

# Snow News IS Good News

Newsletter of the Nooksack Nordic Ski Club

P.O. Box 28793, Bellingham, WA 98228  
Website: [www.Nooksacknordicskiclub.org](http://www.Nooksacknordicskiclub.org)



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Peter Tryon 922-7065

## February 2017



## SALMON RIDGE SNOPARK

### Club Meeting

**When** – Thursday, February 2nd

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

**Visit Our Website for the Latest Information: [www.nooksacknordicskiclub.org](http://www.nooksacknordicskiclub.org)**

## 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**



## UPCOMING GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING!

This month’s meeting (Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30) will include talk of the Nordic skiing opportunities this year, both local and overnight trips. It will also include our annual meeting and election of board members. 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.

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

**Pete Tryon**

## NOOKSACK NORDIC SKI AMBASSADORS THIS SATURDAY!

The program has been a success! At least if you measure success by non-stop chatting with new SnoPark users, helping ‘newbies’ with their bindings, selling SnoPark passes, and dispensing gallons and gallons of hot chocolate! We have been meeting at the Razor Hone parking area every Saturday (December 31 to January 28) from 10 to 2, greeting all comers with cups of hot chocolate, hot cider, coffee, and cookies and information about the club’s activities. Depending on when you are reading this newsletter, you have one more chance, this Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup>. We’ve saved the best for last! REI is helping with funding, providing more food and rental skis and boots for people to try (free to the participants). Two instructors from REI will also be present to help with some mini-lessons. Come join us if you can.

And if you missed it this year, maybe you can help us make this an annual tradition!

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](mailto:president@nooksacknordicskiclub.org) (or [ski@tryonhayes.com](mailto:ski@tryonhayes.com)) or if nothing else, show up on Saturday and join us.

**Pete Tryon**

## ANDERSON TRAIL

For those who have only skied the Razor Hone trail starting in our Salmon Ridge SnoPark, this next month might be the time to ski the other side of the road! Just across the Mt. Baker Highway is the trailhead for our Anderson Trail. With the recent repair of the washout, we now have grooming as far as four miles up the road. I found satisfactory skate-skiing last year with only a few inches of snow. This year we have had beautiful skiing.

The first two miles are gently rolling terrain with gradual corners and inclines, suitable for beginning and intermediate skiers. Groomed with both a skate lane and classical tracks, it’s welcoming to all. After two miles, the trail begins to climb up to the first switchback. Beyond that, it is a steady climb to the end of the grooming. As you climb, look behind you – your way home is back the way that you came, but all downhill!

I, and many others, made a pleasant tour of the campground instead of skiing the groomed trail when we first were looking for the trailhead. When you are standing at the sign by the road, look to your left and climb over the snow berm that you see. The groomed trail should start at your feet. (See map, next page. An additional map is on the **Anderson** page of our website.) [www.nooksacknordicskiclub.org/trails/descriptions/anderson](http://www.nooksacknordicskiclub.org/trails/descriptions/anderson)

Remember, you still need a SnoPark permit, even if you are parking by the road at the Silver Fir Campground.

**Pete Tryon**



## HANNEGAN ROAD TRIP REPORT

Hi, I'm Tillie and I'm the boss, and 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 recently on Hannegan Road.

We followed snow shoe tracks because NNSC hadn't groomed the road as promised.

There was lots of snow, birds to watch, and brush to explore.

We went all the way to the Nooksack Cirque trail head. Daddy couldn't find his way through the brush to the river on skis, but if he'd just used snow shoes, we could have gotten out to the river in a couple different places. We're working on a return snow shoe trip!

There are all kinds of old roads to use as side trips, some of which go away from the river and back to a really pretty creek. There are tons of animal tracks, which we're allowed to sniff as long as we don't go rooting for the local resident that made the tracks.

We got our dog cookie lunch and some fresh water beside

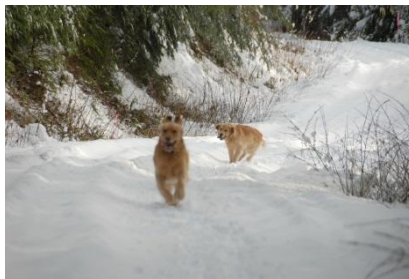
the creek. While Daddy was taking off his pack to get lunch, Harry went walking on the ice and broke through. Luckily, the creek and pond area are shallow, so he just got wet and scared.

