

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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DECEMBER 2022



Club Meeting – Meet with NNSC on Zoom!

When – Tuesday December 13th

Check your email or the NNSC website for details and an invitation.
<http://www.nooksacknordicskiclub.org/meetings/>

Meeting starts at 7:00 PM.

Who - Everyone is welcome!

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

MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, December 13, 2022:
7:00 PM.

Nordic skiing, other than Salmon Ridge.

Whether it's a long day of driving for a day trip to a new location or a multi-day adventure, club members have a number of favorite places to ski that are beyond our local snopark. 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 ski trip this winter. The information will also be posted on our website, so you shouldn't have to take notes :) 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! Links to the information will remain posted here for the foreseeable future. Hope to see you on the 13th! (And remember, we're working at better 'in-club communication' – Click [Communication](#) for more info.) The meeting is by Zoom - we'll open Zoom at 6:45 to give you a chance to get connected, check your settings, and maybe chat a little before 7:00. Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81673445430?pwd=ZHFaaUQrdjdCblZpc2hoL0pLTUtxdz09>

NEWSLETTER CORRECTION

Sno Park Pass is \$50 not \$40.

NOTES FROM MEMBERSHIP PERSON

Just a friendly reminder that membership dues for the 2022-23 season are now due. You can pay online (and order a SnoPark pass) at [Join - Renew](#) or print out the form found in this newsletter and mail it with your check to the club. Thanks!

THINKING ABOUT GETTING SOME NEW EQUIPMENT THIS YEAR?

Check out a couple of pages on our website:

- [Equipment Page](#)
- [Choosing Skis](#)

And if you'd like to talk to someone, feel free to sign up for a mini-lesson! It could take place by telephone/Zoom, or maybe in Pete's garage. Sign up at [Mini-lessons](#)

PRIORITIES IN TRAIL WORK

All of us at NNSC appreciate trail reports from each other. Our members are often the first people on the trails after a windstorm or fresh snow. Reports about obstacles on Mt. Baker Highway, icy trail conditions, status of the parking lot, trees down, grooming status, and the state of the portable toilets are always appreciated.

Email reports to ski@tryonhayes.com.

Hearty thanks to everyone who reports on what is happening at Salmon Ridge SnoPark.

Last winter, NNSC was sharply reminded that trail work is never done. We had been

congratulating ourselves that all the trails were ready for grooming, snowshoeing, and back country skiing. Then the December and January storms blew in. Blow they did! There were trees down all over the place.

Sometimes the club gets complaints or concerns about the status of the ski trails. We appreciate club members alerting us to downed trees and dangerous situations. But aesthetics of the trails will have a lower priority than safety and grooming. Perhaps this would be a good time to review how your ski club makes decisions about where and how to work.



IT'S NEVER-ENDING THANKS LYNNE FOR TAKING CARE OF THIS TREE!

The priority after a blowdown is almost always to get a narrow path cut through the downed timbers on the major roads that get groomed. We refer to that as a "wagon trail" because the goal is to simply get a path wide enough for a sled to carry chainsaws, loppers, and log rollers out to assess the damage. On those exploratory trips, we usually cut what we can and note what needs specialty treatment.

The next priority is to get logs cut and off the trail so the

groomer can get through. Sawyers with experience with large diameter trees might be needed. We sometimes contract with a specialist. Low overhanging trunks and branches will be cut if they interfere with the groomer. This might mean that high overhead branches, rough cuts, and brush may be left along the trails. The opening might only be wide enough for the groomer. That doesn't mean we are satisfied with the status, just that is all we can do with available volunteers and time.

After the close of the season, volunteers will be out to assess the trails again. This is when the overhead timbers will be cut back, shrubbery and branches hidden by snow berms will be hauled back behind the ditch line, and branches cut to assist wayfinding using the blue diamonds. For example, the North Fork of the Nooksack eroded beaches used for River Trail during last year's floods. A new route was found on the higher level, flagged, and brushed.

Particular attention is directed to drainage at this stage. Logs or rocks left to block culverts can easily lead to road washouts. Obstacles need to be removed, sometimes even new channels dug out, to ensure the integrity of the roadbed or trail. Last year a 4-foot sinkhole was discovered on the White Salmon Road. We hauled rock and gravel and filled the hole to prevent cars or people finding the hole unexpectedly. Contractors have also improved the drainage on the approaches to

the bridge on the Cougar Loop. If a trail is due for mowing, every effort is made to get branches and logs removed from the shoulders and ditches before the mower comes through. It is not unusual to find that stems cut by the mower need to be removed afterwards.

Finally, if time and energy permit, overhead branches may be trimmed to open the canopy. This encourages snow to fall on the trail or road and not be intercepted by overhead branches. We rarely have the time and energy to get to this stage, but it makes a difference when we can. You might notice improvements to the Huckleberry Trail this winter because of this kind of effort.

Please keep your fellow skiers and club informed about trail conditions. Crowd sourcing trail information has become increasingly useful to our members. While the USFS makes attempts to keep users informed about trail conditions, it is often citing information from NNSC club members. The club is fortunate to have members prepared to volunteer to make our ski trail system groomer-friendly and safer for winter recreation.

MEG HAYES

TRAIL OF THE MONTH HUCKLEBERRY TRAIL REDUX

We've been featuring various trails in this series for the last couple of years and we wrote up Huckleberry back in February 2021. But let's look at it again! The article sounded so good, we decided to go for a



ski/snowshoe trip! Picking a nice day in March, five of us clipped into our skis at the Salmon Ridge parking lot for the 2 km ski to the start of Huckleberry (just past the first bridge on Razor Hone). Switching to snowshoes, we tied our skis onto our packs and started up the trail. The steepest part is right where it leaves Razor Hone, then it climbs for a bit more and shifts to a gradual uphill route through the trees. We ended up at the bridge over Bagley Creek, just in time for lunch. Then back on our skis, we had a delightful run back down the Cougar trail and back to the parking lot. Altogether, it is about 5 miles roundtrip. It could be shortened by turning down Cougar when you first cross it after about 1 mile of the Huckleberry.

PETE TRYON

AN INVITATION

As trip coordinator I have had to deal with the sad fact that the Nooksack Nordic Ski Club has not offered ski trips since the start of the Covid Epidemic. As the epidemic has not abated, that policy has not changed. We can continue to ski with others, just not on a club trip.

Last season I soloed the cross-country trails of Idaho and Montana. I had a great time and have two trips planned to British Columbia this season. The first to Logan Lake, B.C. on the nights of January 23,24,25. This will be essentially a club trip without the club. I (we) will be staying at the Highland House B&B. The second trip will be to Vernon, B.C. on the nights of February 6,7,8, 9. The trails of Silver Star and Salmon Arm need three days to explore. If you are willing to pay for fuel and share the housing costs and don't object to a 73 year old male skier of modest ability, we might have a ski vacation together.

To Inquire, contact me at:
kurt.duey@gmail.com

This is how we do trips now, so cheer up and send an email to all club members by sending it to meetup@nooksacknordicskiclub.org. A recent Covid test is encouraged.

KURT DUEY

FUTURE MEETINGS

January 10
February 14
March 14



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

Deposit Date
Sno Park #