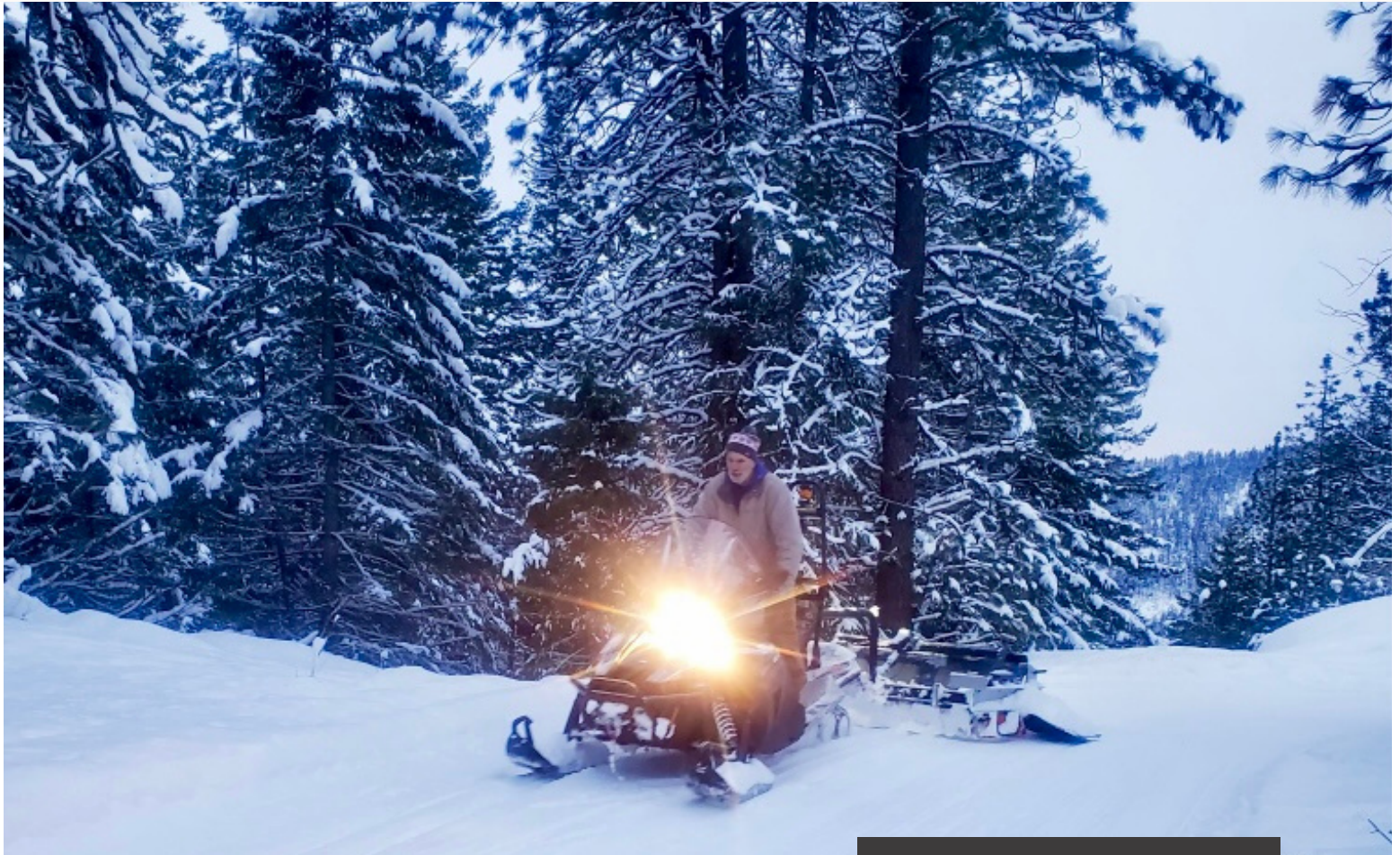




Sandpoint Nordic Club

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❄️ LET IT SNOW ❄️

The last few weeks at Pine Street Woods have been spectacular.

We haven't had consistent snow like this since we opened the Outdoor Recreation Center a few years ago. I think it's safe to say that we're all pretty stoked about how the Nordic skiing season is going so far :).

