

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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November 2014



**Road Trip! An Opinionated Guide to
Groomed Nordic Ski Areas in the Northwest**

Club Meeting

When – Thursday, November 6th

New member orientation is at 7:15 PM; Meeting starts at 7:30 PM.

Who - Anyone is welcome!

Where – Garden Street Methodist Church at 1326 N. Garden St. in Bellingham, WA

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IS YOUR NNSC MEMBERSHIP CURRENT?



Dues are seasonal, with the 2014-15 season starting in September.

Benefits for \$30 single or \$45 per household include "Snow News is Good News" delivered, access to super trips and other activities, connecting with other skiers at meetings and trips, and joining approximately 90 other individuals or households in supporting local Nordic skiing.

You can find a [membership form](#) on the NNSC web site, the last page of this newsletter, or at club meetings. A complete application includes payment plus a fully filled out and signed membership form. Household memberships must be signed by all persons covered under the membership.

Why not fill out a form right now while you're thinking about it and mail it in? Or, come to the meeting on Thursday November 6th and pay then.

Jim Rhodes

FOR SALE

Feeling a little out of shape for the cross-country experience? I have an extra Nordic Track ski machine that I would be happy to sell to anyone who wants to get ready to ski. Currently I am in Southern Chile but if you contact me by email I can arrange for its sale for \$25.

Kurt Duey



UPPER NOOKSACK RIVER RECREATION PLAN

A draft version of the Upper Nooksack River Recreation Plan was presented at a recent meeting in Van Zandt. This recreation plan is an attempt by a number of stake-holders, both governmental and private, (eg. USFS, NPS, American Rivers, local land-owners, Washington Trails Association, etc.) to produce a broad, 'guidance' document for non-motorized recreation. It makes no requirements and also brings no specific pots of money to accomplish these suggestions, but is hoped to give a 'big picture' view of what many different groups hope to see in the upper Nooksack River. It may be a useful document in the search for funding for its recommendations.

One of the five main goals is to "Plan and Create Sustainable Trail Opportunities and Trail Connectivity". They see trails as providing opportunities for "walking, enjoying views, jogging, hiking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, bicycling, horseback riding, access for fishers and more."

Implementation items mentioned in the draft plan that will affect club members include:

- 1) Protect the banks and beds of the North Fork near the Razor Hone trails by discouraging vehicle access to the river bed. The Forest Service is putting large boulders near the bank at the end of Waterfront Loop and out at the end of Razor Hone.
- 2) The development of a mountain bike trail from the Mt. Baker Lodge to the DOT

maintenance station. Please see the article in this issue on 'Connector Trails' for further discussion.

3) Upper North Fork – Cross-Country Skiing and Snowshoeing:

- A. Support further development of the Salmon Ridge Trail System.
- B. Create new snowshoe and groomed cross-country trails.
- C. Enlarge the White Salmon Ridge Snow Park parking lot.
- D. Provide a self-pay station at the snow parks.

4) The consideration of ski trails in the Middle Fork of the Nooksack drainage. "Skiing and snowshoeing: Create more non-motorized Sno-Parks to access Potter Peak, Twin Sisters, and other areas."

5) Protect the wetlands along Anderson Rd. for elk and other wildlife.

In discussions during the meeting and on the following field trip, Pete Tryon, your newest board member for NNSC, voiced support for increased ski trails and specifically for developing a new trailhead at the intersection of the old logging road near Galena Creek and the Mt. Baker Highway.

