

SNOW, TRAIL AND ACTIVITY REPORT – Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Hi this is Debra with the North America Outdoor Institute welcoming you to another edition of the Q99.7 Snow Trail and Activity Report. Our goal is to bring you lots of valuable information on trail conditions and activities for winter recreation and snow lovers of all types to help you get out and enjoy the great Alaskan outdoors. If you know of any trail information or activities the public should be aware of, please let us know so we can share it right here.

We received a dusting of new snow this past weekend but it did little to improve trail conditions throughout the Valley, especially with the warmer temperatures. But the weather forecast does look promising for cooler temps and snow in the next few days so keep thinking precip and we'll be sure and let you know as conditions improve.

Northeast to the Lake Louise area we've received reports of ice from 5-9 inches thick with some overflow and no pressure ridges. They are reporting about 7-10 inches of snow on the ground. The trails are okay for travel but still pretty rough due to heavy ATV use this fall. Just be cautious and remember to file a trip plan for backcountry travel.

Sheep Mountain reports 5" of snow with a minimal packed base. Skiing on the Old Glenn Highway at mile 115 is reported good but watch for rocks in the dips. This trail is 3.5 miles one way.

Hatcher Pass remains closed to snowmobiling due to lack of snow but there is enough for skiing and snowshoeing. Just remember you will need a parking pass. You can purchase a season pass online at the state parks website, or use the onsite pay station for daily fees.

North on the Parks to the upper Susitna Valley the forecast is calling for snow tonight with accumulations up to 3" and snow remains in the forecast for the next week so expect trail conditions to continually improve in that area.

Nancy Lake is reporting good skiing across wetlands and the Forestry service has done extensive work on the Red Shirt Lake trail so grab your cross country skis and come check it out. You'll also need a state parking pass in this area.

If you're looking for alpine skiing, Alyeska Resort in Girdwood is slated to open this weekend with reduced lift tickets and limited access to the mountain. Hilltop Resort in Anchorage is also open this weekend and is a great starter mountain for the whole family. You can find both these resorts online for more information and rates.

All of us at the North America Outdoor Institute wish you a happy Thanksgiving holiday and remind you to carry safety equipment and get informed about safe riding and winter travel. We invite you to join us for safety training such as our popular reduced price helmet incentive program. Sign up online at besnowsmart.org. Remember to Be Snow Smart and enjoy safe riding, mushing or hiking adventures as you Get Outdoors and explore Alaska.