

SNOW, TRAIL AND ACTIVITY REPORT - Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Hi snow and recreation lovers, this is Debra with the North America Outdoor Institute bringing you another edition of the Q99.7 Snow Trail and Activity Report. If you know of any trail information or activities the public should be aware of, please let us know so we can share it here.

The snow is falling and temperatures are holding above zero and below freezing so conditions should continue to improve. Forecasters are calling for more snow through the week which should provide for great skiing, mushing and riding this weekend.

Snow levels are still low on Lake Louise but they received four inches on Tuesday with another 6-10" in the forecast. All lakes are now well frozen with more than 12" of ice. Just be aware of areas of moving water. Both Louise and Susitna Lake trails have been well marked.

South to Eureka and Majestic Valley you'll find about 18" of snow. Sheep Mountain Lodge reports that trails are marked and groomed between their lodge and Eureka. The overflow on lakes is freezing well making lake travel much safer. Majestic Valley has more than 20k of groomed trails for both skate and classical cross country skiing. Conditions throughout the area should be excellent this weekend.

Hatcher Pass is reporting eight inches of powder with more falling and temperatures in the upper teens. The trails should be set before this weekend for nordic skiing but the area remains closed to snowmobiling.

If you're headed north on the Parks Highway towards Trapper Creek and Petersville you'll find lots of powder and great riding especially north of mile 115 and west of the Parks Highway. Around Willow and Nancy Lake conditions are improving although they have yet to groom ski trails due to limited snow pack. Motorized access is limited to the Nancy Lake Parkway and a new trail that leads to Red Shirt Lake. The Parks Service is hoping to open all trails by Christmas as long as they receive sufficient snow.

If you're looking for alpine skiing, Alyeska Ski Resort in Girdwood and Hilltop Ski Area in Anchorage both report six new inches with great conditions. They are open seven days a week and you can get current snow reports and trail conditions by visiting their websites or calling Alyeska at 754-7669 or Hilltop at 346-2167.

All of us at the North America Outdoor Institute remind you to carry safety equipment and get informed about safe riding and winter travel. Learn more at besnowsmart.org. We wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season and hope you enjoy safe adventures as you get outdoors and explore Alaska.