

Snow News IS Good News

Newsletter of the Nooksack Nordic Ski Club

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NOVEMBER 2020



Club Meeting – Meet with NNSC on Zoom!

When – Tuesday, November 10th 7:00 PM

Who - Anyone is welcome!

Check your email or the NNSC website for details and an invitation.

<http://www.nooksacknordicskiclub.org/meetings/>

New Membership Orientation at 6:30 PM

Meeting starts at 7:00 PM.

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

FOR SALE

Three sets of metal edged classic XC skis with bindings, boots and poles. \$100 for all or \$40 per set. Madshus skis 195 cm w/ Roteffella NNN bindings, Alpina men's boots sz 11; Madshus skis 185 cm w/ Atomic SNS Profil bindings, Salomon women's boots sz 8; and Rossignol skis 195 cm, w/ Rossignol NNN bindings, Alpina women's boots sz 7.5. OBO by December 20th.

For more details contact Sue at 360-738-0806, text 360-739-1275 or rsw.1736@gmail.com

SIGN MADE BY LYNNE OLIVER - GREAT JOB LYNNE



SEASON ENDING, HEALTHY HAPPY TRAILS AHEAD !

The first trail maintenance work party for the upcoming season was held on Saturday, October 3, 2020. There were 5 participants operating under the new Covid-19 protocols (Mike Hilty, Pete Tryon, Meg Hayes, Gail Garman and Lynne Oliver). It was a pleasant sunny day, and my crew

did great work! Due to a lack of information about fire levels and power tool use, the power tools were not used until later in the day. The goal was to work on the River Trail and Mom's providing a 6-foot wide clear trail for snowshoe users, as well as, a clear 20-foot wide road for the groomer. We succeeded in cleaning out 2 culverts, putting up some additional blue diamond markers and tagging some logs for chainsaw work for the next work party. Using a brush cutter later in the morning, a 6-foot wide swath was cleared on one section of the River trail, but more is needed. There is enough trail work for several more work parties.

And then there was the work party scheduled for Saturday, October 10, 2020. Due to predicted thunderstorms and significant rain I canceled the work party for that day and rescheduled for the next day, Sunday, October 11, 2020, a predicted nicer day. Well the weather god was laughing at my planning. As I sat home on Saturday, the sun came out frequently and it was by all counts a fairly pleasant day. Sunday turned out to be overcast and cool, but we persevered. Kurt, Pete, Meg and I really spiffed up the River trail and Mom's. Pete even took out the three leaning trees on the River trail that have been there for a couple of years. Yea Pete! We ate lunch under cover of our car back hatch as the rain god was waking up. After a trip up to White Salmon road to check on the sink hole we had filled in September, and marveling at the great mowing job done by Drake on Friday, October 9, 2020, we called it a day.

About the Sink Hole: Work had been done on the Salamander connector trail on several Fridays. As a result of driving on White Salmon road we noted the sides needed serious mowing. So, Gail Garman went to work getting bids and selected Drake. In his bid he told Gail that a better job could be done mowing if all the big potholes were filled. So, he graded the road in September, and it was a first-class job. He also enlarged the parking area at the entrance and near the start of the Connector Trail. The road was graded, drainage paths done, and potholes were gone! He had to wait for the fire level to go down before mowing the roadsides.



Pete Tryon in the back and Meg Hayes in the front

Several days after the initial grading I drove up to White Salmon to see the results and found a sink hole with a little

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branch sticking out of it as a warning. We think that sometime after the grading was done some old 'corrugating' (old logs used as fill to help build a logging road surface) finally rotted away and the weight of cars going across opened the sink hole. By the time we were able to marshal forces to correct that issue it had enlarged to more than three feet across and about four feet deep. It also undermined the other lane in the road. Gail, Pete, Meg and Lynne brought a wheelbarrow and shovels, collected rocks, and utilized the gravel pile that Drake had left for any future potholes and we filled that sink hole. At the beginning Pete was able to stand in it and his waist was at the road level. This week we checked on the fill job and added 3 small buckets of gravel. As more cars compact it, we may have to add a bit from time to time.

LYNNE OLIVER

TRAIL OF THE MONTH - SE EXTENSION OF WHITE SALMON

This is the winter to spend time in our local winter-wonderland! Members of NNSC have been putting in efforts to make our trails more accessible and user friendly. My goal is to make tracks on every one of them this winter!

