

Winter Activities 2019-2020

- Snow Shoeing
- Cross-Country Skiing
- Mountaineering
 - Ice Climbing
 - Snow Caving
 - Day Hiking

Inter-Mountain Alpine Club

For Schedule and Locations visit:

www.imacnw.org





IMAC Winter Activities Schedule

Winter is coming and the first snow is beginning to fall in the mountains. The *National Weather Service* is predicting near average precipitation and slightly above warmer than average temperatures, which is likely to make for great winter outdoor recreation opportunities in the region.

The **Inter-Mountain Alpine Club (IMAC)** Winter Activities Schedule has been posted. The club is offering a variety of activities that range from beginners to people with moderate experience.

All the activities are free and open to the public. Registration in advance required.

To register go to the IMAC Calendar for the event and contact the trip leader for the details.

New trips and events may be added to the schedule. Here is a list of the current activities:

November 2019

November 29, 2019 [Frog Lake to Drumheller Channels](#), Day Hike DH-1. An easy hike in the Potholes area on Black Friday.

December 2019

December 14, 2019 [Horseshoe Prairie](#), Snowshoe SS-1 or Cross-Country Ski XC-1.

December 11 to 15, 2019 [Bozeman Ice Festival](#). This is a club trip to Bozeman, MT for their ice festival. We will coordinate the dates to and from Tri-Cities. The plan is to do some ice climbing, enjoy the festival activities, and the many opportunities to hike, snowshoe, XC ski, in Bozeman. Information on the festival <https://bozemanicefest.com/home>

January 2020

January 1, 2020 [Annual Hike up Badger Mountain](#), DH-1. This morning hike on New Year's Day is an annual event for IMAC, which first formed in 1948. No sign up needed. Meet at the Skyline Trailhead off Dallas Road. Starts at 10 AM.

January 4, 2020 [Blewett Pass](#), Snowshoe SS-2. This all-day trip will explore the Blewett Pass area, following a road until inspiration leads us through open gentle terrain to follow rabbit trails, followed by a stop at the Little Yellow Church in Ellensburg on the way home for a bite to eat.

January 6, 2020 [Cross-Country Skiing and Snowshoe Classroom Lecture](#), Richland Public Library Conference Room B. No signups needed, starts at 7 PM. This talk will cover the basics of cross-country skiing and snowshoeing: the various equipment, clothing, how to get started, and places to go. This can be very helpful if you have not cross-country skied or snowshoed before,

or if you want to get some tips and pointers from some experienced users. Follow up this lecture with the cross-country ski lesson on January 11th.

January 9, 2020 [Evening Slide Show Talk Presentation](#), Tri-City adventurers Steve Ghan, John Serkowski, and Bruce Williams will present highlights of their 12-day 180-mile trek across the North Cascades last summer with uber thru-hiker Gerry Favret (AKA Natty). They'll share their discovery of Jack Kerouac artifacts, how they dealt with health challenges, and their close encounter with a wild bear! They will show photographs of some of the most spectacular scenery that Washington state has to offer. No signups needed, starts at 7:00 pm Richland Public Library.

January 11, 2020 [Horseshoe Prairie](#), Snowshoe SS-2. A moderate difficulty snowshoeing trip in the Blue Mountains near Tollgate, OR.

January 11, 2020 [Horseshoe Prairie](#), Cross-Country Skiing XC-0. All skier levels are invited, but this is an instructional trip aimed for XC ski first-timers and beginners. Others can come along to brush up on your skills or just to get started for the season. We will spend the morning on instructions for the basic techniques for XC ski touring. After a lunch out in the snow, we will do an easy tour to practice what was learned in the morning. Attendance at the XC ski presentation on Jan. 6th is highly recommended.

January 18, 202 [Deer and Sand Lakes](#), Snowshoe SS-2. This is a moderate trip on the Pacific Crest Trail going north from White Pass. The hike is about 7 miles round trip with about 800 feet elevation gain. We will head to Deer and Sand Lakes, have lunch at Sand Lake, and head back to the cars the same way.

