

Snow News IS Good News

Newsletter of the Nooksack Nordic Ski Club

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



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January 2017



**GROOMING STATUS AT RAZOR HONE TRAIL
by
NNSC CLUB MEMBERS**

Club Meeting

When – Thursday, January 5th

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

Who - Anyone is welcome!

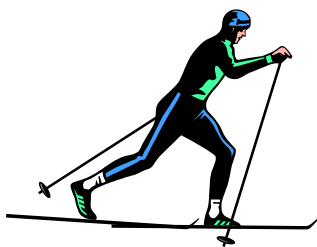
Where – Garden Street Methodist Church
at 1326 N. Garden St. in Bellingham, WA

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CHEAP SKI GEAR!

Fairhaven Bike has a "sale room" that contains a bit of remaining x-c ski gear. If it fills your needs, what's there is priced to sell. There are broken sizes of kid skis and poles, NNN bindings that require the NIS plate, some Solomon bindings, and various boots that mostly fit women or larger kids. The boots look like a mix of NNN and NNN BC.

Jim Rhodes



UP COMING MEETING

Due to the convergence of a number of unrelated circumstances, the **January 5, 2017** meeting (7:30 to 8:30 PM) will be a chance for newcomers to find out about skiing and the club, as well as a social gathering for long-time members. Discussion will take place on the grooming status at Razor Hone and upcoming ski trips. Hot drinks and a chance to socialize with fellow skiers will fill out the evening.

We hope to have volunteers present to hot wax your skis with fresh glide wax. (A modest donation to the club would be appreciated for this service.)

Pete Tyron

IS YOUR NNSC MEMBERSHIP CURRENT?

Dues are seasonal, with the 2015-16 season starting in September.

Benefits for \$30 single or \$45 per household include:

- "Snow News is Good News" Newsletter
<http://www.nooksacknordicskiclub.org/apply2.phpdelivered>
- Super trips and other activities, including some to foreign venues (Canada)
- Connecting with other skiers and snowshoers at meetings
- Joining approximately 90 other individuals or households in supporting local Nordic skiing and snowshoeing

There are several ways to submit an application, including on-line. If you'd like to use old fashioned paper and check, you can find a [membership form](#) on the NNSC web site, the last page of this newsletter, or at club meetings.

Sitting at your computer checking out the latest snow reports? While you are there, click on the NNSC web page <http://www.nooksacknordicskiclub.org> and renew your membership! From the **Membership tab**, select **Join / Renew**. Look for the link to the **Online Membership Form** and fill in all of the pertinent information.

If using the online form, you'll have an opportunity to pay by PayPal after completing the form.

Using either method, please fill out the form completely. Sign on paper or electronically. Include all of your family on household memberships. And, remember to include your license plate number if buying a Sno-Park permit.

Why not fill out a form right now while you're thinking about it? Or, come to the meeting on Thursday January 5th and pay then.

Jim Rhodes

BUY YOUR SNO-PARK PERMIT!

Don't forget to buy a Sno-Park permit! You'll need one to park at the Salmon Ridge Sno-Park, or across the highway at the Anderson Creek or Silver Fir campground, between Nov 1st to April 30th. You can purchase them through our ski club NNSC, or at REI, Back-country Essentials, or at Cross-roads Grocery in Maple Falls. Or purchase them on-line at:

<http://www.parks.wa.gov/winter/nonmotorparks/permits/> They are \$40 for a seasonal permit or \$20 for a one day permit, plus \$2 extra if you buy them through a retail store. It's really a good deal. At other commercial or club ski areas each person has to pay a trail fee each time they go. For the price of one Sno-Park permit, you can load up your vehicle with friends or family and go to over 47 Sno-Parks for the whole winter. It's really a good value for the money.

By buying a Sno-Park permit, you are supporting your community trails and ski club.



Sno-Park fees go into a dedicated fund which supports the WA State non-motorized Winter Recreation program. Proceeds are used to maintain and improve all the Sno-Park facilities throughout WA via Sno-Park grants. They pay for plowing out the Sno-Park, sanitation facilities, some of the trail grooming, signs, mapping, education, enforcement and program administration. This program is totally self sustaining. No tax payer money is used! Don't get caught without one; the fine is steep! Both the County Sheriff and the USFS do enforcement and education, so be sure to display your permit on your windshield.

