

1968 - NEITHER RAIN NOR HAIL NOR FIRE SHALL DETER THE SKI COMMITTEE FROM KEEPING THEIR APPOINTED DUTIES.

Finally, one triumphant day last Sept. the steel for the lower tower was raised—in the backyard. It acquired a coat of red lead. Higher than the house it disconcerted more than one passerby. We passed it off as a tree house but no one bought that one.

By mid Nov. we were ready for the big move and in six short hours it was down and on a truck. In six more hours the truck was down too. It died in North Bend. Another truck was obtained and the tower was moved and erected the next day.

After several weekends of feverish activity the last piece was placed. By then there was three feet of snow and a line of skiers waiting for the first ride.

The club owes thanks to Jack Blackler for building numerous pieces, Donn Knox for the loan of a cutting torch, Wynn Kampe for the foundation expertise and hard work on the hill, Paul Johnston and Roger Lyman for many trips to Backyard Ski Tows Inc. for days on end, heroine Dottie Mitchell for putting up with all this in the first place and providing timely meals and coffee for the work crews, Louis O'Callaghan who provided tools, cable and know-how.

Fellas, it's all done! Let's go skiing. Dave Mitchell Chmn. (ed.)

Washington Alpine Club

BULLETIN

ON LINE

December 2006, Vol. 89 No. 12



New Snow Dinner - Sat. Dec 9

BOARD MEETING

Dec. 7th.. Contact any board member for location.

AMONG OURSELVES

While many of us were dodging rain showers earlier last month, our president and first lady were running the New York Marathon. Both finished.

LOOKING AHEAD

- Dec 07 Board Meeting
- Dec 09 Annual Snow Dinner
- Dec 27 John S at Cabin
- Jan 01 Backcountry Class enrollment opens
- Jan 08 Snoqualmie Conservation Summit 3
- Jan 10 Telemark Randonee Class Begins
- Jan 11 Board Meeting
- Feb 13 Snoqualmie Conservation Summit 4
- Feb 20 Winter Backcountry Class begins
- Feb 23/25 Backcountry Class at Cabin
- Feb 25 Hog Loppet Ski Tour
- Feb 25 Chilly Hilly Bike Ride

PRESIDENTS CORNER

It seems like just yesterday we were picking blueberries and mushrooms. Now we're getting ready for the Annual Snow Dinner, waxing our boards, and drinking hot apple cider! This winter is already off to a great start, as we have over 60"

at Guye Cabin of brand new snow already. Many of us have already been up on the slopes!

The New Snow Dinner is this Sat Dec 09, at 6 PM! All the Washington ski areas are open! Many folks will be up for the weekend to ski, snowshoe, or just relax and have fun. John Sargent will be preparing a wonderful honey baked ham for the entree! Yummm! Everything else will be specialty potluck. Please bring your best specialty salad, vegetable, soup, appetizer or dessert. Can't cook? Bring flowers or drinks! Cost? Only 2 bucks minimum donation per person! (Kids under 13 free-of course!) Any profit will once again go to kids stuff at the cabin. As always, we are expecting a large turnout!

Are you looking for a challenge? Do you want to improve your technique? Or just want to learn a new discipline? The WAC Telemark and Randonee class is currently taking applications on the website. Don't delay, as the class is quickly filling up. Open to skiers of all abilities. It will start January 10 and run six consecutive Wed. evenings, at Snoqualmie Pass Central, and will cost \$120 for the six lessons. Thanks to Jeff Wright, Jeff Knudson, and Randy Oakley for putting this on every year!

Pete Alderson has been busy putting the WAC Backcountry Class together again. He will start taking applications after the first of the year. Doug, Mica, and Fred, the Climbing

WASHINGTON ALPINE CLUB
PO Box 352
Seattle, WA. 98111
Address Correction Requested
DO NOT FORWARD

FIRST
CLASS

WASHINGTON ALPINE CLUB
 Organized 1916 Incorporated 1923
 MEMBER OF: Federation of Western
 Outdoor Clubs, Washington Trails Assn.
 Washington Environmental Council.
 Washington Wilderness Coalition. Mid-
 FORC Coalition

The primary objective of this club is to encourage the healthful enjoyment of the great outdoors, to preserve its natural beauty and to promote good fellowship among all lovers of nature.

