

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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Jim Rhodes 734-8246

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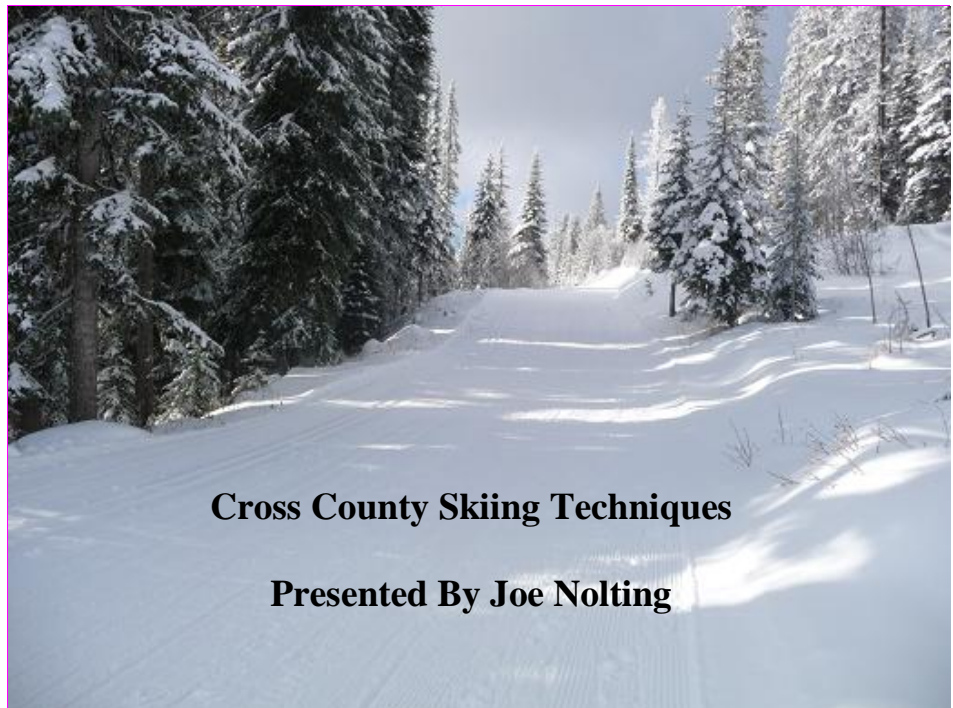
Webmaster

Jackson Thomas 661-3095

Day Trip Coordinator

Don Hicks 733-4815

January 2013



Cross County Skiing Techniques

Presented By Joe Nolting

Club Meeting

When – Thursday, Jan 3

New member orientation is at 6:30;
Meeting starts at 7:00.

Who - Anyone is welcome!

Where – Whatcom Educational Bldg's
Community Room at 511 E Holly in
Bellingham. Building is on the right
(north) side of the street at the corner of
High St and Holly St. It is a one-story
building with parking.

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



PLEASE PAY YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES

FOR SALE

Kurt Duey has a reconditioned Nordic track that he would sell to any member for \$15. This is an excellent aerobic machine, which will help get you ready for the snow.

Kurt Duey 820-4174
Kurt.duey@comcast.net



A LARGE THANK YOU TO MANY VOLUNTEERS

Salmon Ridge Sno-Park is a public asset that requires many hours of volunteer effort. Nooksack Nordic Ski Club members have maintained the Salmon Ridge trail system since 1992. In 2009, Bud Hardwick flagged a separate snowshoe trail system adjacent to the ski trails. Last year the Mount Baker Club enhanced the snowshoe trails off White Salmon Road.

The trails at the Sno-Park, Hannegan Road, and White Salmon road are maintained through a combination of WA Sno-Park funds, Federal N RTP grants, and volunteer labor, coordinated by the untiring Gail Garman.

This fall, members of both the Mount Baker Club and Nooksack Nordic Ski Club worked together clearing the trails to get them ready for snow. On December 2, a group of 16 people cleared over 2 miles of road covered in tree limbs. We'd like to thank each and every volunteer who has helped this season, many of whom have been on several brushing parties. If you see one of these people out on a trail this winter, remember to thank them for their efforts.