When you go, we want your feedback. Please send your Nordic ski and snowshoe conditions reports to Pete Tryon at ski@tryonhayes.com so we can post them on the NNSC website to share with others. And if you see any trail obstructions, downed trees, etc... we need to know about these so we can go clear them from the trail. You can also give feedback on the condition of a Sno-Park directly to the WA State Parks and Recreation Commission, on-line at: <http://www.parks.wa.gov/FormCenter/Winter-Recreation-9/SnoPark-Onsite-Evaluation-Form-68>

Thank you for your help.

Gail Garman

COOKIES EVERY MONTH!

Think ahead! This is a chance to have hot cider and cookies in a nice warm setting with your friends every month (during the winter...) Elections for the Nooksack Nordic Ski Club Board will take place at the annual meeting on Thursday, February 2nd. We have no formal nominating committee this year and we have two empty seats on the board. This is an opportunity to promote healthy, fun, outdoor recreation in Whatcom County. Feel free to nominate yourself or your friends, although you should check with them before doing so. If you send your nominations to the club (president@nooksacknordicskiclub.org) they will be printed on the ballot. Nominations made at the Feb. 2nd meeting can be written in.

There will be a board meeting before the Feb. 2nd general membership meeting on Monday, Jan 23rd. As always, these meetings are open to any interested members – stop on by and sample the cookies and experience a board meeting. Contact the president for details and a copy of the agenda.

Pete Tryon

NOOKSACK NORDIC SKI AMBASSADORS THIS SATURDAY!

The program is growing! Come join the fun of showing off our Salmon Ridge SnoPark for five Saturdays! We will be meeting at the Razor Hone parking area

every Saturday (December 31 to January 28) from 10 to 2. We will greet all comers with cups of hot chocolate, hot cider, coffee, and cookies and offer information about the club's activities. Assuming sufficient volunteers, we will lead groups out on the trails (ski and snowshoe), provide a few mini-technique lessons, provide a few items of loaner equipment (skate skis? back-country skis?). As of this writing, the prospect of beautiful snow continues! Our groomer plans on giving us fresh tracks for every Saturday. SnoPark passes and club membership forms will be available.

Our final Saturday (January 28th) will be the big event! The rumor mill has it that REI and Yeager's will partner in providing skis and boots for prospective skiers to try out. REI will add a couple of Nordic ski instructors to whatever club volunteers show up, a table with information about winter camping, and more food and drinks!

Do you have a Saturday free? Interested in participating? Have some ideas? The more volunteers we have, the better the job that we can do and the more fun we can have. Send Pete Tryon an email at president@nooksacknordicskiclub.org (or ski@tryonhayes.com) or if nothing else, show up on Saturday and join us.

Pete Tryon



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USFS ROAD 37 TRIP REPORT



Hi, I'm Tillie and I'm the boss. I'm writing this because I'm in charge. I'm on the left in the photo. My sidekick is Harry, aka "Oaf". He's bigger than I am now, but I can still flip him over if he gets out of line.

We had a GREAT day

Dec 12th on FR-37, the road to Skyline Divide.

On the way there, Harry kept reaching over and licking Daddy's ear because road conditions were kind of slippery it seemed. I think that's why we stopped just past Glacier.

There was lots of snow, birds to watch, and brush to explore. Sometimes we ran down the tire tracks on the way out, which were kind of nice for us.

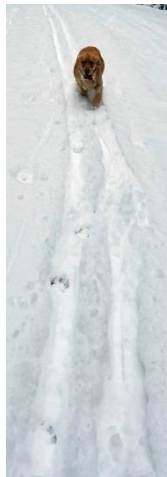
We've been to off lead dog school and as long as we refrain from chasing the local resident critters and return promptly when called, the leashes stay in the pack.

After several miles we finally got our dog cookie lunch and some fresh water. It was a pretty spot with a nice view of the rushing river.

Sometimes you could hear cars on the highway across the river, but it was really quiet on our side of the river. We saw one flatbed pickup with a nice driver

and two snow shoers with a little dog that were all really nice, too.

On the way back, we ALWAYS just use our noses and follow the tracks Daddy made on the way out. Isn't that what ski tracks are for, to provide evidence of the return route and easy travel? Here is photo, evidence of me caught in the act of destroying ski track with 4 feet. Ooops.



We're always ready for an outing. A week later we got to go down Hannegan Rd. to the Nooksack Cirque trail head and then take a whole bunch of side trips into the brush. Harry fell in a creek, but that's another story.