PO Box 352 Seattle Wa. 98111
 206-467-3042

WAC Home page:

www.washingtonalpineclub.org

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MOVING ??

Send change of address forms to:
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email: Lynn Miller lynne@ohana.org
 Dave Mitchell dtmitch@mindspring.com

Class co-chairs are already busy getting ready for the 2007 Basic Climbing Class. Applications are being taken now.

The entire 2006 Board committed to serving you for another year. We are honored and proud to a part of the WAC. The Washington Alpine Club has a great history going back almost a century, to 1916. I enjoy talking to everyone in the WAC to get that sense of the past as we look toward the future. Please feel free to call me or any of the Board or Chairs if you have something you would like to suggest or have us address. We are here for you!

Please welcome back our board:

President	Mike Mahanay
1st VP	Pat O'Brien
2nd VP	Dave Mitchell
Treasurer	Ira Rushwald
Secretary	Lynn Simmons
At Large	John Sargent
At Large	Jeff Wright
At Large	Laurie Rich
At Large	Joe Sambataro
At Large	Kristin Kaupang

Lynne Miller has done a fantastic job the last two years as Membership Chair. She has initiated a paperless new member packet, multi-year renewals, and other enhancements to our process. Lynne would now like to hand this important position off. If you can commit to this very important position please let us know.

Our Club has a long great inspiring history going back to 1916 when the Club was founded by 31 year old Anna Louise Strong. Later, Guye Cabin was built in 1932. I always enjoy talking to everyone in the WAC, both old and new, to get that sense of the past as we build to the future. Please feel free to call me, or any of the Board or Chairs, if you have some-

thing you would like to suggest or have us address. We are here for you! For its 91 year existence the WAC has always been an eclectic collection of climbers, hikers, peak baggers, families, skiers, and lovers of the outdoors.

The great charm of this holiday season is that it is not a particular place or time but a spirit of warmth, generosity, and good will that is always welcome everywhere. The WAC seems to embody the holiday spirit year round.

Mike

NEW SNOW DINNER

Dec. 09. Saturday. The New Snow Dinner is an annual event to welcome in the Winter Season. As of December 01 there is already 5' (five feet!) of the white stuff on the ground! This is one of the biggest events of the year at Guye Cabin, the heart and the soul of the Washington Alpine Club!

Come up to our beautiful historic Guye Cabin for the day and play! Or just socialize, read a book, play chess, snowshoe, or skin up Commonwealth Basin, Nordic, snowboard, telemark, alpine, or just relax and catch up with your friends and make some new ones!

Come early! Stay late! Spent the night! We are expecting a big turnout so make your plans now! You won't want to miss this one! The Sargents have stepped up to prepare the entree this year. They are preparing a special honey baked ham!

Everything else will be specialty potluck. Please bring your best side dishes of salads, appetizers, vegetables, deserts, or drinks.

Can't cook? That is okay! Just bring non-alcoholic drinks, or flowers. We will eat promptly at 6 PM!

What is the cost for all this great food, and fun? We are asking for a mere two dollar minimum donation each to cover the costs of the entree.

Any money left over we'll use to acquire and organize more toys in the cabin for the WAC Kids! You can also donate good toys, kids furniture, etc to the cabin to make it more kid friendly.

CABIN FEES

Are you planning on using the Cabin this winter? Please go ahead and send in your annual Cabin fee. It is good for the entire 2007 year, and will save you the trouble of having to write a check every time you come up! Support Guye Cabin projects and pay annual fees for the year in lieu of single day or overnight fees each time you visit.

Annual Cabin Fee:

Immediate Family of three or more WAC Members	\$120.00
Immediate Family of two WAC Members	\$100.00
Individual Member	\$70.00

Members who have paid the annual cabin fee must still sign the roster, check in with the cabin chairperson, and help with chores and educating new members and guests when visiting the cabin. A current list of members who have paid the annual cabin fee will be kept at the cabin.

