

Snow News IS Good News

Newsletter of the Nooksack Nordic Ski Club

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



Board Members

President

Pete Tryon 922-7065

Vice President

John Keates 507-6361

Secretary

M B Jaynes 907-347-0413

Treasurer

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Carla Stellwagen 805-452-3026

Cleo Richard 360-733-3203

Kurt Duey 820-4174

Vacant

Other Volunteers

Salmon Ridge

Coordinator

Gail Garman 371-3554

Membership

Vacant

Pete Tryon(temp) 922-7065

Publicity

M B Jaynes 907-347-0413

Hospitality Chair Vacant

Program Coordinator

Vacant

Newsletter Editor

Lynn Alderson

509-885-6342

Webmaster

Pete Tryon

ski@tryonhayes.com

Equipment Manager

Jim Rhodes 734-8246

Trip Coordinator

Kurt Duey 820-4174

Day Trip Coordinator

Pete Tryon 922-7065

Grooming Coordinator

Pete Tryon 922-7065

DECEMBER 2020



Club Meeting – Meet with NNSC on Zoom!

When – Tuesday, December 8th

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

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

Meeting starts at 7:00 PM.

Who - Anyone is welcome!

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/ Rotefella 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**

ZOOM MEETING

Join us for our second General Membership Meeting via ZOOM on December 8th at 7:00 pm

We will present a 2020 version of "What's in my backpack", an educational presentation from several members of the NNSC board. Each of us has our own priorities for what we need to carry along for an outing on the trails. Hear from several members what they feel is mandatory ranging from the ten essentials to snacks and hydration.

Perhaps we can persuade Kurt Duey to tell once again about his unplanned overnight trip in the Manning Park area. Kurt's backpack may include a snow tent, Coleman stove and cozy sleeping bag. He has tolerated nonstop ribbing about his overnight adventure but truly has experience and knowledge worth sharing.

The NNSC's mission is to maintain the trails of the Salmon

Ridge/Razor Hone area for skiers and snowshoers and to educate the public in ways to do this safely. Join our Zoom event on Dec. 8th for another membership meeting. Hope to see you then. We always try to have a little fun and learn about this wonderful winter sport for all ages.

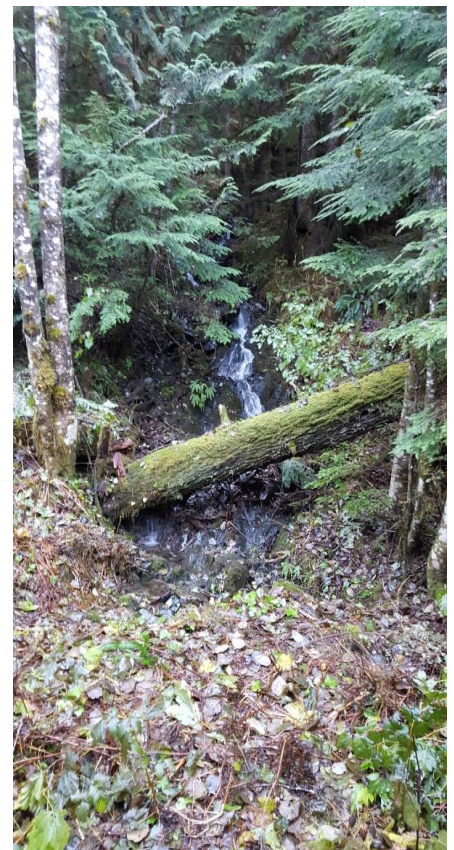
CARLA STELLWAGEN

MEMBERSHIP PRIORITIES

Note that the annual dues have decreased! We finished the last season with a healthy bank balance (needed to pay maintenance contracts while waiting for grant reimbursement) and 68 memberships, both individual and household. Membership levels have fluctuated between 56 and 77 over the last decade. This has provided us with a solid core of membership that has allowed the club to continue meeting our basic goals. However, the membership is aging and we are having trouble finding new volunteers for both trail and board work. Hence the board has identified increasing our club membership as one of our goals this winter. We see people out skiing at the SnoPark; we answer emails from those wanting to learn more about Nordic skiing; we get questions about where to take lessons, where to ski with others; we talk to interested skiers at our Nordic Ambassadors and at the Recreation NW Expo; we have people following our grooming reports. We would like to encourage these to join our club and to help make all of these things happen. We are hoping that with lower dues, we can encourage more new members to sign up (and then get involved!)

So to help us with this, after you renew your membership (<http://www.nooksacknordicskiclub.org/membership/join-renew/>), how about talking with some of your friends and encouraging them to sign up? The club supports Nordic skiing in Whatcom County through

- Maintaining ski trails at the Salmon Ridge SnoPark with groomed, set classic tracks and a skating lane.
- Up-to-date grooming reports for our trails
- Monthly club meetings and socials



- Organizing trips to Salmon Ridge and other cross-country ski areas
- The Nordic Ambassadors – welcoming new participants to winter recreation at the SnoPark.

