

# Snow News IS Good News

Newsletter of the Nooksack Nordic Ski Club

P.O. Box 28793, Bellingham, WA 98228  
Website: [www.Nooksacknordicskiclub.org](http://www.Nooksacknordicskiclub.org)



## **Board Members**

### **President**

Pete Tryon

### **Vice President**

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### **At large**

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Mary Beth Jaynes

Mark Smith

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Pete Tryon & Lynne Oliver

### **Membership**

Gary Soliday

### **Publicity**

Mary Beth Jaynes

### **Lessons Coordinator**

Will Whiton

### **Hospitality Chair**

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### **Program Coordinator**

Mark Smith

### **Newsletter Editor**

Lynn Alderson

### **Webmaster**

Pete Tryon

### **Equipment Manager**

The Board

### **Trip Coordinator**

The Board

### **Day Trip Coordinator**

The Board

### **Contact emails:**

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**JANUARY 2026**



**Club Meeting @ 7:00PM**

**When** – Monday January 12

**Who** - Everyone is welcome!

**Where** – The new Backcountry Essentials store, 1417 N State St. in Bellingham, WA.  
On street parking.

Visit Our Website for the Latest Information: <http://www.nooksacknordicskiclub.org>

## MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Monday January 12th @  
7:00 PM

**CHANGING ICE** - A romp through (almost) four decades of research on the glaciers of Mt. Baker with Doug Clark, Ph.D., Western Washington University.

Dr. Clark will share his rich experience with the glaciers of the PNW focusing on Mt. Baker. As Nordic skiers we watch and pray for snow. Doug's glacier research will provide a longer-term perspective on what is going on with our local snow pack. Doug is delighted to have the opportunity to share his work with us. **The meeting will be held at the new Backcountry Essentials store, 1417 N State St. (I found parking one block downhill on State Street last time... P.)**

**MARK SMITH**

## ROAD TRIP HINTS

Another step in the continuing effort to encourage trips to the various excellent Nordic ski venues of the Pacific Northwest. Thanks to club member Tory Read, we have an organized set of hints for a road trip to the **Methow Valley**, supplied by 'skis-on-the-snow' club

members. This seems like such a good idea, we've set up the framework for expansion to other locations. Check out the beginnings of 'Road Trip Hints'. Bookmark this page and check back as more information is added. (And if you would like to adopt a page and fill it in, let Pete know.) Keep the bookmark handy – the pages are saved in our club's Google Docs folder. While they are viewable by anyone with the link, in an effort to keep opinions and reviews 'just-between-us club members', we are not linking the pages to our regular website.

**PETE TRYON**

## PANAMA CANAL TRIP

I went on a trip in November to the Panama Canal. First, I flew to Fort Lauderdale, Florida and began a cruise on Island Princess; Nov 21 to Dec 7 ending in San Francisco. Food was good in the restaurant, not very good in the buffet. The Locks were awesome. The canal was completed in 1914 after working 11 years on the project. The locks raise the ship 85 feet it then enters a man-made lake known as Gatun Lake. The ship goes to a second lock to be lowered back to sea level. The equipment was enormous in size and very powerful. Originally, they used mules to move the ships through the canal.

Today, 8 mechanical mules pull the ship through. Four mules aft and 4 forward. The mechanical mules appeared to be approximately the size of a railroad engine. Our ship had 2 feet of clearance on each side of the lock walls. It cost the Island Princess \$55,000 for the Lock fee per trip. There are 2 channels: the Atlantic and Pacific channel. Traffic was heavy on both channels the day we went through. The canal averages 41 ships per day. Unfortunately, 28,000 people died trying to build the canal.

Source: Wikipedia

My first shore excursion was in Costa Rica. About 17 of us traveled to the mountains to traverse suspended bridges over ravines and go to a coffee plantation. We didn't get to go to the coffee farm as it had rained the previous 3 days, and they felt the bridge to the farm was unsafe to cross. The guide substituted a butterfly sanctuary instead that was interesting.

The highway was only one lane each way: known as Highway One. Highway traffic was bumper to bumper, stop and go traffic, often stopping for construction. The highway along with rough side roads took us 2 hours to get to the suspended bridges. Returning to the ship took 4.5 hours. There was a multicar accident ahead of

us on Highway One. After stopping for 2.5 hours on the rough road, the only movement we saw was 6 ambulances. Our bus finally made a 8 point turn around and we went back 9 miles to take an alternative route. We finally made it back to the ship at 6:30 PM. Other than that issue, I played trivia games, went to the theater every night, ate at the restaurant and sat out on deck 7 enjoying the warm weather. I went to a very colorful market in Guatemala where I bought coffee and chocolate for myself and my family.

I'm going to go on another cruise someday. I need to start researching where I want to go. Think I'll try Celebrity, as I heard good comments on them.

**LYNN ALDERSON**

## **NICKEL PLATE TRIP**

**MONDAY FEBRUARY  
16th TO THURSDAY  
FEBRUARY 19<sup>th</sup> 2026**

Nickel Plate Nordic Centre in the Okanagan Valley, just 45 minutes from Penticton. It has approximately 34 miles of groomed trails for both classic and skate skiing. Additionally, there is 9 miles of marked snowshoe trails. Nickel

Plate has one of the longest ski seasons in the western hemisphere, with trails for all abilities. Elevation is 6,000 feet.

Nickel Plate has a warm and cozy 4,000 square foot day lodge with kitchen, eating and lounge areas, and separate heated washrooms and shower facilities. Source: [nickelplatenordic.org](http://nickelplatenordic.org).

**Housing** - We will be staying at the Best Western Inn in Penticton, BC. We will drive to the Nickel Plate Nordic Center from the hotel. Rooms have 2 queen beds. Total cost is \$313 US\$ for the room, including tax recovery charges and service fees/charges. Make reservations with Best Western Inn at (833) 372-5731.

**Meals** – Breakfast is served at the hotel. For lunch bring your own food. Dinner will be at a restaurant. We will meet in the lobby at 5:30PM and decide what restaurant we wish to go too.

Please advise me if you plan to attend this trip and I will try to connect people with each other if you would like to share a room or a ride.

Lynn Alderson  
[lalder3122@yahoo.com](mailto:lalder3122@yahoo.com)

## **FUTURE MEETINGS**

February 9

March 9

*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 _____
Help with Ambassador Days _____	Put up trail signs and sanican base _____	
Audit NNSC financial records _____	Write an article for "Snow News" _____	
Lead a ski trip _____	Write a grant, or, fundraising _____	

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 #