While there isn't snow on the ground for skiing as I type this, now is a good time to look ahead to winter weather and to consider new trails. Want a road trip? Drive on out the White Salmon road and check this out.

The White Salmon Trail is our 'higher elevation' trail with consistently good snow cover for an extended season. Many have been out to the end, commonly

called 'The Knob'. But most have gone right by the turn to the right, marking the beginning of the SE Extension. The view of Mt. Shuksan is even better – you are closer and looking at it from a lower point.



Mt Shuksan from the SE Extension Overlook

The trail is a Forest Service road in the summer, leaving the Mt. Baker Highway at milepost 51.5. Courtesy of our brushing contractor, it has been brushed and smoothed both out to the Knob (pretty steep up to the Knob, use caution if driving it) and to a new overlook on the SE Extension. The road is level to 'Junction Corner', slight downhill to the 'Switchback', and a bit steeper down to the turnoff for the extension. It then continues downhill to the overlook. It's about 2 miles from the Mt. Baker Highway. Don't drive beyond that point – the road then becomes 'primitive' quite quickly. Or park at the 'Switchback' and hike the rest.

Once snow falls, expect user-created tracks most all of the time and occasional grooming. Grooming is limited because of transportation restrictions hauling the oversized groomer up the highway, but happened



four times last winter. We're hoping that it will be groomed this winter.

Watch your emails for a scheduled ski tour of the trail this winter!

PETE TRYON

LOGAN LAKE TRIP A SUCCESS!

This year's trip to the Highland House was a good time, with plenty of good snow and temperatures not too far below freezing and no wind to speak of. Eight of us went to the Highland House and another six stayed in a motel in Merritt. After leaving Bellingham around 0800, we stopped at The Blue Moose for a break and refreshment. Going up the Cocohalla toward the summit we passed a semi on its side blocking both opposite lanes. Several other trucks were not chained-up and having trouble getting over the mountains but our luck was good and our cars got over the pass without incident.

We stopped to ski Kane Valley, where the snow was about 6" deep over a groomed base. We skied the west side of the Kane Valley Road and had a great time, as the snow conditions were very good. It was a partly sunny day and the trails were easy with the new snow on them. Though many moose tracks were seen, the makers were not to be found.

Those of us lucky enough to be staying at the Highland House were treated to the usual excellent food and friendly atmosphere. It is really nice to not have to go out to eat when you are tired from a day of skiing.

Saturday, we went to ski at the Stake Lake Trail system, located north of Lac-le-Jun. Here the snows and conditions make for excellent skiing. I skied up to the high point for a sack lunch and then skied over to Rattlesnake Hill. Most of the skiers are morning skiers from Kamloops and after noon the trails are empty, as the bulk of skier's head back to town after lunch. I have skied Stake Lake's trails many times and this was one of the better skis. Good conditions can make you ski much better and that is what we found, great conditions.

Sunday, we went back to Stake Lake and skied different trails. This time we skied from the highest point to the lowest. Unfortunately, Beth W. fell on her skis edge and hurt her knee. Though it was quite painful, by the next day Beth was feeling much better and has since reported her recovery. Why is it, that most ski accidents happen in the afternoon? Because you aren't as fresh, it is easier to make a mistake.

Still, we had a good time and I will definitely make a reservation for this time, next year.

Unless someone else is willing to lead a trip to Highland House over the three-day weekend in January, my trip will be the only one to Stake Lake this next year. Also, there will be no Manning Trip this coming year, so it would be a really good thing if someone would step up to offer a trip during that January weekend. Usually these trips are finalized a year ahead but this has only happened with my trip next year. Now is the time to make those plans for the coming season.

KURT DUEY

SNOQUALMIE PASS TRIP TUESDAY, JANUARY 5 TO FRIDAY JANUARY 8, 2021

Ski Snoqualmie Pass. You can ski Gold Creek, Hyak, Kachess, Crystal Springs, Cabin Creek and Lake Easton. Maps are provided on the WA State Parks website. Go to <https://parks.state.wa.us/459/Blewett-I-90>

Permits – A Seasonal Non-Motorized Permit for \$40 and a Special Groomed Sticker for \$40 is required in the sno-parks on Snoqualmie Pass.

Housing - We will be staying at the Summit Inn at the top of Snoqualmie Pass. Please adhere to the Covid 19 protocols that are provided below. You may make your own reservations with Summit Inn. I found the best rates by Googling "Summit Inn Snoqualmie Pass" and on the right side of the screen were Travelocity, Priceline and etc. with their rates. At this time the

hotel cost ranged from \$83 to \$109 per night, plus taxes.

