

SNOWSHOE TRAILS OF THE NORDIC CROSS-COUNTRY SKI CLUB

Introduction

The snowshoe trails at McCulloch all have names beginning with Snow or Snowy (thanks Elsie and Ross), and are shown on the snowshoe map, available around town, in the ski cabins at McCulloch, and on the website.

Snowshoe trails are flagged with long pieces of red tape. Snowshoe trail signs are red text on a yellow background; ski trails are green, blue or black on yellow. Snowshoe signs may be the name of the trail, the words Snowshoe Trail, the words Parking Lot, single arrows, or double arrows. Some trails feature numbers spray-painted on trees; these are not distances, they are trail numbers as shown on the snowshoe map and as listed below.

The snowshoe trails form four groups from west to east. The first group features the [Snowy Hilton](#), [Snowy Cabin](#), and [Snow Beauty](#) trails. The second group features the [Snow Vista](#) trail. The third group features [Snowbound](#), [Snow Business](#), [Snow Goose](#), [Snowy Leon](#), [Snow Lynx](#), [Snowy P.M.](#), [Snowy Valentine](#), and the western part of [Snow View](#). The fourth area features [Snow Memorial](#) and the eastern part of [Snow View](#).

If you know the trail you wish to read about, simply click its name below:

[Snow Beauty](#) | [Snowbound](#) | [Snow Business](#) | [Snowy Cabin](#)

[Snow Goose](#) | [Snowy Hemlock](#) | [Snowy Hilton](#) | [Snowy Leon](#)

[Snowy Log](#) | [Snow Lynx](#) | [Snow Memorial](#) | [Snowy Owl](#) | [Snowy P.M.](#)

[Snowy Summit](#) | [Snowy Valentine](#) | [Snow View](#) | [Snow Vista](#) | [Snowy Way](#)

If you don't know the name of the trail, just browse through the list that follows; it's in alphabetical order.

Note that the trail and junction locations on the map are only approximate. If you are uncertain about the trails, consider joining us for one of the guided snowshoe hikes advertised on the website. Or look for the guy with the orange shirt, long underwear and shorts. That's Rick, the snowshoe director and author of this page. Ask him.

Snowshoe trails cross ski trails; please do not damage the set tracks when you cross them; lift your snowshoes over the track. Do not walk on ski trails at any other time.

As noted above, the snowshoe trails are marked with long pieces of red trail tape. Blue, yellow, and green markers are not ours. Yellow trail signs showing the name of the trail are placed where the snowshoe trails cross the ski trails, usually on the side you are

facing when going out from the main parking lot. The other side usually has a sign simply saying Snowshoe Trail or Parking Lot.

The snowshoe trails provide access to four shelters, the Nordic Hilton (via the [Snowy Hilton](#) trail), the Log Cabin (via the [Snowy Hilton](#) and [Snowy Log](#), or [Snowy Cabin](#), or [Snow Beauty](#) trails), the Meadow Cabin (via the [Snow Vista](#) trail), and the Lean-to (via [Snowbound](#)).

The Trails

Snow Beauty (Trail 16)

This trail follows [Snowy Cabin](#) from the main cabin to the junction with [Snowy Owl](#) then east (right) along [Snowy Owl](#) to a sharp corner, from which this trail heads north approximately 3 km to the log cabin.

It is a rougher route than [Snowy Cabin](#) or [Snowy Hilton](#).

The name is derived from the trail's proximity to the Black Beauty ski trail.

Snowbound (Trail 8)

Snowbound is a three-kilometre loop to the east of [Snow Vista](#), leaving it at the one-kilometre mark and rejoining it at the two-kilometre mark. It mostly parallels the Riverside ski trail, but crosses Riverside twice. It provides access to the south end of [Snow Goose](#) and [Snow View](#) (which provides access to [Snow Lynx](#)).

Snow Business (Trail 7)

This trail leaves [Snow Vista](#) at about the 2.5 kilometre mark (a signed junction), then heads east, crossing the Riverside ski trail.