SNOWSHOEING

Forest Service led trips:
 Guided Forest Service snowshoe walks on Snoqualmie Pass offer a chance to experience winter's beauty while learning about snow shoeing and winter ecology. This moderately paced walk meanders through extraordinary old growth forest that opens to occasional views of surrounding snow-capped peaks.

This year the walks will begin January 8, 2005 and run through

March 27 every Saturday and Sunday at 10 AM. and 1 PM. The walks generally last 90 minutes. Group size is limited to 20 people and reservations are required. Children under the age of 10 cannot be accommodated.

Snowshoes are provided for all walks. In order to offset the costs of the program, a \$10 donation per person is suggested. Please dress for winter weather; hats, gloves, sturdy, waterproof boots, and insulating layered clothing are recommended.

Also offered is a longer snowshoe hike for those interested in a half-day outing in Gold Creek Basin. These walks will be led by Forest Service volunteers three days this winter and group size is limited to six participants. The dates for these extended tours are January 16, January 29, and February 6. These ventures require a higher level of fitness and winter preparedness; please call for more information.

For more information or to make reservations call the Snoqualmie Pass Visitor Information Center at (425) 434-6111, Friday thru Monday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

On your own in the Snoqualmie Pass Area

Amabilis Mountain: This trip starts at Exit 63 (Cabin Creek). Park on south side.

Walk north across I-90 to F.S. Rd. 4826. Start snow shoeing on the right-hand side (not on!) of the groomed x-c tracks on this road. About ¼ mile along this road past the Kongsberger ski cabin, turn right onto F.S. Rd. 4822 and start climbing! Stay to the right. when going up the road, as there might be skiers coming down. Give them the right-of-way. Cross a small creek. At approximately 2 miles., you reach a fork.

If you go left (clockwise), this is the shorter route to the top. At

approximately 3 miles, cross a road and head up to the ridge crest. Turn right. and follow to the actual summit. If you go to the right back at the 2-mile fork, this is the longer of the two routes to get to the top--or join the two to make a loop (some navigational skills needed to complete this loop). Views of Lake Keechelus Valley and the South Cascades to the south & Three Queens Mts. to the north. Sno-Park groomed parking permit required.

8 miles 2,100' gain 4,554' high point

Commonwealth Basin: This trip starts out near the Exit 52 interchange. Park in the parking lot for the Summit West ski area or park along S.R. 906 east of the Visitor Center. Cross the road & walk west. along the snow bank underneath the I-90 overpass. As the road bends past the overpass, you need to walk up the snow bank to get into the Pacific Crest North parking lot area.

From here, you are on your way to go up the basin. Good navigational skills are most helpful. You are in a heavy forest canopy but can follow alongside the banks of Commonwealth Creek (on the west side) and use this as your landmark. Views of Guye Peak are to the west. and Red Mt. to the north. At approximately 2.5 mi., the valley narrows enough that you will eventually have to cross Commonwealth Creek.

This is a good turnaround point before crossing the creek! There can be high avalanche danger up the basin beyond the creek.

4-5 miles 1,000' gain 4,000' high point

Keechelus Ridge: Take Exit 62 eastbound, I-90. Go north over the interchange & then head back west on I-90 approximately 1-1/2 mi. to

the "Price Creek W. Sno-Park" exit 61. (There is no other way to access this Sno-Park if you come from the west.) A small trail leads northwest. from the Sno-Park to F.S. Rd. 4832. Head west on this road a couple hundred feet. Climb to the north onto a small side road, F.S. Rd. 124.

