



# The Snowflake

Newsletter of The Yosemite Winter Club

2010/2011

## Get Ready for Winter Fun in Yosemite!



Photo by DNC Parks and Resorts at Yosemite

Dear Member,

As the 2010-2011 winter season approaches I find myself reflecting on last year's accomplishments. Our on-line membership has increased membership by more than 50%! We have used the additional funds to purchase 75 youth and adults helmets for school ski days and winter club participants who ski at Badger Pass.

Our ski team is up to par with other Far West ski teams with the purchase of on-hill practice timing equipment and new headsets for our sanctioned Silver Ski Race. Our website has been revamped to aid our membership coordinator with transferring information into our newly purchased database and laptop computer. Our scholarship fund helped Jordan Gover attend Drake University in Indiana! Another winter club member and ski racer, Caleb Young, went to Mt. Hood ski racing camp with the assistance of the Connie Rothell Scholarship! It was a busy year and there was plenty of snow to keep all activities running well into spring!

This year we look forward to a new membership dinner concept and the return of an old event—the ski swap. On November 19th around noon, the board will be glad to greet you at the East Auditorium in the Yosemite Village where many skis and ski gear will be available for purchase and/or trade! That same day the ice rink is scheduled to open at 3 p.m. and immediately following the ice skating session is our membership dinner. The dinner will be at Yosemite Lodge in the Garden Terrace. We are having a pizza buffet, Caesar salad, and dessert. Beverages will be available as well. Warren Miller movies will be playing in the background featuring good old Badger Pass. It promises to be a wonderful day to kick off our winter season.

I am looking forward to another great season in Yosemite! May the snow fly frequently and soon!

Barb Armon  
President





# Social Events

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## Ski/Winter Sports Swap and Annual Dinner Dance Opens the 10/11 Season

The Yosemite Winter Club is hosting a ski/winter sports swap on Friday, November 19 from noon to 5 p.m. in the East Auditorium (behind the Visitor Center). Buy or sell your used skis, snowshoes, skates, sleds and winter sports gear. Tables rent for \$20. To rent a table contact Art Baggett at [Baggett.art@gmail.com](mailto:Baggett.art@gmail.com). Table set-up will begin at 11 a.m. At 3 p.m., join fellow Winter Club members at the Curry Village Ice Rink (weather permitting) for ice skating. Afterward attend the annual YWC Dinner Dance at the Garden Terrace at Yosemite Lodge starting at 5:30 p.m. Enjoy free pizza, Caesar salad, and dessert with paid membership.

Adult \$15 and children \$10. To become a member of the Winter Club join online at [www.YosemiteWinterClub.com](http://www.YosemiteWinterClub.com). We look forward to kicking off the winter season with you and your family.

Visit [yosemitewinterclub.com](http://yosemitewinterclub.com) to join the club for winter fun! Don't forget to check out our line of club attire!

### Congratulations to the 2010 Winter Club Award Winners

*Connie Rothell Scholarship:*

*Caleb Young*

*Yosemite Winter Club Scholarship:*

*Jordan Gover*

*Nic Fiore Award:*

*Howard Weamer*

*Rusty Rust Award:*

*Meghan Shields*



## Celebrate Valentine's Day Weekend at the 2011 Snow Ball!

This year's Yosemite Winter Club Snowball will be on Saturday February 12, 2011 at the historic Curry Village. Enjoy a music filled champagne reception, a very special silent auction that celebrates the arts, an exquisite four course dinner that is followed by a night of dancing to live music as we rejoice the spirit of winter. Spend the night in a cozy room and have breakfast before you hit the slopes at Badger Pass or enjoy some ice skating.

