



# Sandpoint Nordic Club

## Issue 46 • December 2022



### ❄️ LET IT SNOW ❄️

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

Don't let these warmer wet days we are having bring you down. It looks like the forecast is going to cool back down and we are hopeful our trails will be back in shape soon. As always, we'll keep you in the loop.

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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# Meet our Rental Center Crew

Our Outdoor Recreation Center or "ORC", managed by Rick Price, is a pretty special place. Thanks to Rick, Tom & Patrick, our community members and visitors can rent cross country skis on the weekends. They each are passionate about XC skiing and we are super grateful to have them getting as many people on skis as possible each winter.

## Rick Price



**How long have you been working the ORC?** - I helped move skis in to the building when it was built four seasons ago.

**How did you get into skiing?** I have been cross country skiing since I was a kid skiing on golf courses in the suburbs of Saint Louis. I've always loved it and was mostly a backcountry and make my own trail skier until my brother talked me into doing the Birkenbiener 50 kilometer Race in Wisconsin almost 20 years ago. I've been hooked on groomed trail skiing ever since.

**What's your favorite part about working the ORC?** My favorite part of working with the Nordic Club is running the School Program. I love everything about it/ especially watching kids enjoy the sport.

**What are the best trails you've skied?** As for trails- I love them all. I love just being outside and in the snow and the quiet in winter.

**What's your favorite snack?:** I'm a cookie eater especially chocolate chip.

**Anything else?:** Let's ski!

# Tom Prez



## **How long have you been working the ORC?**

This is my fourth year working at the ORC @ PSW.

## **How did you get into skiing?**

I started XC skiing in Pennsylvania in the late 1970's on a golf course after reading a book on the subject.

## **What's your favorite part about working the ORC?**

My favorite part about working at the ORC is talking to the skiers and watching their excitement after they are done skiing for the day. It is great fun to see young families enjoying time outdoors skiing together at Pine Street Woods.

## **What are the best trails you've skied?**

The best trails that I have skied are at Schweitzer, PSW and at the blue gate.

## **What's your favorite snack?**

Vegetarian food

## **Anything else you'd like to share?**

Thanks to everyone for supporting the Sandpoint Nordic Club and Pine Street Woods.

# Patrick Lynch



## **How long have you been working the ORC?**

I've been working at the ORC for a couple weeks now, being trained by Rick Price on checking out rentals.

## **How did you get into skiing?**

I've been XC skiing for around 35 years, with my first experiences on XC skies hiking into Bonneville Hot Springs, located near Crouch, Idaho. We skied in a mile to the springs and spent New Year's eve soaking.

## **What's your favorite part about working the ORC?**

As former treasurer of the Sandpoint Nordic Club, I was involved closely in the construction of the ORC from start to finish. It's so rewarding to see this building serve our local community for both XC skiing and for fat tire mountain biking.

## **What are the best trails you've skied?**

The trails at Schweitzer are so well maintained. I love skiing up and out to Wolf Ridge and then enjoy the swift downhill reward.

## **What's your favorite snack?**

I'm a dark chocolate addict!

## **Anything else you'd like to share?**

I'm really enjoying the positive vibe of the ORC. Every individual or family I've met there are genuinely excited to get on skis.

## YOUTH SKI LEAGUE

Starts **Monday, Jan 2nd!** If you have not yet picked up your kids skis for the season please do so asap! .

## 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

We are excited to host another **Full Moon Ski** on Friday, January 6th at 5:30pm in PSW. This is a free event for all with \$5 rentals for this night only. For new skiers and families, our first **Learn to Ski Day** is Saturday, January 7th with either a 9:30-11:30am or 1-3pm time-slot to choose from. Register on our website. Our second Learn to Ski Day is scheduled for January 21st. There's also an **Intermediate / Advanced Skate Ski Clinic** on Friday, December 30th at 9:30am for all the avid skate skiers out there. Register online. More clinics will be announced shortly, stay tuned!

