

Snow News IS Good News

Newsletter of the Nooksack Nordic Ski Club

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MARCH 2021



Club Meeting – Meet with NNSC on Zoom!

When – Tuesday, March 9th

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

MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, March 9, 2021: 7:00 PM

Two-part meeting:

1. Our **Annual Meeting**, with the election of board members. It's not too late to throw your name in the hat. If COVID-19 ever settles down, you can even join us for tea and cookies once a month during the winter to talk skiing!
2. **Cross-country skiing during the Winter of COVID-19.** A participatory slideshow! Cue up on your computer two of your favorite pictures of skiing this winter - either where you did ski - or where you wished you could have gone skiing. Be ready to share your screen as you describe your pictures. Sharing a screen with Zoom is easy - assistance will be available (and if you'd like to read about it beforehand, click [NNSC Zoom Sharing](#) for some hints).

Information about connecting to the Zoom meeting is as follows:

NNSC general membership meeting

Time: March 9, 2021 7:00 PM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86222202280?pwd=NkRSR3ZrbEZqWURtQXZjTTVPVXQxQT09>

NNSC ANNUAL MEETING MARCH 9, 2021

We have the last general membership meeting of the year on Tuesday, March 9, at 7:00 by Zoom. There are two portions to the meeting. Right at 7:00, we will have a *brief* annual business meeting at which we will have a report from our president, a report from the treasurer and the election of new board members (see note at the bottom). An opportunity for members to present new business or other concerns will also be available.

Hope to see you there!

President, NNSC



PETE TRYON



NNSC wants YOU!

The Nooksack Nordic Ski Club is only as active as its members! Right now, we are missing a nominating committee and have an opening for one or two board members. We are looking for interested members to volunteer for service on the board. The basic requirements are a love of Nordic skiing, to be interested in furthering it in Whatcom County,

and to invest 2 hours each winter month for an evening board meeting.

If interested, email the club at president@nooksacknordicskiclub.org or Pete Tryon at ski@tryonhayes.com. He would be happy to attempt to answer any questions. 'Elections' will take place at the general membership meeting on Tuesday, March 9. If you are not able to attend, let Pete know and he will be able to put you on the 'slate'.

Thanks for considering this service.

TRAIL OF THE MONTH - RAZOR HONE / COUGAR LOOP

It's time! If you've been following our series of the Trail of the Month, you've been wondering where our main trail out the parking lot, the Razor Hone Trail, has been (as well as wondering where the snow was!) We now have snow and grooming!

The Razor Hone Trail goes by the name of Forest Service Road 3070 during the summer, but during the winter it is groomed once (or sometimes twice) a week out to the barrier that warns of a washout about 2.5 miles from the parking lot. With a set of classical tracks down the side and a wide skating lane, it provides opportunities for both beginners and those who want to 'stretch out' and get some exercise. Check our website for grooming news – we usually post on the morning that it happens.

As the 'main drag' it sees a number of other users, but they try to stay to the side and not damage the ski tracks. Skiing out to the end will entail several moderate uphill grades and a

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couple of scenic creek crossings (with wide bridges). Your return trip will be back down these same hills.

Adding the Cougar Loop will make it into a loop trip (at least at the end) and will add some exciting hills in the middle of it. Both legs of the Cougar Loop are usually groomed to the two high points, but there is a 0.6-mile segment where the trail drops down to a very scenic 'mini-canyon' crossing Bagley Creek with a foot bridge. Purists keep their skis on and ski down the hill to the bridge – careful people take their skis off and walk. Take your pick. But it's worth the trip regardless. While this section is 'back-country', adventurous skiers routinely complete the loop with skate skis or narrow, in-track skis.



PETE TRYON

SALAMANDER CONNECTOR TRAIL UPDATE

A quick update on the connector trail between White Salmon and Cougar Loop. NNSC volunteers, with a permit from the Forest Service, have been working on a

winter-only snowshoe /backcountry ski trail connecting the bottom of the White Salmon trails with the top of the Cougar Loop. Last summer preliminary brushing was 'completed' and a first pass of blue diamond trail markers were put up. Last week a few adventurers made it from the Salmon Ridge parking lot to the midpoint! (and back down) Next up, if we can figure out a COVID-19 safe shuttle, is to do a top-to-bottom trip.

The goal is a backcountry ski-friendly trail – the reality at the moment is to use skis for White Salmon and/or Razor Hone, and to carry snowshoes for the connector trail. See more details at:

<http://www.nooksacknordicskiclub.org/trails/descriptions/salamander-connector-trail/>

Want to be on the adventure invite list? Send an email to Pete Tryon at ski@tryonhayes.com.



**JOHN AND JEROME
SOMEWHERE ON THE
CONNECTOR TRAIL**

FOR SKI TRAIL MILEAGE CHECK OUT THIS LINK

Version: Feb 11, 2021 posted at http://www.nooksacknordicskiclub.org/pdf/SalmonRidge_mileage.pdf

SNOW DAY IN BELLINGHAM

Here in Bellingham, we have about two weeks of freezing weather every year and if we are lucky it will also include snow.

The past two years, I was able to ski in Broadway Park, across the street from my home. Skiing around the park in a big loop, I was thrilled to be skiing without having to drive my car to the snow.

This year was different. Six inches of snow fell early Saturday morning and by nine the park was full of young families, children and dogs. Everyone was having a great time but the snow was pretty churned up and the crowds made it tough to observe the six-foot rule for social distancing. Sunday, I planned to ski somewhere less crowded, so I drove up to Cordata Park, a brand new 25-acre park on Cordata Parkway. I spent several hours skiing on the walking paths.

At one point I had to stop and back up, to avoid skiing over a sparrow that was hunkered down in my previous ski track. I suspect it was hiding from the wind. The next time I came around the bird was gone, so I'm glad I didn't ski over it the first time.

This park was much less populated and the snow was untrampled. I would definitely recommend checking out Cordata Park to ski, when it snows in town. Be flexible and ready to ski when it snows in Bellingham.

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KURT DUEY

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 ranges 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



HOPE TO SEE YOU NEXT SEASON!

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