

NSCF Ski Tour reports 2017-18

East Cleary-Summit to Chatanika Lodge via Margaret's Corner: Sunday, 11 February

Leader: Philip S. Marshall

5 humans and 2 K-9s attended. Temps ~20 deg F.; cloudy. After car shuttles, about 3-hr ski back to Old FE Co on the Steese. Miners' access road plowed but no rocks. Trapper's trail on ridge had a base with 5" new snow. Long descent to N speedy but manageable. Ski through woods more challenging since unbroken. Ditch traverse level. 3 of us cut Mongolian ski brake poles for the final descent into Lulu Creek valley. In addition to deep snow (~30"), a breakable buried crust made skiing rather awkward. Ski brake poles greatly assist self-extrication. No overflow to speak of in Lulu Creek. New exit to Steese speedy and easy.

Read a Fairbanks Daily News-Miner story about this tour here:

http://www.newsminer.com/features/outdoors/nscf-tours-make-skiing-an-adventure/article_33630a28-12fe-11e8-96e6-df6e31356761.html

"Mysterious Mountain" Roundtrip: January 21, 2018

Leader: Philip S. Marshall

It was -15F, clear and calm at the start. The trail was snowmobile compacted. The upper half was slightly broken out. It took about 2.5 hours to ascend. Needed skins. The weather on top was -5F and about a 5 mph wind. Fine view. Trees have been thinned. Upper descent was dreamlike with east-facing exposed snow and angle. Lower half of the trail was awkward with snow crust (too fast!) and snowgo ruts. Cold toes and hands. Only 35 minutes to descend! Dog, Skye, appreciated booties and a coat!

Try Tanana Lakes!: January 7, 2018

Leader: Barb O'Donnell

There were 5 souls and 3 dogs who braved -13F degrees for yesterday's Tanana Lakes Tour.

Conditions were good-mostly. Well-groomed trail and we had some sun out on the lake as this was the middle of the daylight hours. We stayed out for about an hour-and-a-half and were all glad we had a chance to get the muscles moving.



Moose Mountain Sunrise Tour: Dec 23, 2017

Leaders: Bad Bob and Sharon Baker

About two dozen skiers participated in this tour. Susan Sugai did a nice write up and Bad Bob took some great photos. See them here:

<https://sonotkkaazoot.org/2017/12/24/chasing-the-sun-on-moose-mountain/>

Fairbanks-Circle Trail Out & Back: Dec 17, 2017

Leaders: Philip S. Marshall and Jan Lokken Marshall

Seven skiers and five dogs. Good skiing, chili and cocoa. Great group! Couldn't see a thing with the ice fog.

Annual Pre-Solstice Ski Tour: East Eldorado Ridge to Goldstream Road: Dec 16, 2017

Leader: Mike Schmoker

Great tour. Six skiers.

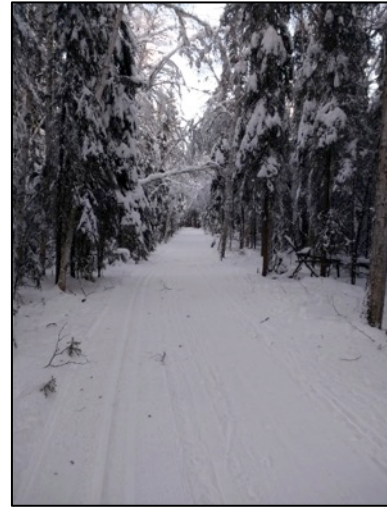
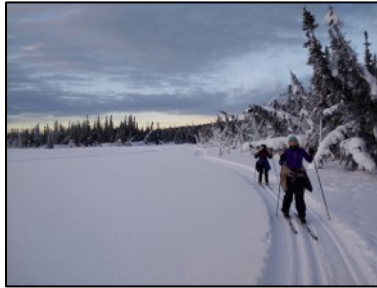
More reports on next page:

Rat Ponds Tour: Dec 10, 2017

Leader: Stan Justice

Thanks to Joel Young for the photos

No muskrats were spotted but a good time was had by the 6 skiers from 10 to 68 years of age. 20 above and freshly set tracks made for pleasant and fast going. The grooming broke up the ice crust, so was wicked fast glide on crushed ice. Some grey jays checked us out and ravens flew by. Several fat bikes and some skate skiers were also on the trail. Distance was about 8 miles. Could smell the methane coming from the ponds.



Rosie Creek Ramble, Nov 19, 2017

Leader: Steven Hansen

Had a good ramble this Sunday, with 19 skiers showing up, temperatures were cool but pleasant and the conditions were excellent.