

# 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)



**FEBRUARY 2024**

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Vacant

(Pete Tryon)

### **Publicity**

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### **Lessons Coordinator**

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### **Hospitality Chair**

Vacant

### **Program Coordinator**

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Pete Tryon

### **Equipment Manager**

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### **Trip Coordinator**

Kurt Duey

### **Day Trip Coordinator**

Pete Tryon

### **Contact emails:**

[president@nooksacknordicskiclub.org](mailto:president@nooksacknordicskiclub.org)  
[boardmembers@nooksacknordicskiclub.org](mailto:boardmembers@nooksacknordicskiclub.org)  
[newsletter@nooksacknordicskiclub.org](mailto:newsletter@nooksacknordicskiclub.org)  
[membership@nooksacknordicskiclub.org](mailto:membership@nooksacknordicskiclub.org)  
[lessons@nooksacknordicskiclub.org](mailto:lessons@nooksacknordicskiclub.org)  
[webmaster@nooksacknordicskiclub.org](mailto:webmaster@nooksacknordicskiclub.org)  
[trips@nooksacknordicskiclub.org](mailto:trips@nooksacknordicskiclub.org)



## **Club Meeting – Meet with NNSC - in Person!**

**When** – Tuesday February 13th

- Meeting starts at 7:00 PM.

**Who** - Everyone is welcome!

**Where** – ReStore Store at 2309 Meridian Ave. in Bellingham, WA (stairs in back)

**Visit Our Website for the Latest Information: [www.nooksacknordicskiclub.org](http://www.nooksacknordicskiclub.org)**

## MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

### **NNSC General Meeting – In person, AGAIN!**

ReStore Store Meeting Room  
2309 Meridian Ave.

Tuesday, Feb. 13

7:00 – 8:30 pm

We enjoyed seeing so many people in January at our first, in person, general meeting since Covid, that we are going to do it, again. We will be back at the meeting room of the **ReStore Store at 2309 Meridian Ave.** – the entrance is at the back the building, via the alley and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

We will start with introductions. We left the last meeting feeling that we should let people introduce themselves and provide the opportunity for people to socialize. We also need to eat more cookies!

This month we will focus on improving your technique. We will provide an overview of some of the materials available online, via YouTube and other sites that provide drills and instruction that will help you become a better skier. When you ski better, you use less energy, and have more fun. We want this discussion to be interactive and give everyone the opportunity to ask questions. We will be posting videos to the club website so that you easily find them after the meeting.

In addition, we want to give you a short tour of the club website. There's a lot of great information there that many of us forget. We will give you (and me) a brief reminder. We

welcome suggestions for improvements.

We will end with Q & A around 8:00 pm to give people time to meet and, with luck, identify mutual interests in Nordic skiing.

See you there!

**MARK SMITH**

## NORDIC AMBASSADORS OUTREACH AT SALMON RIDGE

It was a dark and stormy day when a stalwart contingent of NNSC braved the elements to show an equally intrepid group of new Nordic skiers how much fun one can have on the ski trails, regardless of the weather. Our club paired our Nordic Ambassadors with Bellingham Parks and Rec to provide additional Nordic expertise for beginners who signed up for their Ski Dattle program. While warm weather and rain had impacted the trails, we still had half a mile of classic tracks and suitable snow for our beginning skaters. It was fun! Assuming that we get a little more snow on the trails, we'll be doing this again, this Saturday, February 10. Come on out and join us for skiing and hot chocolate mochas! (Check with Pete if you want a report on the latest conditions (and whether we had to cancel) before going.)

**PETE TRYON**

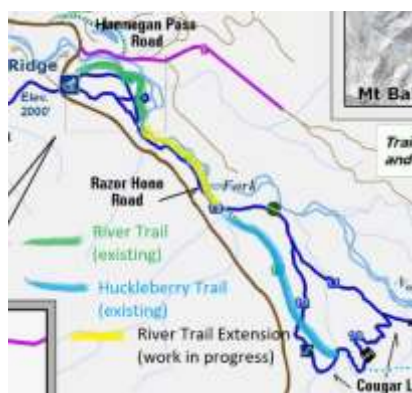


## Will Whiton Showing Technique Under the Tarp at Nordic Ambassadors

## RIVER TRAIL EXTENSION

Looking for adventure? Want to beat the crowds? Want a new outing while waiting for the snow to fall at Salmon Ridge? NNSC volunteers have been working on resurrecting the back-country route shown on the SnoPark map connecting the end of the River Trail with the bottom of the Huckleberry Trail. Decades ago, this was a trail, but time and forest growth have taken their toll and it has returned to the woods. Work was started this summer to mark and clear the trail to give us a 'back-country adventure' right from the parking lot all the way to the Bagley Creek Bridge on the Cougar Loop. The yellow portion shown on the map is not complete, but if you want to go exploring, feel free to check it out! At the moment, skis or snowshoes are not required. A good pair of hiking boots is all that you need. Expect to find some poorly marked sections, a big log 'bridge' (which can be bypassed by scrambling down and across a creek), a short steep section down to the

Nooksack, and a portion that if flooded by the Nooksack, requires a detour on Razor Hone. But you won't get lost! The river is on one side, Razor Hone is on the other. The Huckleberry Trail was clear and marked with blue diamonds as of the end of this summer. Have fun exploring! (And Pete would love a trip report!) If you wait until next year, basic brushing and diamonds should be completed.