For more information, American Rivers has a good overview at: <http://www.americanrivers.org/initiative/wild-and-scenic/projects/nooksack-river-recreation-planning/>

Pete Tryon

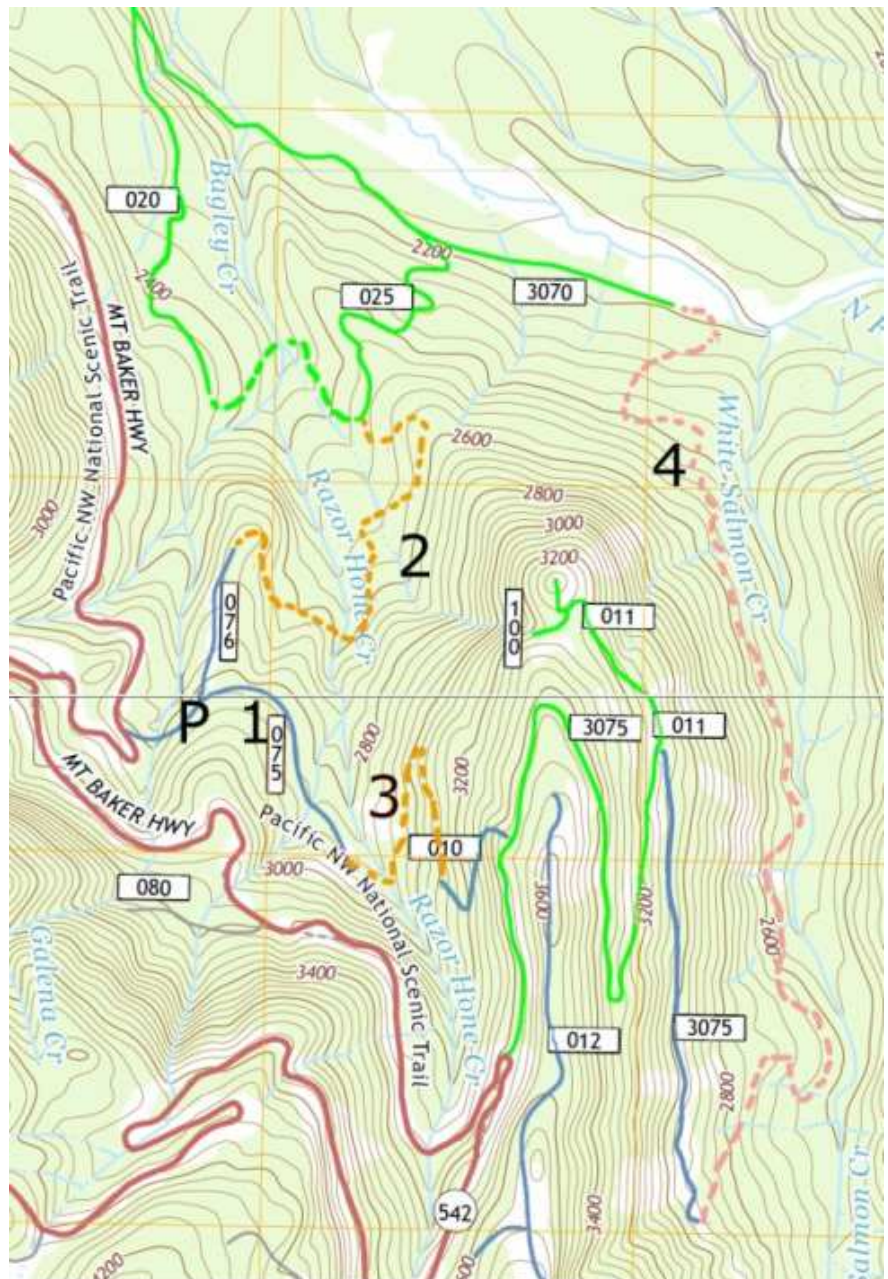
NEW TRAILS FOR THE SALMON RIDGE SNO-PARK?

For more than a decade, there has been a dream to connect the Razor Hone Road with the White Salmon Road with a skiable trail. Difficulties include an elevation difference of approximately 1000 vertical feet and areas of both old-growth timber and thick revegetation of logged areas.

The NNSC has contracted with a trails specialist to consult on possible routes. If a possible route is found, we will submit it to the Forest Service for approval and if approved, then initially brush it out for back-country use. The hope is that eventually, it could be reinforced to the level that would allow track-setting.

The Upper Nooksack River Recreation Plan (see adjoining article) calls for a 'Mt. Baker to the DOT Maintenance Station all-season trail.' Whether we wish to proactively pursue this is an issue of discussion within our club.

