

**Palouse Divide Nordic Ski Club**  
**General Membership Meeting, Nov. 30, 2017, 7:00pm**  
**Fisk Room, 1912 Center, Moscow, ID**

**Introduction:** President Bill Thomson began the meeting at 7:00pm by introducing himself and the club. The Palouse Divide Nordic Ski Club is an all volunteer organization that works with the Forest Service to provide groomed trails for Nordic Skiing at the Palouse Divide. The trails intersect lands owned by the Forest Service, The Palouse Divide Lodge, Idaho Dept. of Lands and Potlatch Industries. Bill introduced the current officers--Teresa Baker and Toni Fitzgerald, board members; Paul Hendrix, treasurer; Pete Minard, trail maintenance; Alice Schroeder, Secretary and Paul Spencer, webmaster. He also directed the audience to the FaceBook page where you can communicate with other members about conditions, rides, etc and the web page at [www.palousedividenordic.org](http://www.palousedividenordic.org). He announced that Dennis Feeny will give a presentation on Ski Travel at the end of the meeting.

**Trails:** Pete Minard reported that the trails are in good shape thanks to the forest service work in the summer of 2016 on both Big Loop and Meadow Loop. Snowmobile annual maintenance is done. Anyone who wants to volunteer for grooming should see Pete. Also they should be aware that most grooming is needed on Thursday and Friday. The new signs should be up soon. The warming hut was put out at the junction of Meadow Loop and Big Loop Nov. 14. It sits on Palouse Lodge Land, thanks to Lodge owners Shirley and Lane Hathaway, who also plow the parking area. Skiers are asked to thank them.

**Finances:** Bill asked members to sign the sheet being passed around and to pay dues and sign up as members on the available forms. He also reminded people that they must have Park and Ski permits which are available from both Hyperspod and the Potlatch Ranger Station for \$25 for the season or \$7 for 3 days. One should designate the Palouse Divide as the ski area to receive the funds. He explained that these funds are available for most of our expenses such as the porta potty, gas, website, etc. However, the club and the Forest Service must buy major equipment. Dues and fund raisers are needed for this. Treasurer, Paul Hendrix reported that the club has \$5,826 and can expect about \$2300 in Park and Ski funds to reimburse expenses.

**Forest Service Updates:** Forest Service recreation contact, Shawn Deterich reported that after several problems due to budget shutdowns, the information signs are paid for and should come the first week in January. Volunteers to help put them up would be welcome. The updated map is ready for final proof reading. Once approved it can go to Alegra in Moscow which has estimated a cost of about \$200 to make 20 honeycomb plastic "you are here" map signs. A sticker will be added at the appropriate point on each. Similar signs made about 15 years ago have held up well. They will probably be ready in a couple of weeks and can be put up along with the arrow signs pointing to the trail head before January. Shawn is also working on a three panel kiosk to replace the old map sign at the parking area. It will have a 24" x 36" map on the center panel and a bulletin board for club signs. It will probably be installed next summer. The forest service owns the

snow machines. They try to have 3 working machines with lights so they can be used for search and rescue as well. Shawn is working with Pete on buying a third machine. The Forest Service now has \$6500 toward it plus 6 pieces of equipment to trade in. They hope to have a new machine by mid season. The machine will cost between \$9000 and \$13,000 and the club will provide some of that. When purchased this machine will replace an older one, which is more appropriate for patrols than grooming. Shawn and Pete noted that groomers must first be certified by the forest service to run the snowmobiles. Shawn can do this. Then Pete trains the volunteers in grooming techniques.

**Events:** In the past the club has held two events: a Community Ski Day, with lessons for beginners and cookies and cocoa at the warming hut and an 18 mile Loppet to Bald Mountain lookout and back for advanced skiers. We would like to have an event for average skiers who probably ski four to eight miles on an outing. The board suggested a Poker Tour on either Big Loop or to Lane's Lookout. Participants would get a card or other item at stations set about a mile apart. On returning to the warming hut anyone who passed at least one station would get a bowl of chili and the person with the winning hand would get a prize. This could be a fund raiser for the club or another non-profit entity and donations would be requested. It was noted that if we hold a competition, such as a timed race, the forest service would require us to obtain liability insurance, an expensive proposition. The board will try to organize these three events and volunteer help was requested.

Jenine Estlick from Hyperspod and Dennis Feeney are putting on a free ski clinic at Hyperspod tomorrow, Dec. 1 at 5:00pm. They have several people signed up and hope to do at least one more. Dennis and Loreen Sorensen have also offered to give beginning lessons at the Divide on a few Saturdays.

Pete suggested we contact the outdoor recreation centers at WSU and UI so we can have trails groomed when they bring groups.

Jill Rinaldi suggested that we work with the Special Olympics to provide a ski day for disabled individuals.

**Elections:** To maintain our non-profit status the club must hold a general membership meeting with an election of officers each year. Bill asked if any one was interested in joining the board. Jenine Estlick volunteered and was immediately nominated. The current officers (listed in the first paragraph) all agreed to run again. Jenine and all the current officers were elected by a unanimous vote.

**Other Business:**

Bill reminded everyone to use the Facebook page to post conditions, give or get rides, sell skis or do other related communications.

Paul Spencer reminded everyone to send corrections and ideas for the web page to him. His e-mail is given on the home page.

It was noted that weather information is no longer coming up on the Idaho Dept. of Transportation site for Harvard Hill—the cameras at the intersection of Hwy. 6 and Palouse Divide Road. Pete will put up the snow board where it will show on the west facing image.

Bill will order the Porta Potty when there is enough snow for grooming.

It was asked if fat tire bikes will be allowed. Pete answered that this is OK, as are snowshoes, if they do not go in the set tracks. However, Dennis Feeney pointed out that there will be grooming for the bikes on Moscow Mt. Thus, the Divide, which is much farther away, should not be very attractive. Shawn noted that Forest Service trails designated for Nordic skiing do not allow bikes. He will make sure there is a sign to that effect at the parking area.

Currently dogs are allowed on the trails on both sides of the highway. Bill will see that signs are put up emphasizing the need for owners to control the dogs and to pick up after them. If they become a problem we may ban them. However, this is difficult because the Lodge dogs will still be there.

Dennis Feeney gave a very interesting presentation “International Ski Travel and Bang for your Buck”. This was a trip to Sweden as part of a US Master’s team at the Masters international racing event of several days, followed by participation in a 90 Km loppet with 6,000 participants!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Schroeder,

Secretary