



2011 SKI SEASON
YOSEMITE WINTER CLUB CROSS COUNTRY SECTION
NEWSLETTER AND TRIP APPLICATION

For the 2011 ski season we have planned four overnight adventures: two Glacier Point trips, one trip to the Ostrander ski hut, and one Trans-Sierra trip.

WHAT' IS DIFFERENT THIS YEAR: In past years we have offered two Ostrander trips, however, last year we only had one application for the second trip and we had to cancel the trip. Since we have to pay for our reservation with the Yosemite Conservancy ahead of time, and cannot get a refund if we don't have enough people to fill the trip, we will offer only one 3-night trip to Ostrander. In addition, this year's Ostrander Trip will be a midweek trip in order to reduce trip costs. Some members have requested a midweek trip in order to reduce trip costs, while others find a trip that incorporates a weekend is better for getting time off from work. Therefore, we will try alternating years with a midweek trip this season and a weekend trip next season.

Skiers participating in our trips must be members of the Yosemite Winter Club (YWC). We are the Yosemite Winter Club Cross Country Section (YWCXC) and you will be able to find information about the overnight trips posted on the YWC website. Any member of the YWC is automatically a member of the XC Section and can apply for the ski trips.

SKIERS NEW TO OUR GROUP: The Ostrander Ski Hut and the Trans Sierra trips are backcountry ski tours and are not for beginners. It is the policy of the XC Section that skiers new to our group who have not skied with us before must first go on a Glacier Point trip before being cleared to do the Ostrander and Trans Sierra trips. We may make an exception for experienced skiers as follows: (1) a verified resume of experience at or above this level of skiing (give us a call to discuss), or (2) the sponsorship of an existing member that is capable of doing the same trip and is signing up for that trip as well. This policy is the result of problems that we have had on past trips with people who've overstated their backcountry skiing abilities.

FIRST SKI JANUARY 21-23: Don and Kay Pitts are again opening their home at The Falcon's Nest for our party weekend. The dinner potluck/sleepover will be held Friday through Sunday. **On Saturday evening, we will have our annual potluck dinner.** The cost for a one-night stay will be \$12 per person and for a two-night stay, \$24 per person.

We will hold our XC Section business meeting on Sunday morning after brunch. At the Sunday morning meeting we will discuss club plans and direction. We will be sending out an agenda shortly before First Ski. If you have thoughts on how you would like to see the group run or ideas for bringing in new members, please send us your thoughts and we will put those on the agenda; this is your best chance for providing input. Please plan to stick around Sunday morning for cleanup.

We usually have 40 - 50 people show up for this event (bring the kids!) and most spend the night so be prepared to sleep on the floor with your own bags, pillows and pads. We have generally had great snow conditions for day skiing on this weekend event.

2011 SKI SEASON CROSS COUNTRY TRIPS

GLACIER POINT – FEBRUARY 19-21 (2 nights) & FEBRUARY 26-27 (1 night): Each trip will accommodate 10 skiers. This ski tour follows the Glacier Point Road from Badger Pass to Glacier Point, a distance of about 11 miles one way. These both serve to introduce new members and experienced beginner and intermediate level skiers to an overnight experience in a cozy backcountry hut. Everyone enjoys the spectacular vistas on this trip. Breakfasts and dinners are provided, bring your own lunch, snacks, and water for the trail.

OSTRANDER SKI HUT – FEBRUARY 15-18 (3 nights): The Ostrander trip is for up to 15 members. The group will meet at Don and Kay Pitts house the night before the trip (February 14th). This challenging backcountry tour starts at the Badger Pass parking lot and follows the Glacier Point Road for about 5 miles, then turns off and follows a marked cross-country trail for 5 miles and about 1,500 feet of elevation gain to Ostrander Ski Hut.

The Ostrander trip is thought by many to be the most challenging trip and the most fun of the year. Breakfasts and dinners are provided, bring your own lunches, snacks, and water for the trail.