The attached map shows some possibilities. The blue line (1) is an old, overgrown logging road, called the Galena Road for the nearby creek. If brushed out, it would be an excellent ski trail. (P) represents a possible parking area that would provide safer parking than White Salmon, and better snow than Razor Hone. Our initial investigation was of route (3), connecting the Galena Road with White Salmon. Unfortunately it is extremely steep and does not lend itself to a groomed ski trail. (2) is next on the list for examination. It might provide a nice connector



between the Cougar Loop and our new (dreamed of) parking area on the Galena Road. We also hope to examine (4) as a possible complete connection between the two systems.

As they say – this is a work in progress. Feel free to talk to a board member for more information. Stay tuned for further reports, requests for work parties to brush trails, and maybe even some fund-raising at some point in the future!

Pete Tryon



Alan Richardson and Dick Etter in Background at Silver Star

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BUY YOUR SNO- PARK PERMIT!



Be sure to buy a Sno-Park permit! You'll need one to park at the Salmon Ridge Sno-Park, or across the highway at the Anderson Creek or Silver Fir campground, between Nov 1st to April 30th. You can purchase them through NNSC, REI, Backcountry Essentials, or at Crossroads Grocery in Maple Falls. Or purchase them on-line at: <http://www.parks.wa.gov/winter/nonmotorparks/permits/>. They are \$40 for a seasonal permit or \$20 for a one day permit, plus \$2 extra if you buy them through a retail store.

By buying a Sno-Park permit, you are supporting your community trails and ski club. Sno-Park fees go into a dedicated fund which supports the WA State non-motorized Winter Recreation program. This program is totally self sustaining (no tax payer money used). Proceeds are used to maintain and improve the 47 Sno-Park facilities throughout WA. They pay for plowing out the Sno-Park, sanitation facilities, trail grooming and signs, mapping, education, enforcement and program administration. Don't forget, the USFS received a Sno-Park grant to step up enforcement and education, so don't get caught without one; the fine is steep!

When you go, we want your feedback. Please send your Nordic ski and snowshoe conditions reports to Pete Tryon

at ski@tryonhayes.com so we can post them on the NNSC website to share with others. You can also give feedback on the condition of a Sno-Park directly to the WA State Parks and Recreation Commission, by picking up a form at the trailhead or on-line at: <http://www.parks.wa.gov/FormCenter/Winter-Recreation-9/SnoPark-Onsite-Evaluation-Form-68>.

Gail Garman

KUDOS CORNER



NNSC exists because of dedicated volunteers. The Salmon Ridge trails, specifically, require a huge amount of volunteer time.

Brushing parties not only clear trails but also provide matching hours for NRTP grant funding.

Thank you to each of you that provided a hand for a day or more this September and October wielding chain saws, brush cutters, pole pruners and muscle with gloved hands:

Linda Bakke
Herm Bakke
Patrick Bourke
John Bourke
Marjan Eicher
Frank Eicher
Gail Garman
Meg Hayes
Pat Kennedy
Phil Kincare
Kathleen Laughlin
Bill Laughlin
Lara LeMieux

Bob Lemon
Lynne Oliver
Jim Rhodes
John Sarich
Pete Tryon
Judy Wayt
Kathryn Whitman

NEW SNOW SHOE ROUTE

The new Jerry Bourne snow shoe route connects Hannegan and Twin Lakes Roads. An REI-NNSC work party this fall transformed an unofficial, boot beaten route with various markers into a well-brushed route that is highly marked with blue diamonds. This is a nice forest route with various types of forest, a pond, and a view of Mt. Shuksan on clear days. If you're a previous user, it has been rerouted to avoid the huge devil's club patch.



One end is just past the Hannegan picnic area. Follow Hannegan Rd a few feet and find the trail on the left just past a large rock face. From Twin Lakes Rd, just past the steep approach off Mt. Baker Hwy is a road to the right that goes into a gravel pit. This is the other end.