This road climbs steeply up the sides of Keechelus Ridge alongside Price Creek for ½ mi. before heading west away from the creek. The best "cross-country" trail is approximately 1.3 miles out of the Sno-Park. Snowshoe up the slope away from the snowmobile track, staying right when the road goes left. Parallel Price Creek as you go uphill but stay on bench above creek. Go approximately 1 mile before crossing F.S. Rd. 4934, just below ridge crest at 4,300'. Merge with F.S. Rd. 124 to make loop. This trip is for snowshoers who like to climb! Sno-Park ungroomed parking permit required. 6.5 miles 2,100' gain 4,900' high point

Kendall Peak Lakes: Take Exit 54 off I-90. Go north underneath I-90 straight ahead to the Gold Creek Sno-Park. This route heads up F.S. Rd. 9090 straight ahead on the west. side of Gold Creek Valley and up towards Kendall Peak Lakes. Good views of Rampart Ridge on the east side of Gold Creek Valley, north towards Alta Mt. & Chikamin Ridge, & south towards the ski areas, Mt. Catherine, and even Mt. Rainier from the top! At approximately 1-3/4 mi. the road takes a sharp right hairpin turn.

The left spur road. gives you views of the ski areas. If you stay to the right, this proceeds up towards the lakes. The road heads east and then north., as it stays on the west side of the crest. Switchback turns at approximately 2.5 & 3.5 miles. Stay to the north& follow Coal Creek at approximately 4-1/4 mi. keeping the creek on your left (west side) to the lower Kendall Peak Lake.

Try not to approach the 3rd lake, as this is extremely steep and very avalanche prone. Sno-Park ungroomed parking permit required.

7-9 miles 1,700' gain 4,400' high point

Lower Gold Creek Basin: Take Exit 54 off I-90. Go north. under overpass a few hundred yards. & turn right onto F.S. Rd. 4832 & head east approximately 1 mile. on this road that parallels the westbound lanes of I-90. Park along the shoulders of the road near the small bridge, which is over the outlet of Mardee Lake as it goes into Lake Keechelus. Snowshoe north onto F.S. Rd. 142 to enter the east side of this valley. This valley starts at approximately 1 mile in width and continues to narrow as you proceed up the valley on the east side of Gold Creek.

You will see Kendall Peak to the northwest, Rampart Ridge to the east., Alta Mt. on the northeast, & Chikamin Ridge to the north. Part of this route travels through private residential property in Ski-Tur Valley. Please respect private property and do not trespass on driveways or property. Avalanche slide paths are on either side of the valley off the Kendall Peak area on the west or Rampart Ridge area on the east. Try to stay in the middle of the valley as much as possible or follow the creek up the valley. As the valley narrows at approximately 3.5 mi. at the creek, you will find this to be a good turnaround point rather than crossing creek! Sno-Park ungroomed parking permit required.

6-7 miles 400' gain 3,000' high point

Mount Margaret: Views of Lake Keechelus and Mt. Catherine to the south and the east side of Snoqualmie Pass. Take Exit 54 & turn north, proceeding under the I-90 overpass. Go a few hundred yards and then

turn east onto F.S. Rd. 4832, which parallels the westbound lanes of I-90. Proceed to where the road ends by a snow-bermed turnaround. Park on the shoulder side of the road--do not block the turnaround. Follow the road southeast for approximately 1.5 miles from the snow-bermed road end. The road follows curves around the base of Rampart Ridge.

After crossing Wolfe Creek, the road climbs and switches back. At approximately 3.2 miles, the road splits. The left fork continues to climb another ½ mile to approximately 3,600' and the trailhead to the Mt. Margaret hike. Stay to the east side of the clearing as you proceed up hill. Can continue to the ridge crest then to the north. The last ½ mile is in the trees all the way to the crest/ridge just below the true summit of Mt. Margaret & you will be able to see Lake Margaret below and the Mt. Stuart range to the northeast. Sno-Park ungroomed parking permit required.

9 miles 2,800' gain 3,600' high point

Talapus Lake: Take Exit 45 (F.S. Rd. 9030) off I-90. Go north and follow F.S. Rd. 9030 west 1 mile until the junction with F.S. Rd. 9031. You may have to park down at this junction, depending on snow level and where it has been plowed. Follow F.S. Rd. 9030 to the right approximately 2.5 miles up to the Talapus Lake trailhead. You will go through some switchbacks. You will have occasional views of Bandera Mt., as well as Granite Mt. to the east. After about a mile on the actual trail (3.5 miles), you will come to Talapus Creek and will be following it approximately ¾ mile to the lake. Be aware of avalanche potential near the lake. If the avalanche danger is "moderate to high", stay away from lake basin area. Northwest Forest Pass required.

