

Snow News IS Good News

Newsletter of the Nooksack Nordic Ski Club

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JANUARY 2022



Club Meeting – Meet with NNSC on Zoom!

When – Tuesday, January 11th

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, January 11, 2022: 7:00 PM - Topic to be announced later. It will be a Zoom meeting and the link to the meeting will be posted on the club website (<https://www.nooksacknordicskiclub.org/meetings/>) in early January, as well as further information about the meeting. There certainly will be a chance to meet other members of the club, learn about the status of the Salmon Ridge SnoPark trails, and hear what others are doing.

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

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

SNOPARK 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 SnoPark's are groomed with state owned equipment, while smaller Sno-Parks like Salmon Ridge are groomed by contractors.

Permits are required at SnoPark's 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.

SALMON RIDGE SNOPARK END OF SUMMER BUT BEFORE SKI SEASON REPORT

[Written before the snows and storms of December, 2021]

It's been a busy summer for our local SnoPark! Lots has happened, but we won't know for sure how it turns out until we have snow on the ground and grooming to give us tracks.

Anderson: The big windstorm last January had quite an effect on Anderson. Someone counted 30 trees down across the road. It certainly seemed like that number. But a contingent of chainsaws got to work (as well as a couple of peaveys/log-rollers, loppers, and brush-cutter) (and quite a few helping hands). Anderson is now clear for grooming all the way to the washout at 0.9 mile. Speaking of the washout, it does not appear that any repairs will be approved, so that will be the endpoint of the grooming. That makes for a great groomed ski run and an interesting trail to explore for backcountry skiers on the far side.

Razor Hone: A contractor brushed the main trail out from the parking lot (and also cut back and moved some of the logs that were in the ditches.) The culvert work supervised (and performed) by our culvert-meister Lynne Oliver held up well; the trail survived November's big rainstorm with no damage. So now we are waiting for some snow to go skiing.

Cougar Loop: I am so excited! A shout-out to our contractor, Drake Harkness. He put hours of work into the long hill going up Far Cougar, adjusting the drainage so that we shouldn't have water on the trail. Then he did a major cleanup to the hill from the top down to the bridge. I'm predicting no problems with the groomer being able to go all the way down to the bridge on both sides. So, some skier who is better than me should be able to

set an all-time best speed record skiing all around the loop! For the rest of us, it should still be a more controlled descent as we go down the hill. The near side of Cougar was groomed all the way to the bridge a number of times last spring. If you haven't been to the bridge, watch the grooming/snow reports, wait for good conditions, and check it out! (The recommendation for your first visit is to go up the near side (closest to the parking lot) and return back down it. The far side is steeper and more difficult.)

Mom's: Over the years, Mom's has sometimes seen grooming and sometimes not. It now has a new gate at the parking lot and has been cleared and smoothed for its entire length and should make a nice gentle addition, creating a groomed loop with no icy hills from the parking lot. (Assuming that we are able to remove the giant tree that just fell down across it last week at the parking lot end.)

The Gerbil Loop: Continuing with the theme of no icy hills, we've added an inner loop between Mom's, the main Razor Hone trail, and the Crossover connection. It's an old roadbed of some sort and should be able to be groomed with the rest of the loop. A nice extra loop through the woods!

White Salmon: Not much was done to our upper trail, higher on the mountain. But at last inspection, it was in fine shape. And while we're waiting for snow at the bottom of the hill, White Salmon has enough snow for those eager to start (though no grooming yet.) Parking has always been a problem – but for those of us with flexible schedules, mid-week and relatively early in the day has worked very well.

Back-country trails: Jerry Bourn, Huckleberry, River, and the Connector Trail all await exploration. And are going to await next month's newsletter for a report.

So, with a prediction of more-than-normal snowfall and a healthy grooming budget from the state SnoPark program, we're looking at a great season! Check out our website for trail maps, current conditions, and more details. Hope to see you out there! Look for the red hat!

President, NNSC



PETE TRYON

SALMON RIDGE SNOPARK ADDENDUM

[Written Dec 23, 2021]

It's been a busy December for our local SnoPark! Lots has happened, but we won't know for sure how it turns out until we have finished clearing downed trees and have grooming to give us tracks.

We started the month thinking that all of our potentially groomed trails were 'good to go'. Then we got a lot of rain (saturated soils) and some early snowfall. Dozens of trees fell across our trails (most of them of 'medium' size or smaller, unlike the many 'large' trees we dealt with from last year. As people went out to ski and to clear trees, more trees would fall. I'd like to give a big thank you to all who have been helping to clear the trails. They range from the Forest Service and their work crew that cleared the *giant* log

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that was across Mom's, to the Mt. Baker Club snowshoer who wanted to help get our trails cleared back up for the winter, to a non-club skier and his friends from Maple Falls who just wanted to help with the trails, to the hours and hours put in by NNSC club members (and their friends and relatives) to keep our trails ready for skiing. THANKS!

As I type this, we've gotten a really good base layer of snow, then quite a bit of rain and now we're moving into a week of colder weather and more snow. Let's hope for the best!

PETE TRYON



**Ambassador Day
April 15, 2011**

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 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

SKI TRIPS FOR 2021-2022 AND PROTOCOLS

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.

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-gaf-eng.html>

RETURNING TO USA

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

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

FUTURE MEETING DATES

February 8, 2022
March 8, 2022

*Happy
New
Year*

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

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|---------------------|
| <u>Deposit Date</u> |
| |
| <u>Sno Park #</u> |
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