The fall 2012 crews included: Steve Bailey, Herm Bakke, Connie Cogburn, Joan Dudley, Kurt Duey, Dick Etter, Gail Garman, Keats Garman, Mike Hilty, Sharon Holmes, Kyle Kelin, Bob Lemon, Jean McBean, Joe Nolting, Lynne Oliver, Tom Oliver, Rich Pedersen, Rene Pratt, Sandy Randall, Jeff Rhodes, Jim Rhodes, Allan Richardson, Titti

Ringstrom, Dianna Sarich, John Sarich, Rich Ternan, Jim Zuanich, Shirley Zuanich... This is part of the Dec 2 crew looking wet and happy after a long day.

Jim Rhodes



From left to right are: John Sarich, Lynne Oliver, Dianna Sarich, Steve Bailey, Bob Lemon, Jim Rhodes (standing), Mike Hilty (kneeling) and Connie Cogburn

BOARD NEWS

Thank you to the following club members who were willing to step up to the plate and volunteer their time and talents to be on the Board for the next two years: **Joe Nolting**, a new member this year; **Connie Cogburn**; and former Board members but returning once again, **Gail Garman** and **John Sarich**. Volunteers like you are what make our club so viable and strong.

Outgoing Board members also deserve to be acknowledged **Lynn Alderson**, on the Board for 4 years, trip leader and even though moving to Wenatchee is still our Newsletter editor. We

so appreciated your willingness to get the news out in such a professional format!! **Dick Etter**, not only on the Board for two years but contributed to our monthly meetings by getting interesting speakers. **Elizabeth Martindale**, Board member and trip leader. **Richard Cochinos**, on the Board this time for 4 years and our new Member coordinator. Thanks to all of you for your contributions to the club.

Sharon Robinson Holmes

CLUB TRIP TO SILVER STAR A SUCCESS

It has bugged me, that the NNSC hasn't offered an early season trip and this season we had one. I booked a suite at the Schell Hotel Express in Vernon. It is 12 miles to Sovereign Lakes, 15 to the Silver Star Village. Our motel was downtown and walking distance from many eateries and grocery stores. Our suite had two bedrooms and a kitchen-living room with a pull-out bed; comfortable with four but room for more, with the pull-out in the living room.

Claire Hirchi, Cathy Cameron, Lynn Alderson and myself were signed up to go but Claire, a new member, sadly had the flu and couldn't make it. I hope she will sign up for another trip and we will get a chance to meet her.

Lynn drove up from her home in Wenatchee to Vernon, where we would all meet at the Schell Hotel Express. Cathy and I drove over in my car, a front-wheel drive Passat, leaving Bellingham at 0800. The skies were cloudy, with occasional

showers. I stopped for a break in Hope at the Blue Moose and at the Merritt Info. Station. I only saw one accident up at Coqahalla Summit, an up-side-down, small pick-up. We lunched at the Yellow House in downtown Kelowna. It was good food at a reasonable price but after a brief stroll I found a ticket waiting on my car! It was only \$10 but I will read the meters more carefully in the future. When we got to the motel Lynn was waiting for us. She also had a good trip. We went to the Safeway across the street to purchase our take-out and settled in for the evening.

Thursday we skied at Sovereign Lakes, which was a first for both Lynn and Cathy. It was snowing and 26F. We all three stayed on the easy trails in the morning and after lunch in the deluxe clubhouse, I skied out to the Black Prince Cabin, with a mind to take the Silver Queen Trail back but it hadn't been groomed and with 20" of snow on a long trail and no gaiters, I decided to wait. I later learned that the reason it wasn't groomed was that there wasn't enough snow lower down where the trail ran. That night we ate at my favorite Thai restaurant, whose name I forget but it was on a second floor on the south side of 30th Ave. downtown.