Jim Rhodes

EDUCATING THE PUBLIC

One of the obvious differences between our trail system and those of our Canadian friends is the constant abuse our trails receive from non-skiers who don't stay off them. I have often wondered why this happens and believe it is largely due to ignorance and the American attitude that whatever is not prohibited is permitted. "I didn't know I should stay off the ski trail" is the most common response I hear when I remind non skiers that this trail is for skiing. Our club has gone to great lengths to assure skiers a good experience. The snow conditions at our lower trails is spotty at best, so when finally a good snow cover falls, it can be frustrating to find that the other

winter recreationists gravitate to our trails like cows to a garden with no fence. No doubt a great part of this problem is the multi-use status of our trails. We cannot tell dog walkers, snowshoes or the general public that they need to stay off our trails because the legal realities dictate that we are not allowed to do so. As a result we have developed snowshoe trails and provide one trail of our four trails for dogs. Hannegan Road is a dog friendly groomed trail for skiers who wish to bring their dogs. Woof!

I also believe that the Canadians are more aware of the realities of winter sports and that their ski trails receive more attention from their ski clubs, which are almost always larger than ours. A small club such as ours cannot provide the same level of service and maintenance as a club ten times larger. As a result we will always be challenged to provide a first class ski opportunity. I would urge our members to educate the public whenever we meet them messing up the trails. Explain to them the effort that goes into maintaining a cross-country ski trail and tell them about the alternative that we have provided for them. While it may seem that the supply of non-skiers is endless, the reality is that we are the teachers and it is our responsibility to educate the public in a positive manner so that all parties can enjoy the snow.

Kurt Duey



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STAKE LK / LOGAN LKS AND KANE VALLEY

**December 30, 2016 thru Jan
2, 2017**

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 \$256 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 Sharon, 360-647-8606, or smrconsulting98229@msn.com or Kurt Duey, 360-820-4174 or kurt.duey@comcast.net.

These trips have been very popular in past years and fill up 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, Sharon Holmes, 552 Rainbow Dr., Sedro Woolley, WA 98284**

MANNING PARK

Cross Country Ski Trip to Manning Park British Columbia Martin Luther King Weekend **January 13, 2017, Friday through January 16, 2017 Monday**

Website: www.manningpark.com

Number at Lodge
1-800-330-3321

Ski four days (stay three nights): groomed trails, snowshoe trails, hot tub, sauna, steam room, swimming pool.

This is always a great trip. We stay in 1 chalet which has 2 bedrooms, 3 full bathrooms, and a central living room, kitchen, Dining/social area.

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. This trip provides a great opportunity for group camaraderie as there can be up to 5 people in each bedroom and up to 10 of us sharing meals that we prepare.

Cost per person and deposit to hold your place and pay for your trip is \$156.00 as of 10/05/2016 (This may change depending on the Canadian exchange rate at the time of the trip and the number of participants that we have.)



**Ron Sawyer at Manning Park
2016**

Payable to NNSC. This may change as the exchange rate fluctuates. It is low right now. Spaces are assigned based on payment date. Elizabeth will be at the October, November meetings to accept deposits or

they can be mailed to her (made out to NNSC) at 103 Morey Ave. Bellingham, WA 98225

Contact **Elizabeth** at emartindale@comcast.net or **360-393-4732**

Carpooling is preferable. We will work together regarding setting up carpools.

Bedding and linens are supplied with BASIC dishes and cutlery, a small microwave, coffee pot, and some cooking utensils.



Nickle Plate 2014

NICKEL PLATE

February 3 thru 6, 2017

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

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heated washrooms and shower facilities. Source: nickelplatenordic.org.

We will be staying in a house near Apex Ski Resort. It will be a 15 minute drive to the Nickel Plate Nordic Center from the house. The house is called Holy Smoke at Hedley, BC. It can be seen at www.airbnb.com. There is a map that shows its location in relation to the resort.

Holy Smoke is 2,000 sq ft and sits on a 70' x 246' flat treed lot. You can ski in / ski out, which is 30 flat meters from Stray Horse ski trail that leads straight down to the village and lifts. The cabin is non-smoking. Firewood is provided for the woodstove. There are 2 bathrooms, 5 beds, 3 sofa beds and 1 mattress on the floor. Available for our use is a TV, internet, wireless internet, and a washer and dryer.

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 \$225 USD per person for lodging. Make checks payable to NNSC for \$225. (Price may change if more than 5 people participate.)

Spaces are assigned based on payment date. Mail check to 3310 Burch Mountain Road, Wenatchee, WA 98801.

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

STAKE LK / LOGAN LKS AND KANE VALLEY Feb 17 thru Feb 19, 2017

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.**

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Monthly meetings are the first Thursday at 7:30 PM

February 2
March 2



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: _____

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 #