8.5 miles 1,600' gain 3,280' high point

Hurricane Ridge-- One-mile walks on Hurricane Ridge, led by park naturalist Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, as well as Martin Luther King Day and Presidents Day, all at 2 PM., weather permitting. Snowshoes provided. A \$2 donation is suggested (in addition to park entrance fee of \$10 per car). Register at Hurricane Ridge visitor center one hour before walk. Organized groups must make reservations by calling 360-452-0330.

Paradise-- Snowshoe walks in the Paradise area, led by park naturalist Saturdays and Sundays at 10:30 AM and 2:30 PM., weather permitting. Sign up at Jackson Memorial Visitor Center at Paradise, beginning one hour before walk. Snowshoes provided. Organized groups must reserve dates by calling 360-569-2211, Ext. 3314. Park entrance fee is \$10 per car.

More Information

The snowshoe routes listed above are neither marked nor maintained *. You should always carry a map, compass, & other 10 Essentials and also have good route-finding skills when venturing into the backcountry. Always be dressed for winter weather and be prepared for winter driving conditions when traveling in snow country. Always check ahead for avalanche conditions by calling the N.W. Avalanche Hotline: (206) 526-6677. Mike

TELEMARK SKIING

from Ernest Hemingway

"Coming down the mountain in the telemark position, kneeling one leg forward and bent, the other trailing: his sticks hanging like some insect's thin legs, kicking puffs of snow as they touched the surface and finally the

whole kneeling, trailing figure coming around in a beautiful right curve, crouching, the legs shot forward and back, the body leaning out against the swing, the sticks accenting the curve like points of light all in a wild cloud of snow." Ernest Hemingway

Although Ernest was not a WAC member, he would have enjoyed our special world! Mike

HOG LOPPET SKI TOUR

February 25! A High Traverse from the top of Mission Ridge Ski Area to Blewett Pass. This 21-mile event is not a race but a Hog Loppet (rough Swedish for "citizen's high country ski trek. The route begins at the top of the Mission Ridge Ski Area after a chairlift ride from the base. Spectacular views. The route is generally level with some ups and downs for 15 miles, then a long descent to 4100 foot Blewett Pass. There will be three aid stations with snacks, water and emergency equipment.

GARY BRILL AVALANCHE CLASSES

Many people in the WAC have been through Gary's program. Gary has been to Guye Cabin, and we've had the opportunity to ski with him.

These practical and popular classes familiarize the winter backcountry enthusiast with hazard recognition and techniques for safe travel in avalanche terrain. Classroom sessions include trip planning, safe travel, terrain and route finding, mountain weather, emphasizing the Cascade and Olympic Mountains, and snow pack factors that affect both stability and evaluation. Classroom sessions are the same for the 2-day (16 hour) Avalanche Awareness program and the 3-day (24 hour) Level I course. The Avalanche Awareness program includes one full day of field work, which stresses safe travel techniques, terrain, snow pack observation and testing, and the effective use of new generation avalanche transceivers. Many students will want to go on to complete the Level I course by attending an additional field day which focuses on safe travel, route-finding and snow pack observations.

Created by Gary Brill and now in its 21st season, the Avalanche Awareness course, revised in 2005, reflects more than 35 years of backcountry skiing experience, 25 years of guiding and professional avalanche training. Professional member AAA, Affiliate member CAA.

<http://www.geocities.com/garyabrill/avalanche.html>

e-mail: Contact Gary Brill: info@AvalancheSafety.org

Cabin Hosts

We are looking for folks to pick days/weekends to serve as the host at Guye Cabin! What's it require? Just be available to answer questions, tell stories, and involve folks in the winter fun at Guye Cabin. You can bring your family and friends, and even set a theme for the Saturday night dinner. For example I will do the annual vegetarian dinner in February, the Salmon cookout in March, and the BBQ in April! (dates forthcoming) Call or email Mike to sign up for you day or weekend!