**PETE TRYON**

## WAXING MADE SIMPLE

At our last general meeting we discussed waxing. At the end of the meeting I thought, we've talked too much and made it too complicated. Most people are not going to go out and buy a waxing bench, iron, scrapers, a sharpener, at least three brushes, and the various hard waxes to match the day's snow temperature.

I want to slide better. Where do I start?

The three basis steps are; clean, wax, polish.

**Clean:** snow is dirty. That dirt gets on your skis and slows you down. If you don't clean your skis before waxing them, you will have dirt in your wax which will make you slow.

**Basic clean:** wipe them off with a clean lint-free rag. Lint coming off your rag will also slow you down.

**Step it up:** clean with a ski base cleaner. There are two types – petroleum-based and citrus-based solvents, the latter being better for both you and the environment. Again, use a lint-free rag. Other solvents can be used such as mineral spirits, methylated spirits, lighter fluid, paint thinner, kerosene or Orange degrease solvent, Citra Kleen, and citric-naphtha wax remover. Make sure you wipe it off well or your wax will not stay on your skis.

**Step it up again:** Brush before cleaning. Use a nylon brush. You can brush in both directions. You should have a dedicated cleaning brush that is used only for cleaning, not for polishing, which is the last step, discussed below. You don't want to brush dirt back into your skis with your cleaning brush. If you are just getting started, a nylon brush from the hardware store will work. What you get with more expensive brushes is finer bristles which more effectively clean your bases. A fine nylon brush is not necessary.

**Wax:** All wax manufacturers make a universal liquid or paste wax that are applied with either a rag (again, lint free) or the foam sponge that comes with the wax. All are easy to

apply and should be applied to the entire ski, including the fish-scales in the kick zone, but not on the skin, if you have ski skins. Wax should be applied in a thin coat – less wax is better, but you do want to cover the entire base. Your choice of wax will likely be dictated by what is available where you buy it.

**Polish:** After the wax has dried, polish the ski using a lint-free rag, **not** the same rag that you used to clean the ski! You can polish by wiping back and forth, you do not need to go from tip to tail. Polish until the ski is uniformly shiny or you get tired of polishing. You will not polish all the wax off your skis. More polishing is better.

**Step it up:** Polish with a nylon bristle brush – **not** the same one used to clean the skis. Brushing will help you remove the wax more quickly and completely. Brush back and forth until uniformly shiny. Again, more brushing is better, you cannot brush all the wax off.

### Basic Wax Kit

- 3 lint-free rags (clean, wax, polish)
- A universal liquid or paste wax
- Base cleaner (citrus or petroleum)
- Nylon bristle brush – short, hard, bristles (for cleaning, hardware store brush is fine)
- Nylon bristle brush – short, hard, bristles (for polishing, I would buy a ski brush for polishing)

**MARK SMITH**

## REPORT FROM THE SNOPARK

Whenever anyone asks, I tell them that while the conditions at the Salmon Ridge SnoPark are problematic, there is always snow further up the mountain on the White Salmon Trail. Parking might be a problem, but there's snow. Not today! (this report refers to Friday, Feb. 2.) We made a trip up the highway with the plan to ski in and check out the big boulder that was reported to have fallen on the trail. There was plenty of parking – but we drove out the road to the boulder.



Predictions suggest slightly cooler temperatures and some precipitation coming, but check conditions before you go! We'll update the NNSC website with any information that we have.

## PETE TRYON

## WINTHROP TRIP

What a curious time I had, going and returning from the ranch-themed town of Winthrop. As my car had been in an accident, I was driving my friend's car. She and I had done this trip twice before and were staying in the same place we had used those other times, as well. This time, we did not stop at Plain but continued on to Winthrop. The week before, the weather in Winthrop had been arctic, without snow enough to set track. Reports of snow beginning to fall on the trails, with more to come, gave me reason to hope for new snow. The weather had turned, temperatures rose to a high of 27 deg. Perfect, for skiing. The next morning, we went to Early Winters and skied Coyote Run. It snowed all day and the recent grooming made it a very nice base to ski upon.

The next day we went back to Early Winter and skied to Cow Beach Shelter and back; again, with no ice only new snow. It was so much fun, that we almost didn't get back before the endless half-light, finally became the night.

On our last day, we left Winthrop to return back to Bellingham. We stopped off in Plain to ski a few loops. The snow was good, but the weather had already began to change, with light rain and I was unsure what we would encounter on the way home. Happily, Stevens Pass was clear and ice free.

Coming into Puget Sound, I encountered temperatures in the 40's. The Pacific Weather

was back. Things were again above freezing. I thought during the trip to Bellingham that it would be back to normal. In fact, I could not get the car into her alley. I had missed a dump, that Bellingham had not seen in years!

## KURT DUEY

## FUTURE MEETINGS

MARCH 12

## 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/program  
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 #