana have agreed to run again. One new board member is needed to fill the remaining vacancy.

The WA State Parks Recreation Commission has established a Winter Recreation Strategic Plan which calls for development of Area Plans. Gail has prepared a draft plan for Salmon Ridge. The Board has been asked to read the draft and make recommendations

As of Nov 30, the club account balance is \$11,174. Treasurer reports show funding, expenses, and balances similar to the last few years.

Ask any board member if you'd like a copy of the full minutes

Jim Rhodes

NNSC FINANCES

Last year, we published an overview of the club budget in *Snow News*. The club is in a stable position financially, and the 2015-16 budget looks much like the previous one, and the one before that. Due to lack of snow, grooming expenses were minimal in 2014-15. We're assuming more normal operation in the current budget. The table (next page) shows a comparison of actual 2014-15 results versus anticipated 2015-16 expenses and income.

The numbers look quite large. A number of line items are essentially "flow through" funds

where income eventually equals expenses. SnoPark permit revenues exactly match SnoPark permit expenses. Club trip funds go through our checking account, but expenses should equal receipts.

The club pays for Salmon Ridge trail maintenance and grooming of White Salmon and Hannegan Roads, then seeks NRTP reimbursement. We quickly adjust NRTP-funded activities on the size of biennial (every 2 years) NRTP grants. If NRTP funds are not awarded, as happened just a few years ago, then we curtail snow grooming outside the SnoPark and reduce or delay paid maintenance. The club simply cannot afford those kinds expenses out of the treasury. We juggle allocation of that NRTP funding between 2 years of budget as well.

Last year, we received a \$5,000 grant from REI that we spent on specific types of trail development expenses (shown on the 2014-15 budget as Connector Trails expense and a \$5,000 Donation).

After all of these large expenses are done, the bottom line is that the club, outside of Salmon Ridge, runs on about \$2,500 in dues. Dues pay for meeting room rentals, web site maintenance, newsletter preparation and mailing, publicity and administrative expenses. Administrative expenses are things like 501(c)3 filing, state non-profit fees, any legal expenses, post office box, postage, and anything else that comes up.

Actual membership for 2015-16 YTD is down about 20%, which the board is assuming is a

response to the ongoing low snow conditions. Membership had been stable several years prior to this.

On rare occasion, the board has approved use of club funds for work at Salmon Ridge. Survey work on the original snow shoe trails was one such expense. Another was drainage work on Razorhorne and Cougar Loop critical to life of those ski trails that USFS would not do and

also was not eligible for NRTP funding.

We are currently seeking an \$8,000 RAC grant repair the wash out on Anderson Creek Road. RAC stands for US Forest Service Resource Advisory Committee.

Jim Rhodes

CROSS COUNTRY SKIING IN BEND, OREGON

We just returned from Nordic skiing in Bend, Oregon. It snowed a LOT while we were there, and conditions were great. One word that comes to mind when thinking about skiing Bend: hills. You cannot escape them! There are basically two groomed Nordic areas near Bend: Mt. Bachelor Nordic and

