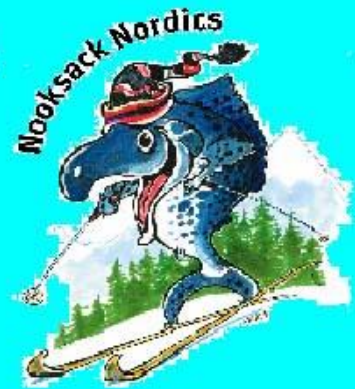


Snow News IS Good News

Newsletter of the Nooksack Nordic Ski Club

P.O. Box 28793, Bellingham, WA 98228
Website: www.Nooksacknordicskiclub.org



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Pete Tryon 360-927-2054

DECEMBER 2021



Club Meeting – Meet with NNSC on Zoom!

When – Tuesday, December 14th

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, December 14, 2021:
7:00 PM

If I Had Three Days, I'd Go on a Ski Trip to...

We haven't scheduled any formal multi-day ski trips since the start of covid – but things seem to have settled down enough that careful travel is reasonable. Where do people go on such trips? Where do they stay? What do they find? At this Zoom meeting, hear about favorite ski trips from a panel of club members. Our aim is to provide enough information that you might want to arrange your own DIY multi-day ski trip this winter. The information will also be posted on our website, so you shouldn't have to take notes :) Connect to the now-familiar Zoom meeting format with this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86169512292?pwd=MzlvVONzdXhCWjRUcVBERFZVcDcydz09> . No password or waiting room is necessary. The link will also be posted on our website under the Meeting tab. After the presentation, there will be an opportunity to ask questions, chat, and to find out a bit more about our club. Everyone is welcome! Hope to see you on the 14th!

PETE TRYON

NOTES FROM MEMBERSHIP PERSON

Last month I was invited to meet with three other ski clubs (by Zoom) to discuss the troubles

and travails of Nordic ski clubs in these times of covid restrictions, problematic snow conditions, and uncertain revenue sources.

We had an interesting discussion. It's not that we solved the world's problems, but upon reflection, I thought about how lucky we are. We have our own trail system – only an hour and 15 minutes from town, we have trails through beautiful Pacific northwest forests. Of course, it would be nice if we had more snow and more frequent grooming, but we've had some beautiful conditions to ski on. And with the trail work done this summer, added funding from the increased SnoPark fees (and increased number of people skiing), and predicted above-average snow year, we could have some great skiing this winter. We also have a wide variety of ski destinations within easy distance for a 3 or 4 day ski trip (see the Dec. 14th meeting).

We have a fairly solid set of revenue sources (Thanks, Lynne, for such a careful analysis that was published in last month's newsletter – which is saved on our website in case you didn't have a chance to read it.) We have support from the State of Washington's SnoPark program for grooming and thanks to Lynne, John Keates, Jim Rhodes, and Gail Garman, we have some significant grant money for some of our maintenance costs. That leaves our membership dues to pay for club expenses, the Nordic Ambassadors, and trail costs that aren't otherwise covered (like that giant tree that just fell on Mom's!) Speaking of dues, see the plea at the end of this to renew your membership :)

Like all organizations, we've been affected by covid and have

had to curtail some of our activities. But our sport is inherently one that allows social distancing and healthful outdoor activities that can be engaged in with a safe manner.

Like all clubs, our membership is fluid – but as people move away from Whatcom County or Nordic skiing, we have new members join – and volunteer to work on trails, serve on the board, etc. Thank you! This is critical! We need you! We appreciate you! And we need to bring the younger generation into the system! The presidency is not a permanent appointment, and we are going to need a replacement! So please join us in some of the club's activities. We are hoping to host the Nordic Ambassadors again this winter – it's a great chance to hang out with other club members, spend some time on our local trails, and talk skiing with the general public. We could use another board member – our meetings are Zoom. Feel free to attend one as a guest.

And to finish this, we are collecting membership dues this year. You can renew your membership online from our website or fill in the form attached to this newsletter and mail it in. For those of you who have already renewed, thank you!

Hope to see you on the trails!

PETE TRYON

President NNSC



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

SNO-PARK FEES AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2021, INCREASE



Non-motorized Sno-Parks are cleared parking areas with sanitation facilities in areas intended for skiing, snowshoeing, tubing and other self-propelled winter activities. The program is self-funded, depending fully on permit sales.

The Sno-Parks vary in size from a sign, plowed parking lot and sani-can to the extensive groomed trail system at Mt. Spokane.

A similar motorized Sno-Park system is in place for snowmobiling.

For 2021-22, seasonal permits will cost \$50, up from \$40 last year; daily permits will cost \$25, up from \$20 last year; and special groomed trail stickers will cost \$70, up from last season's cost of \$40.

It is the first time the permit fees have increased since 2009. The new prices reflect the rising cost of these operations, as well as replacement of aging equipment, including grooming machines.

Volunteer advisory committees motorized Sno-Parks examined budgets, inflation, usage

demands, and competitive rates around the state in order to recommend the new rates.

A special groomed sticker is required to park at Cabin Creek, Chiwawa, Crystal Springs, Hyak, Lake Easton, Lake Wenatchee, Mount Spokane, and Nason Ridge. These areas receive substantial grooming several days per week. At these locations, the total season cost with both permits increases from a total of \$80 to \$120 to reflect sharp increases in fuel and replacement equipment costs in the last 12 years.

Sno-Park usage reached record highs last winter. Demand was so high that Washington Parks opened a new Sno-Park near Winthrop, three temporary play areas near Cle Elum, and a sledding hill in southwest Washington. Usage is expected to be high again this season.

The higher permit sales allowed the advisory committee to fund several new initiatives and also shrink the list of aging equipment to a manageable level with the new fee structure. Larger Sno-Parks are groomed with state owned equipment, while smaller Sno-Parks like Salmon Ridge are groomed by contractors.

Permits are required at Sno-Parks between Nov. 1 and April 30, even during the state park's annual free days when a Discover Pass is not required.

A component of the annual budget is "E&E", or education and enforcement. In an attempt to improve permit compliance at more remote Sno-Parks, Washington Dept Fish & Wildlife is being funded for E&E, with emphasis on enforcement via a substantial ticket. USFS also

receives E&E funding. If you see someone without a valid permit at Salmon Ridge, you might kindly do them a favor and suggest a return to Cross Road Grocery or the USFS visitor center in Maple Falls. If they can get a cell connection, they can also purchase online and write their permit number on a piece of paper and place that on the dash. Alternatively, they may choose to recreate outside the Sno-Park at Hannegan Rd, White Salmon Rd, or the end of another forest road.

PETE TRYON

NORDIC SKIING BELLINGHAM RETAIL NEWS

A quick note – Yeager's is not going to be renting skis this year and they are going to sell off their rental equipment. I don't know when it will become available but will attempt to find out. They had some pretty good equipment and a good complement of sizes – not sure how they plan to price it. I will send out an email if I get any information.

PETE TRYON



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SKI TRIPS POSSIBILITIES FOR 2021-2022

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.

KURT DUEY

HEADING TO CANADA

Before heading to the border, get informed and understand your obligations. Check before you leave on each trip because this website can be updated at any time.

<https://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/travel-voyage/web-qaf-eng.html>

RETURNING TO USA

Be informed before you leave on your trip. Check before you leave on each trip because this website can be updated at any time.

<https://ca.usembassy.gov/travel-restrictions-fact-sheet/>

FUTURE MEETINGS

January 11, 2022
February 8, 2022
March 8, 2022



MERRY CHRISTMAS

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

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>