

Snow News IS Good News

Newsletter of the Nooksack Nordic Ski Club

P.O. Box 28793, Bellingham, WA 98228
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FEBRUARY 2022



Club Meeting – Meet with NNSC on Zoom!

When – Tuesday, February 8th

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, February 8, 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 February 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



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.

TRIPS DURING A PANDEMIC

In past years, the ski season would include several opportunities for group trips. During the ongoing epidemic, these group trips are not possible. While the club is not currently offering group trips, it has not stopped me from going on extended trips to other ski areas. Within the current restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 epidemic, it is still possible to get out and ski. The need to isolate means that you will be eating in and avoiding crowds. It helps to travel with a ski buddy; someone who is safe and can supply you with the social interaction that we humans need.

Last week I skied three days in the Methow Valley. It would have been four days, but the weather had shut Stevens Pass and the extra time it took to go over Snoqualmie Pass, timing our departure to avoid the metro crush of traffic, resulted in too little daylight to ski our first day.

Snow conditions were very good, and the skiing was superb, thanks to the relentless grooming it takes to keep the trails at their best.

I recommend taking several days to ski the Methow Trails. They are not too far, five hours, and the largest cross-country ski area in North America. Visit www.methowtrails.org for updates on trail conditions, pass conditions and etc.

I hope to take another ski trip on the last day of this month. This time to McCall and Sun Valley, Idaho. It will be interesting to see some of the best trails in that state and what is life, without something new to look forward to?

Aside from the new threat of disease, there will be the ongoing dangers of deer, potholes, black ice, rocks and other drivers on the road. Take precautions, stay safe and keep skiing!

KURT DUEY

SKI TRIPS 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.

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

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

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

March 8, 2022

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>