Fiscal Yr 2014 Actual				Fiscal Yr 2015 Proposed	
7/1/2014 - 6/30/2015				7/1/2015 - 6/30/2016	
Income	Expenses	Category	Income	Expenses	
\$ 4,204.00		carry forward ck	\$ 0,443.87		
\$ 3,005.13		carry forward mm	\$ 2,073.77		
\$ 2,043.70		Dues	\$ 2,500.00		
\$ 10,203.03		NRTP Grants	\$ 11,727.00		rev on 10/27
\$ 1,302.48	\$ (1,300.00)	SnoPark Permits	\$ 1,450.00	(\$1,450.00)	
\$ 8.04		Interest	\$ 0.00		
\$ 5,081.00		Donations	\$ 50.00		
\$ 4,040.23	\$ (4,382.34)	Ski Trips	\$ 5,000.00	(\$5,000.00)	
	\$ (3,348.73)	Ski Trail Vol Maintenance		(\$500.00)	
	\$ -	Grooming - sno		(\$8,000.00)	
	\$ (11,047.51)	Grooming - maint		(\$2,000.00)	
	\$ -	Special Use Permits		(\$150.00)	
	\$ (20.17)	Newsletter		(\$150.00)	
	\$ (220.00)	Web Page		(\$000.00)	
	\$ (505.03)	Publicity		(\$1,000.00)	
	\$ -	Speaker Fees		\$0.00	
	\$ (120.55)	Administrative		(\$1,400.00)	
		Connector Trails exp		(\$138.00)	
	\$ -	Misc		\$0.00	
	\$ (240.00)	Room Rentals		(\$240.00)	
Totals	\$ 31,337.87		\$ 20,853.04	(\$20,028.00)	
Financial Statement Addendum:					
non-budge	\$ 3,000.00	Got Sno-park grant for 2015-10 season			
non-budge	\$ 4,748.00	Got Addit Sno-park grant for 2015-10 season			
budget	\$ -	NRTP grant request for 2015/10 -10/17 was \$20,504 There was no funding for 15-10			
	\$ 7,748.00	Total available for 2015-10 season - all non budget			
budget	NRTP Grants are written in odd years; supposed to start funding in even years (unless delayed)				
budget	\$10,000 NRTP grant (RCO#12-1025M) for 2013/14 & 2014/15 season originally was delayed to start in 2014/15 season				
	However, it funded and started for 2013/14 season. Therefore, \$8,000 was allocated for the budget for 13/14 season;				
	\$5730.07 was used in 13/14 season. The remaining was allocated to budget for 14/15 season. What wasn't used cannot be				
	\$20,504 was requested for NRTP grant for 15/10 - 10/17 seasons. Initially, Congress did not fully fund transportation bill				

Meissner Sno-Park. There's also a ton of backcountry skiing around Bend and other Sno-Parks.

Mt. Bachelor Nordic elevation is 6,350' and has a long season – generally mid-November through mid-May. We skied Bachelor in November the past two years and it has been good. There's a nice lodge with food, retail items, rentals and a wax bench. From the lodge you must ski down – which means that coming back at the end of your ski you must ski up! The daily grooming at Mt. Bachelor's 56 km of trails is good, and the online daily Nordic conditions report is very accurate including air and snow temperatures. On a clear day you will find nice views of Mt. Bachelor, Broken Top and other surrounding mountains.

<http://www.mtbachelor.com/nordic-conditions/>

Meissner Sno-Park elevation is 5,350' and is only 15 miles from Bend. There are 40km of groomed trails, with grooming on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. During the holiday weeks we were there, trails were groomed daily. Meissner is supported purely through volunteers and donations – there's a donation box at the trailhead or you can donate online. You do need an Oregon Sno-Park permit to park.

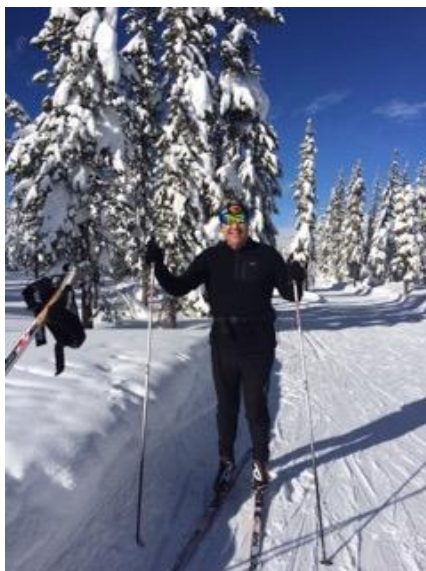
There's a new lodge with a wood stove but no food or retail. Meissner's online grooming report isn't good, but the Facebook page was updated most days.

<http://www.meissnernordic.org>

If it's windy or foggy or other adverse conditions at Bachelor, it may be sunny and nice at Meissner so it's great to have both options. We used backcountry skis at Meissner when it snowed a lot and wasn't groomed.

The closest lodging to Mt. Bachelor is Seventh Mountain Resort, or hotels in town about 20 miles away. Bend has many good restaurants, breweries, a Regal 16 theatre, museums and other activities.

Susanne Margol Holmes



Brian Holmes Skiing Mount Bachelor in Oregon

CLUB TRIP TO LOGAN LAKE DISCOVERS GREAT SNOW !

