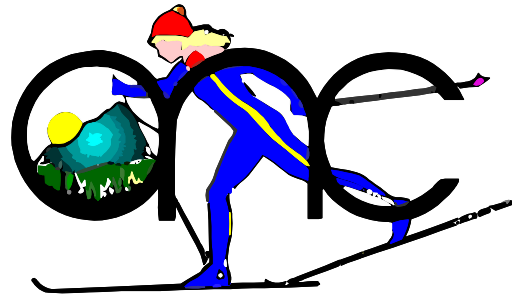


# Oregon Nordic Club

## Willamette Chapter

[oncwillamette.org](http://oncwillamette.org)

P.O. Box 181  
Salem, OR 97308



# Newsletter

## October 2026



photo by Frank Hoffman

At last autumn has arrived in Oregon. The leaves are turning and there's a nip in the air each morning. It's not winter but you can feel it coming. After last winter's meager snowpack we are hoping for better things this season. Snow can fall in October, and the determined skier can almost always get out on the boards in November. It's none too early to begin dreaming and planning for the ski season.

The Willamette Chapter is here to help you enjoy this winter. Would you like to: Practice technique on groomed snow? Take an easy glide to a great view? Explore a challenging backcountry route? Come join in any or all of these activities. We'll begin our season with a club hosted Pizza Feed. Bring your ideas and goals for this winter. You'll find skiers to share them with you.

### **PIZZA FEED;**

Paddington's Pizza 410 Pine St. NE, Salem 97301. Looking at Nov. 3 or 10 but let me know if you can join us or if a different day would work better. I like to know who is coming so I can order enough pizza. Bob Young - [arch.byoung@gmail.com](mailto:arch.byoung@gmail.com) or 503-621-6626

### **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL:**

Please renew your membership for the 2026-2027 season. For only \$20 you receive access to all the inside club news, Ski School, Overnight Trips and the satisfaction of supporting our efforts to promote and improve cross-country skiing for everyone. You can download a renewal form at [oncwillamette.org/membership](http://oncwillamette.org/membership). You can pay with paypal or Zelle or mail to our PO Box. Questions? Let us know.

**SKI SWAPS:** are great places find ski gear (both new and used) at economical prices; and you can recycle your old equipment, too. Take advantage of these preseason opportunities.

Oct. 15-18, Benton Co. Fairgrounds, Corvallis, OR; sponsored by Santiam Pass Ski Patrol and Corvallis Mountain Rescue; visit their website ([www.corvallisskiwap.org](http://www.corvallisskiwap.org)) for more information.

Oct. 23-25, Lane Co. Fairgrounds, Eugene, OR; sponsored by Santiam Pass Ski Patrol, Willamette Pass Ski Patrol and Willamette Backcountry Ski Patrol; visit their website ([www.eugeneskiwap.org](http://www.eugeneskiwap.org)) for more information.

### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:**

The Willamette Chapter has an active volunteer program assisting the Forest Service with ski trail clearing and marking; shelter construction and maintenance; and firewood stocking. Thank you volunteers! As an added bonus, when our members register with Cascade Volunteers (<https://cascadevol.org/volunteer/>) they are eligible for perks like a one year Northwest Forest Pass for 16+ volunteer hours. If you have questions about our volunteer projects or would like to join one, contact Jim Todd (503x378x7003).

### **TRAIL REPORTS AND FALL ACTIVITY**

by Bob Young

It's been a mild summer in the mountains and despite the fires, mostly on the east side of the Cascades, westerly winds kept the smoke pushed east tormenting Frank in Madras. I've tried to take advantage of the mild weather and almost no bugs to get into the mountains and improve our ski trails. I started in June scouting the Patjens Lake loop which is south, out of Big Lake, to determine the number of downed trees inside and outside the wilderness boundary. This is be-

yond our usual ski zone but despite the more than 200 trees across the approximate 7 miles of trail there were fantastic views of Washington and The Sisters.



After several other days with Cascade Volunteers on trails and bridge work on hiking trails it was time to concentrate on our ski areas. An advantage of working with the CV crews is the opportunity to see some areas that have been closed to the general public since the big fires and there are some remarkable zones skipped by the fires and areas that are recovering despite the inferno. This is the Little North Fork of the Santiam. Still not open to the public.



Last December there was a severe wind event in the Santiam canyon that did a lot of damage in Detroit and also affected many of our trails inside and out of the burn areas. Large old trees downed and blocking passage like this example on the Fir-Pika trail east of Faye Lake on the far north end of Maxwell sno-park. So far we haven't seen tangles like this on the ski trails. This one got an unprepared hiker lost for 2 days who was found 10 miles from his starting point in the opposite direction.



In late July and August Howard Simon and I spent a couple of days scouting and working on Ray Benson trails and covered the South Loop, Claypool Butte trail, and the Two Buttes cutoff trail north to the fireline snowmobile trail. There's 9 or 10 trees there that need a chainsaw but we got limbs cleared and additional diamonds placed. The North Loop and Circle Lake still need to be addressed. And all the trails could use some brushing and sapling removal.

In late August and early September we had several days of scouting and working at Maxwell sno-park. Multiple teams, with many of you participating, spread out and covered all the trails. On September 19, with a couple of CV sawyers, we got all the lower trails logged. With some luck we may be able to finish the upper trail logging along with stocking firewood at the shelters on Nov. 17. Thanks for all your help.

Three of us covered the Potato Hill trails and part of the Little Nash trails on Sept. 19. There's still some work to do there but since we haven't completed Ray Benson, which gets the best snow and most use, and have not looked at Big Springs or Lava Lake . . . well, there still plenty to do. So come on out and enjoy the fall colors and cool mountain air.



On October 3 with the help of the Mt. Jefferson Snowmobile Club and rangers from Sisters, Detroit, and McKenzie we got firewood stocked at the 4 shelters. If you weren't there you missed a beautiful day and great barbecue lunch.

## SKI SCHOOL:

Our annual Ski School will be held in late January or early February, on Hoodoo's groomed Nordic trails. As usual there will be lessons by Hoodoo's PSIA instructors and mentoring by the club's experienced skiers. It's a great way for beginners to enter the sport and for all skiers to improve their technique. Details of dates, prices, etc. will be in the Newsletter once Hoodoo opens for the season.

## 2025-2026 OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS:

|               |                                           |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Vacant        | President                                 |
| Jeanne Miller | Vice President                            |
| Adria Buncal  | Webmeister                                |
| Vacant        | Newsletter Editor                         |
| Jim Todd      | Day Tour Chair                            |
| David Forkner | ONC State Board Rep & Board Member        |
| Pam Wojcik    | Overnight Trip Coordinator & Board Member |
| Vacant        | Volunteer Coordinator & Board Member      |
| Jeff Starr    | Board Member                              |
| John Hortsch  | Board Member                              |