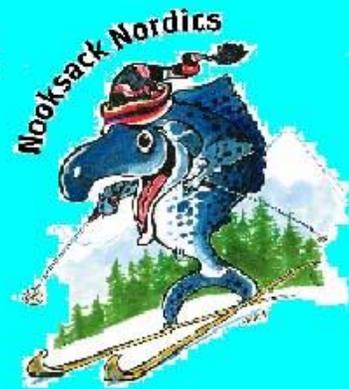


Snow News IS Good News

Newsletter of the Nooksack Nordic Ski Club

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



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March 2018



BACK COUNTRY SKIING WITH LIGHTWEIGHT GEAR by Ron Sawyer

Club Meeting

When – Monday, March 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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UPCOMING GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING!

This coming month's meeting is (Monday, March 5th at 7:30). We will talk about the Nordic skiing opportunities this year, both local and overnight trips. This is an opportunity to promote healthy, fun, outdoor recreation in Whatcom County. Volunteers will be present to hot wax your skis with fresh glide wax. (A modest donation to the club will be appreciated for this service.)

SWAN SONG

It has been a great opportunity and privilege to serve as the Chair and Area 1 Representative for the WA State Parks and Recreation Commission's, Winter Recreation Advisory Committee (WRAC). I've learned a lot, traveled around the state, and met lots of great people who work to support the WA State Winter Recreation Program. This program is entirely self-supporting, receiving no money from taxpayers, WA State Parks and Recreation Commission, or from the state. It relies solely upon the revenue received from the sales of the Sno-Park permits. So it takes lots of volunteers, area clubs and councils to help keep the program running.

Since I am now in my final 6 months, I thought I'd take a moment to reflect on the experience. Six years ago upon becoming a WRAC Representative, my thinking soon evolved. Instead of representing just the NNSC and the SR trails, I knew I needed to represent all non-motorized winter recreation sports, not just skiing. Two years later when I became the Chair, I had to stretch my focus again to represent all winter recreation enthusiasts throughout the entire state.

But there were other adjustments as well. I struggled to understand why there were such disparities in funding and services between different Sno-Parks. Some Sno-Parks were exceedingly well funded while others (like Salmon Ridge) received little to no funding from the state. This seemed unfair. So during my tenure we focused on four basic principles: winter recreation funding should be equitable, all-inclusive, affordable and sustainable.

All areas of the state, even rural ones, should have a place where people can enjoy winter recreation. So I pushed for more equitable distribution of funding to improve services at Sno-Parks throughout the state, instead of concentrating the funds on a few heavily used Sno-Parks.

Since everyone who buys a Sno-Park permit (skier or not) helps to support the winter recreation program it should be all-inclusive; funding should support all types of non-motorized winter recreation (dog sledding, fat tire biking, ski-joring, snowshoeing, sledding,

as well as classic and skate skiing).

Sno-Park Permit fees should be kept affordable so that families throughout the state can bike, ski, snowshoe, sled, or just play in the snow. Even those that live in economically depressed areas should be able to participate. So instead of raising Sno-Park permit fees, we strengthened education and enforcement of Sno-Park permits. And we pushed back against legislative appropriations and the proposed single combined pass for all recreation which would decrease winter recreation funding.

Finally, we strongly supported youth programs. It is essential to get children out enjoying the snow for they are the future and they will ensure that the winter recreation program will be continued for the generations that follow. So I am happy to have served on the WRAC and believe I had a real impact on the Winter Recreation Program.

Gail Garman

LOGAN LAKE TRIP TWO IN 2018

Six members went on the club trip to Logan Lake. The weather was below freezing the whole time with snowfall on both Friday and Saturday. While skiing Kane Valley, near Merritt, a snow shower added to the 15 inches of powder snow already on the trails. Condition of the snow was dry and without any ice; ideal for skiing. As usual, the trails at Kane Valley were not groomed but the scenery and snow conditions were very good. After an afternoon skiing at Kane Valley, we went on to

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the Highland House outside Logan Lake, where Don and Mary Lorna served us stir-fry chicken. We watched some of the Olympic Events on the television and then turned in for the night.

Saturday we arrived at the Stake Lake trails during a blizzard. It had started snowing during the night and continued during the day. While the trails at Stake Lake are groomed and tracked daily, the heavy snowfall put another 8 inches on the trails, making for slow skiing. While out skiing, my ski's bottom started to come loose. Fortunately we had duct tape and I did a temporary repair, which enabled me to return to the parking area, where I was able to rent skis for \$10 a day. We were all tired after working in the deep snow and ready to return to the Highland House for supper and a soak in the hot tub.

Sunday temperatures were around -12 degrees C (10.4 F) with a wind that put the wind-chill around -26C! (-14.5 F). An Artic front had moved in and it was clear but frigid. The snow was great and we took advantage of the freshly groomed and tracked trails to put the most mileage on our skis of this trip. Happily, I had brought another pair of skis on the trip, so I was able to use them to good advantage on the perfectly groomed snow.

Coming home on Monday, Highway 5 was closed south of Merritt, due to a two-semi-truck wreck. We detoured west from Merritt to Spenses Bridge, where we caught the Trans-Canadian to arrive at Hope by 2:30pm. We were more than ready to stop in at The Blue Moose for lunch. The detour

had added two hours to our trip home to Bellingham but the Fraser River Valley was very impressive to see; with its many tunnels and steep cliffs.

We arrived back in Bellingham by 4:30pm and after hugs all around, we went back to our normal lives, happy to have had the opportunity to experience the snows of British Columbia. This has been a good year for cross-country skiing and this trip was an excellent example of why we go there to ski.

Kurt Duey

NICKEL PLATE

March 2 thru 5, 2018

This trip is full. See you next year.



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

<u>Deposit Date</u>
<u>Sno Park #</u>

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