Friday we went to the ski village to ski the Nordic trails. Again it was snowing at 24F without much wind. We split up with Lynn going her own way and Cathy and I skiing Bridle Path and Meadow Trail back and forth to the village where we met for lunch at the Eatery. In the afternoon we skied Sidewinder Trail back and forth as well. Since it was the first ski of the year for both ladies, we were a cautious group, not committing

to difficult or long trails. That night we ate at a popular Greek restaurant, where every table was packed at 6:30.

Saturday, we went back to the Ski Village and since Lynn was having trouble with her boot and didn't want to slow us up, Cathy and I skied up Paradise Trail. It was partly cloudy and windy with the temp. @ 21F. It was a brisk climb up the mountain and we turned back short of the summit, satisfied with our outing and ready for the warmth of the Ski Village. The dark came around 4:30 and the Village put on a special holiday event, with a Santa, free samples of eggnog, bonfires, sleigh-rides, etc. Cathy was really pleased to get a free maple syrup snow cone, a Canadian treat. All of us had free fruit crepes and eggnog. In a similar manner, we decided to eat at a local eatery that was pure Vernon, with the standard Canadian Dishes, tropical fish tanks and notorious local citizens being turned back at the door. At no time during our trip did we have to drive anywhere except to ski. Everything else we could desire was available in downtown Vernon. I think this is a big advantage over the B&Bs up on the mountain. The staff at the Hotel Express was helpful and the rooms were moderate but clean and functional; everything a cross-country skier on a modest budget could hope for.

We left Vernon on a snowy Sunday morning, with the possibility of snow throughout the trip but happily the road and visibility were good and we made it back to Bellingham in a little over five hours. Taking the back roads between Sumas and Everson I passed a flock of approximately 35 Trumpeter Swans, feeding in a road-side

field; pieces of the tundra, come down to announce winter is here.

Our trip to Silver Star certainly got me started this season and I hope that it happens again next year. The snow conditions were excellent and the grooming, as always was first rate, with skating lanes groomed on every trail we skied. Even in bad years or earlier, say mid-November, there are skiable trails here, even if they have to go to the top of the Silver Star to make them!

Kurt Duey



**Cathy Cameron at
Sovereign Lake, BC**

SNOW STORM HITS SALMON RIDGE!

With good snow starting in early December, it's shaping up to be a great winter! This should be good news for skiers and snowshoers; unfortunately, too much of a good thing can create some problems. Highway restrictions that prohibit oversized vehicles (like our groomer's) go into effect whenever WA DOT posts signs stating "Traction tires or chains required". So despite having plenty of snow, we were unable to start grooming on Dec. 7th as planned.

Randy did manage to groom the trails on Dec. 15th after cutting out several trees that had fallen across Anderson Creek road. Of course, there is little evidence of that now with the huge dump of snow on top of them. This week with another storm underway, the WA DOT has been struggling to keep the Mt. Baker Highway clear – a tough job when several trees have fallen across the roadway. As a result, they haven't been able to plow out the Salmon Ridge SnoPark or other parking areas. So parking at the trailheads, has been a real problem. Access to the White Salmon Road has also been a problem with cars parked in the way, preventing it from being groomed.

Sharon Robinson Holmes reported that heavy, snow-laden branches have made the River trail impassable. So Hermod Bakke, a Mt. Baker Club member, called for a work party December 22nd to clear this trail. Quite amazing since he's still recovering from hip surgery! Way to go Herm! And thank you all who joined him in this effort.

Once the snow and winds ease, we hope regular grooming will resume. Be aware there will be some more tree and branch clean up needed along the trails. Skiers should keep careful watch that branches frozen down in the snow don't catch their ski tips and trip them up. Take a small saw, some loppers or pruners along in your pack and help keep our trails hazard free. Keeping these trails in good condition takes a lot of volunteer effort. If you do work on the trail, be sure to report your hours to me so they can be used as grant match. Help us by reporting trail conditions to

the Webmaster. And if you plan to go up the mountain, check the weather, the WA DOT website along with the NNSC website to look for the latest reports.

Gail Garman, SR Coordinator

RECREATION SURVEY

The Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) is revising the state's strategic plan for outdoor recreation and would really like your thoughts about what's important to include.

