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Steve Roti/Submitted photo

Skiers race in the Tour of Meissner in January 2021.

Submitted photo

Riders compete in the Great Nordeen fatbike race in 2019.

GET SET

Great Nordeen and Tour of Meissner races bring Central Oregon nordic ski community together

BY MARK MORICAL • The Bulletin

TRAILS

It's time to wax those skis and get ready to race.

The thriving nordic ski community of Central Oregon will come together over the next two weekends for two big races west of Bend.

After being canceled last year due to the pandemic, the 19th edition of the Great Nordeen returns to Mt. Bachelor on Sunday, and the Tour of Meissner returns to Meissner Sno-park on Jan. 29.

"Super, super excited," said Molly Cogswell-Kelley, event organizer for the Mt. Bachelor Sports Education Foundation, which runs the Great Nordeen. "It will be really fun. I think people are really excited. (The races) absolutely bring the nordic ski community together."

Billed as the largest cross-country ski race in Central Oregon, the 18-kilometer Great Nordeen runs from Mt. Bachelor's West Village Lodge to Wanoga Sno-park on Deschutes National Forest trails. Also part of the Great Nordeen is a 15K fatbike race, starting from Mt. Bachelor's Sunrise Lodge and following the same route as the 18K ski race.

The Great Nordeen is a benefit for MBSEF, which offers youth skiing and snowboarding programs. Registration is available at www.mbsef.org or by calling 541-388-0002, and the entry fee is $50. The deadline for online registration is Friday at 11:59 p.m. In-person registration is available Saturday between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. at the MBSEF facility in Bend at 2765 NW Lolo Drive.

Cogswell-Kelley said she is expecting about 160 racers total.

"The events we've put on lately, we've had a lot of success and a lot of attendance because people weren't able to participate last year," Cogswell-Kelley said. "Cyclocross season was very popular, and our ski swap was a record ski swap for attendance."

See **Races** / *B10*

Snowshoeing strikes balance between effort and surrender

BY CRISTINA PETERSON
For The Bulletin

MOUNTAINS

Seeing the snowpack diminish and places get messy with the recent melt saddens many winter sports enthusiasts. It causes incongruous emotions of enjoying the sun despite it feeling wrong for the weather to be so pleasant here in January. It's supposed to be deep winter with a chill in the air and snow on the ground.

Some people worry about the climate and wonder what's in store for the coming months or years if these warming trends continue. Questions swirl about what it means for the future of snow sports, for drought, fire season, our forests and many species that all may be affected by having a smaller snowpack.

The climate action organization, Protect Our Winters or POW, is on a mission to make change at the margins of the outdoor community. Through cultural shifts in behavior and norms, through policy reform and political pressure, and through technological and financial investments, the organization believes that reducing carbon emission is possible.

These efforts could drastically impact the future of winter weather and snow sports in North America.

People's concern for the climate falls along a spectrum and so can actions to reduce carbon emissions.

There's the option to never drive to a trailhead, never ride a chairlift, never purchase new gear. That path seriously stifles the passion and pleasure derived from being outside. But not making any changes means the planet continues on the trajectory toward an increasingly unstable and warmer climate.

See **Snowshoeing** / *B9*

Drew Peterson/Submitted photo

Explore columnist Cristina Peterson snowshoes with her child near Suttle Lake.