It meanders through an area which is regenerating nicely, then through an area of older trees subject to falling in high winds, coming out of the trees on the edge of a marsh. It follows the edge of the marsh north then turns west to cross the marsh and climb a hill.

From the top of the hill you have a nice view of the surrounding area, particularly the Backcountry ski trail and the hill we call Thunder Mountain. The trail heads north along the ridge then drops steeply (east or left) down to Riverside, crossing it and joining [Snow Vista](#) at the lunch spot beyond the large marsh with sticks for trail markers. This statement makes sense if you read about [Snow Vista](#).

This trail provides access to the north end of [Snow Goose](#) and [Snow Lynx](#).

The name is a parody of the song “There’s no business/Like show business.”

Snowy Cabin (Trail 9)

This trail leaves [Snow Vista](#) just behind the main cabin and heads north (to the left) through open woods, crossing the Jackrabbit (watch for skiers from the left) and Log Cabin (watch for skiers in either direction) ski trails and then continuing through open woods to meet [Snowy Owl](#). Much of this area was logged in the spring of 2004 to deal with a pine beetle infestation. You can still see some beetle-infested trees along this trail. Some of those trees have tape wrapped around their trunks; others have little spots of sap which came out when the beetles drilled into the trees.

If you just want a short trip, follow [Snowy Owl](#) left from the junction and [Snowy Hilton](#) (another left turn) back to the main ski cabin. This short loop is designed for people who want a short trip, as part of a trip with small children, or as a first try at snowshoeing. It also provides an alternative access to [Snowy Owl](#), instead of using [Snowy Hilton](#).

Rather than taking this short loop, most people will continue north on the [Snowy Cabin](#) trail, leading, not surprisingly, to a cabin, the log cabin on the Log Cabin ski trail.

From the junction mentioned above, the trail continues through the woods between the Log Cabin and Black Beauty ski trails, crossing Hawk Hill (skiers on the left), coming out on Log Cabin across the road from the log cabin. Watch out for skiers from both directions on the Log Cabin trail!

The distance is approximately 3 km.

Snow Goose (Trail 13)

This trail, new in 2006/07, runs from [Snow Business](#) to [Snowbound](#).

The trail begins (from either end) going through the trees and then crosses an open area in the middle. This open area is shared with a ski trail connecting Riverside and Backcountry, and a beaver whose lodge is easily seen.

Snowy Hemlock (Trail 6)

This trail joins the north end of the [Snowy Hilton](#) trail to the [Snow Vista](#) trail system, and also provides access to the [Snowy Summit](#) trail.

It begins at the Nordic Hilton, with tapes leading off to the northeast. It follows a road over the ridge and then strikes off (right) into the woods. Look for the red trail tape. About halfway to the next ski trail crossing, the [Snowy Summit](#) trail breaks off to the left. The junction is signed.

The trail continues through a nice mix of open areas and woods. It crosses the Lower Meadow ski trail (watch for skiers coming from uphill), follows the old Hemlock Glide ski trail (look for the historic ski sign), and crosses Beaver Run. Immediately after crossing Beaver Run, you intersect the [Snow Vista](#) trail. To the left [Snow Vista](#) leads you to the Meadow Cabin (two kilometres) and to the right are two choices, the rest of [Snow Vista](#) (going off to the left) and [Snowy Way](#) (going straight ahead).

The name is based on the presence of Western Hemlock trees, a very unusual species here. Look for the trees (there are only a few) to the right of the snowshoe trail immediately after you cross to the east side of the Lower Meadow ski trail.

Snowy Hilton (Trail 1)

The Nordic Hilton is a plastic-roofed, log-raftered, rock- and plywood-floored A-frame, on a ridge overlooking Long Meadow Lake. The Snowy Hilton trail goes from the main parking lot to the Nordic Hilton, beginning between the interpretive signs. Generally it is well-broken, often with two or more parallel tracks, for at least a while. At 1.1 km, it crosses the Sawmill ski trail (watch for skiers on the left), then crosses the ski trail connection between Log Cabin and Sawmill ski trails (skiers usually come from the right), then crosses the Lookout Trail (most skiers come up Lookout but some ski down. Watch for them.)