I have gone on this trip many times over the years and this trip was one of the best yet to Logan Lake. Last year some of the trails were closed due to lack of snow but not this year. Nine members went, though our ever competent and eager leader, Sharon Holmes, was unable to attend due to illness. Dick Etter

and I carpoled in my new Audi Allroad, leaving the deserted streets and roads of Whatcom County at 0800. Last night's New Year revelers were not out and about. We crossed the border at Sumas without any wait and arrived at the Blue Moose in Hope at 0930, where we met Lynne Oliver and Elizabeth Martindale. Over coffee and Scones we decided to stop at Kane Valley to check out a trail system that isn't always skiable. This time there was good groomed snow and temperatures around 17 degrees. Dick and I skied Holmes Homestead Loop. It was as beautiful and quiet as always. The 15 inches of snow was fluffy and not icy, making for an easy ski. We rejoined the ladies in the parking lot in a few hours and proceeded to the Highland House outside of Logan Lake, where we met the rest of our party; the Rhodes Family Jim and Sue, along with Jeff and Amber and their five year old daughter, Sabrina and new members Dana and Pat Downs. As usual, the hosts at the B&B, Don and Jill made sure we were well cared for, with prepared meals, hot showers and a comfy living room in which to do whatever we pleased.

The second day we all went to Stake Lake to ski the well groomed and tracked trails of the Overlander Ski Club out of Kamloops. They have a variety of terrain and trail lengths for everyone. This system has always been the best maintained in the Logan Lake area. I enjoyed skiing it with Dick Etter but the next day, Dick went back to ski Stake Lake while I went with Dana and Pat to ski the trails at Logan Lake, which I hadn't been on for a few years. Again the fluffy snow made for easy skiing. The

temperatures were between 28 and 7 degrees, so there was no icing due to refreezing. I went to the Outer Limits and back down Hellfire Road. Again there were wild horse tracks to be seen. Driving into the Highland Houses driveway, a pair of wild horses was grazing alongside the road. They weren't too wild, as they had been jumping into the corral to eat the horse feed that Jill gives to her horses. They would even graze in front of the living room picture windows. Talk about bold. The locals don't bother them, so the wild ponies will tolerate proximity to people and take advantage of whatever resources they can get.

On Monday most of our party returned to the States but four of us; Elizabeth, Lynne, Dick and I, continued on to B&B's above Vernon on the road to Silver Star Provincial Park. On the way we stopped at the Larch Hills Trail System above Salmon Arm. It was our first time there and again the snow was great, with wide groomed and tracked trails and extremely hospitable locals, who were proud to show us their trails. One member, Rinehart even acted as our guide, taking us on a pleasant loop back to their heated clubhouse. With good snow, this was a very nice addition to our trip and I hope to ski there again.

Elizabeth and Lynne stayed at one B&B, Alpine Flowers and Dick and I stayed at Deerwood Gardens. We would get together to ski and have supper in Vernon. That first day there we skied Sovereign Lakes, which is run by the Vernon Club. Its reputation for reliable snow brings Nordic skiers from far and



Lunch at Stake Lake with Elizabeth Martindale in front, Dana and Pat Downs in the back.

wide. The temperatures were higher but still below freezing, so the snow remained very forgiving to ski. It was approaching freezing the next day around noon and the snow started to stick to our skis but with maxi-glide and the falling afternoon temperatures the snow once again allowed easy gliding.

The third day Dick and I went to the top of the Silver Star Mountain on a ski lift. The only bad skiing that day was when we had to ski down to the lift on a course churned up by snowboarders and downhill-skiers. After we got to the peak, we had some trouble finding the right Nordic trail to catch Lars Taylor back to the Black Prince Cabin but eventually we did find it and proceeded through a winter wonderland of snow covered spruce and fir. After two miles of gentle downhill with turns and hills we came to the Black Prince, where we had our lunch and then skied back up to the Silver Star village where we met up with Elizabeth and Lynne and agreed on our plans for the evening. The host at their B&B recommended a place to dine, so we went out together to try another of the many restaurants in Vernon.

The previous night Dick and I went to sup at a place recommended by our hosts. It was very nice and I have to say that the Black and White Crème Brule was memorable. Hooray for Vernon with its many places to dine and stay!

The previous fall I had purchased an all-wheel drive Audi, as I was tired of not being able to get up the last mile or so of road to various ski trailheads. With snow tires this new car is a real ski machine; taking us everywhere we needed to go without any slipping or other dramatics. I haven't figured it out completely but it does not mind the ice or snow, so I am satisfied with it.