Climbing Class Applications

Hurray! The WAC Basic Climbing Class is now accepting applications for the '07 course. Please encourage friends, family and other adventure buddies to apply. Remember, it helps us in making our selection to know if you're sending someone our way . . . our favorite applicants are WAC members and their referrals! Applications will accepted through January 15th only, so get them in soon!

The application is available on the WAC webiste at: <http://www.wacweb.org/classes/climbing-class/default.view>

If you have any questions, please contact the Co-Chairs at: cochairs@wacclass.org, or call us: Fred Slater: (425-770-2854), Doug Daniell: (206-769-6570), Mica Schonbeck: (206-790-2051) See you in the mountains! Cheers,
Mica//Fred//Doug

WAC '07 Basic Class Co-Chairs Nordic Classes for Kids!

At Hyak. Most of the instructors are WAC members so this is a fantastic program for kids.
TREASURE TRAILS

Session I January 6, 13, 20, 27
Session II February 3, 10, 24 March 3
Times 10AM-2PM

LITTLE NORDS & FREEHEELERS
& High Pros

January 6, 13, 20, 27 February 3, 10, 24, & March 3
Times 10AM-2PM

The Junior Nordic Program is starting on Jan 6th at Hyak East.
<http://home.comcast.net/~karelzikan/JP>

This is a progressive year-to-year program for Nordic skiing for kids starting at 4 year of age. Each year, we help turn about 60 kids into budding Nordic and backcountry skiers. Most of the JP instructors are from the WAC or SNC (Snoqualmie Nordic Club).

Information about the program for this year, including how to register, can be found at <http://home.comcast.net/~karelzikan/JP>

Note, this program is run by the Summit Nordic Center and all registration goes through them. However you can download the egistration form from the website listed above. You'll also find helpful information about dressing a young Nordic skier and events of interest.

DATES

TREASURE TRAILS (4-6 yrs)
Session I January 6, 13, 20, 27
Session II February 3, 10, 24 March 3
Times 10AM-2PM

**LITTLE NORDS & FREEHEELERS
& HIGH PROS**
January 6, 13, 20, 27 February 3, 10, 24, & March 3
Times 10AM-2PM

ABOUT THE PROGRAM
* Treasure Trails (TT)- Teaches our youngest skiers (age 4-6) basic ski skills: skiing in a directed manner in a track, straight run in the tracks, getting up, snowplow and turning with a snowplow.

* Little Nords (LN) - Focuses on children age 6-9. Little Nords is broken into 3 groups. Group 1 is for 6-9 year olds who have not gone through Treasure Trails. They will learn Treasure Trails skills with an older group of kids. Group 2 are Little Nords who have moved up from TT or who already have TT skills. Group 2 works on better striding skills and strong downhill skills. Group 2 will begin skiing in the upper area towards the end of the season. Group 3 have completed a year of LN or come in with Group 2 skills. Group 3 will begin learning to skate and work on advanced downhill skills.

* Freeheelers (FH) - Focuses on kids age 9-13. Freeheelers are broken into 3 groups. Group 1 is for kids, age 9-12, who are new to Nordic skiing. They will work on LN Group 2-3 skills. FH Group2 is for kids who

have moved up from LN Group 3 or already have strong downhill skills and can skate. Group 2 works on perfecting their striding and skating form. FH Group 3 is for the older Freeheelers and they work on perfecting their skiing and will ski for longer distances. Group 3 begins to work on skiing at higher speed. Some kids in Group 3 may begin racing. * High Pros (HP) - High Pros are our 14 and old kids who are working on race level skiing. Kids in High Pros are not required to race, but many kids in High Pros do and sessions will focus on training for skiing fast and efficiently. Happy skiing, Eli

Ski Instructors

Being a ski instructor is the ultimate badge of a ski bum. "So what do you do?" "I'm a ski instructor." This simple statement instantly catapults you a few rungs up the outdoor-stud(ette) ladder. Now you too can join the ranks!

The Summit Nordic Center (where I, Karel, Amy, Libby, and Charlie) work is looking for Nordic instructors.

