

Sandpoint Nordic Club

Newsletter - November 2020



Register for your 2020 / 2021 Season Membership

If you have not already done so, head to sandpointnordic.com to register for your season membership. Unlimited access to SNC groomed trails, access to club events, lessons, and local discounts as well as helping SNC maintain current ski trails and build future trails.

Thank you to the following local businesses who have partnered with SNC to offer our members discounts (check out the SNC membership page for details). Once you have picked up your SNC membership card, support these business, and thank them for the discount.

Outdoor Experience
Syringa Cyclery
Evans Brothers Coffee
The Longshot
The Shed
Sandpoint Medical Massage
Wold & Bell

Early Seasonal Ski Rental Dates Set

Looking to rent skis this season, or do you know someone who is? Pencil these dates in your calendar for picking up your seasonal rental at the Outdoor Rec Center at Pine Street Woods.

- Wednesdays Dec. 2nd & 9th from 4pm - 7pm
- Saturdays Dec. 5th & 12th from 9am - 12pm

Once we start grooming, we will be open on the weekends for weekly and daily rentals as well. This is also a great time to pick up your SNC membership card and Pine Street Woods poster if you have yet to do so.

Seasonal Rental Prices

	ADULT	YOUTH
Classic Package	130	90
Skate Package	160	110
Skis Only	75	50
Boots Only	75	50
Poles Only	25	15

Virtual Wax Clinic Dec. 10th

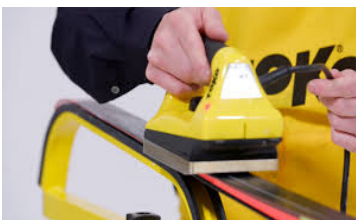
Join Ross Longhini and Ian Harvey of Toko, Thursday evening December 10th from 5-7pm for a virtual wax demonstration, and discussion regarding new fluoro free waxes hitting the market and how to best use them. An interactive Q&A session will follow Ian's presentation to answer any of your waxing questions. We are limiting participation so as to allow ample opportunity to have your specific questions to be answered. \$10 for SNC members \$15 for nonmembers. Outdoor Experience is now stocking Toko wax, so make sure to support our local shop and stock up there for 10% off with your Sandpoint Nordic Club membership card.

Follow this link to register, or go to the SNC website:

[https://checkout.square.site/buy/](https://checkout.square.site/buy/EQHXMWO7WZRWCWNCAGEEZPX)

[EQHXMWO7WZRWCWNCAGEEZPX](https://checkout.square.site/buy/EQHXMWO7WZRWCWNCAGEEZPX)

A Zoom link to the clinic will be emailed to you.



Youth Ski Teams Registration is Open



Registration for Youth Recreational, Development and Race Ski Teams is now online! Make sure to sign up by December 10th to avoid a late registration fee. Our youth ski programs include opportunities for brand new skiers up to those that are competitively racing. This year, we will be adding in a Little Steppers program

for brand new skiers aged 6-8. Our coaches will be creatively implementing COVID-19 friendly games and keeping the kids, moving, laughing and learning new skills all while being safe and outdoors.



Early Season Nordic Ski Opportunities

By Jared France

In a normal year my discussion on early season ski opportunities would focus on West Yellowstone and Silver Star, B.C, however this is anything but a normal year. After a ski season that was cut short last spring by a pandemic, many of us are eager to once again experience the joy of gliding on snow. Things can change on a daily basis, but there may be (depending on snow of course) some options available especially for those who are willing to travel.

Schweitzer: For SNC members, this would be one our first choices. Schweitzer often opens around the Thanksgiving holiday if snow conditions allow. They plan on operating and following Covid 19 guidelines recommended by the State of Idaho and Panhandle Health District.
<https://www.schweitzer.com/>

Pine Street Woods: The SNC grooming crew is ready to commence grooming on the newly designed trails as soon as snow conditions allow. Keep your fingers crossed!
<https://www.sandpointnordic.com/>

West Yellowstone: The West Yellowstone Ski Festival located on the Rendezvous Ski Trails has long been an early season ski destination for skiers from all over the country. The festival takes place during the week of the Thanksgiving holiday and offers clinics, on snow demonstrations, races, exhibits and lectures. As of a few days ago, the races have been cancelled and there will be no on snow demos or indoor ski expo activities. Ski clinics with limited numbers of athletes and students are still a go. Social distancing including at trail junctions will be encouraged. Facial coverings at the ski trail's main entrance and on the two access trails leading to the main trail system will be required. There is also a mask mandate in town. They will not be grooming on the plateau this year if snow is scarce in town.
<http://www.skirunbikemt.com/yellowstone-ski-festival.html>

Homestake Lodge: Homestake Lodge is located just off I-90 near Homestake Pass a few miles east of Butte, Mt. This area has reliable early season snow, fantastic grooming and fun flowing trails. Options for lodging include cabins, a yurt and family bunk rooms in the main lodge. This ski lodge resort is definitely worth checking out.
<http://www.homestakelodge.com/>

Chief Joseph Pass: This Nordic ski trail system is located just off highway 93 between Hamilton, Mt and Salmon, Id. The ski area is usually open by December 1st and contains over 13 miles of trails groomed and maintained by the Bitterroot Ski Club. This is a very reliable area for early season snow, but there is no on-site lodging.
<https://www.bitterrootxcskiclub.net/>