The last day of our weeklong trip we drove back, leaving Vernon at 0945 and with two breaks found ourselves back in Bellingham by 1630, six hours on good roads. It was one of the best ski trips I have had, thanks to good snow conditions and the many friendly and helpful people I met. If you have not been to Logan Lake, I would urge you to sign up for the next trip there on February 12, 13, and 14. I am the trip leader and we still have empty rooms if you are interested in a great and affordable ski trip.

Kurt Duey

LAKE WENATCHEE TRIP IS FULL



STAKE LK / LOGAN LKS AND KANE VALLEY

Feb 12 thru Feb 15, 2016

4 days of skiing staying 3 nights at a cost of \$256 USD per person including meals.

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 (<http://www.highlandhouse.ca>).

The cost of \$256 per person includes meals with special dietary needs accommodated. There is a maximum of 10 or 11 people.

For more details contact Kurt at 360-820-4174 or kurt.duey@comcast.net.

These trips have been very popular in past years and fill very quickly. You must be a member to participate in any trip. To hold a space send a check for the full amount made out to NNSC to the **trip coordinator, Kurt Duey, 2601 Park Dr., Bellingham, WA, 98225.**

NICKEL PLATE

Mar 11 thru Mar 14, 2016

Nickel Plate Nordic Centre is located in the Okanagan Valley, just 45 minutes from Penticton. It has approximately 34 miles of groomed trails for both classic and skate skiing. Additionally, there is 9 miles of marked snowshoe trails. Nickel Plate has one of the longest ski

seasons in the western hemisphere, with trails for all abilities. Elevation is 6,000 feet.

Nickel Plate has a warm and cozy 4,000 square foot day lodge with kitchen, eating and lounge areas, and separate heated washrooms and shower facilities.

Source: nickelplatenordic.org.

We will be staying in a house near Apex Ski Resort. It will be a 10 minute drive to the Nickel Plate Nordic Center. The house is called Mountain Time Chalet. It can be seen at www.airnb.com. You will have to enter Hedley, BC as the area you wish to search, and then enter a date that the house is not booked for. Entering a middle of the week date is better than weekend dates.

Mountain Time Chalet is a family friendly, spacious 3 story cabin. It is located on White Tail Road, a quiet cul-de-sac close to the village (5 minute walk). It is a short walk down the street to the ski in/ski out trail. On the first floor enjoy the combined living dining area with cozy wood burning stove. The kitchen is fully equipped with a table that seats 8. The second floor includes a loft with games area, TV, DVD, VCR, stereo, foosball, and more. Also on the second floor are two bedrooms (each with a queen bed) and a loft sleeping nook with a double bed. The third floor is a bright 400 sq. ft. with one queen bed and two double beds, this floor also has a bath. Additional features include large boot room, deck, covered BBQ area, covered wood storage, fire pit, washer and dryer, and plenty of space. Source: www.airnb.com.

Meals will be planned and

members will share the cost of the food. There will be three dinners and three breakfasts. Bring your own food for lunch. Alcohol is not included in the food costs.

Cost is \$130 USD per person for lodging, per the exchange rate as of December 23, 2015. Make checks payable to NNSC for \$130. Spaces are assigned based on payment date. Mail to 3310 Burch Mountain Road, Wenatchee, WA 98801.

Coordinator Lynn Alderson at 509-885-6342 or lalder3122@yahoo.com

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Monthly meetings are the first Thursday, 7:30 PM

March 3



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

Nooksack Nordic Ski Club Membership Application and SnoPark Order Form

Use this form to purchase SnoPark permits, join the club or renew your membership. Sign and mail to the club with your check. Or, bring it to the next meeting.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____
Street/PO Box City State Zip

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

Email 1: _____ Email 2: _____

Dues and SnoPark Information

Check Membership Level: \$30 Individual ____ \$45 Household ____ \$15 Student ____ Amount \$ _____

SnoPark Permit – Vehicle License Required for Permit: _____ \$40 SnoPark Fee \$ _____
Vehicle License

Optional Donation – we are a 501(c)3 \$ _____

Total membership + SnoPark + Optional \$ _____

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: _____

Do you wish to share your contact information with 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 _____

I would like to receive Snow News is Good News newsletter by:

Email: _____ U.S. mail: _____

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

Deposit Date
Sno Park #

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