## THE DISTANCE CHALLENGE

Make sure to sign up on our website if you haven't already! This challenge is designed to inspire skiers of all abilities to work towards a common goal, get fit during the winter months and gain some serious bragging rights among our Nordic community.

You have a choice between participating in a 500K, 200K or 50K challenge. All participants create a nickname and track their km's through a community google spreadsheet throughout the winter. Keep your nickname from last year or switch it up to keep your fellow skiers guessing who you are!

# SKIING WITH DOGS

By Renee Nigon

I love skiing with my dog, but it does add an element of risk. Her obsession with sticks isn't always helpful on the ski trails. The Sandpoint Nordic Club also loves dogs, but not everyone enjoys dogs on ski trails. For people new to cross country skiing, a dog on a ski trail can be overwhelming. No one wants to find their skis have been waxed by dog poop and it's our groomers worst nightmare when they gaze back on perfect corduroy, only to see a brown smear.

Our goal is for all skiers to feel comfortable skiing on the trails at Pine Street Woods. Dogs are only allowed on Fridays from 12-7pm. That way, people know when the dogs will be out and can avoid them if they'd like. In the future, our goal is to have a dog friendly trail open to dogs and skiers all the time.

When skiing with your dog, please make sure you pick up any dog poop, discarding it in the trash can at the start of the trail. Make sure your dog is within 10 feet of you, ready to be leashed if needed.



Hickey Farms

If you want to ski with your dog at any time, there's a few places around town you can head out to. When you have your dog on the trails, make sure they don't interfere with other skiers and to follow the local trail rules.

### **The Roundabout**

We're thrilled that Schweitzer is still grooming a track from the Roundabout. It's groomed twice a week, classic tracks and skate, and is free for all. Dogs are welcome. Dogs are not allowed on any of the upper Schweitzer nordic trails.

### **Hickey Farms**

There's a new area to check out with ski trails! Hickey Farms is grooming trails on their property. It's a packed down trail, great for social skiing side by side. It's a beautiful spot in the valley, through open fields and forest. There's no classic track set, but it definitely beats packing down your own trail! Dogs are welcome any day of the week, as long as they're under control. Donations are appreciated, right by the glowing Santa Claus.

### **Trout Creek to Lightning Creek Wildlife Management Area**

If you're looking to pack your own trail, this is a beautiful spot to check out. There's no ski trails, but there's plenty of space and your dog can run beside you as you trek through the meadow or by the river.

### **Priest Lake**

Priest Lake has five areas for cross country skiing. The Priest Lake State Park grooms their trails and the Priest Lake Nordic club grooms all other trails under an agreement with the US Forest Service. All groomed nordic ski areas around Priest Lake require the Idaho Parks and Recreation Park N' Ski permit. Check out their website for grooming reports. Dogs are welcome.



# THE FUNNIES

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

## The Ski Curmudgeon

He's back!

**Dear Ski Curmudgeon** - I was skiing on the Schweitzer Nordic trails Christmas Eve and it seemed like all I saw were geriatric skiers. Shouldn't they be sitting in their rockers? What gives? Gen Z Skier

**Dear Gen Z'er** - Go easy on the older generation Nordic skiers, they know that motion is the lotion to a long and healthy life. I have a friend who is 82 and loves it so much he's still willing to purchase a season pass (he definitely gets his money's worth). By the way, his wife, is 75 and one of the best skate skiers on the mountain. My wife and I have been known to ski a kilometer or two. Maybe Nordic skiing is the reason we're not sitting in our rockers binge watching "Emily in Paris". SC

## Ole & Lena

Your favorite Scandanavian-American Couple!

Ole was in big trouble. He forgot his wedding anniversary and his wife, Lena, was really angry.

She told him, "Tomorrow morning, I expect to find a gift in the driveway that goes from 0 to 200 PRETTY DAMN FAST!"

The next morning Ole got up early and left for work. When Lena woke up, she looked out the window and sure enough there was a gift-wrapped box in the middle of the driveway.

Confused, Lena put on her robe and ran out to the driveway and brought the box back in the house.

She opened it excitedly and found a brand new bathroom scale.