January 25, 2022 [Horseshoe Prairie](#), Igloo Building CC. This is a car camping trip where we spend the night in an igloo in a winter setting at Andie's Prairie near Tollgate Oregon. We will spend Saturday building igloos to spend the night in. This is an instructional trip, so even if you haven't cut snow blocks before, you are welcome to attend. There will be opportunity for either snowshoeing or cross-country skiing on the trails on the other side of the highway, if time allows. Come prepared for cold and snowy weather. A sleeping bag rated for 15°F or lower with a closed foam sleeping pad is required.

February 2020

February 8, 2020 [Chase Mountain](#), Snowshoe SS-2. A moderate snowshoeing trip in the Blue Mountains near the Bluewood ski area.

February 22, 2020 [Horseshoe Prairie](#), Snow Cave Building CC. This is a second trip where we spend the night in snow cave in a winter setting at Andies Prairie near Tollgate Oregon.

February 29, 2020 [Bridge of the Gods Trail](#), Day Hike DH-2 Gorge Trail 400: Bridge of the Gods Trailhead to Wyeth is a 9.4 mile with 1,725 feet of elevation gain point-to-point trail located near Cascade Locks, Oregon. It is rated as moderate.

March 2020

March 7, 2020 [Red Top Mountain](#) Cross-Country Ski XC-3. We start near the old Mineral Springs Resort and follow a groomed route about 3 miles through thin forest along Blue Creek, and then follow snowmobile tracks up a second road toward if not to the summit of Red Top

Mountain. The reward for climbing 2600 feet in 8 miles is expansive views of Table Mountain the Stuart Range for lunch, followed by a delightful glide down the steady grade to the highway. We'll stop at the Little Yellow Church Cafe in Ellensburg on the way home for a bite to eat.

March 14, 2020 [Spout Springs \(Woodland Sno-Park\)](#), Snowshoe **SS-2**. The trek starts in the woods along the Balloon Tree logging road then cuts cross country on a long, open north/south ridge. Views from here, on a clear day, are great including: Mt. Emily and the Elkhorn Crest Mts. to the south, the Eagle Caps, and Seven Devil's Wilderness to the east, and a Blue Mt. panorama from Bluewood to Pomeroy to the north. The route is a figure 8 loop about 6.6 miles with several gradual climbs totaling about 700 feet.

March 28, 2020 [Towell Falls](#), Day Hike DH-2. This is a moderate hike to the falls in the Rock Creek Recreational Area near Sprague. The area is largely an open grazing land, scabbed with basalt outcroppings, mesas, and a river running through it. The terrain was scoured by Ice Age floods leaving scattered lakes and waterfalls. The hike is about 7.0 miles RT with about 700 feet total elevation gain.

Background Information

All the activities open to the public. Registration in advance required. Participants in travel events also pay a gas and operating fees contribution of ten cents per mile to their driver.

Snow and weather conditions can significantly affect the difficulty of all these events. Some of the trails are quite open, so it can get nasty on a cold, windy day.

Snowshoes can be rented locally at I-MAC and REI. As always, bring the Ten Essentials, lunch, water (at least 2 liters), and dress for the weather. You must be prepared for blizzards and rainy conditions (that is, bring rain gear). Please no cotton or jeans. The trips are limited to 12 participants.

To Sign Up for a Trip

Visit the IMAC website calendar learn about the difficulty ratings and to contact the trip leader for each event at <https://imacnw.org/event-calendar/>

If you have any questions please contact Paul Krupin www.imacnw.org at publicity@imacnw.org

Helpful Links

[CalTopo](#) – zoom in to the area you seek to research or enter the trail name or location.

[NOAA Interactive Snow Map](#) – draw a rectangle on the area or enter the closest city, state.

[Washington Trails Association](#) – enter the trail name and study the most recent reports.

[US Forest Service Snow Depth Map](#) – drag the map to the location

[Snotel Sites Map](#) – go to the closest location

[NOAA \(National Weather Service\)](#) – use the pinpoint location map

[IMAC Post – Interactive Maps for Trip Planning](#) - has these links and more



Chuck Wierman, a leader and instructor for the Intermountain Alpine Club, breaking a fresh trail near Deer Lake/Sand Lake.



Winter snow enthusiasts taking a break on a log near Blewett Pass.



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