If you'd like more snow shoe adventure, follow Hannegan Rd further and find various old roads and stream access points on the left side of the road, or go toward the Nooksack Cirque trail and access river bars along the right side of the road. This is a USFS fee area all year and not part of Salmon Ridge Sno-Park.

Jim Rhodes

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FUNDING SALMON RIDGE OPERATIONS

What does it take to keep the Salmon Ridge Trail system going each winter? The answer might surprise you. Would you believe about **\$32,000 per year**. That's for a normal snow year. Last year, due to less snow, total operations only added up to \$23,879.58 (see graphs). So how does a small ski club manage to do this? Thanks to all the work of volunteers, grant funding, and working with 11 different organizations, we make it happen.

New this year, we received an REI grant of \$5000, plus they are helping us recruit volunteers for the work parties. This grant is to "...maintain the existing trails at Salmon Ridge Trail System (SRTS), improve them where possible, and expand it where allowed." Already we've

used it to brush out, mark and sign the 0.8 mile Jerry Bourne trail, a new snowshoe and back-country ski trail that goes from the Shuksan picnic area on Hannegan Pass Road around a beautiful picturesque pond to the Twin Lakes road. And we have hired a trail surveyor to work with the USFS to find other potential connector trails between White Salmon road and Razor Hone road. So stay tuned on further developments.

Happily we can report that we are once again well funded for this winter. Dave Gerstenberger, secured another WA State Sno-Park program grant. (Thank you Dave!) They awarded NNSC with \$7748 in grooming funds, \$3000 for sanicans, and \$2287 for snow removal. In addition the USFS received a \$3000 Education and Enforcement grant. In addition, we still have another \$10,263 left of National Recreational Trails Program

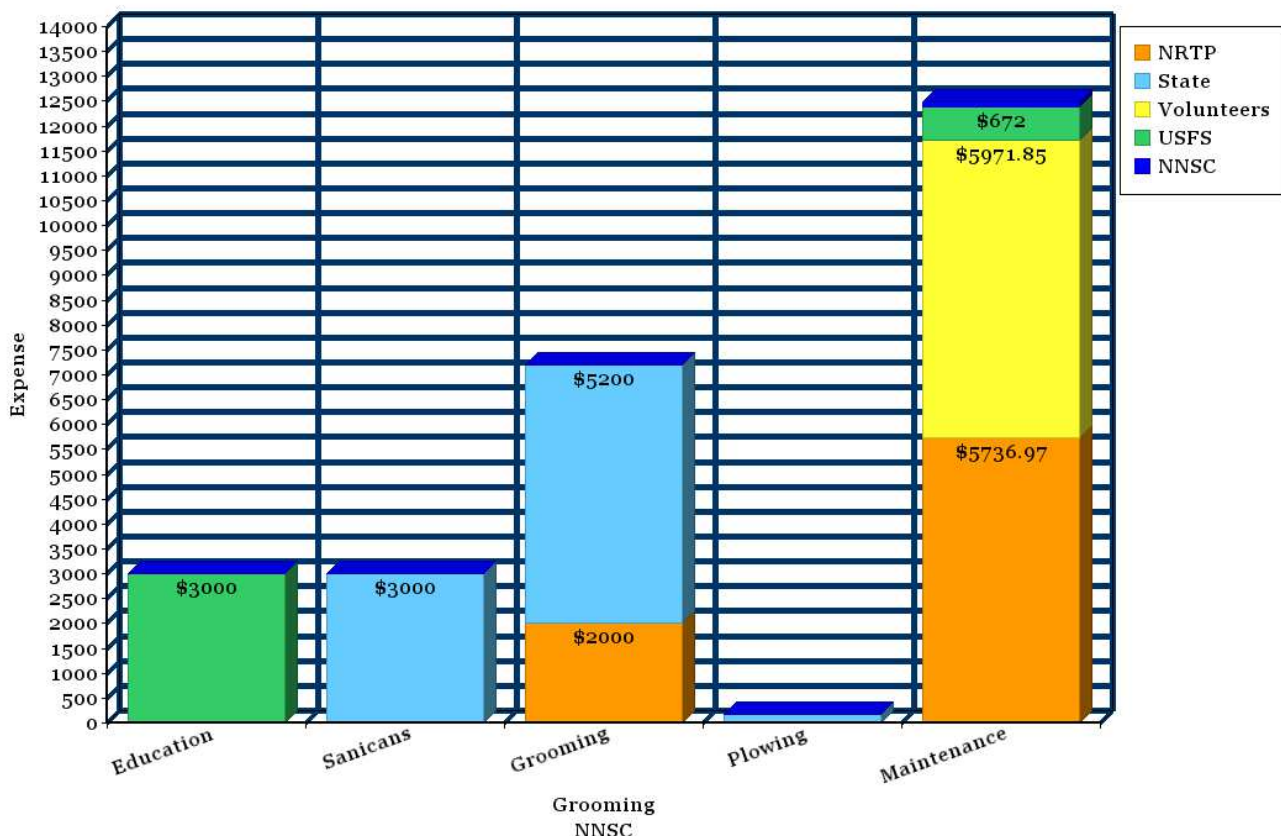
funds for maintenance and grooming.

