
BLUE MOUNTAIN NORDIC



AN AMAZING SEASON AND...NOW WAITING FOR SNOW

We groomed over 20 times last year - a record number - because snow, rather than rain, fell frequently and temps stayed cold. The Blue Mountains were a Winter Wonderland, and our trails were groomed many times by club volunteers. Membership donations were up, allowing us to support the grooming, machine repairs (there are always some of these), and travel costs for our Youth Ski Program leaders. We skied from Thanksgiving until April at Meacham Divide. WHAT an amazing season!



wicked great volunteers!

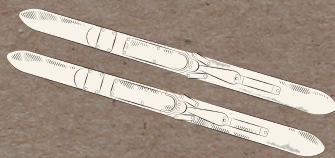
CHOP CHOP SNIP SNIP

We had a beautiful NE Oregon fall day on October 21 for trail clearing. Four downed trees were removed, many of our dark signs were painted so they are easier to read, and A LOT of ceanothus bushes were trimmed back. A huge thanks to the volunteers who spent a lovely day on the trails with us!

Meacham Divide Nordic Ski Area is located 1.7 miles northeast of Interstate 84 on Forest Service Road 31 (Mount Emily, Exit 243) between Pendleton and La Grande in the Blue Mountains. The Blue Mountain Nordic Club (BMNC) offers 18 kilometers (about 10 miles) of groomed ski trails at Meacham, with varying levels of difficulty. At 4,100 feet in elevation and with expansive views of the 1,400-foot deep Meacham Canyon and Spout Springs Ridgeline, Meacham Divide offers great skiing - both classic and freestyle - and snowshoeing for all ages and abilities. There's no better ski area when conditions are good in the Blue Mountains!

YOUTH SKI PROGRAM

Last winter the club resurrected the youth Nordic ski program for kids 5-16 years old. They met twice a week at Meacham Divide Nordic Ski Area or Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort during January and February. Eighteen young skiers, with a range of abilities, learned and practiced classic skiing techniques, enjoyed fun in the snow, and participated in a small race at the end of the season. This year we hope to grow our program, meeting at Meacham Divide Thursday evenings (4:30-6:00 pm) and at Anthony Lakes on Sundays (11 am-12:30 pm). We are looking for adults to volunteer either teaching small groups of kids or assisting other instructors. This year we are pleased to be able to lend ski gear to kids who need it, free of charge for the season. Anthony Lakes is also offering students discounted daily Nordic trail passes (\$10) and rental packages (\$10). The cost of lessons from our club is just \$40 for 16 classes or \$20 for 8 classes. Proceeds will go to BMNC to offset costs for volunteer instructors and to organize a race and BBQ at Meacham Divide at the end of the season. To register, volunteer, borrow ski packages, or ask questions, please contact BMNC Youth Ski Coordinator, Andy Baltensperger (abaltensperger@eou.edu; 907-347-0175).



Andy Baltensperger will once again offer free skate and classic lessons in 2024. Watch your email inbox for information about this excellent opportunity to improve your skills.

CROSS COUNTRY SKIER

Cross Country Skier magazine came to the Blue Mountains in January, and their write-up about our area is in the latest edition. Check out [pages 49 and 50](#) to see what they said about Meacham Divide and Horseshoe Prairie. We are so fortunate to have inexpensive and reliable local options for Nordic fun.

BUY & SELL GEAR

Have something that you want to lend out or borrow? We have the solution for you! Check out our webpage (<http://onc.org/bmnc/>) and scroll down to the links for the "Lending Library" and "Equipment for Sale" spreadsheets. You can post information there, and you'll find contact info for lenders and sellers as well.

TRANSP0 + PARKING

Sno-Park permits are required at the parking lot at Meacham Divide Nordic Ski Area. The Oregon Department of Transportation provides funds from the Sno-Park permits to keep the road and parking lot cleared. Mark Hodgson and Sons, Inc. has provided the equipment and skilled drivers needed to plow the road and parking lot since the trails were developed nearly 20 years ago. Remember to check out the club website (<https://onc.org/bmnc/>) once the snow starts falling for current road and trail conditions at Meacham.

BMNC Board

President - Ryan Toohey
Secretary/Treasurer: Mary Rowland
Grooming: Bruce Johnson, Mike Boldt

Membership Coordinator: Anne March
Webmaster: Dan White
Youth Club/Events: Andy Baltensperger



GROOMING TRAILS

Last season we started grooming at Meacham on December 9th, with 15" of snow on the ground. With the help of our volunteer crew we groomed 20 times, not stopping until early April. Many thanks to club members who helped with getting the equipment to and from Meacham or grooming: Mike Boldt, Dave Felley, Phil Howell, Dan White, Mike McWilliams, Kent Coe, Chuck Jones, Ryan Toohey, and Bruce Johnson. If you want to help groom this season, let Bruce know (803-729-7352). He'll be organizing a training day (or two) for those interested as soon as snow conditions are right. During the summer, our grooming equipment was subject to routine maintenance as well. Plus we rewired the lighting and rebuilt the brakes on the trailer we used to transport our grooming equipment. We're ready for the snow to fall!

MEMBERSHIP

Our membership form is attached, or you can download it from our [website](#). And don't forget, we maintain TWO Facebook pages: Blue Mountain Nordic Club (for club news) and the Northeast Oregon Nordic Snow and Road Reports (for regional information about ski and travel conditions in Union, Baker, Wallowa, and Umatilla counties).

100% of donations and member dues go towards keeping the Meacham Divide Nordic ski area open and supporting our youth skiing program. We hope to groom every time that it snows this year.....if we have the funds. Please spread the word about our club, and forward this newsletter to any skiers that you know. Thank you for your support!

WOOF WOOF WOOF

Dogs are allowed on all trails below Moose Huff Hill (Lower Loppet, Kansas, I Scream, Roller Coaster, Whitman Whip and Pendleton Plunge), providing a diverse set of trail conditions to enjoy with your canine friends. However, all trails above Moose Huff Hill have a "no dog" policy. These conditions arose from a landowner request on our outer loop trails, and the fact that many of our members would like to ski (and skate) in a dog-free zone. (For skate skiing in particular, dog tracks can ruin a carefully groomed trail). If you encounter skiers with dogs above Moose Huff, please politely inform them about the rules; there are plenty of trails available for canids lower down!



SNOW SHOE GUIDELINES

For our snowshoeing friends: When possible, diagonal ski tracks will only be set on one side of the trails at Meacham Divide, leaving the middle area for skaters and the other side for snowshoeing. No walkers/runners/sled-haulers/bikers on the trails, please!