We wouldn't be able to groom and maintain the trails if it weren't for our members. Thank you so much for your support. Have a happy New Year!

Leanna & the SNC Board

NEWSLETTER

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We ♥ our Groomers

Nothing slows these guys down. They work evenings, early mornings, through snow blizzards, and in ice cold temps all while smiling and rocking headlamps. Some say they do it for first laps on that crispy corduroy. Some say they do it for the post-groom milkshake at Burger Express. But we all know they really do it for the love of the groom. We owe these guys a round of applause. Thank you groomers!

Jared France



Fun Fact: Lee France, Jared's son and SNC Race Team coach, often joins Jared to groom. Thanks, Lee!

How did you get into grooming? I started grooming with SNC quite a few years ago when we were grooming trails for Western Pleasure Ranch. I also helped groom the former U of I trails on North Boyer.

Favorite part about grooming? My brother and I used to pack our ski track with snowshoes and then ski in a groove, so I always wanted to run a groomer. It's a lot easier.

Best trails you've skied? My favorite trail is probably Cloud Walker up at Schweitzer, mainly because I get to ski it often and the views are

amazing. My favorite Nordic ski areas are Silver Star/ Sovereign Lakes in Vernon, B.C., the Rendezvous trail system in West Yellowstone and the Methow Valley, of course.

Favorite grooming snack? I don't really bring snacks when I'm grooming, if I did I would probably bring cookies.

What can we do as skiers to ensure the trails stay in prime shape? I think the best thing skiers can do is to help educate people on the trail use protocols at Pine Street Woods. People tracks, dog tracks/ poop, and bike tracks can be disruptive to skiers. People tracks in soft snow can be hard to smooth over while bike tracks often create ruts which ski tips can get caught in. I think it's great we have a designated day and time that people can ski with their dogs as well as designated trails for bikes.

Jason Welker



How did you get into grooming? When PSW opened in 2019 I helped Pend Oreille Pedalers acquire their narrow trail groomer, and have been the lead groomer of those trails since then. I heard SNC needed some extra hands on the ski trail crew this winter so decided to join! Honestly I just love making great trail for all users to enjoy, on bikes, foot, or skis!

Favorite part about grooming? When the snow starts to get deeper and each time I groom the trail just gets better and better, when all the bumpy, rocky, rooty spots start to smooth out, the experience of grooming gets

easier and more enjoyable, as does the experience of the end user.

Best trails you've ever skied? I used to teach at an international school in Switzerland and each December we'd take all the ninth graders up to Einsiedeln, a village about 30 minutes from our school, surrounded by the Alps, where there were tens of miles of groomed trails running the length of the valley. Honestly, that's the only place I've ever skied! I'm a fat biker and alpine skier!!

Favorite grooming snack? A meat stick and a flask of Bourbon (to warm up with after grooming!)

What can we do as skiers to ensure trails stay in prime shape? If you see walkers, runners, or fat bikers, ask them to stick to the narrow trails. Other than that, it's the groomer's job to ensure the trails are on prime shape for skiing, not the other way around!

Matt Wiebe



How did you get into grooming? I got into grooming last year when the nordic club lost their lead groomer. I've had years of snowmobile experience but never grooming trails. Ross Longhini the previous president of the nordic club shared a wealth of knowledge about grooming in all types of snow conditions and put me through a mini crash course of training.

Favorite part about grooming? My favorite part of grooming is being out on the trails on cold moonlit nights. Making my way out onto the meadow I usually turn off the machine and sit in the dark silence for a couple of minutes. It's just peaceful silence and more often than not I can spot deer tromping around feeding on the tips of small trees.

Best trails you've ever skied? The best trails I have ever skied would probably be in West Yellowstone.

Favorite grooming snack? It's usually too cold to pull gloves off and stop for a snack but I always pack hot apple cider at night and coffee in the mornings to warm myself up when I finish grooming.

What can we do as skiers to ensure trails stay in prime shape? The biggest thing we can all do in winter to keep the trails in tip top shape is to stay off the wide trails when hiking. Also remember that dogs are only allowed on trails on Friday afternoons. It's a hard transition when people have been utilizing the wide trails all summer but just one hiker with an excited dog on a warm day can really ruin the groom for the next couple days if it sets up with frozen footprints overnight.