The state's outdoor recreation strategic plan, called the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), needs to be updated every 5 years to maintain our ability to receive federal funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. RCO uses these federal dollars for grants to local communities to build parks and trails, and conserve wildlife habitat.

The SCORP addresses the future recreation needs of our residents and helps guide decisions about what projects to fund.

Your input is crucial to understanding what's important to include in the plan. To make it easy to give us your opinions, we created the 'SCORP Town Hall' Web site at (www.scorpwa.wordpress.com) where you can quickly share your views.

Please help spread the word and let your members know about this opportunity through your distribution lists, newsletter, or Web site. Everyone who is interested in recreation should

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

have an opportunity to participate.

Thanks for your help in planning for the future of outdoor recreation in Washington!

If you have additional questions, contact:

Mark Duda, Responsive Management's Executive Director at: 540-432-1888, mark@responsivemanagement.com or

Michael Fraidenburg, subcontractor to Responsive Management at: 360-867-1140, MikeF@CooperationCompany.com or

Dominga Soliz, RCO's project coordinator at: 360-725-3937, Dominga.Soliz@rco.wa.gov.

LAST MINUTE DAY-TRIP/CARPOOLING EMAIL LIST SERVER

Don Hicks, Day-Trip Coordinator, has configured an NNSC Email List Server hosted by GoogleGroups.com.

The primary purpose of this Email List Server is to facilitate the organization of last minute day trips and carpooling to our home trails near Mt. Baker and other local destinations such as Cypress Mountain, Stevens Pass, Manning Park, etc..

With the highly variable weather and snow conditions in the Pacific Northwest, it is often a last minute decision to go skiing in a few days. So, if you are going out and wish to invite others to join you for company and companionship or just carpooling if you have room to share or a need for a ride, you will be able to just send an email to

NooksackNordics@GoogleGroups.com. Also the list may be used to ask questions and for other discussions between all members of the list on the general subject of XC skiing.

Membership in this Email service is voluntary and restricted to NNSC members. This list is independent of and does not affect official communications from the club leaders to the entire club membership. Only members of the list can send emails to the list so you will receive no SPAM. You may easily unsubscribe from the list at any time (see the links at the bottom of every email you receive). All email addresses are kept private. Also all replies to messages are only sent to the person who sent the original message and not to the entire group (unless you "Reply All").

If you are not already a member of the list, watch for an invitation to join the list in your email if you are a new or current member of NNSC. You may then accept membership in the list or decline (by simply ignoring the invitation). You may join this list at any time later by sending an email to the list moderator, Don Hicks, hicks46@netzero.net.



Lynn Alderson, Lynne Oliver and Don Hicks at Hollyburn, BC

NEW PORT MANN BRIDGE NOW OPEN WITH A TOLL

After years of construction the new Port Mann Bridge over the Fraser River has been opened as of Dec. 1, 2012, and Canada Highway 1 (the freeway) is routed over it instead of the old 4-lane bridge (one of the worst bottlenecks in BC). At 10 lanes the new bridge is the widest in the world. The old bridge will be torn down.

We discovered it suddenly on the Hollyburn trip on Dec. 16 and it is a TOLL BRIDGE! The toll for passenger cars is \$3 but they are having an introductory discount to \$1.50 through Feb. 2013. There are no toll booths! It assesses the toll electronically. We just sailed over it with no problem (but we own them \$1.50). They are reading your license plate with cameras and other sensors, and are set up for plates from all of Canada, USA, and Mexico.

The best info I have found is at www.treo.ca/the-bridge/ which has payment info, and alternate routes information. We can pay the toll on this website. You do not want to be in violation of any kind in Canada as they could deny you entry at the border. With the elimination of this bottleneck the Highway 1 route will be even more desirable for our trips to Hollyburn, Whistler, etc.

WHISTLER OLYMPIC PARK TRIP – JANUARY 11-13, 2013

We have added a new trip for this ski season, to the Whistler

Olympic Park on January 11 to 13.