**EARLY BIRD SPECIAL** - Buy your tickets by December 15 for \$75 per person (a \$20 discount)! Tickets purchased after December 15 will be \$95.00 per person. Early Bird Special tickets will be available for purchase at the YWC Dinner Dance at the Loft on November 19 or by calling 209/379-2602. Remember only YWC members can buy tickets to this exceptional event. Don't wait, last year tickets were sold out a month before the event. **BOOK EARLY.**

**HOTEL ROOMS** – This year we have a wide range of hotel options for our Snowball guests including special rates for Snowball guests at Curry Village Cabins, Yosemite Lodge, and the Ahwahnee. Booking information is available on our website [yosemitewinterclub.com](http://yosemitewinterclub.com).

For more information, call 209/379-2602 or 209/988-6104. Hope to see you there!

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# Get Outside and Play!



## Ski Team prepares for 2011

The Yosemite Ski Team is coming off another successful season in 2010. Local racers placed well in overall standings for the Central Series of the USSA Far West race program. David Medema finished first in the J3 boys division, Meghan Shields 8th and Anna Medema 9th in J4 girls division, Jack Kari 10th place in J5 boys, Emmerson Action 7th place J6 girls, and Leo Kari 1st place J6 boys. Well done team!!

Badger Pass and the YWC once again hosted more than 100 junior ski racers from Bear Valley, Dodge Ridge, Sierra Summit and the YWC for the two days of Silver Ski slalom events sanctioned through the Far West Central Series, USSA Ski racing division. In 2011 the race will be held the weekend March 19-20, 2011, and we'll be needing many volunteers to help out again. The Silver Ski slalom race dates back more than fifty years and is one of the longest running races in the country. The Silver Ski cup is awarded on the second day to the fastest female and male racer (a combined two day time.) The winner's names are engraved on the Silver Ski trophy housed at Badger Pass. In addition to medals, Yosemite Ski Team member Meghan Shields was honored with an annual sportsmanship award. Meghan received the Rusty Rust award, which honors the legacy of former Ski Team coach Rusty Rust.

The Yosemite Winter Club ski team is an all-volunteer organization that is supported through membership dues and the generous donations from DNC, Rossignol, Herb Bauer Sporting Goods in Fresno and others. For more information on the ski team, including the development team for young skiers interested in racing, visit [www.YosemiteWinterClub.com](http://www.YosemiteWinterClub.com) or contact ski team coach Tom Medema at [YosemiteSkiTeam@yahoo.com](mailto:YosemiteSkiTeam@yahoo.com).

## Badger Pass Facts

- Established:** 1935, California's Original Ski Resort  
**Location:** 23 miles from Yosemite Valley off of Highway 41  
**Season:** Dec. 17 (weather permitting) - April 3  
**Number of Lifts:** One triple-chair, Three double-chairs, One handle tow  
**Number of Runs:** 10 – Beginner 35%, Intermediate 50%, Advanced 15%  
**Day Lodge Elevation:** 7,200 ft.  
**Elevation at Top of Mountain:** 8,000 ft.  
**Vertical Drop:** 800 ft.  
**Weather:** Temperatures range between 30 and 60 degrees Fahrenheit. Predominately sunny, except when snowing.  
**Ski School:** Yosemite Ski & Snowboard School, the first in the west, was established in 1928, 25 American and international instructors – many of whom are members of the Professional Ski Instructors of America (PSIA).  
**Nordic Center:** The Yosemite Cross-Country Ski School/Nordic Center offers a series of lessons, each designed to improve students' skiing in the variety of Nordic styles: trail and off-track lessons, cross-country downhill (Telemark) and cross-country skating.

## Sharpen Those Blades



The Yosemite Winter Club Ice Skating and Hockey Program will be teaching basic ice-skating and hockey skills at Curry Village Ice Rink for the 2010-2011 season.

