

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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Grooming Coordinator

Pete Tryon 922-7065

MARCH 2019



WASHINGTON WILD by TOM UNIAK

Club Meeting

When – Monday, March 4th

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



UPCOMING GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING!

Monday, March 4, 2019: 7:30 PM. Annual business meeting (no more than 15 minutes!) **7:45 PM** – Brief (10-15 minutes) presentation by Tom Uniak on [Washington Wild](#). Afterwards, interested individuals can stay and meet with Tom and help with identifying areas important to the 'groomed' ski community. (An orientation for new and prospective members will be available before the meeting, at 7:00.) (Waxing is available at another time by contacting Pete Tryon)

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Thank you for your support**



Ski club members please list the Ski Club as your charitable donation organization of choice! The club gets a percentage of total sales each quarter. The following notice has come out: "An AmazonSmile bonus donation promotion is coming soon. We heard from AmazonSmile charity administrators that advanced notice of upcoming promotions helps you plan and prepare. This is a great opportunity for Nooksack Nordic Ski Club to increase its AmazonSmile donations.

smile.amazon.com

NOOKSACK NORDIC SKI CLUB WANTS YOU !

The Nooksack Nordic Ski Club is only as active as its members! Right now, we are missing a nominating committee and a couple of board members. We are looking for interested members to volunteer for service on the board. The basic requirements are to enjoy a love of Nordic skiing, to be interested in furthering it in Whatcom County, and to invest 2 hours each winter month for an evening board meeting.

If interested, email the club at president@nooksacknordicskiclub.org or Pete Tryon at ski@tryonhayes.com. He would be happy to attempt to answer any questions. 'Elections' will take place at the general membership meeting on Monday, March 4. If you are not able to attend, let Pete know and he will be able to put you on the 'slate'. Thanks for considering this service.

Pete Tryon

MOUNT SPOKANE AND OUT ROAD TRIP

When I saw Mt. Spokane on the list for one of trips for this season, I knew right away I wanted to go. My husband and I have developed an interest in geology over the years and Eastern Washington is a repository of history for the "Glacial Lake Missoula and its Humongous floods" * that created a lacework of coulees and scablands across the area. This was an opportunity to ski, snowshoe and see the beauty of the land as well.

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We headed east on Highway 2 towards the town of Waterville and the great plateau it sits upon. Snow had fallen, the skies were gray and no one was on the road. The town of Waterville was very quiet and hadn't changed much since my uncle married a local girl in 1962. The horizon had that strange feeling pilots get when they feel disoriented and unsure what is up or down.



An Erratic Near Mansfield Washington

We were on our way to spend our first night in a motel with a direct view of Grand Coulee Dam. A project for flood control, a boon to agriculture or a socialist project to end the depression - Roosevelt's New Deal had something for everyone to either love or hate. An imposing wall of concrete holds back Lake Roosevelt for fishing and recreation much like ice dams held back Glacial Lake Missoula.

The ice dams of Lake Missoula would break when the water would rise and float the ice dams. Enormous floods would course through the countryside all at once, flooding and eroding the landscape all the way to the Willamette Valley in Oregon. This happened over and over again. The coulees would erode and reveal the basalt columns that rise from the bottom of Moses Coulee and all over the area.

We enjoyed our view of Grand Coulee from our motel and were guided to a great coffee house with muffins comparable to the Blue Moose in Hope. Interestingly, even though the government shutdown was in effect, the visitor center at Grand Coulee was open. They explained the revenue comes from reclamation monies and they are self-supporting. We had an enthusiastic guide, (no one else was there) and learned more than we had bargained for.

We wanted to make sure to visit Dry Falls State Park, home of the largest waterfall in the world, (if water were flowing over it). It would dwarf Niagara Falls today. Once again, a very enthusiastic ranger guided us through the visitor center from display to display. Fortunately, he had a receptive audience. The beauty of the land is overwhelming and it was a perfect time of year to visit.

It was time for us to make miles to rendezvous with our ski mates in Spokane. Skiing, hot tubs, swimming, wine, soup and salad made this a true destination resort.