Sean Stash



How did you get into grooming? Started grooming sometime around 2007. I started grooming the Girdwood (Alaska) community trails because they weren't getting enough grooming love and my wife and I wanted more opportunities to ski well-groomed local trails. Purely selfish but the community enjoyed, as well.

Favorite part about grooming? Getting up at 4 in the morning is definitely NOT a favorite part of grooming. But once the coffee sinks in and I'm actually grooming the trails, there's a strange kind of zen for me when I look behind the drag and see all the nice new corduroy following me around the trails. Of course, knowing so many folks in our cool little community are going to dig it makes me smile, too.

Best trails you've ever skied? There's a reason places like the Methow Valley and Sun Valley/Galena are so popular for Nordic skiing - they're awesome! Those are two of my favorites but I'm excited for an opportunity to check out West Yellowstone and Sovereign Lake.

Favorite grooming snack? Oh good, a question about food. I try to eat something at home before I go groom so I don't have to think about being hungry and interrupt my focus. However, I've been eating Bobo bars lately on my longer hikes and skis. Those things are yummy!

What can we do as skiers to ensure trails stay in prime shape? Actually, it's up to us groomers to do what we can to ensure the trails are in prime shape for all you skiers. But, as skiers, you can make our day by using the trails, giving a nod, smile, or thumbs up in appreciation as we pass, and please, oh please, pick up any poop your furry buddies deposit on the trails. Nothing like a big ol' brown skid on the corduroy after the drag mashes a turd to break me out of my zen.

YOUTH SKI LEAGUE

Starts **Monday, Jan 3rd!** We are still accepting sign ups. If you'd like your kid to join in on the fun, send us an email at sandpointnordic@gmail.com.

SCHOOL PROGRAM

We take local 3rd - 6th graders out for a fun-filled skiing field-trip in Pine Street Woods during Jan & Feb. If you're interested in **volunteering** for this program, send us an email. We can always use more helpers.

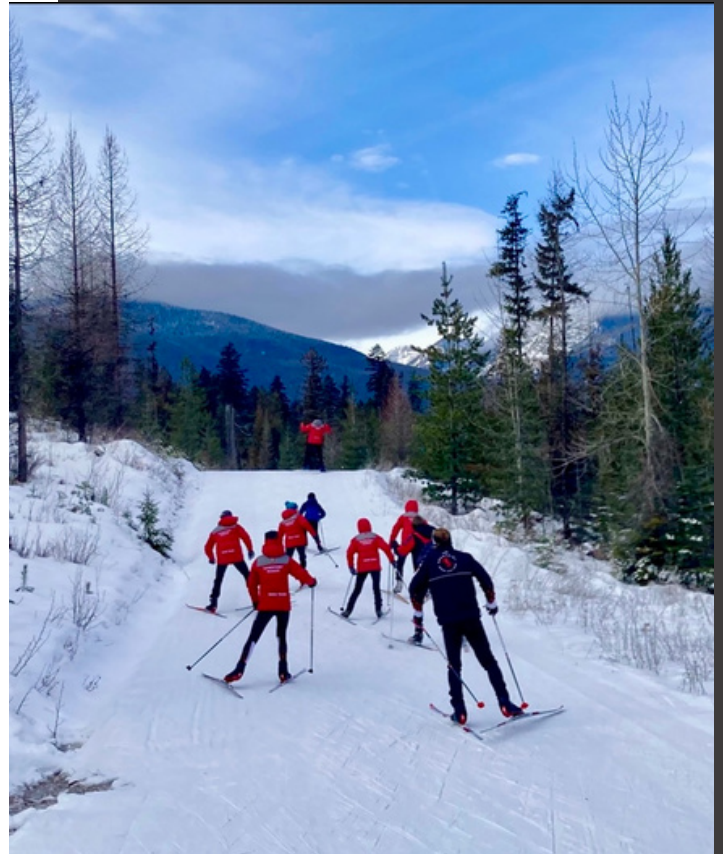
ADULT PROGRAMS

New to skiing or have a family member or friend you'd like to get on skinny skis? Join one of our **Learn to Ski** days on Jan 8th and/or Jan 22nd.