- PROGRAMS:**  
Skating lessons: Wednesdays 6-7 p.m.  
excluding Dec. 22 and 29  
Hockey lessons: Friday 6-7 p.m.  
excluding Dec. 24 and Jan. 3  
Hockey Scrimmages: Tuesday and Thursday 6-7 p.m.  
excluding Dec. 23, 28 and 30

Go to [www.yosemitewinterclub.com](http://www.yosemitewinterclub.com) for REQUIREMENTS, COST, and SIGN-UPS

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

- Ice Skating: Carol Johnson 209-742-4410  
Hockey: Dave Kari 209-379-2411 or  
Jim Bacon 209-372-4660



# Winter Spotlight

## Member Profile

**Fritz Baggett – Hut Keeper, Ostrander Ski Hut, Yosemite National Park** is keeping a nearly 70 year tradition of back country skiing in Yosemite National Park alive and well at the Ostrander Ski Hut. We met up with Fritz to inquire about what it is like to spend a winter tucked away as hut keeper.

### **Can you describe your background and how it led to your position?**

I have been skiing into Ostrander since I was 9 or 10 so I know the terrain in the area really well which is an important part of the job. I was living on the east side near Mammoth and filling in at Ostrander occasionally, when my friend Kelsey Ripple, who was the relief hut keeper, left to go to the Tetons and I was offered the job over the phone on a 100 degree day in Bishop. I said sure I can commute around the Sierra Nevada for that job!

### **What is a typical day like as hut keeper of the Ostrander Ski Hut?**

No day is typical at the hut... during storms there is a lot of work to be done keeping the hut shoveled out, and the solar system charging, stocking wood, making sure the guests make it in safely and that the ones that are there don't burn down the hut. We have a lot of fun, but we are on call 24 hours a day.

### **What inspires you to continue as hut keeper?**

My wife, Lindsey, is just as into living in the hut as I am, so I always have a friend to help out. The terrain and snow is second to none. We have traveled and skied all over the states and in a few other countries and continents and Ostrander really is one of the coolest places to be every day, with lots of safe places to venture, even during avalanche conditions. There are always interesting people to socialize with and we always find new terrain, forests and vistas.

### **Skiing to Ostrander is a Yosemite tradition, what are your hopes for its future?**

The hut seems to get more support all the time. I hope that the park service and Yosemite Conservancy will continue this good relationship and support because we have lots of good people working together from both sides to make this happen. I am also really excited to see a new generation of 25 to 35 year olds getting really into backcountry skiing and Ostrander Hut. Now it is not uncommon to have a group of college aged kids and a group of 60 to 70 year olds intermingling at the table in the hut and on the ski slope. I think these groups will be supporters of the hut for a long time to come.

*For additional information on Ostrander Ski Hut please visit the Yosemite-Conservancy's website, [www.yosemiteconservancy.org](http://www.yosemiteconservancy.org).*

## Did you know...

The Nic Fiore Award is given annually by the Yosemite Winter Club to a person who has clearly demonstrated enthusiasm, commitment and a love of winter sports and has made significant contributions to the enjoyment of winter sports and recreation in Yosemite National Park.

Previous recipients include: John Walker, the Rothell Family, Mike Tollefson and Howard Weamer.

The Yosemite Winter Club Board will announce the recipient at the Snow Ball on February 12, 2011.

The Board is now accepting nominations; please send an email to Barb Armon at [yosemitecousin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:yosemitecousin@sbcglobal.net) and include the name of the nominee and a short reason why the nominee is deserving of the award.



# Cross Country Section

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The Yosemite Winter Club Cross Country Ski Section (YWCXC) is planning four overnight ski trips for the 2011 ski season. All trips are open to Winter Club members with experience in cross country skiing in the backcountry. The two Glacier Point trips will be suitable for skiers with intermediate skills (ability to snow plow turn and stop, ski with a pack), and the Trans Sierra and Ostrander Ski Hut trips will be suitable for the more experienced backcountry skiers. Breakfasts and dinners are provided for all trips.

**FIRST SKI** is January 22-23: Don and Kay Pitts will again open their home at The Falcon's Nest for our party weekend. The dinner potluck/sleepover will be for a Saturday night, with a potluck dinner on Saturday night and club meeting on Sunday morning after breakfast. This is a great opportunity for new skiers to meet other cross country ski enthusiasts and join the group for day skiing in the Badger Pass area on Saturday.

