

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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JANUARY 2021



Club Meeting – Meet with NNSC on Zoom!

When – Tuesday, January 12th

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

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.
- 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!

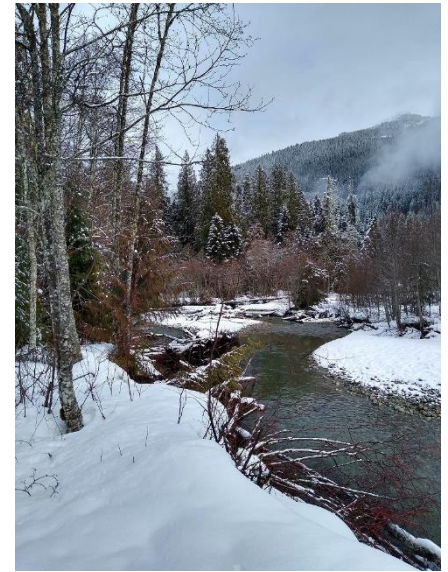
PETE TRYON

TRAIL OF THE MONTH - RIVER 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!

If you ski the trails of the Nooksack Nordic Ski Club, you find yourself driving out to MP 46.9 of the Mt. Baker Highway and parking in the big Salmon Ridge SnoPark. And then most likely, going to the back-left corner, around the gate, and out

the main Razor Hone Trail. Which is all well and good – that's our main trail and at times is a wonderful ski. But suppose you don't have the time and energy to go out to the end, up around the Cougar Loop, and back. Suppose there isn't much snow on the main trail, or it's too icy. Suppose you just want to get out of your car and see something nice.



At the main sign, turn to the left and step into the woods at the start of the River Trail. The first 100 yards has a number of 'wet spots' but you should be able to find your way around and over them. The trail then meanders over to the river (the North Fork of the Nooksack) and then works its way upstream. Follow the blue diamonds – you won't get lost: you are between the river and the main Razor Hone road. There is one spot where it crosses a small stream that may or may not have some open water. A good jump might get you across or there are a couple of logs. We're hoping to improve the crossing options this winter. The trail ends as it comes out on Razor Hone. Many people complete the loop by returning on Mom's. The full loop is a little

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over one mile, but may take an hour to complete.



The trail is ungroomed and mostly level, suitable for snowshoes and short Hok skis. Some have taken their backcountry skis, but there are some sharp corners around trees. If there is not enough snow to ski, it makes a great hike. It is marked with blue diamonds.

And as you walk, snowshoe, or ski along the river, spare a thought for our club's treasurer, Lynne Oliver. She is the master of this trail. She has spent countless hours clipping branches, hanging diamonds, filling wet spots with logs, and generally taking care of this trail. Thanks, Lynne, we appreciate your work!

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 River Trail this winter!

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.

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 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

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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>