

**Palouse Divide Nordic Ski Club  
Board Meeting, Nov. 14, 2018  
Tapped, Main St. Moscow, ID**

**Present:** Teresa Baker, Tim Steury, Paul Hendrix, Pete Minard, Alice Schroeder, Paul Spencer, Bill Thomson, Loretta Campbell

President Bill Thomson began the meeting at approximately 5:40pm.

**Updates:** Toni Fitzgerald has moved to Colton and resigned from the board. Tim Steury, who helps with grooming, was asked to join the board.

Loretta Campbell suggested we should get 501(c3) status for the club as it makes us eligible for many grants. We currently have non-profit status with Idaho. Paul Spencer will look into what 503(c3) status would entail.

Bill will be gone Jan. 14—Feb 16. Pete will be gone the end of January until April. With Shawn Deterich from the Forest Service, grooming can probably continue, but it will not be possible to hold a Loppet or other event that entails lots of grooming and stations. We have two new volunteers for grooming, Bill Philips and John Reed.

The new signs are in at all junctions and there is a new Trail Head Kiosk. One of the three boards will have club information. Bill had a list of suggestions for what should be included. (See attachment.) The middle board will have a large map on aluminum and the other side board will have Forest Service information.

Loretta commented that she always gives people safety instructions when they buy a parking pass or pay dues. She would like to have a sign up sheet for people interested in being board members or grooming.

**Finances:** Paul Hendrix announced that we currently have \$6,605.16 in two accounts of \$1780.35 and \$4,824.81. This money can be used for any expense. We also have access to Idaho Park and Ski funds. This money can be used for any legitimate expense that is not large permanent equipment, if we have the receipt. This includes gas, porta potty, website costs, ect. Paul is expecting approximately \$2500 in reimbursements this fall. This pays for half of the new signage. If you have a receipt, send it to Paul Hendrix. The Moscow Farmers Market table was worthwhile, as we collected \$310 in dues and donations. Thanks to Bill Phillips we were also able to have a table at the U of Idaho ski swap. Toni Fitzgerald provided a new fold out sign board for the tables.

**Ski Passes:** Hyperspuud has not received passes yet but they can be bought on line. The pass will be mailed to you. When they are bought from Hyperspuud the information is also submitted on line. Bill will see if online printing is possible.

**New Snowmobile:** Bill and Pete are working with the Forest Service to get a new snow machine. The deal has been hung up in purchasing for the past year. The cost will be \$9000 to \$13000 depending on the machine. Using Forest Service funds and funds from surplussed equipment about \$9000 has been obtained. The club wants to add \$4000 to get the bigger machine. The machine will belong to the Forest Service which then covers insurance and maintenance.

**Trails:** Bill and Pete biked the trails and no maintenance is needed this year. They have moved the warming hut to its winter position and brought in some wood. Skiers need to bring their own fire starters and donated wood needs to be stove ready; that is split and no longer than 16 inches.

**Events:** Wednesday, February 20 will be a Tapped take over to support the club. We will also try to have up to 3 community ski days. We have a new volunteer to give ski lessons. Loretta can supply some rental equipment. Events such as a Loppet, chili feed or poker will not be feasible due to the absence of both Bill and Pete during the season (see above).

**Officers:** The current officers were willing to serve again. We will ask for 1-2 new board members at the general meeting.

The meeting adjourned to the General Meeting in the Fisk Room of the 1912 Center at 6:45.

Respectfully submitted.

Alice Schroeder, Secretary

Attachment: Information for the new Kiosk

## **Palouse Divide Nordic Ski Area**

The Palouse Divide Nordic Ski Area is a non-motorized winter recreation area managed by a partnership of the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest (USFS), the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR), the Palouse Divide Lodge and the Palouse Divide Nordic Ski Club (PDNSC).

The trails at the Palouse Divide are maintained by volunteers from the Palouse Divide Nordic Ski club with support from the USFS. When grooming (packing/tracking) of the snow is necessary, it is usually conducted on Thursday or Friday of each week.

The porta-potty and warming hut are provided by the club for use by everyone. The club is a non-profit group of volunteers. All users of the Palouse Divide are encouraged to join. Dues from the club are used to support grooming costs, the porta-potty and the warming hut. For more information, please refer to the club website at [www.palousedividenordic.org](http://www.palousedividenordic.org)

### **Guidelines:**

Parking at the trailhead requires an Idaho park-n-ski pass which may be purchased at Hyperspod Sports in Moscow or at the Palouse Ranger District office in Pottlatch as well as online at the IDPR website: <https://idpr.idaho.gov/Renewal/>

Snowshoers and skiers are welcome on all trails. Snowshoers are asked to try not to track on top of the groomed (parallel) track. If towing a sled, please try to avoid dragging the sled on top of the groomed (parallel) track.

Motorized vehicles (including ATVs) are prohibited on all trails from December 1 to April 1 each year.

### **Safety:**

It is recommended that individuals do not ski or snowshoe alone.

Know where you are going and tell someone at home where you are going and when you plan to return.

Carry an extra layer of warm clothes and drinking water.

Ski and/or snowshoe at your own risk.

In case of emergency, contact the Benewah County Sheriff's office: ph: 208-245-2555

### **Dogs:**

Dogs are allowed on the trails at the Palouse Divide IF they are under control.

Please clean up after your dog (remove dog poop from the groomed trail).