What are the requirements?
#1 You need to like people and genuinely be interested in helping people learn skills to enjoy Nordic skiing.
#2 You need to be able to ski the lower system at Summit East and be interested in getting better.
#3 You need to commit to 14 days of work

It is not necessary to be a hot-shot Nordic skier. Personality and interest in teaching is MUCH more important. As a beginner instructor, you'll be taught how to teach basic lessons and will assist experienced instructors in the beginning.

What are the benefits?

1. Free seasons pass and discounted dependent passes.
2. Make money.
3. Half-price food and dependent lessons.
4. Ski free at most any resort in WA, OR and some in CA.
5. If you join PSIA (Professional Ski Instructors Association), you get discounted lift tickets throughout the US.
6. Free weekly instructor clinics that will help you become a much better skier. Free group lessons for yourself in any discipline (nordic, alpine, snowboard).
7. Give back something to the community and have the satisfaction of teaching people new skills.
8. Develop a life-long skill as an outdoor instructor

To find out more, you can contact me (Eli at e2holmes@gmail.com) or BETTER contact John Roberts, the Nordic Center manager, who hires people and can answer any questions: jroberts.sl@boothcreek.com

Happy skiing! Eli

The following trip report was posted to the WAC website To see all the details click: <http://www.wacweb.org/Trips/>

[TripReports/default.view?_mode=details&rowid=394](#)

Trip: Hubba Hubba!!! Ice at Icicle
Posted by: Joe
Date of Trip: 2006-12-02 00:00:00

It takes some convincing, but I finally convince Ty to leave the split board and the fabulous backcountry turns behind this beautiful weekend for an attempt at finding some ice. While the powder is guaranteed, good ice isn't until you're right under its nose.

6am at the 65th P&R is a WAC PARTY. Mark, Aaron, and folks are heading up to Stevens (I couldn't convince them...too bad for them) and Ali and Doug are meeting up with some other folks for some backcountry fun. We head to Leavenworth figuring any ice on the west side of the cascades or up at the passes would be buried in the recent snow.

Our first sight is Drury Falls. We didn't have a canoe to get across the Wenatchee and despite looking "in," a ton of water is running down the right side, even at a whopping temperature of 11F. We drive on to Icicle Creek. Careno and Rainbow Falls are looking thin so we keep pressing to Bridge Creek Campground.

From the road, Hubba Hubba, aka THE FUNNEL, is looking decent. We hedge our bets and hike up, leaving the snow shoes behind. The hour approach takes us much longer as our "beeline" is more of a zig zagging tunnel through shallow unconsolidated snow over branches

and boulders. Ty curses me all the way up saying he could be riding some sweet powder.

Racking up for ice climbing is always a B%#^. Nevertheless, I finally make my way to ice, sink a tool, and enjoy a short vertical section before it mellows out. Only issue is the ice becomes thin and hollow. My screws are a joke. I hammered in a knifeblade, place another screw, and ignore the runout til Ty yells up I'm out of rope. I dig out a rock under the snow, clean a muddy crack and hammer in the pick of one tool and squeeze in a nut. The guidebook isn't kidding when it says "a good portion of the ice is a mere 2 inches thick" and "pitons may be needed."

After my slow struggle up the first WI3 pitch, Ty takes the second, enjoys a fun step and clears the rest through snow to a tree. We rap down and clear out. My plan to return the next day with Marcus fades away after I pass out in the passenger seat the entire way back. Thanks Ty for driving!

Cheers, Joe

Guide To Cross Country Skiing (Nordic)

Cross country, or Nordic skiing is a terrific way to enjoy the great outdoors in winter. The pleasures of cross country skiing can take your mind off the stresses of the daily grind, whether you seek the solitude of solo skiing or are spending some quality time with family and friends. It's also a great aerobic activity, enabling you to burn up hundreds of calories per hour without straining joints such as ankles and knees.

You'll get a low-impact workout while enjoying the outdoors, and the scenery sure beats the view at your local health club.

Get your Gear!

Before renting or purchasing equipment, ask yourself a few questions: Will you ski two times a year or more? Where do you plan to ski? The terrain and location helps determine your equipment choices. Cross country skiing allows you to choose from a variety of locations. Parks, golf courses, hiking trails or cross country ski areas are all good choices. Determining your projected commitment level will help you decide whether to rent, lease or buy equipment.

