

# 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)



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The Board

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## JANUARY 2025



### Club Meeting – Meet with NNSC at the ReStore

**When** – Tuesday January 14

Meeting starts at 7:00 PM.

**Who** - Everyone is welcome!

**Where** – RE Store 2309 Meridian St. in  
Bellingham, WA (in back of the store)

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

## MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**Club Meeting – Meet with NNSC!**

**When – Tuesday January 14th Meeting starts at 7:00 PM.**

**Who - Everyone is welcome!**

**Where – Re Store Meeting Room (in back of the store)**

## AVALANCHE AWARENESS AND SAFETY

Doug Brown of the Northwest Avalanche Center (NWAC) will discuss the basics of avalanche awareness and safety. Where do you get avalanche forecasts, assessing possible risks, and staying safe? While most XC skiers will not be on terrain that will slide itself, you may be below it. Moreover, there are "micro-avalanche" risks from trees and rocks.

The NWAC has asked us to register for the event [here](#). Like us, they depend upon state grants to do their vital work to help people stay safe in the mountains. Preventing accidents, in the first place, through education is a major part of their mission. We help them by registering so that they can document their outreach efforts.

**RE Store** in Bellingham (2309 Meridian St). There is parking in back of the store and the meeting room is on the second floor (sorry, stairs only). Don't go into the main store, but look for a sign and the stairs are visible from the parking area.

## ZOOM LINK

Note that when you click on the link to sign up for the avalanche awareness meeting in the previous column, it gives the date as Jan. 7. That's ok, but the meeting is actually on Jan. 14. Hope to see you there!

(Or you can click on this box)

## MARK SMITH, PROGRAM CHAIR

## END OF DECEMBER SALMON RIDGE SNOPARK REPORT

A circuit of Razor Hone and Cougar Loop in late December found no snow, a couple of downed trees, and a few scattered branches. All but the lack of snow were readily taken care of. At the moment, all we have is gravel, but the ground is cold and snow could stick.

White Salmon has sufficient snow at the top which thins out as one goes down the long hill to the low point. There have been a few trucks driving on the snow (which is legal, per Forest Service rules), but one more snowfall should take care of that problem. As always, parking there is limited. Please leave as much room for others as possible.

Checking the predictions as I type shows signs of hope!



The lower trails at the main snopark are right at the

changing point where precipitation can come as either rain or snow. Want to know the latest? We post all the information that we have on snow levels and grooming on our club website: <https://www.nooksacknordicskiclub.org/trails/grooming-and-conditions/> Have a report or a picture? Send it in to Pete [ski@tryonhayes.com](mailto:ski@tryonhayes.com) or any of his other email addresses.



**PETE TRYON**

## WHAT HAPPENED TO THE WHITE SALMON BOULDER?

Remember the boulder that rolled onto White Salmon last winter? The one that the groomer didn't like having to navigate around? It isn't there anymore!



Thanks to Lynne and Tom Oliver (and a jackhammer and several hours of work), all that we could find to put on a memorial plaque were a few fragments. Thanks, Lynne and Tom, for making our trails better for the Nordic ski community!

**PETE TRYON**

## WASHINGTON PASS AND CUTTHROAT LAKE

Before the Methow Valley has snow, it is often possible to ski groomed track on service roads at higher elevations around Washington Pass and Cutthroat Lake off Highway 20. When the pass closes, grooming typically moves down to areas still accessible from the East side (i.e., Mazama) by car, like Klipchuck Campground. In past years these areas were prepared by a local skier with his own grooming equipment and primarily used by the most avid of X-country skiers for early season conditioning.



**Lesley D. of Winthrop**

This year Methow Trails has taken on the task prior to the valley trails opening (no ticket required). I was able to ski short loops at both the Pass and at the Lake starting in early November. There is very limited parking off the side of 20 in pullout indents (thank you WSDOT), so carpooling is a must. You can now see these early season reports on the Methow Trails website. I was skiing Nov 8 this year. I doubt it would be worth driving all the way over for the limited available skiing, but if you are already in the

area, it is a delightful way to get a jump on the season.

## DEBRA NOONAN

### BEAVER CREEK TRAILHEAD AND OSPREY LODGE TRAILHEAD ARE OPEN



PVST Trails Update from Jason Boyes, Trails Manager: "Day 3... We are continuing to open in stages and today we bring you all of the northern parts of our trail system. We are opening Beaver Creek Trailhead and giving you your first chance to use the new Osprey Lodge Trailhead at the 1000 Trails main entrance. (No longer the Clear Creek Trailhead). Grooming was done yesterday afternoon and evening with Ginzus laying skate and classic where possible.

Overnight lows hovered right around freezing, so conditions could be soft on any of the newly opened trails which don't have the same base as what was done with the Sno-Cat. The firmest trails will still be the Meadow Loop area.

The entire Beaver Creek Trail is passable but watch out for thin and icy spots under the trees and use caution on all road and driveway crossing which will be thin."

As always, use caution in the parking lots as there could be ice (Micro Spikes recommended) and as temps warm up things could get slushy (4wd recommended).

Our Nordic Pulse map is a work in progress as we are still coordinating the GPS tracking to align with the actual trails, but all trails are currently open except for Mill Hill, Cougar Run and Chainsaw Ridge. Let's hope that the forecast gets better and that this rain turns into more snow."

Click the link to get your pass:

Click the link to check out the grooming report:

[Nordic Pulse | Plain Valley Ski Trails Grooming Report](#)

## DEBRA GORDON

### BACKCOUNTRY SKIING IN THE KOKANEE RANGE, BC

Add to your calendar:

Bellingham Parks and Rec is planning a travelogue series at the Whatcom Museum this winter. The subject of the third talk, on Thursday, March 20, 2025, is "Backcountry Skiing in the Kokanee Range of British Columbia" by Gary Peniston. The Kokanees are a sub-range of the Selkirk Mountains in the West Kootenay region of southeastern BC.

Time is 7:00 to 9:00 pm and the talk will be held at Old City Hall. A donation of \$5.00 is suggested, but there is no need to pre-register.

## MEG HAYES

**NICKEL PLATE TRIP  
MONDAY MARCH 3rd  
TO THURSDAY MARCH  
6th, 2025**

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. Cost is \$290 for the room, plus tax recovery charges and service fees/charges using Hotel.Com as of January 3, 2025. Or you can make reservations with Best Western Inn at (833) 372-5731 (price may be different then Hotels.com).

**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. Currently, we have one male and one female wanting a roommate and looking to share a ride.

**Coordinator** Lynn Alderson  
lalder3122@yahoo.com

**FUTURE MEETINGS**

February 11

March 11

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

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