It reaches a high point at about 2.5 km then drops down a long hill, culminating in a left turn that climbs again. The snowshoe trail heads along a ridge to a signed junction with [Snowy Log](#) trail.

The Snowy Hilton trail drops down off the ridge (to the left), wanders through a flattish area, climbs a hill, passes an intersection (on the right) with the other end of [Snowy Log](#), and then climbs a final hill to the Nordic Hilton itself (about kilometre 5). Expect to take about one hour and 45 minutes to reach the Hilton, assuming the trail is broken.

There is a small woodstove in the Hilton, along with an axe and a supply of wood. Don't make too large a fire; it will get too warm inside the Hilton. If you make a fire, please make sure there is kindling left for the next visitors. On sunny days, you probably won't need a fire at all.

Snowy Leon (Trail 11)

See what happens when you lay out a new trail and don't come up with a catchy name for it? Leon Blumer laid out this trail in the fall of 2006 and we named it after him!

It begins from the marsh just below the high point on [Snow Business](#) and continues north across the Fletcher Challenge ski trail (watch for skiers in both directions) and then heads northwest towards the [Snow Vista](#) trail, joining it just after the abandoned trapper's cabin and just before the Meadow cabin.

This is an interesting trail but gets little use. Once we skied to [Snow Business](#) and then carried our skis until we reached the Upper Meadow ski trail.

Snowy Log (Trail 4)

This trail provides an alternate route to (or from) the [Snowy Hilton](#) (and other trails). It begins at about 4 km on the [Snowy Hilton](#) trail and passes behind the new Log Cabin. This trail is about 1-2 km (30-40 minutes) longer than the direct route to the Hilton. Many people use it as part of a loop to and from the Hilton. The total loop distance is about 12 kilometres.

Partway along [Snowy Log](#), there is a junction with [Snowy Way](#), a short trail leading over to [Snow Vista](#).

Snow Lynx (Trail 17)

This trail connects [Snow View](#) and [Snow Business](#). It's a short trail but scenic. It doesn't get a lot of use, but should.

There are many lynx in the area, although you will most likely see only their tracks. One year, we saw a lynx and three kittens in the area.

Snow Memorial (Trail 18)

This trail begins at the small parking lot on Highway 33, just past the turnoff to Big White, on the right before the highway turns left and begins to climb to the Rock Creek Summit.

The beginning of the trail is marked. It climbs steeply, working its way to an old logging road. Turn left on the logging road and follow it to a marked intersection. A viewpoint is off to the left. The main trail continues to the right, climbing until it reaches another logging road. Snow Memorial continues to the right, [Snow View](#) goes to the left.

Snow Memorial follows the logging road to the right down to the Kallis Creek Forest Service Road. The trail heads right into the trees before the logging road just before the Kallis Creek FSR. It meanders through the trees, eventually rejoining a portion of Snow Memorial you have already hiked, the road above the steep climb off the highway.

The trail is named after club members Ineke and Scott Elliot (club president in 1977-9), who died in September 2007 when they were caught in an African bush fire. Hugh Carmichael suggested the name.

Snowy Owl (Trail 5)

This trail is a connection between the [Snowy Hilton](#) and [Snow Vista](#) trails. It begins about 300 m along the [Snowy Hilton](#) trail and leads off to the right.

Snowy Owl crosses more ski trails than any other snowshoe trail. It crosses Sawmill, then Log Cabin, then Black Beauty, then Cat's Disaster, then Black Beauty again, then Doe Run, then touches Doe Run, then crosses Log Cabin again, and Doe Run again, before going over a marsh, a low ridge, and a second marsh before climbing a hill (Vista Ridge) to join [Snow Vista](#).

This trail is better done in a clockwise direction. Including [Snow Vista](#), the trail is about 4 km long, and will take a couple of hours.

