

Snow News IS Good News

Newsletter of the Nooksack Nordic Ski Club

P.O. Box 28793, Bellingham, WA 98228
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NOVEMBER 2021



Club Meeting – Meet with NNSC on Zoom!

When – Tuesday, November 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, November 9, 2021:

7:00 PM – Our first general membership meeting of the year is a Zoom meeting, sitting in front of your very own computer! Meet other members of the club and hear mini-presentations about club activities this winter. Feel free to ask questions. (Predictions call for a good snow year on our local trails!) Visitors interested in Nordic skiing in Whatcom County and the club's activities are welcome! To join the meeting, see below. It may take a minute to get connected, in that we will be using a 'waiting room' as a modest security measure since this is open to the public.

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

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

NOTES FROM MEMBERSHIP PERSON

Is this the winter that everyone wants to ski at Salmon Ridge? Is this the winter that you will need to get up early to get a parking spot? Is Nordic skiing the way to enjoy snow, stay socially distant, exercise, and have fun all at the same time? I think it is. Thank you, new members, for your support! In the last 12 months, our club has gained 39 new memberships, both individual and family.

Not only do we have new members, but they are joining us at our monthly Zoom meetings and providing muscle on our work parties. Thank you!

NNSC 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*

So, let's keep this going. See someone on the trails at White Salmon? Talk to them about what the club does. How about talking with some of your friends and encouraging them to join us? People can join or renew membership online ([Join / Renew | Nooksack Nordic Ski Club](#)). Have an idea that you would like to work on to support Nordic skiing? Let us know!

Interested in the board's activities? Watch your email for an invite to join one of our Zoom Board meetings, or contact me at pete@tryonhayes.com.

And speaking of wanting to ski at Salmon Ridge – I'm sure that you are aware that there is no snow there (as of January 18). But in checking my notes, the last couple of years have had marginal skiing in January, but

pretty nice conditions in February. (And skiing into April, depending on your standards) Maybe this year too!

Hope to see you on the trails!

President, NNSC



PETE TRYON

FROM THE TREASURER

As of September 30, 2021, the ski club has \$16,669.64 in the bank. Sounds like a lot, doesn't it? However, we must maintain a balance of \$10,000 just for cash flow as most of the time we have to pay up front and then get reimbursed. Our organization is a 501c3 with an education component.

Our sources of Income are dues, donations & grants.

1. Membership dues: Last season dues totaled \$2,000.
2. Donations: average @\$500.00/season.
Please list NNSC as your charitable organization of choice with Amazon Smile and Fred Meyers Reward program.
3. Grants: Snow Park Grant, National Recreational Trails Program Grant (NRTP), Shell Oil Grant.

Membership dues and donations don't amount to much so....

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1. Snow Park Grant: the current one for this 2021-22 season is \$26,388.72. This grant is through Washington State Parks and Recreation Snow Park fund monies. Basically, this pays for the port-a-potties, snow grooming and the plowing of the parking lot. NNSC vies with other snow parks for some of the Snow Park funds pie. The snow groomer bills the state direct; it does not go through our bank account.

So, what does go through our bank account?

1. National Recreational Trails Program Grant (NRTP) which gets its monies from Federal transportation funds. Our NRTP grant ended on September 30, 2021. We are still waiting to hear if we will receive any funds for Oct 2021 – Sep 2023: It is a 2-year grant. There is a volunteer labor match component to this, thus, our work parties. This money does come through our treasury in the form of 'reimbursement of allowed expenses'. Thus, the cash flow balance mentioned above. This money reimburses, mowing, work party expenses, the club's equipment purchase/maintenance, and snow grooming once the groomer has exhausted our grant of the state snow park fund and there is still good snow, and, any other allowed expenses under

the grant. When federal funds are lacking, then no NRTP grant is funded. John Keates graciously volunteered to write the grant seeking federal monies. Thank John when you see him!

2. Shell Oil Grant: Jim Rhodes, a longtime member, has been our source for a Shell Oil grant of \$500 each season. Please thank Jim for this when you see him on the trails.

Our Expenses

Mowing, grooming, occasional road grading, occasional tree services from storm damage (like the monumental amount of downed trees last season that closed grooming of Anderson Creek Road. If we get good snow this winter, we have the potential of great skiing as a result of all the grading that was done during this past summer. And, we have added the Gerbil Loop for grooming.

Examples of expenses:

1. We have 3 major trails that require roadside mowing typically @ one road per season; the bill can be around \$3,500-\$4,000 per road.
2. Snow grooming once a week in a good snow year can be around \$4,000 per month.

