



## 2018 SKI SEASON YOSEMITE WINTER CLUB CROSS COUNTRY SECTION FALL NEWSLETTER AND TRIP APPLICATION

The Yosemite Winter Club Cross Country Section (YWCXC) arranges hut supported overnight ski trips into the backcountry of Yosemite National Park. The Yosemite Winter Club (YWC) is a non-profit organization bringing winter sporting opportunities to outdoor enthusiasts since 1928. The Yosemite Winter Club Cross Country Section is a subsection within the YWC. Everyone who is a member of YWC is welcome to join the YWCXC Section. You can find information about membership on the YWC website at <http://www.yosemitewinterclub.com/>.

Greetings All!

We are ready to ski the backcountry of Yosemite National Park! Over the summer and fall, XC Section volunteers retrieved caches, coordinated trip planning, and have banded together to shop for and pack food for the caches. Caches have been delivered to the cabins where skiers will be staying. All we need now is SNOW! So let's hope mother nature brings us a good helping of that.

Membership Requirements. Membership dues are required to join the YWC that provides for liability insurance for the XC trips. Dues are \$25/adult, \$10 for kids, and \$65 for a family of 4. Visit the website for a description of benefits that go with YWC membership.

In addition, a separate member participation fee is required for the XC Section. The XC member participation fee is \$25 per adult, \$15 for children 13-18, and children 12 and under free. The membership fee applies to all XC section activities; the overnight backcountry trips and First Ski. This fee assures that we have funds on hand to cover expenses early in the season, such as purchasing new cache containers, food for the trips, water filters, stove pellets, and other equipment needed at the cabins, and to cover expenses related to getting the caches into the cabins and retrieving caches in the spring.

Trip Selection Process. 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.

Pre-trip Lodging. The Yosemite Peregrine Lodge will be available for pre-trip lodging for the March TransSierra only. All other trip participants will be responsible for their own lodging the night before all other trips. The Yosemite Peregrine Lodge is owned by David Maynard and Vonnice Coombs and they operate it as a vacation rental home (VRBO), and not as a bed and breakfast as when the Pitts owned

and managed it. XC Section overnights are limited only to those times that are expressly listed on the trip information and only for those signed up for the trip or those who may be helping with car shuttles.

The Yosemite Peregrine Lodge, located at 7509 Henness Circle in Yosemite West inside Yosemite National Park, will only be available the night before the Trans Sierra trip. Dinner will be provided the night before the trip and breakfast will be provided the morning of the trip. This will be included in the cost of the Trans-Sierra trip, no exceptions if you are not staying at the Peregrine Lodge.

Application and Refund Policy. Enclosed is the XC Section 2018 Trip Application. The cost of each trip is shown on the application; no adjustments to costs will be made. A list of alternates will be developed for each trip that fills. If there are 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 taken into account.

Trip Organization, Fitness, and Equipment Requirements. These trips are not guided trips. A trip leader is assigned for the purpose of facilitating decision making. Skiers on the trip are expected to follow the leader's directions, and may be asked to assist by taking the lead or bringing up the rear on travel days. Everyone pitches in to cook, clean up after meals, and clean the cabins before the group leaves. The trip leaders are volunteers and are on the trip to have a good time like everyone else.

For all trips, you will need to carry a pack with storm gear, emergency essentials, extra clothes, sleeping pad, and sleeping bag. Some cabins have bunks, others do not, so bring a sleeping pad; they also come in handy if you want to stop for lunch or take a break along the way. Breakfasts and dinners are cached at the cabins for all trips except Ostrander Hut. Everyone will need to bring their own lunches, daytime trail snacks, and water.

All skiers should be physically fit and able to ski a considerable distance, carrying a pack over varying terrain. All skiers should have knowledge of backcountry travel practices, and carry emergency equipment (the 10 essentials).

The Glacier Point trips are suitable for intermediate skiers; the terrain is mostly moderate following the Glacier Point Road. The Ostrander Ski Hut, Tuolumne Meadows Turnaround and the Trans Sierra trips are backcountry ski tours suitable for strong intermediate to advanced skiers and not for beginners. As a result of a few problems on past trips with people having overstated their backcountry skiing abilities and/or physical fitness, 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, Turnaround, 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 to our satisfaction that they have the necessary experience and fitness. These are hut trips – no tents or stoves, 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 need arises.**

Menus. With the exception of Ostrander, breakfasts and dinners are cached at the cabins. 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, Gatorade, etc.

## 2018 SEASON TRIP DESCRIPTIONS

For the 2018 ski season, the XC Section is offering five overnight ski touring adventures: two Glacier Point trips, one trip to the Ostrander ski hut, one Tuolumne Meadows Turnaround and one Trans Sierra tour.

**FIRST SKI: January 19 – January 21 Friday through Sunday.** For our party weekend and annual club meeting, we will meet at the Yosemite Peregrine, a vacation rental owned and operated by Dave Maynard and Vonnie Coombs, located at 7509 Henness Circle in Yosemite West inside Yosemite National Park. We will have potluck dinners on Friday and Saturday nights, with breakfasts provided by the club. Beverages are BYO. There are lots of opportunities for day skiing in the Badger Pass area, either ski touring or downhill fun at Badger Pass.