This is your chance to ski at a beautiful new area that is actually closer to Bellingham than most other places we ski. This is in the Callaghan Valley south of Whistler, at the site that was built for the 2010 Olympics. There are 56K of groomed trails, primarily recreational skiing but also including the competitive Cross-Country and biathlon trails. This is also the site of the ski jumps, but they are closed to recreational skiers. You can also ski at the adjoining Callaghan Country area with the same pass this year. Details of the Olympic Park can be found at www.whistlerolympicpark.com.

We will be staying at the August Jack motor inn in "downtown" Squamish near the brewery, www.augustjack.com. Rooms run in the range of 75-85 Can \$ including tax, depending on the number of beds and if you want a kitchenette.

Our plan is to drive directly to the Olympic Park on Friday, Jan 11. We'll ski for the day on Friday before we go to Squamish. Then we'll ski both Saturday and Sunday before returning home Sunday evening. Those of you who cannot join us on Friday are invited to drive up either Friday evening or Saturday morning and join us for the last two days of skiing.

Squamish is about a two hour drive from Bellingham (if you catch good traffic) and the ski area is about 45 minutes from Squamish.

This is one of our favorite places to ski and should be a good trip!

For more information or to sign up call John Sarich at 380-4426 or e-mail at djarich@gmail.com.

I will work with you to set up roommates and car pools as needed.

MANNING PARK SKI TRIP JANUARY 18th –21st, 2013

There are still 5 spots available for this trip.

Cost: \$165 CND per person, based on 10 adults and exchange rate at time of trip On October 18 USD for trip = 167.25

Cross Country Ski Trip to [Manning Park British Columbia](#). The number at Lodge is 1-800-330-3321.

Ski four days (stay three nights). Groomed trails, snowshoe trails, hot tub, sauna, steam room, swimming pool.

This is always a great trip. Chalet members plan the meals for their group and we share the cost of the food. We will have three dinners and three breakfasts. Bring your own food for lunch. Alcohol is not included in the food costs.

Carpooling is preferable. We can work together at setting up carpools.

Stay in 1 chalet. The chalet has 2 double beds, 8 bunks, 3 baths, full central kitchen and dining/social area. Bedding and linens supplied with BASIC dishes and cutlery, a small microwave, a coffee pot and some cooking utensils. Washing dishes is our responsibility.

Coordinator: Elizabeth Martindale

emartindale@comcast.net

DAY TRIP TO THE HOLLYBURN XC SKI AREA AT CYPRESS BOWL JANUARY 26, 2013

Hollyburn is our closest premier XC-Ski area. It has an elevation of 3,500 ft. and 26 km of highly groomed trails for classic and skate skiing that wind past snow-covered lakes, through meadows, and snowy mountain forests. There are fantastic views of the Salish Sea, islands, Burrard Inlet, and the city far below.

There are two huts where hot food can be purchased, one at the entrance and the other (on the trails) is the historic Hollyburn Ski Lodge dating from the 1920's. There is also a large warming hut up the mountain. Many people however bring their own lunch and we eat at the lodge or the upper warming hut. Trail fees are \$20 (\$12 for 65+) for a full day, and credit cards are accepted. Go to www.cypressmountain.com for current information and conditions.

We will meet at Sunset Square parking lot, Southeast corner at the rock wall near Cost Cutter at 8am for carpooling. We usually try to return to B'ham by early evening (6-ish). Remember to bring your PASSPORTS or other acceptable identification for re-entering the USA.

Contact the leader, Don Hicks, 733-4815, hicks46@netzero.net, for confirmation and more details.

LAKE WENATCHEE TRIP FEBRUARY 1st-4th, 2013

This area offers seven different skiing locations within 16 miles

of where we are staying. Accommodations are in Plain WA at Beaver Valley Lodge. Stay is for 3 nights and 4 days of skiing. Lodging is \$200 per person. The lodge may be seen at www.beavervalleylodge.com.