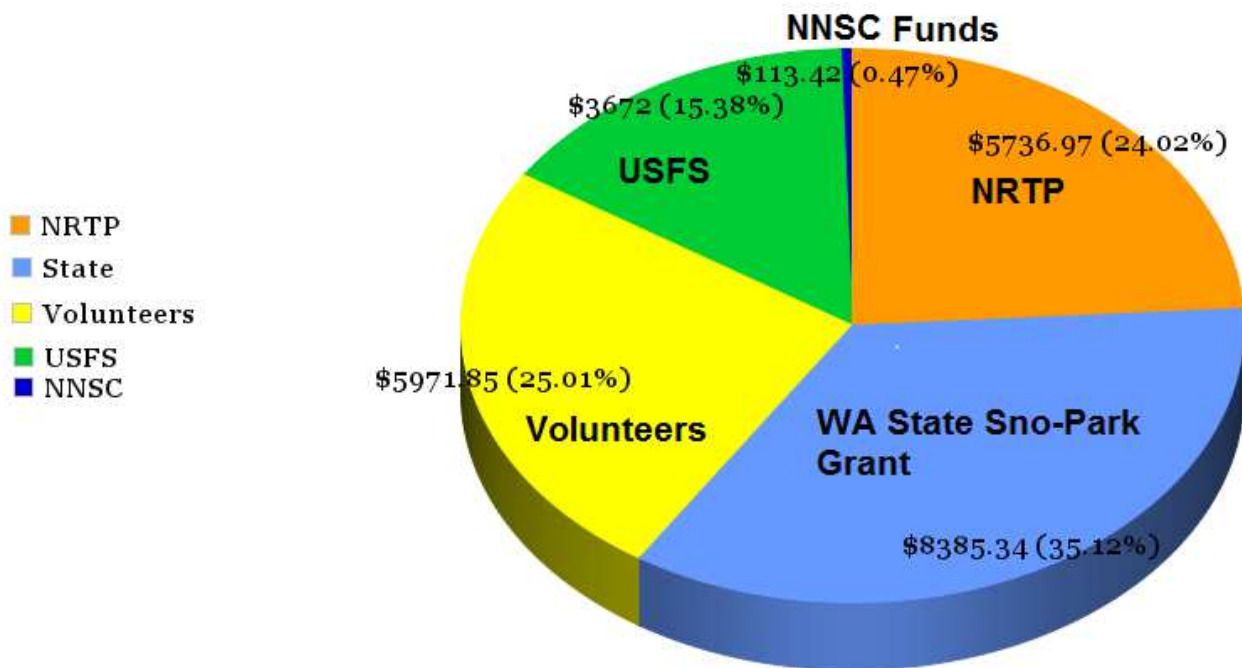
These grants aren't free money though; it takes the commitment of volunteers to work on the trails as "match" to make this all possible. So far this year, volunteers have provided 192 hours of labor for a value of over \$3775. Volunteers are the heart and soul of NNSC and nothing would get done without them. So **way to go** all of you that help clear the trails or take on other NNSC tasks! We should be very proud because without the efforts of the Nooksack Nordic Ski Club, there would be no groomed trails. Together we've maintained the Salmon Ridge trail system for over 22 years!! Not bad.