TRANS SIERRA – MARCH 15-21 (4 nights): This trip is for seven members. Breakfasts and dinners are provided, bring your own lunches, trail snacks, and water. The itinerary for the TS trip is as follows:

- 3/16 Evening: Stay at the Pitts in Yosemite West. This gives us an opportunity to acclimate.
- 3/17 Fly to Lee Vining from Pine Mountain Airport and hike/ski to the Tioga Pass Entrance Station (can be as much as 12 miles hiking and skiing).
- 3/18 Ski to Tuolumne Meadows (8 miles)
- 3/19 Layover at Tuolumne Meadows and ski the area
- 3/20 Ski to Snow Flat Cabin (12 miles)
- 3/21 Ski and hike out to Yosemite Valley via the Snow Creek trail. (The last day of the trip we ski down to the Snow Creek Trail then traverse the 126 switchbacks on foot down to Yosemite Valley.)

SPECIAL COMMENTS: First priority on sign-ups goes to people who have helped with the work this past year, e.g., food packing and cache delivery. We are trying to encourage new members, so we try to include newer people on each trip, according to their skiing abilities.

Trip leaders are volunteers with experience in backcountry travel and with the particular trip route. However, trip leaders are not guides – they're on the trip for their own enjoyment as well. Participants are expected to help with chores and to cooperate and assist as requested by the trip leaders.

TRIP TIPS: For the Glacier Point and Ostrander trips, we have a goal of starting at the trail head at Badger by 9:00 AM. It is very important that skiers check in with the trip leaders at the trailhead. ***No one should head out on the trail without the trip leader's okay.*** These are hut trips – no tents, stoves, or dinners need bulk up your pack. Nonetheless, everyone should be prepared to ski long days in all kinds of weather, and even for an emergency bivouac if the case arises.

MENUS: As usual, we have a great variety of food and drink for the trips. If you have special dietary needs, plan to carry in your own supply AND please let the trip leader know in advance. Plan to carry your own lunches, snacks, powdered Gatorade, etc. A drinking cup, knife, fork & spoon are still needed. Paper plates and paper bowls are supplied for all the trips.

PLEASE NOTE!!!!

We are the *Cross Country Section* of the YOSEMITE WINTER CLUB. Please remember that **you must join the Yosemite Winter Club and send your membership dues directly to Yosemite Winter Club (*not to Melinda and Terry*)**. You can easily sign up and pay your dues on the YWC website: <http://www.yosemitewinterclub.com> or you may reach the YWC at: PO Box 717, Yosemite, CA 95389.

Check out the web site periodically for updated information. Participants on the trip rosters can go ONLY if they are also registered as a current YWC member. We cross reference YWC memberships when we make up the trip lists in early January. Each member of the YWCXC must renew their membership annually with the YWC.

APPLICATION and REFUND POLICY: Enclosed is the YWCXC 2011 Trip Application. A list of alternates will be developed for each trip that fills. With cancellations alternates move up to the active list. If you are on the active list and subsequently cancel, you can get a full refund only if an alternate takes your place. If you are on the active list and cancel but no alternate fills your spot, then only a partial refund, if any, is possible taking into account expenses that the club incurs. If you are an alternate and never are placed on the active list, you will be assured a full refund. Refunds are sent out in the spring or early summer after all the trips have gone and club expenses are accounted for. Please remember that all of us that participate in planning the trips are doing so on a volunteer basis.

YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION: Please remember to update us of any changes in your address, phone number and email address.

SHARING THIS NEWSLETTER: Please feel free to share this and other mailings from the club with your interested friends. If new prospective members wish to participate in the trips, they are asked to

send in their own application for the trips along with a brief narrative of their cross-country experience. Alternatively, they may call and speak with Dave Todd, our Membership Chair at 916-448-1834 (e-mail: davidto@sysmatrix.net) or us, regarding their cross country ski experience.

E-MAIL: To save time and money we have converted to email for the newsletter and all other communications. Please provide all of your contact information or please email us directly to update. , If you are no longer interested in the YWCXC activities, please let us know and we will remove you from the membership mailing list. Thank you.

We hope to see you this winter in Yosemite!

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TRIP APPLICATION SENT AS A SEPARATE ATTACHMENT