



2012 SKI SEASON  
YOSEMITE WINTER CLUB CROSS COUNTRY SECTION  
FALL NEWSLETTER AND TRIP APPLICATION

Hi Everyone

For the 2012 ski season, we have planned four overnight adventures: two Glacier Point trips, one trip to the Ostrander ski hut, and one Trans-Sierra tour.

Skiers participating in our trips must be members of the main Yosemite Winter Club (YWC). We are the Yosemite Winter Club Cross Country (XC) Section and you will be able to find information about the overnight trips posted on the YWC website. <http://www.yosemitewinterclub.com/> 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 not for beginners. As a result of a few problems on past trips with people having overstated their backcountry skiing abilities, it is the policy of the XC Section that skiers 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 will make an exception if a skier new to the group has the sponsorship of an existing member that is capable of doing the same trip and is signing up for that trip as well, or can otherwise demonstrate they have the necessary experience and fitness. This exception is meant only for those experienced skiers that otherwise would not join our group if they had to go on a GP trip first.

**FIRST SKI:** Don and Kay Pitts are again generously opening their B&Bs, the Yosemite Peregrine and The Falcon's Nest, for our party weekend. The dinner potluck/sleepover will be held Friday through Sunday, January 20 through 22. **On Saturday evening, we will have our annual potluck dinner.** The cost for a one-night stay will be \$10 per person and for a two-night stay, \$20 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, 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 in the Badger Pass area on this weekend event.

#### AND NOW, THE TRIPS –

For all trips, you will need to carry a pack with extra clothes, sleeping bag, and storm gear. Breakfasts and dinners are provided, bring your own lunches, daytime trail snacks, and water.

**GLACIER POINT:** This ski tour follows the Glacier Point Road from Badger Pass to Glacier Point, a distance of about 11 miles one way. There are two Glacier Point trips scheduled for 10 skiers each. The first trip is on February 24-26 (2 nights). The second trip is March 3-4 (1 night). Everyone enjoys the spectacular vistas on this trip. Note: Because the cabin is 11 miles from the trailhead and you will be skiing with a pack, please *do not consider making this trip if it is your first or even second time ever on skis*.

**OSTRANDER SKI HUT:** This challenging backcountry tour starts at the Badger Pass parking lot. We ski along the Glacier Point Road for about 5 miles, then turn off and follow a marked cross-country trail for 5 miles and about 1,500 feet of elevation gain to Ostrander Ski Hut. This year's trip is February 17-20 (3 nights). The Ostrander trip is for up to 15 members.

Many consider the Ostrander trip to be the most challenging and the most fun of the year. Confident downhill skills (while carrying a pack) are a must. Conditions are variable and this trip can involve miles of breaking trail through deep snow and skiing crust.

**The TRANS SIERRA:** This is a 4 night/5 day tour for seven members beginning on March 16 and ending March 20. Expect to hike part of the first and last days. Conditions are variable and can include powder, crust, and corn on the same trip. Be prepared to ski in stormy weather (although we will not fly to Lee Vining if the weather is bad).

The trip itinerary:

- 3/15 Evening: Stay at the Yosemite Peregrine in Yosemite West. This gives us an opportunity to acclimatize.
- 3/16 Shuttle cars to Yosemite Valley and skiers to Pine Mountain Airport. 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).
- 3/17 Ski to Tuolumne Meadows (8 miles)
- 3/18 Layover at Tuolumne Meadows and ski the area
- 3/19 Ski to Snow Flat Cabin (12 miles)
- 3/20 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., trip planning, food packing and cache delivery and retrieval. We are trying to encourage new members, so we will try to include newer people on each trip, according to their skiing abilities. The Pitts' Bed and Breakfast (Yosemite Peregrine and/or Falcon's Nest) is available the night before the

trips. A light dinner will be available for those that RSVP to Kay Pitts that they are coming to spend the night prior to the trip as well a full breakfast the morning of the trips. These are included in the cost of the trips.

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 coordinate with the trip leaders to let them know whether you will be at the Pitts or will meet the group at the trailhead. *No one should head out on the trail without the trip leader's okay.* For the Trans-Sierras, we generally stay at the Pitts the night before and shuttle to Pine Mountain Airport in the morning. 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 be prepared for an emergency bivouac if the case arises.

MENUS: As usual, we have a great variety of food and drink for the trips cached at the cabins. 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, Gatorade, etc.

#### PLEASE NOTE! YOU MUST JOIN THE YOSEMITE WINTER CLUB

We are the **Cross Country Section** of the YOSEMITE WINTER CLUB. Please remember that you must join the YWC and send your membership dues directly to the YWC. 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. The trip lists for our events will be selected by a committee of YWCXC members. Each member of the YWCXC must renew their membership annually with the YWC. You can easily sign up on the YWC website or you may reach the YWC at: PO Box 717, Yosemite, CA 95389. Check out the web site periodically for updated information. **DO NOT SEND WINTER CLUB DUES TO US (Melinda and Terry).**

APPLICATION and REFUND POLICY: Enclosed is the XC Section 2012 Trip Application. A list of alternates will be developed for each trip that fills. As is often the case 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: Tell your skiing friends about us. Please share this with 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](mailto: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