Gail Garman

(please see another funding source chart on following page)

Salmon Ridge Funding 2013 to 2014





The Nooksack Nordic Ski Club, stewards of the Salmon Ridge Trail System, obtain grants, recruit volunteers, and work with 11 organizations to provide these public trails. Total project = \$23,879.58 (*NRTTP Grant – National Recreation Trails Program)

SALMON RIDGE MAINTENANCE UPDATES

Razorhone, White Salmon, and Ridge (aka Lodge) Roads were mowed by tractor this fall.

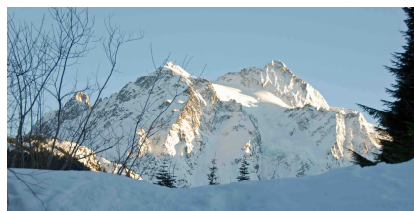


The Forest Service approved adding Ridge Road to our operating agreement, allowing us to mow what had become a highly overgrown road. NNSC may also maintain the connector between Ridge Road and White Salmon Road.

Two work parties this fall created the new Jerry Bourne snow shoe route (subject of a separate article) and substantially improved the connector between Ridge (aka Lodge) Road and White Salmon Road. The connector was brushed wider and had more blue diamonds installed.

Ridge Road is quite flat, with good views of Mt. Shuksan. While not all that long, it in itself is a pretty trip. With the maintenance work completed, there is an opportunity to snow shoe or ski from the far corner of the Mt. Baker Rec parking lot out Ridge Road and then White Salmon Road.

This avoids the dangerous and small parking location for White Salmon. Unless you consider yourself an expert skier, you may want to plan to snow shoe down the connector.



View from top of connector looking across Ridge Road

4-wheel drive vehicles have continued to view Cougar Loop as a playground, getting stuck on both sides of the bridge and creating deep ruts. This will come to an end shortly.

The US Forest Service, with corrections crew labor, will be installing 2 new gates on Cougar. The gates will be closed and locked outside the ski season, and open in the winter to allow grooming and skiing. The corrections crews will also be doing some brushing work and repairing the existing ruts. So, thank Gail Garman, USFS, and corrections crews for making Cougar Loop a nicer place to ski this winter.

The Anderson Creek Road gate has also been repaired so that it properly shuts and raises and lowers as the snow level changes. Salmon Ridge is in great shape for another winter of skiing and snow shoeing.

Jim Rhodes

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KURT'S COMMENTS ABOUT TRIPS

It is time to think about your coming ski season. As trip coordinator I want to let the members know that many of same people who were trip leaders last season, will be back offering the same trips that were a success last year. It is a good thing that we are offering two trips to Logan Lake because the first one is already filled! Fortunately for you the second trip still has vacancies, so even though it seems early I would urge all the members who wish to sign up for one of our trips to not put it off. If you have a destination you would like to ski, which we are not yet offering, contact me and we can set you up with all the information you would need to lead your own club trip.



Two Members Enjoying Sunny Day at Kane Valley

Kurt Duey

STAKE & LOGAN LAKES & KANE VALLEY

December 26th – 29th, 2014

This high altitude destination is less than 5 hours from Bellingham on good well-maintained roads. We will stay at the fabulous Highland House B&B in Logan Lake, BC. offering 5 luxury bedrooms with 2 beds and private full bathrooms. This place is really nice! The cost includes meals (heart

breakfasts with many choices, sack lunches, substantial dinners, accommodation of special dietary needs). The outdoor hot tub and setting are as outstanding as the rest of the B&B. Their web site is:

<http://www.highlandhouse.ca>.