Been skiing a while and want to advance your skills with more technique knowledge? Join us for a **Beginner Classic Lesson** on Jan 29th and a **Beginner Skate Lesson** on Feb 5th.

THE DISTANCE CHALLENGE

Arpie holds the lead with 145km skied. But watch out! Both **Makka** and **OG Racer** are not far behind. Makka picked up 44km this week alone...nice work Makka! Running neck to neck at 120km each are **Fuglebein** and **Thorson**. Is this the same person or a skiing duo? Hard to say. We wouldn't be surprised to see **Mountain Chickadee, Up Hill - Both Ways** and **Strawberry Flash** catch up to **Ice Ice Baby** in January. Special shout out to **Teeter-totter** for picking up the rear at 10km (hey, that's not so bad for a 3 year old ;)). Keep it up, everyone!



Fun Fact: SNC's Race Team has been training hard for their race season. We'll be showcasing the team in our January newsletter. In the meantime, root them on when you see them practicing. They are some seriously dedicated athletes who inspire and motivate other skiers. Wishing all our racers a great season - **Callahan Waters, Evan Brubaker, Fletcher Barrett, Isabella Waters, Jett Longanecker & Pax Longanecker!**

LONGHINI SCHOLARSHIP

Congrats, Fletcher Barrett!

The Sandpoint Nordic Club is happy to announce Fletcher Barrett as the recipient of the Longhini Scholarship. Fletcher started downhill skiing at just 2 years old. His passion for downhill sparked his interest in Nordic. After deciding to join SNC's Youth Ski League in the 4th grade, Fletcher has thrived as a Nordic skier and is now an SNC Race Team athlete.

Fletcher loves being outside and keeps his fitness up year-round, which helps immensely with his Nordic racing. He enjoys peak bagging, biking, running, rollerskiing, and wake surfing. Fletcher is so dedicated to off-season training that he woke up at 6am the morning after prom to rollerski up Schweitzer Mountain Road - impressed? He also completed a very successful XC season with Sandpoint High School in 2021.

Fletcher's favorite ski trails include Pine Street Woods, the Libby Flowery Trails and McCall trails. He also loves mocking down the cat track at Schweitzer! Fun fact: Fletcher drank an entire 1/2 gallon of chocolate milk after racing at Soldier Hollow, Utah.

If you have known Fletcher in the last few years, you'll know that he has grown a lot. The Longhini Scholarship has helped him with some specific gear he needed to race this season, including dedicated skate and classic boots. The Scholarship will also help support a busy travel schedule, with races in Sun Valley, West Yellowstone, Jackson, and other locations. Fletcher loves to travel and many of the venues are new to him this season, which he is excited about.

Fletcher has a bright future ahead with Nordic skiing. He has dreams of competing in college or even participating in an exchange program where he could ski in Norway (cool!). Fletcher is clearly a solid athlete but he is also a true team player who anyone would want to coach or train with. His positive attitude draws others to him and his hard work is inspiring. We are grateful to have Fletcher as part of our Race Team and to support him through the Longhini Scholarship. Congratulations, Fletcher and have a great season!



Fletcher's first Nordic season with SNC's Youth Ski League



Fletcher competing at the Junior Regional Championship in Solder Hollow, 2020.

THE FUNNIES

Thanks to a couple guest contributors, we have a comedy page in our newsletter this month. Enjoy!

The Ski Curmudgeon

He's back! But who is he, anyway?

Dear Ski Curmudgeon,

I was recently picking up my Nordic ski pass at Schweitzer when the man at the counter insisted on showing a video of a very unfit comedian making big fun of cross-country skiers. How should I have responded? Lost for Words

Dear Lost for Words,

You could have countered with a U-tube video of a guy going 90 km/hr. downhill on his skinny skis or showed him pictures of Jessie Diggins, Frida Karlson, and Therese Johaug who are amazing athletes currently leading the World Cup. Perhaps the best response would have been to show him a biathlon competition and remind him Nordic skiers shouldn't be messed with. SC

Ole & Lena

Your favorite Scandanavian-American Couple!

Ole called the airlines information desk and inquired, "How long does it take ta fly from Minneapolis to Fargo?" "Just a minute," said the busy clerk. "Vell, said Ole, "if it has to go dat fast, I tink I'll yust take da bus."