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- Skiing and waxing clinics to help improve techniques
- A monthly (winter) newsletter, *Snow News Is Good News*

And there is an open seat on the board if you would like to be part of the discussion.

Hope to see you on the trails!

PETE TRYON

CULVERT CLEANING

I would guess that one of the least favorite of the work parties is to clean out culverts. For me, any time on the mountain puts me in my happy place. Today, November 2, 2020, was to be a culvert cleaning work party. I had gone out on the previous Friday (rainy!) and tagged each culvert location with a pink tape hanging from a close tree limb along Razorhone road. It is amazing that there are 25 culverts in 2 ½ miles of the road and this does not count Cougar Loop! Except for the very beginning of the road there is at least one culvert every 0.1 mile; sometimes 3 within that tenth mile. I knew we would never get them all cleaned but at least the locations got tagged. I will tag Cougar Loop another day.

It was in the 30's when we all arrived at the snow park on Monday, November 2 but the sun was shining and it was going to be a great day for the work. Because of Covid-19 we cannot carpool. So, we each arrived in our own car and parked there in the lot. My plan for the crew was to carry one tool – a shovel, lopper, pick axe – and walk along

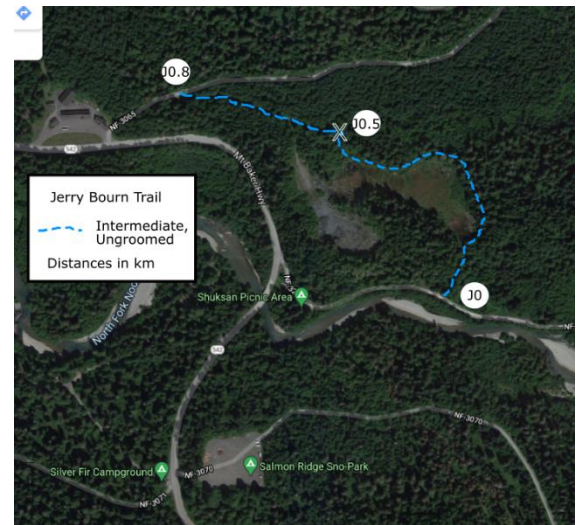
Razorhone road to each culvert; Then to clear the area around the culvert out about 2 feet, as close to the ground as possible, and also to make sure the channel for the water is clear of obstructions and heading for the culvert. It didn't take long for the crew to start teasing me about being the quality control officer. The crew did really great work without much direction.

There were 6 of us. So, 3 could work on one side of the road and the other 3 at the other outlet of the culvert.

The host of characters were: Pete Tryon, Meg Hayes, Debra Noonan, Ron Sawyer, Carla Stellwagen and leader, Lynne Oliver. Morgan Brunstrom was going to join us late. Unfortunately, we were tired by noon, so he didn't get to help.

We managed to get 11 culverts. I played monkey and would go up when there were waterfalls and pull debris out to help the water go toward the culvert. I slipped twice and ended up flat in the wet! Oh well, I had rain gear on so no big deal, but I bet I made a funny picture. On the previous page is a picture of one of the waterfalls that empties into a culvert. It is so pretty and now more visible. It will be a beautiful site in the snow. We left the snow park at 1PM.

LYNNE OLIVER



TRAIL OF THE MONTH - JERRY BOURN TRAIL

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!

As I type this and probably as you read it, there is ample snow on White Salmon for skiing, but not yet enough at the Salmon Ridge SnoPark. So, this month's trail is another one that you can check out as a hike before getting your backcountry skis or snowshoes out.

The Jerry Bourn Trail is a short trail through big trees, but with views over a marsh and of Mt. Shuksan. It has no long up or downhills, but a couple of short drops to cross drainage channels. It starts about 250 yards up the Hannegan Pass Road. Look for a big rock cliff on the left; just past the cliff is an opening with space to park and the start of the trail. It winds around the marsh and reaches an old Forest Service road in 0.4 miles. At that point you can turn around and return the way you



came, or you can continue on to Twin Lakes Road, down to the Highway Department and back to the start by way of the Mt.

Meg Hayes

Baker Highway. Distance: 0.8 miles out and back or 1 mile to make the loop.

The trail is ungroomed. It is suitable for most snowshoers and for backcountry skiers, although some skiers will want to sidestep a few short sections. It is marked with blue diamonds.

And while you are there, consider the earlier history of the county:

Shuksan (the general area of the FS parking lot and the highway maintenance station) was a mining town of 1500 people (mostly in tents) at the turn of the century. The trail is named for Jerry Bourn, sometimes called 'the last true mountain man', who lived in a cabin near the start of the trail until he passed away in 1980.

Note: A Forest Service pass is required to park at the Shuksan

Parking Area – the state SnoPark pass is not valid. Or you could park in the SnoPark lot and walk (very carefully) across the bridge to the Hannegan.

Check out descriptions of all of our SnoPark trails online at <http://www.nooksacknordicskiclub.org/trails/descriptions/> Watch your emails for a scheduled ski tour of the Jerry Bourn this winter! (and maybe we can get some pictures with snow on the ground.)

PETE TRYON

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.

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

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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



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

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