Meals – There is a restaurant on site at Summit Inn. You may also provide your own meals and eat in your room. You will need to

bring items for lunch and pack it with you when you ski.

Please advise me if you plan to attend this trip.

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

SKI TRIPS FOR 2020 -2021 AND PROTOCOLS

This season, we will have to take the Covid-19 epidemic into account. Our trips will reflect this current reality. As you probably know, the Canadian Border has been shut to recreationists since March and will not reopen for the foreseeable future. That leaves us with ski opportunities only on this side of the frontier. I have been reviewing our options and would like to share some places we can try this season:

Stevens Pass 2 hr. 22min. The XC area, located off Hgwy.2, is 5 miles east of the summit. They have 30km of trails with elevation 3,000-3,800' stevenspass.com

Lake Wenatchee 2hr. 37min. is over Stevens Pass, then turn off on Rt. 207 for Sno-Parks. Nason Ridge, Wenatchee State Park, Kahler's Glen and Chiwawa Rd. are fairly close to each other and offer 35-40km of trails.

Leavenworth 3hr. Continuing on Hgwy 2 takes you into the town. There is skiing at Icicle, Waterfront Park, Golf Course and Ski Hill, for a total of 23 km of trails.

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Echo Ridge 4hr. Near Chelan. Drive from Leavenworth to Wenatchee and continue on Hgwy. 97 north along the Columbia River to the turnoff for Chelan. Hgwy. 150 west will take you to Boyd's Rd. and the ski area at 3,400ft.

Methow Valley/Winthrop 5hr. 15Min. Follow Hgwy. 97 north past Chelan Rt. 153 then 20, which will take you through Twisp to Winthrop. The valley has 3 main XC areas; Sun Mt., Rendezvous and Mazama, all connected by the Community Trail, over 200km of groomed trails. Altitude range from 1,500-4,000ft. The area has the second most extensive trails system in the USA.

Loup Loup Pass 5hr.30min. Can be reached by taking Hgwy. 20, just east of Twisp. In about 13mi there is a sno-park on the right, that will access 30km of groomed trails. A bit further down the road is a small downhill area that also has 21km of trails, at elevations of 3,500-4,000ft.

Snoqualmie Pass 2hr. 6Min. Located on I-90, The Summit at Snoqualmie is the commercial downhill area, but there is also 50km of groomed trails and The Summit Nordic Center. You take Exit 54, which takes you to the area known as East and The Summit Nordic Center.

Sno-Parks on Snoqualmie Pass 2hr. 30min. There are a few Sno-Parks near the summit. Cabin Creek, with over 10km. Of groomed trails is 10mi East of the Summit, exit 63.

Mt. Rainier/Tahoma Trails 3hrs. Taking the Nisqually entrance to the park, there are trails by Longmire and Paradise. Near Ashford, there are some

Sno-Parks for trails maintained by the Mt. Tahoma Trails Assoc. They have 3 or 4 mountain huts, that can be rented for overnight stays.

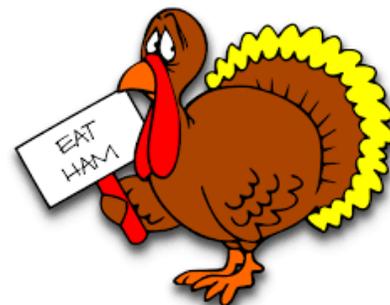
As you can see, we still have several interesting areas that are open to our use this season. I offer you the list to help our members plan destinations for their winter adventures.

This year, carpooling is out for anyone not already a member of your "safe" cohort. Likewise, we will not be sharing quarters with those not already on your safe list. This leaves us in a state, where we can ski together but not hang out during our non-ski time.

While this may not be an ideal situation, I realize that for this season, it is the new reality and we will be adhering to only "safe" interactions. I myself, have been avoiding needless social interactions and will be weighing any recreational activities against the possible risk involved. Still, after six months of quarantine, I am ready to get in some skiing this season.

The club has been brushing out the snow shoe trails and getting our ski trails ready for the coming season. I predict that there will be a lot of use this season, as outdoor recreation will be a high priority during the coming winter with many people eager to get out.

KURT DUEY



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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: \$20 Individual _____ \$35 Household _____ 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

Deposit Date
Sno Park #

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