Here are the choices:

1. Renting equipment at your local ski shop or at the ski area. You can rent equipment by the day or week. This is recommended for first-time skiers.
2. Leasing equipment for an entire season. This is a good option in areas where it might snow only a few times a year, because rental equipment can be scarce. Some ski shops offer this service and it can especially make sense for children who quickly out-grow gear.
3. Buying used equipment at a local shop or ski swap. Be aware that at garage sales and some swaps, you may wind up with gear that is outdated and inappropriate.

4. Buying new equipment. You might want to consider a package deal that offers a discount when you buy skis, boots, bindings and poles together.

Types of cross country skis, bindings, and boots:

Traditional In-Track Touring Skis:

These skis are often used with a traditional kick-and-glide motion on maintained track systems set by special grooming machines. They also can be used on ungroomed terrain. They have minimal sidecut so the skis will stay in the tracks. (Sidecut refers to the narrowness of the middle part of the skis in relation to the wider tip and tail.)

Off-Track Touring Skis:

These skis are often used to navigate ungroomed terrain in parks, open fields and on golf courses. They are wider than in-track touring skis and provide more flotation and stability in fresh snow.

Skating Skis:

These skis are used with a skating-type stride on groomed trails. They are shorter, narrower and lighter than traditional cross country skis. The technique is similar to inline skating, except poles are also used. Skating skis can provide the ultimate fitness workout.

Backcountry Skis:

These skis are for the more adventurous, who are exploring the backcountry and experiencing variable snow conditions. They can be as wide as alpine skis, for better flotation, and feature metal edges for more control.

Wax vs. waxless:

Although more advanced skiers prefer waxing their skis, most enjoy the convenience of waxless skis. If you buy waxless skis, you can strap them on and go.

The boots

You choose can make cross country skiing a real pleasure. Comfortable, warm boots are the most important component of the equipment package. Boots should be moderately rigid to resist twisting or deformity.

Look for a boot with some insulation between the inner lining and the outer shell. Classic touring boots that come up over the ankle might be the best choice for new skiers. These boots offer lots of support, warmth and comfort. If you are planning to conquer the backcountry, look for sturdier, more rigid boots that offer the most support.

There are many types of cross country ski **bindings** available, but the basic concept is the same: Keep the toe and front of the boot locked in place, leave the heel and back part of the foot free to move up and

down. Boots and bindings are usually sold together as they must work as a team.

Recreational boots are available in three binding systems: 75mm three-pin (uses three pins that mate with three holes in the boot sole); Salomon system; and Rottefella NNN (New Nordic Norm).

Poles are used to help you with your balance and for pushing off while skiing. Poles can be made from fiberglass, aluminum, graphite or some combination of these materials.

What size skis?

Skis are measured in centimeters. Your ski length will depend on your ability, height and weight along with the type of skiing you plan to do most often. A shop employee will help you decide on the appropriate length.

Cross country ski boots are sized in one of three ways European sizes, traditional American sizes and also "mondo point," which is simply the length of the boot in centimeters. Generally speaking, Nordic boots designed for skiing in tracks or light-duty trail breaking come in European sizing with American equivalents. Because of these various sizing methods, it's important to try on boots before buying them. When trying on boots, wear one pair of medium-weight or light-weight socks and a liner sock

made of synthetic materials or silk. The fit should be snug and your heel should remain in place. You should be able to wiggle your toes. Poles are measured in inches or in centimeters.

Lets go ski!

There are several sno-parks along the I90 corridor to ski. Hyak, Exit 54 also has many miles of groomed runs. Cross country skiing is relatively easy to learn, but first-timers should still take a lesson from a qualified instructor. Lessons can greatly enhance the experience. This is especially true if you don't have any experience ice skating, inline skating or exercising with a cross country skiing simulator. Take a group or private lesson.

I have posted photos of a four day trip Andy, Uta and I did to Glacier Peak in August. It was my farewell climb, since I moved to Germany 2 weeks later. It was gorgeous. And I will certainly be back!

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/95491150@N00/sets/72157594407133443/>

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