**Palouse Divide Nordic Ski Club  
General Membership Meeting, Nov. 14, 2018, 7:00pm  
Fisk Room, 1912 Center, Moscow, ID**

**Introduction:** President Bill Thomson began the meeting at 7:00pm. by introducing himself and Pete Minard. Today they brought the warming hut out of storage and placed it, as usual, at the intersection of the Palouse Divide Road with the Meadow Creek Trail and the lower arm of the Big Loop Trail. They also brought a load of fire wood and request that any donated wood be split and the pieces be less than 16 inches long. The gate to the Palouse Divide road will

close Dec. 1 to all motorized traffic. Lane Hathaway who owns the Lodge Property will build a snow berm at the entrance as soon as there is snow.

Bill went on to explain that The Palouse Divide Nordic Ski Club is an all volunteer organization that works with the Forest Service to provide groomed trails for non-motorized winter recreation at the Palouse Divide. Our support comes from the Forest Service, dues, fund raisers, and Park and Ski passes. The trails intersect lands owned by the Forest Service, The Palouse Divide Lodge, Idaho Dept. of Lands and Potlatch Industries.

**Announcements:** Park and Ski passes are necessary to park and the area is patrolled on occasion. It is best to order Park and Ski passes on line, designating the Palouse Divide as your ski area, so funds come back to us. Bill is trying to see if we can get them printed on line, so passes would be available the day you buy them on line. However, Park and Ski passes should be available at Hyperspod by the time skiing starts and Hyperspod is open every day.

**Officers:** Bill introduced the current officers--Teresa Baker and Tim Stury, board members; Paul Hendrix, treasurer; Pete Minard, trail maintenance; Alice Schroeder, Secretary, Paul Spencer, webmaster and our Forest Service Liaison, Shawn Deterich. 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 Loretta Campbell will give a presentation on ski gear at the end of the meeting.

**Communication:** The Club communicates with members through occasional e-mails, the website, [www.palousedividenordic.org](http://www.palousedividenordic.org), and Facebook. The Facebook site is moderated by Bill. There are about 450 members. Go to it for useful information, to get or give rides and find out about current conditions. Note that the Idaho Dept. of Transportation webcam is currently working. A new cell tower will go in at the Lodge in the spring of 2019 which should improve both webcam and cell contact throughout the area. However, some areas will still not have cell contact. You will still need to Ski with a buddy and let someone know where you are going and when you plan to return.

**Porta Potty:** The porta potty will be put in when the first snow comes. Our Emida supplier has sold his business to a Moscow firm. Cost will be about \$105/month.

**Forest Service Updates:** Forest Service recreation contact, Shawn Deterich reported that new signs are now at all trail junctions. Each junction has a "you are here" map and a sign pointing to the trail head parking. Please let Shaun or Bill know if there are missing signs or places that need them. It was suggested a couple of signs should be placed on the Potlatch loop at confusing turns. The club does not maintain or groom this loop, due to drifting problems. This past summer the Forest Service installed a new three piece Kiosk to replace the old map at the trail head parking area. The map will go to the lodge. The Kiosk will have Forest Service information, a large map on aluminum and club information.

Shaun requested that if you see misuse of the trail, i.e. motorized use, please try to get the license number of the rig used to bring the equipment and phone it in to the Palouse Ranger Station. Do not confront the user if you feel at all unsafe.

Shaun is still working on getting a new Snow Machine. Currently we have two, 20 inch track, 2 cycle machines. They are 14 and 8 years old. The forest service has approximately \$8500 to spend. Pete suggested we add some of the club money and get a 4 cycle, wide track machine. These machines are made for rugged work and do not get stuck as easily. Pete and Shawn will also work on improving the grooming equipment.

**Trails:** Pete and Shawn reported that the work done in the summer of 2017 to open up the canopies over several of the trails has helped a great deal. The trails get considerably more snow and do not ice as badly. Pete and Bill biked the trails in late summer and found that no brush clearing was necessary. They anticipate that work will be needed next summer. There will be some brush falling over the trails with the first snows. Skiers might want to bring a small saw.

We now groom 20 miles of trails. Pete and Bill are looking at extending the lower arm of Big Loop to meet Hume Road farther down where the climb would not be as severe. Another possibility is a route from Lane's Lookout to Hume Road. More logging is proposed for the West Dennis area in 2020. Shawn is hoping to coordinate so that cars can drive to the parking area and skiing can occur on weekends.

**Grooming:** Grooming takes place on Thursday and Friday, when possible, so skiing is available on Saturday and Sunday. We need more people interested in grooming, but they need to be consistently available on Thursdays and Fridays. Shawn will do the initial Forest Service snowmobile certification. Then Pete will work with new groomers on the specifics needed for grooming. Bill Phillips and John Reed volunteered. If you would like to volunteer please contact Pete at [pminard1962@gmail.com](mailto:pminard1962@gmail.com).

**Events:** Idaho Parks will have a free parking day one Saturday in January. We will have a community family ski day on that day. The club will provide refreshments and basic instruction on nordic skiing and snowshoeing. Hyperspud can supply some rental equipment. If the snow allows, we will try to have one to two more such days. There will also be a fund raiser at the Tapped pub in Moscow on Wednesday, Feb. 20. The tavern has beers from a specific brewery that day and the club gets \$1 for each beer ordered. Funds go to our equipment account as Park and Ski money can not be used for equipment.

**Election of Officers:** The slate consisted of the current officers plus Jesse Spohnholz, who volunteered to be a board member at large. It was approved unanimously.

**Program:** Guest Loretta Campell, owner of Hyperspud discussed gear and safety

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Schroeder, Secretary