One last goal remained: to see the erratic's north of highway 2. Our trip leader, Lynn Alderson told us exactly where to go and we were rewarded. Erratic's are the size of houses or VW's. They were carried along in icebergs aka glaciers. Their rounded forms were left behind as the ice melted back. The Erratic's were everywhere on a by way north of highway 2. It is obvious now we are easily entertained.

We stopped for lunch at the only place open in Waterville on the long weekend. They made a good egg salad sandwich and we engaged in conversation with a

priest (formerly an insurance agent) who grew up in Yakima. The people we encountered and the history were wonderful. Although trite to say, the beauty of this eastern area of Washington was compelling and we want to return often. Perhaps Lake Spokane, next year?

For further reading, Glacial Lake Missoula and its Humongous Floods by David Alt.

For more science, Roadside Geology of Washington by Miller and Cowan.

For a roadside guide, Hiking Guide to Washington Geology by Babcock and Carson.

Carla Stellwagen



Jeff Hausz Looking at Geological Formations in Douglas County

LOGAN LAKE 2019 SKI TRIP – BEST SNOW YET THIS SEASON

After a two-month delay, good, snow has arrived. Plus, the arctic cold was not as great. Our first Logan Lake trip of the season was a close thing, with

snow finally arriving the week before but this time the snow was over a foot and not melting. It was just right for effortless skiing.

Our club had six members go on the trip. More had signed up but health issues brought us to six. All the other men had bowed out, leaving me as the sole representative of my gender. Everyone met at my house at 0740 on Friday morning and it was not certain until the last minute if everyone would be able to get there, due to the snowy conditions of the streets in Bellingham.

A couple of snowfalls had left our city of Subdued excitement with over 10 inches of snow and we had essentially been shut down for the past week. Much skiing happened in the city but it was time to head out for British Columbia and a ski adventure.

Due to the snow on the roads, I stayed on the main roads all the way to Sumas and the border. Once we were across the road was clear and safe. Canada does a better job of keeping the roads clear in bad weather than Whatcom County.

As we usually do, we stopped at The Blue Moose in Hope, for a break, a chance to have some lobster bisque soup, cranberry-orange scones or other delicious treat and use the facilities. This bistro makes a lot of food items and is well placed for a pause in the driving. Their coffee is good as well. I like to think of it a type of oasis, where the traveler can find the last outpost of northwest culture before heading over the mountains to cowboy country.

The group decided to skip Kane Valley and proceed directly to Stake Lake after Hope.

Highway 5 was clear and we made good time, arriving at Stake Lake at 1330. Our party split up into various groups, as each person chose to ski at their own pace.

I had left my ski boots at home and rented boots at their rental center for \$5CAN/ day. It was not a bad deal but they raised blisters on my heels, which made me try different boots on the following two days. Since I got new skis last year, I have been trying different sized boots. REI policy allows the return of any equipment for up to a year and as you know, ski boots only reveal their character when used, so I have been returning boots all season, as they all failed to be comfortable! I found some Fisher RE3 classic boots that fit great at their rental stock but of course, REI doesn't carry them!

Our club stayed at the Highland House B&B in Logan Lake. It has always been a most accommodating and relaxing establishment. The hostess, Mary Lorna, does a good job with the food and we lack for nothing there. The Highland House is located a mile outside of the isolated mining town of Logan Lake and the setting is very rural and quiet. For less than \$100CAN you get a room with two beds, a private bath, hot tub, and breakfast. No wonder we keep coming back.

Two of our members went skiing at Logan Lake and said that the snow was good. There were a lot of wild horse tracks and they saw the herd on the first day, when they went skiing around Tunkwa Lake. Apparently, everyone but me saw a wolf howling alongside the freeway. I was busy paying attention to the traffic and had no time to sightsee, darn! I did talk

to another skier, who had seen a lynx on the trail that second day. Though seen in previous years, no moose were seen this trip.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Monthly meetings at 7:30 pm, as follows:

March 4



Happy Skiing

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: _____

Select Club Tasks you could help with:

- Serve on NNSC Board _____
- Clear brush from trails _____
- Find speakers/programs _____
- Put up trail signs and sanican base _____
- Help with Ambassador Days _____
- Write an article for "Snow News" _____
- Audit NNSC financial records _____
- Write a grant, or, fundraising _____
- Lead a ski trip _____

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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