The Wenatchee River bisects Lake Wenatchee State Park, thus creating the South Park and North park. The South Park has 18.6 miles of groomed trails and the North Park has 3.1 miles of groomed trails. Skate skiing is available in the North Park. South Park also offers tubing and a snow play area. There are 4.9 miles of snow shoeing trails. Another location is Nason Ridge that offers tracks and a skate lane. Additionally the trail leads to back country skiing for the more adventuresome. Total trail length is 17.9 miles of which 12 miles are groomed. Nearby is Chiwawa with the See and Ski trail groomed for track and skate skiing for 4 miles. Flying Loop and Squirrel Run are 2.9 and 2.5 miles, respectively.

A Sno Park Permit is required and also a Special Groomed Trails Permit sticker. Drivers are responsible for the Sno Park Permit. Riders will share the cost of the Special Permit. Special permit stays with the driver after the trip is completed.

Meals will be planned and members will share the cost of the food. There will be three dinners and three breakfasts. Bring your own food for lunch. Alcohol is not included in the food costs. Carpooling is encouraged and will be arranged prior to the trip.

Make checks payable to NNSC for \$200. Mail to 1514 Historic Lane, Wenatchee, WA 98801.

Coordinator is Lynn Alderson at 223-5859 or lalder3122@yahoo.com (note new email address)

STAKE, LOGAN LAKES & KANE VALLEY SKI TRIP FEBRUARY 15 – 18, 2013

(Presidents' Day Weekend)
Coordinated by Don Hicks

This high altitude ski destination has three different settings to ski in: ultra-groomed Stake Lake, semi-groomed Logan Lake, and seldom groomed Kane Valley offering a variety of ski opportunities. We will be staying again at the luxurious Highland House B&B in Logan Lake, BC. The cost of \$253 per person includes meals with special dietary needs accommodated. There is a maximum of 10 or 11 people.

For more details go to our web site, <http://www.nooksacknordicskiclub.org/>, and select EVENTS or contact Don at 360-733-4815 or hicks46@netzero.net or Sharon at 360-647-8606 or smrconsulting@msn.com.

These trips have been very popular in past years and fill very quickly. To hold a space send a check for the full amount made out to NNSC to the trip coordinator, Don Hicks, 1546 Hillsdale Rd., Bellingham, WA, 98226.

NICKEL PLATE SKI TRIP MARCH 7 – 9, 2013

Cost: \$318 USD.

There are 50 km of groomed Track set Trails and 20 km of

backcountry trails behind Apex Mountain. To see their web site, go to [Nickelplate Nordic](#). This is, in my opinion, one of the better Nordic trail systems in B.C with a very active club that keeps the facilities in top condition. This site has the longest ski season with its high elevation. I also recommend that members may elect to Ski China Ridge above Princeton, with 40 kilometers of trails, on the way to Nickelplate, this is another possibility for members who prefer the quiet beauty of the B.C. mountains. It is tracked but not groomed as well as Nickelplate. It has several warming huts and a backcountry cabin as well. To see their web site click on [Chinaridge Trails](#). It is 176 miles to the Apex Mountain Resort, where our lodging will be located. Carpooling is encouraged.

Coordinator: Greg Aanes
gregaanes@yahoo.com

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Monthly meetings are the first Thursday, 7-9 PM

January 3
February 7
March 7



**Linda Bakke and Sharon
Robinson Holmes
Snowshoeing at Salmon
Ridge**

Nooksack Nordic Ski Club Membership Application and Sno~Park Order Form

Use this form to purchase Sno~Park permits, or to join the club or to renew your membership.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____
Street/PO Box City State Zip

PHONE 1: _____ (Home, Cell, Work) PHONE 2: _____ (H, C, W)

EMAIL 1: _____ EMAIL 2: _____

(Please check the appropriate items)

NNSC MEMBERSHIP DUES: \$30 per individual _____ \$45 per household _____

Student \$15 _____ Sno~Park permit*: \$40 _____ Total amount: _____

*Vehicle License _____

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: _____

Please distribute my contact information to the membership. We omit street address from the distribution list, showing only city, phone and email address(es), (Please note, if you decline to be listed, then you won't get the list, either)

Yes _____ No _____

Please check preferred alternative for receipt of Snow News is Good News newsletter:

Email: _____ U.S. mail: _____ or NNSC website: _____

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