At the base of the Vista Ridge, the trail crosses a creek. Beavers are in the area, so they have a pond; you'll see their lodge (or is it lodges?). Keep close to the dam when you cross the pond, particularly if the ice looks uncertain.

Snowy P.M. (Trail 12)

Leon Blumer was busy in the fall of 2006 and laid out this trail as well.

It begins where [Snowy Leon](#) crosses the Fletcher Challenge ski trail (watch for skiers in both directions) and then heads northeast paralleling the Fletcher Challenge. Its eventual goal is the summit of the Panorama ski trail, but ends for now just beyond the corner of Backcountry and Fletcher Challenge. [Snowy Valentine](#) joins this trail just before the Fletcher Challenge-Backcountry junction.

This is another trail that gets little use and is perhaps best approached using skis.

Snowy Summit (Trail 3)

This trail, new in the Fall of 2003 and extended in the Fall of 2006, leads you to the summit of a hill north of the Nordic Hilton and then down to the Meadow cabin. The trail follows through woods, both open and closed, eventually hitting a system of old roads. It follows the roads to the base of the hill and then works its way up. The trail tape here is a suggestion of a route only. The tapes go straight uphill. You probably don't want to do that on your snowshoes.

If the summit is windy (and it usually is), there is shelter in the trees. You can see the Nordic Hilton from the summit of this hill if you know where to look. Working a little to the east on the summit and looking down, you can see the Meadow cabin. Return the way you came or follow the trail tapes north off the summit down to the Meadow cabin.

The trail has been used infrequently because it is a long ways from the main parking lot. One way to do this trail is to ski from the main parking lot, carrying your snowshoes and boots, to the intersection of the Lower Meadow ski trail with the [Snowy Hemlock](#) snowshoe trail. You can continue a little further along Lower Meadow to where a second old road joins Lower Meadow. Snowy Summit uses this road.

However you get to it, follow the [Snowy Hemlock](#) trail west to the junction with [Snowy Summit](#). If you go to the summit and then the Meadow Cabin, you may be tempted to walk back to your skis along the ski trail. Please walk off to the side of the ski trail, keeping outside the tracks, preferably completely off the ski trail. An alternative is to walk back along the [Snow Vista](#) trail to [Snowy Hemlock](#). You'll have a short distance off the side of the ski trails to get back to your skis.

Snowy Valentine (Trail 14)

This name was first used for a trail laid out on St. Valentine's Day 2004. That trail has since been renamed. The name Snowy Valentine has been reused (we had a bunch of signs made up!) for a trail in the northeast corner of the area. It joins [Snowy P.M.](#) and [Snow Vista](#). Leon Blumer laid it out in the fall of 2006.

Like the other trails in the northern part of the area, this trail is not used often and is best approached via skis.

Snow View (Trail 15)

Snow View is a trail leaving from [Snowbound](#) and heading to the top of Thunder Mountain.

It's a great view, which is more easily accessed via [Snow Memorial](#). This trail is not often used on its own; a favourite trip is to combine it with [Snow Memorial](#) and a car swap.

Snow Vista (Trail 2)

This trail is a long route from the main parking lot to the Meadow cabin. It has several side trails to the west ([Snowy Hemlock](#), [Snowy Owl](#), and [Snowy Way](#)) and to the east ([Snowbound](#) and [Snow Business](#)).

Snow Vista begins behind the main ski cabin as the trail to the toboggan slope. Turn right at the [Snowy Cabin](#) junction and carefully cross the Jackrabbit ski trail (watch for skiers on the left); snowshoe to the top of the toboggan hill, and then go down the hill on a trail on the left (as facing down) side of the toboggan run. Cross the flats, and then cross Jackrabbit again (watching for skiers on the right.) Go down the hill and through the willows, until you find the first major intersection. The [Snowbound](#) trail takes off here to the right, and Snow Vista continues straight ahead, aiming for the hill in front to you.