We will hold our XC Section business meeting on Saturday evening after dinner. At this meeting we will discuss club plans and direction. We will be sending out an agenda shortly before First Ski. If you have thoughts on topics that you would like to see discussed, please let us know 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 between 25 and 40 people show up for First Ski (bring the kids!) and most spend the night, so be prepared to sleep on the floor with your own bags, pillows and pads. If this seems too crowded, and you would prefer more privacy, there are vacation rentals in Yosemite West. The Falcon's nest, next door to the Peregrine is available on VRBO on line or through Scenic Wonders 1-888-YOSEMITE (967-3648).

### BACKCOUNTRY TRIPS

**GLACIER POINT TRIPS: GP 1 – February 17 - 18 , Saturday and Sunday (1 night); GP 2 – March 9 - 11 Friday to Sunday (2 nights).** 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. 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 (the last bit down to the cabin is steep), you should be fit and comfortable skiing all day in any weather.

**OSTRANDER SKI HUT: February 9 – 12, Saturday to Monday (3 nights).** 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 the Ostrander Lake Ski Hut. The Ostrander trip is for up to 15 members.

Many consider the Ostrander trip to be the most rewarding and 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, skiing in stormy weather, and skiing on crust, as well as bluebird powder days.

#### *Ostrander Trip Changes*

Starting this year, no caches have been taken in by mule to the Ostrander Ski Hut. The expense and logistics have made it infeasible. Therefore, skiers on the Ostrander Trip will carry in lightweight meals purchased by the Club to be shared by the group. Skiers will need to carry their own after-ski snacks, lunches, trail snacks, water. Skiers can also carry any beer, wine or other beverages if they so desire.

Plan on bringing a pack that can accommodate a portion of the group meals. The food will be split up in equal weight packages and everyone will need to have room to carry their share.

Note: Pre-registration is required in the early fall for this trip. If you are interested in this trip, indicate that on your application. We will create a waiting list in case a registered skier has to cancel.

**The TUOLUMNE MEADOWS TURNAROUND TRIP: March 22 - 26 . Thursday to Monday (4 nights).** This is a 4-night/5-day tour for eight skiers. The Turnaround is a hike/ski starting at the gate on Tioga Pass Road, over Tioga Pass and into Tuolumne Meadows, and then a ski back out the same way. This will be a four night trip with overnight stays at the Tioga Pass entrance station cabin on the way in and out, and two nights at the cabin in Tuolumne Meadows. This trip is good for those who want to see the grandeur of the Meadows in winter, but without the Trans-Sierra's knee ache of 126 switchbacks down the Snow Creek Trail into Yosemite Valley.

**The TRANS SIERRA: March 15 - 19. Thursday to Monday (4 nights).** This is a 4-night/5-day tour for eight members. 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 Trans-Sierra trip itinerary:

- 3/14 Overnight at the Peregrine in Yosemite West. This gives us an opportunity to acclimatize.
- 3/15 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 (12 miles hiking and skiing).
- 3/16 Ski to Tuolumne Meadows (8 miles)
- 3/17 Layover at Tuolumne Meadows and ski the area
- 3/18 Ski to Snow Flat Cabin (12 miles)
- 3/19 Ski and hike out to Yosemite Valley via the Snow Creek trail (12 miles) ski down to the Valley Rim (Snow Creek Trail), hike the 126 switchbacks down to the Valley floor, then hike to the cars.

TRIP TIPS: Skiers are responsible for arranging for their pre-trip lodging for the Glacier Point, Tuolumne Turnaround, and Ostrander trips. For the Glacier Point and Ostrander trips, we have a goal of starting at the Badger Pass trail head by 9:00 AM. It is very important that skiers coordinate with the trip leaders prior to the trip. *No one should start on the trail without the trip leader's okay.*

For the Trans Sierra, skiers will stay at the Peregrine the night before and shuttle cars to the Valley, then will be driven to Pine Mountain Airport in the morning. It is necessary for all participants to stay at the Peregrine in order to get an early start.

For the Turnaround, we strongly advise making arrangements to stay in Lee Vining the night before the trip to allow acclimatization and getting an early start the next day. The group will meet at 9 a.m. and leave cars parked on the side of the road at the gate on the Tioga Pass Road.

## THE YOSEMITE WINTER CLUB

We are the Cross Country Section of the YOSEMITE WINTER CLUB. Please remember that **you must join the YWC** to participate in the 2018 trips. You can join on line at <http://yosemitewinterclub.com/membership/>. 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 and also pay the YWCXC Section member participation fee.

**PLEASE DO NOT SEND PARENT WINTER CLUB DUES TO Melinda and Terry.**

**Associated Organizations.** We also encourage our members to join the Yosemite Conservancy (YC) at the Sequoia Supporter level. The YC raises funds to help in the maintenance and restoration of many park facilities like the current Mariposa Grove restoration. Also included in their mission is the Ostrander Ski Hut. In 2013 they funded a substantial amount of work on hut maintenance and they pay the salaries for hut keepers. We are working to forge a stronger relationship with YC, as well as Friends of Ostrander (FOO) in order to support Ostrander Ski Hut. If you do join YC, indicate your affiliation with YWC and/or FOO on the information you provide. (FOO is a group of YC members who organize around supporting Ostrander Ski Hut).

YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION: Please remember to let us know of any changes in your address, phone number and email address so that we can keep our skier list up to date.

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 and equipment they use. Alternatively, they may call and speak with Dave Todd, our Membership Chair at 916-448-1834 (e-mail: [davetodd@mac.com](mailto:davetodd@mac.com)) or to us, regarding their cross country ski experience.

E-MAIL: 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