**GLACIER POINT I and II:** This ski tour follows the Glacier Point Road from Badger Pass to Glacier Point, a distance of about 11 miles one way. Two Glacier Point trips, a one-night and a two-night, are scheduled for 10 skiers each. This trip rewards us with striking views the Clark Range on the way and spectacular views of Yosemite Valley from Glacier Point.

**OSTRANDER LAKE and SKI HUT:** This challenging backcountry tour starts at the Badger Pass parking lot. We ski along the Glacier Point Road for about 4 miles, then turn off and follow a marked trail for 5-6 miles UP to Ostrander Ski Hut. One trip is planned for 15 members and will be for 3 nights. This trip is well worth the effort; great snow and beautiful views of Ostrander Lake and Horse Ridge are right out of the ski hut door, and there are great tours on the lay-over days.

**TRANS SIERRA:** This is a 4 night / 5 day ski for seven members. The trip starts at Pine Mountain Airport with a flight over the Sierra to Lee Vining. After hiking from the locked gate on the Tioga Pass Road to snow line, skiers ski up to Tioga Pass, where the first night is spent at the entrance station. The next two nights are spent in Tuolumne Meadows at the public cabin and the last night at the snow survey cabin at Snow Flat. 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. The scenery is spectacular all along the way. Tuolumne Meadows in the winter is a very special place and there is great ski touring on the lay-over day.

If you wish to receive the Cross Country Section newsletter with trip dates, details and trip application, send an email to Terry and Melinda Rivasplata at [melrivas@earthlink.net](mailto:melrivas@earthlink.net). Happy skiing everyone!!



Photo by DNC Parks and Resorts at Yosemite

## Freeride Club

The Yosemite Winter Club Board is in the initial stages of developing a Freeride Club for the 2011 ski and snowboard season. Please continue to check the Winter Club website for updates on our progress.

**YOSEMITE WINTER CLUB**  
**PO BOX 717**  
**YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, CA 95389**



**YOSEMITEWINTERCLUB.COM**

## Calendar of Events

### NOVEMBER

19 Ice Rink Opens (weather permitting)  
Ski Swap at the East Auditorium  
Dinner Dance at The Loft

### DECEMBER

17 Badger Pass Opens (weather permitting)

### JANUARY

8-9 Ski Race @ Bear Valley  
22-23 First Ski @ The Falcon's Nest

### FEBRUARY

4-5 Ski Race @ Dodge Ridge  
12 Snow Ball @ Curry Village  
19-21 Glacier Point Trip 1  
26-27 Nordic Holiday Weekend  
26-27 Glacier Point Trip 2

### MARCH

5-6 Ski Race @ Sierra Summit  
17-21 Trans Sierra Trip  
19-20 Silver Ski Race @ Badger Pass

### APRIL

2 Springfest @ Badger Pass

## 10/11 Board of Directors

President	Barb Armon
Vice President	Tom Medema
Membership Coordinator	Laura Beardsley
Treasurer	Ingelise Guy
Secretary	Vicki McMichael
Members At Large	Jim Bacon
	Art Baggett
	Dave Kari
	Niki Nicholas
	Brian Wright

*Visit [yosemitewinterclub.com](http://yosemitewinterclub.com) for updated calendar items, membership forms, and board information.*

#### Additional Information:

Ostrander Ski Hut is managed by the Yosemite Conservancy. For more information visit [www.yosemiteconservancy.org](http://www.yosemiteconservancy.org), click on *Visit Yosemite* and then *Ostrander Ski Hut*.

The Glacier Point Ski Hut and Yosemite Nordic Center at Badger Pass are managed by DNC Parks & Resorts. Visit [www.YosemitePark.com/BadgerPass](http://www.YosemitePark.com/BadgerPass).