For several years club members have enjoyed great skiing because of the 3 xc-ski areas to choose from: ultra-groomed Stake Lake, semi-groomed Logan Lake, and seldom groomed Kane Valley. 5 min. from our B&B, Logan Lake at 1180 meters has 36 km of skate and classic track. Trail fee is \$7. They have 2 km of night-lit groomed trails. Web site: <http://www.loganlake.com/>.

20 min. from our B&B, Stake Lake at 1315 meters has 60 km of skate and classic track. Trail fee is \$15. It features a large warming hut. Web site: <http://overlanderskiclub.com/>.

1 hr. from our B&B, Kane Valley at 1160 meters has 50 km of classic and un-groomed trails. Trail fee is \$7. It can be skied on the way up and/or back. Web site: <http://www.nicolanordic.ca/>. All 3 are unique and enjoyable.

Ski 4 days and stay 3 nights for \$256 USD per person including meals.

To hold a space on this trip send a check for the full amount (made out to NNSC) to the trip coordinator.

Trip Coordinator: Sharon Holmes, 552 Rainbow Dr., Sedro Woolley, WA 98284. Phone (360) 647-8606 or email smrconsulting98229@msn.com.

You must be a member to go on this trip.



The Rhodes Family at Logan Lake

MANNING PARK

**Martin Luther King Weekend
January 16th – 19th, 2015**

Ski pass prices for winter 2015 are not posted yet, but last year Nordic day passes were:

- Adult: \$20; from 12:30 to 4:30: \$15
- 65 and over \$12; from 12:30 to 4:30: \$9

Last year grooming was excellent. Ski 4 days (stay 3 nights). Features include groomed trails, snowshoe trails, hot tub, sauna, steam room, and 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. This trip provides a great opportunity for group camaraderie as there are 5 to 6 people in each bedroom and 10 or 11 of us sharing meals that we have taken turns to prepare.

We stay in 1 chalet. The chalet has 2 Bedrooms and a central living room. Each room has 1 double bed, 4 bunk beds (8 twin size beds), a bathroom with tub and shower. There is also a third full bath for everyone's use, a full central kitchen and dining/social area. Bedding and linens are supplied with BASIC

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dishes and cutlery, a small microwave, a coffee pot and some cooking utensils. Washing dishes is our responsibility.

Lodge phone 800-330-3321 and website www.manningpark.com

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

The cost per person is \$169. This is based on the 9/26/14 exchange rate. If the CDN dollar changes then the cost per person will change accordingly.

To hold a space on this trip send a check for the full amount (made out to NNSC) to the trip coordinator. Spaces are assigned based on payment date. Elizabeth will be at the October, November, and December meetings to accept deposits or they can be mailed to her.

Trip Coordinator: Elizabeth Martindale, 103 Morey Avenue, Bellingham, WA 98225. Email emartindale@comcast.net or phone 360-393-4732

You must be a member to go on this trip.

WENATCHEE LAKE AREA **Jan 30th – Feb 2nd, 2015**

This area offers 7 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. More information about the lodge is available at: 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 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 3 dinners and 3 breakfasts. Bring your own food for lunch. Alcohol is not included in the food costs.

Cost is \$200 USD per person for lodging. Make checks payable to NNSC for the full amount and mail to the trip coordinator.

Trip Coordinator: Lynn Alderson, 3310 Burch Mountain Rd, Wenatchee, WA 98801. Phone 509-885-6342 or email lalder3122@yahoo.com

You must be a member to go on this trip.



Sharon Holmes and Elizabeth Martindale at Silver Star

STAKE & LOGAN LAKES & KANE VALLEY

February 13th – 16th, 2015

Please see description above for December, 2014 trip. Same great place and details, but different trip coordinator.

To hold a space on this trip send a check for the full amount of \$256 per person (made out to NNSC) to the trip coordinator.

Trip Coordinator: Kurt Duey, 2631 Sunset Dr., B'ham, 98225, Phone 360-820-4174 or email kurt.duey@comcast.net

You must be a member to go on this trip.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Monthly meetings are the first Thursday, 7:30 -9 PM

November 6
December 4
January 8
February 5
March 5



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

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