

Oregon
Ski
Tours':
a
guide
written
by
five-
year
veterans
of
Cascade
touring



Photo by Bruce Mason

"Oregon Ski Tours"
Doug Newman and Sally Sharrard
Touchstone Press
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With cross-country skiing capturing the imaginations of more and more outdoorsmen, both veteran and novice, each winter, the time seems ripe for a comprehensive field guide detailing the unique touring potential of the Oregon Cascades. Eugene residents Doug Newman and Sally Sharrard provide just such a package with *Oregon Ski Tours*, an informed, detailed, and abundantly illustrated book which comprises 65 select ski tours for participants of all abilities.

The authors have tailored this book to the rather special conditions governing ski touring in the Cascades. Whereas tour areas in the Rockies and in the eastern sectors of the country have recently enjoyed promotion by commercial concerns via formal developments like groomed trails, guide services, patrolled routes, and ready access to rest stops and lodging, the Oregon tourer must make his way without benefit of such amenities, save for the occasional appearance of a guide. Hence the peculiar Oregon species of ski tourer: the independent, self-reliant explorer who depends on his own skills and the collective resources of his tour party.

Newman and Sharrard, both five-year veterans of Cascade touring who've negotiated all the trails described in this book, have attempted to reduce the elements of uncertainty and risk which obtain in such a situation. They precede the actual descriptions of suggested tours with extensive notes on tour preparation, safety, and woods lore. And once launched on the project of detailing the particular geographic features of a specific route, they take pains to describe the special challenges presented by the terrain to tourers of varying capacities: the difficulty of the trail itself for the unskilled or unadventurous, for instance, as compared to the possibility of encountering more difficult side trips or opportunities for downhill skiing for more skilled party members.

In keeping with this broad conception, Newman and Sharrard have presented a selection of tours of considerable variety: they range in length from short warm-up trips which can be completed in the course of an afternoon, to 25-mile expeditions requiring several days. The locales also offer much in the way of options: 15 tours in the Mount Hood area, 17 in the Santiam Pass and Northern Willamette Forest region, seven in Central Oregon, seven around McKenzie Pass, and 10 in Willamette Pass and environs. In addition, nine "bonus" tours offer a scattering of treks in the Coast Range, Southern Oregon and other areas.

Besides the detailed description of each trail and a summary of important facts about the tour, the authors have supplied a photo of parties in action at each site, and a detailed map of each route. These aids insure an easy evaluation of each trail's particular merits, and should be a valuable assist in tour selection.

Oregon Ski Tours is available now from retail outlets or directly from The Touchstone Press, P.O. Box 81, Beaverton, Oregon 97005. The retail price is \$4.95.

Chris Hougum

HOODOO SKI BOWL, OREGON — Hoodoo started a full operation Saturday Nov. 10 in one of its earlier openings, but the wet monsoon produced some bedraggled skiers. Manager Lee Foster cancelled a planned November 12 operation to save the area's base for next weekend. Foster groomed a number of slopes last summer, allowing operations on the somewhat-limited cover — 20 inches total at the base.

WILLAMETTE PASS, OREGON — Willamette Pass, the family ski area at the crest of the Cascades southeast of Eugene was well-covered by a recent blizzard until the rains washed a good share of the snow away. But that was really not too great a problem as operations were not planned until later in the month. Manager Leon Foster's summer work was confined to general maintenance and cutting the new growth which has invaded the ski area, cleared nearly 25 years ago. Rich Little is, again, joint director of both Hoodoo Bowl and Willamette ski schools. He supervises instruction for the Eugene Register-Guard school, sponsored by that daily newspaper at Willamette Pass.

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