Lolo Pass: The Lolo Pass ski area is located ~45 miles west of Missoula on highway 12 at the Lolo Pass Visitors Center. Thirteen kilometers of Nordic ski trails are groomed for both classic and skate skiing.
<https://www.missoulanordic.org/lolo-pass>

Methow Valley: The Methow Trails Association will begin grooming as soon as snow conditions allow. They have some high elevation options that including the Rendezvous Trails area and the Mazama/ Arrowleaf area.
<https://www.methowtrails.org/trail-report>

Canada: The border will remain closed at least until November 21st. With the recent Covid 19 case spike in our country, there's a good chance the closure could be extended. If it does open, the Silver Star- Sovereign Lakes Nordic ski trail systems are almost always open by Thanksgiving and offer some of the best skiing in the west. This area is a bucket list must do. Silver Star is tentatively planning on a November 28th opening.
<https://www.sovereignlake.com/>
<https://www.skisilverstar.com/>

If all else fails, you can always drive up your favorite Forest Service road and make your own classic tracks, these days there's a lot to be said for that kind peace and solitude. Let it SNOW!



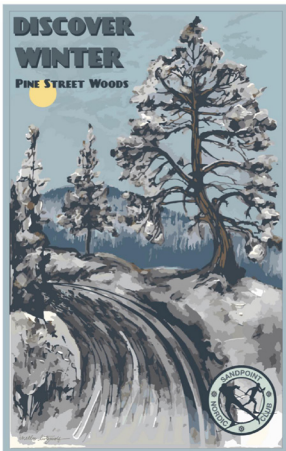
SNC Groomers Ross and Eric



Homestake



Fundraising Campaign



Help SNC raise \$5,000 dollars by December 31st, 2020!

Thanks to a generous matching grant offer from the Wishnick Foundation, every \$1 you donate from now until the end of the year is tripled. If you have \$20 to give, SNC will gain \$60. Head to the SNC website to donate.

It's not too late to get your hands on a Pine Street Woods poster designed by local artist Nellie Lutzwolf. Nellie created the posters to benefit the efforts of SNC's matching grant fundraising campaign which is raising money to support our program development, community outreach and opportunities for all to be involved in Nordic activities. Donations of \$30 or more will receive a poster which can be picked up from the Outdoor Recreation Center during our early ski season rental pick up days in December or during staffed weekend hours once the snow flies. We have \$3,000 left to raise and every dollar helps! Thank you for being a part of this developing community and making it so cross country ski trails and programs can be accessible to all.

Local shops selling more nordic gear!



We are excited to be a growing nordic community, and our local outdoor stores are starting to join us by carrying the gear you need to get out and enjoy the trails. Instead of heading online to shop this season, support these local shops and pop down to Outdoor Experience or Syringa Cyclery. Outdoor Experience is carrying Rossignol skate and classic skis, boots and poles, Toko wax and Nordic ski accessories. Syringa Cyclery is carrying Madshus skate and classic skis, boots and poles, Swix wax, Nordic clothing and accessories. Both stores are knowledgeable and excited to serve our community. If you have been considering buying skis, but haven't yet made the commitment, now is the time. They are not only selling Nordic gear, they are giving you, as a SNC member, 10% off your purchase - remember to bring your membership card when you head their way to shop.

Trail Work Progress

Thanks to all the volunteers who showed up for our big trail work week. Pine Street Woods is ready for grooming and Lakeshore trails have been cleared for the upcoming season. Now we just wait for the snow to accumulate! Ross Longhini spent some long days on the lift limbing trees (and giving away a few free rides to a few lucky youngsters) while volunteers cleared cut branches off the trail, dug up roots and smoothed the surface flat. Congratulations to Coral France for winning the Trail Crew Volunteer Raffle. It was a well earned win for her efforts of showing up six out of the seven work days!



COVID-19 Precautions

Please note that we are requiring face coverings to be worn inside the Outdoor Recreation Center at all times. It is our goal to keep the community as safe as possible so that we can continue offering outdoor recreation opportunities for youth and adults throughout the winter. Thanks for understanding and for putting our community's health first!



Winter Welcome Success

We had so much fun celebrating the first snow at our season kick off event, Winter Welcome. Thanks to all who showed up and participated in the joys of getting excited for the upcoming season. We gave away some incredible raffle prizes thanks to donations from Rossignol, Schweitzer, Hills Resort, Outdoor Experience and Syringa Cyclery. Here are some photos we snapped of a few lucky winners:

Rossignol skis (Jake and Jacci Humble)
Schweitzer nordic pass (x2) (Meredyth & Ruth)
Family SNC membership (Nellie)
SNC season rental (Ruth)
Hills Resort (Jane)



Ski curmudgeon questions - accepting requests

Are you gearing up for the ski season and finding yourself with some unanswered questions? Rest easy my friends, the Ski Curmudgeon is back to answer all of your curiosities no matter how small, big or seemingly ridiculous. In fact, the weirder, the better. Submit your questions to sandpointnordic@gmail.com

*Thanks for reading, now go wax your skis
and do your snow dance!*

See you on the trails