Without volunteers to write these grants, do trail maintenance and plan for the big items, the roads and trails of the Salmon Ridge trail system would become brushy, ungroomed back-country trails. The winter recreation community depends upon us not to let that happen. So, thanks to all those who have helped out already. Many hands make light

work of individual parts of the ski club. If you haven't joined or helped out yet, give us a try.

We could use:

Program chair – @4-6 meetings a year

Back up web person

Membership person

Trip Leaders – when we can actually go on overnight trips again.

Hospitality person - when we can have in-person meetings.

LYNN OLIVER



Culvert Installed on Cougar

SKI TRIPS FOR 2021-2022 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 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

SKIING IN THE METHOW VALLEY in 2021

Our Cascade ski trails are being heavily used this season but good skiing is to be had in the Methow Valley. On January 19th I went to Winthrop for four days of skiing. With the Canadian border closed, I had to look elsewhere and the Methow Valley trails are the most extensive and varied to be found in the northwest corner of our country. It is five hours and ten minutes from Bellingham to Winthrop. It contains 120 miles of well-groomed trails. It also has snowshoe and fat tired bike trails. My ski companion and I shared the expense of staying at River Song Suites, located in Winthrop. We found our lodging through Methow Reservations at 509-996-2148.

www.methowreservations.com

Our drive over was on clear roads and we arrived at 11AM. After a short break to get settled and have lunch at the suite, we drove to the nearby Spring Creek Trail head for a few hours of skiing on the MC Trail. Temperatures varied from 12 to 33 degrees. There was little icing and the snow was fast but manageable. We skied until dark and returned to River Song for the evening.

Our suite had a microwave, refrigerator and sink. This allowed us to bring our own food and to avoid going out to eat. Our suite was clean and quiet, with internet and cable. There is

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no shortage of high-quality rentals available in the area.

The next morning, we drove to the Sun Mountain Trail System. We skied Little Wolf, Aqua Loop and Beaver Pond Trails. After that, we took out our snowshoes and hiked the Horse and Kraule Snowshoe Trails. The trails took us around the hill that Sun Mountain Lodge sits on and we enjoyed the scenery as we crunched around the trails. It was a welcome break from skis.

The third day we went to the North Cascades Trail head at Jacks River Run. Again, the trails were well groomed and the temperature was mild but below freezing. We spent the day exploring the Upper River Run and Upper Jacks Trails. Though both were easy trails, I managed to fall down and break the toe of my boot loose from its sole. My gear was over 20 years old, so I was not shocked that it failed. I limped back to the trail head on my crippled gear. We drove to nearby Mazama, to see if the boot could be repaired. I bought a tube of adhesive but when we got back to River Song, I realized that my other boots, (I had brought two sets of gear) also had NNN bindings and they would work, to replace my damaged boots. Hooray! For standardization.

After three days of cautious skiing, we decided to do something more adventurous our final day. Friday, we again drove up to Sun Mountain's Chickadee Trail head but this time we skied up to Thompson Pass. We then took Meadowlark in a long loop around the mountain. It was another day of good weather and great snow. Still, it was a long day, over 11 miles. That night, my body had plenty of aches. I was glad that we were going home the next day.

The drive back was on dry roads and took 5.5 hours taking highway 2, instead of I-90. I was impressed at the number of cars parked at every trail head and venue we went by. In Leavenworth I saw people lined up for 40 feet waiting for an inside table. I was very glad to not be joining them!

All said, it was a very good ski trip. I would recommend the Methow Valley this year. Because it is farther from the metro area, it was not nearly as crowded as the ski trails along Hgwy. 2 and I-90. It has a wide variety of trails to choose from and also it has many nice places to stay. This might just be my

only ski trip this year but I can't complain about the great skiing I had in the Methow Valley.

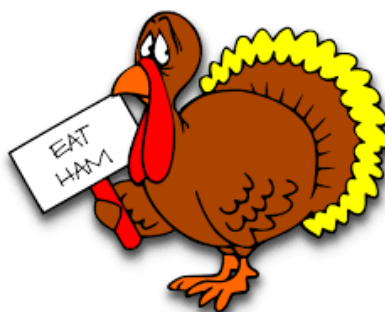
KURT DUEY

FUTURE MEETING DATES

December 8, 2021
January 11, 2022
February 8, 2022
March 8, 2022



Kahler Glen at Lake Wenatchee



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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: _____ \$50 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>