On the way back, we ALWAYS just use our noses and follow the tracks Daddy made on the way out. But, since there weren't any nice, set ski tracks, we didn't ruin anything on this trip.

We didn't go up the Jerry Bourne snow shoe trail near the parking lot, but that's on our bucket list.

We're always ready for an outing. On our next trip, we both were in the water while snow was falling, but that's another story.

### Jim Rhodes



**Tillie and Harry**

## LOGAN LAKE & SILVER STAR RESORT – JANUARY 2017 TRIP REPORT

There were 9 adults and 2 children on this trip. Most of us had skied together for years. Three generations of the Rhodes family joined us. Sabrina who is now 6 has been coming since she was in uterus and Laura who is eight months, for the first time. We were able

to ski all three areas. Kane Valley, Logan Lake and Stake Lake. Saturday we skied in snowflakes for most of the afternoon. Everywhere we skied was wonderful, mostly sunny and great ski conditions! This year we celebrated Jim's retirement and Lynne's birthday. The roads were in great shape and we are reminded that one day can make all the difference. Highway 5 was closed the day before we came up due to recent snow levels and cars and trucks not adhering to laws regarding winter travel. Unfortunately, Jim and Sue decided to travel one day early and it took them twice as long to get to the B & B.

Five of us decided in November to extend our trip to Silver Star Resort in Vernon BC. We stopped in Larch Hills XC Ski Area in Salmon Arm on our way to Vernon and had a couple of hours to ski in another club tracked venue. This is a fun place with a variety of XC trails. We skied two days at Sovereign Lakes and the last day we had fresh powder to ski in. One day at Silver Star where we crossed downhill ski areas, saw snowshoers and fat bikes on the multiuse trails. On the mountain was by far the coldest, -22 Celsius. Nevertheless as long as you kept moving you were warm and the sunny weather sure helped!

### Sharon Robinson



## **MANNING TRIP A HUGE SUCCESS!**

The club's trip to Manning Park on 1-13 through 1-16 had great snow this year. Very often here in the Northwest our warmer temperatures result in the melting and refreezing of the snow cover. This season the temperatures stayed in the teens and 20's, which resulted in optimal ski conditions. The mornings were chilly but by starting out gaining elevation we were able to stay warm. Nine members were in attendance and all enjoyed themselves exploring the different trails at the park.

Some of us went out on our own, others stayed with partners. Dick Etter and I skied together all three days. We arrived at Manning at eleven and immediately set out up the Blackwall Trail, which goes up from the lodge to the alpine ridges beyond Blackwall Peak. It was a long gradual uphill road that had been well groomed and tracked. Dick had not been on this trail before and was very impressed with the trail and scenery. This trail is so long that I have never skied to the end of it. We timed ourselves so as to turn back and arrive at the lodge before dark. The long downhill wasn't steep but still it took much less time to get back than to climb up to where we could see the surrounding peaks to the south.

We started out the second day skiing up from the lodge to the warming hut at Strawberry Flats. While the snow was good, the staff didn't start the fire in the hut until noon, so it was still as cold as an icebox when we got there at one. Other members who took the shuttle up to the

hut and ate at noon had to eat outside as it was warmer on the porch! On my ski back to the lodge, Graduation Hill was very manageable with a snow pile to control speed down the steep descent, as the snow was a good consistency, without ice.

On our third day we took the shuttle up to Strawberry Flats and skied down to Lightning Lake. It was snow covered and well-frozen, so we skied across it to go up Thunder Arm, which is a large section of the lake that is not visible from the other side and usually overlooked by skiers. It was fun breaking trail across the windblown snow-cover and when we stopped for lunch we were attended by Grey Jays, who were bold and took food from our hands.



**Kurt Duey with Grey Jays**

Our evenings were spent dining together, as different members provided unique and tasty meals. We swapped antidotes and turned in early after our active days exploring the trails of Manning Park. I have been going on this trip for many years and this year had some of the

best ski conditions I've ever seen here. While I'm willing to ski in the rain or on ice, I much prefer the conditions that we found at Manning this time.

**Kurt Duey**

## **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 heated washrooms and shower facilities. Source:

[nickelplatenordic.org](http://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](http://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](mailto: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 is \$256 per person and 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](mailto: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

March 2



**Visit Our Website for the Latest Information: [www.nooksacknordicskiclub.org](http://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: \_\_\_\_\_

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 #

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