Continue north, crossing the Alta Vista ski trail, and work your way up the ridge to the next major intersection. This four-way intersection has [Snowbound](#) coming in from the east (the right) and [Snowy Owl](#) coming from the west (on the left). On a clear day you should be able to see Big White to the east, and Little White to the west. If you look back to the west, over the area you have just covered, you may be able to see the toboggan slope. It takes about one hour or so to get here.

Continue north, joining a road looping to the left. To your right the road becomes the south end of the [Snow Business](#) trail. Following the road to the left, eventually you'll cross the Connector ski trail, joining That Dam trail to Riverside.

After crossing the Connector, you walk through a logged area which is growing back nicely. Then you come to a large marshy area. This area is subject to wind so the trail is often hard to find. However, there are usually several sticks, decorated with red tape, jammed into the snow marking the route; if you can't see the sticks, head north across the marsh.

There is a sheltered area in the trees at the north end of the marsh. It has frequently been used for lunch. The north end of [Snow Business](#) branches off to the right just after this spot.

Continue north, through a logged-over area and along a logging road. Watch for deadfall all through here. You will cross Riverside ski trail; watch for skiers coming from the right. Then a short loop through an open area leads you to the crossing of the Lower Meadow trail. Watch for skiers from either direction. If you want a break, there is a bench here.

Walk up the old road going uphill. There is a lot of deadfall here; much of which has been left in place because there are ways around it. Eventually you leave the road and strike off to the left through the woods. Watch for this junction as the road continues ahead. The trail drops steeply over a rock face into a meadow. The meadow is triangular, with trails on each side. Snow Vista follows the northeast side of the meadow, eventually intersecting with [Snowy Hemlock](#). If you follow the south side of the meadow, you meet [Snowy Way](#) going back to the Log cabin. The trail along the west side of the meadow is a convenience for people using [Snowy Hemlock](#) and the [Snowy Way](#).

From the junction with the [Snowy Hemlock](#) trail, Snow Vista continues north about two kilometres to the Meadow cabin. Expect to break trail on this section of the trail. The trail passes an old, collapsed, cabin which is probably covered in snow. There is a sign telling you where it is, however. Just before the cabin, you cross a pond. Keep close to the dam, the right as you head north, if there is an question about the ice.

Soon thereafter, the trail crosses the Inner Meadow (Kallis Creek) trail, and climbs over a final ridge to the Meadow cabin. The Meadow cabin is a solid structure, with a woodstove and an outhouse, and is used by many skiers. It takes about four hours to get to this cabin, depending on snow conditions.

Snowy Way (Trail 10)

This short trail branches off [Snowy Log](#), crosses the Lower Meadow ski trail, walks along a disused ski trail, crosses Beaver Run and enters the woods, meeting the [Snow Vista](#) trail.

Other planned trails

Snow Bunny, Snowflake, Snowy Solitude, Snowy Waste, and Snow Good (as in "That trail's no good!") have been suggested as names for future trails.

Some combinations

Here is a list of the common trips (in order by estimated time, round-trip). Breaks for lunch are not included. Of course, the time you will take will vary depending on your experience, level of fitness, amount of trail-breaking, and weather. You can combine the trails in other combinations, too.

These trips are loops, beginning and ending at the main parking lot, with no shelters or cabins along the way.

- Short loop trip. Out via [Snow Vista](#) and [Snowy Cabin](#), back via [Snowy Owl](#), [Snowy Hilton](#) - 1.5 - 2 hours
- Longer loop. Out via [Snowy Hilton](#) and [Snowy Owl](#), back via [Snow Vista](#) - 2 - 2.5 hours
- Longest loop. Out via [Snow Vista](#) and [Snow Business](#), back via [Snow Vista](#) - 4.5 - 5 hours

These trails also loop back to the main parking lot, but they have shelters or cabins along the way, usually suitable for a break at lunchtime.

- Destination - Log Cabin. Out via [Snowy Hilton](#) and [Snowy Log](#), back via [Snowy Cabin](#) or [Snow Beauty](#) - 3 - 4 hours
- Destination - Log Cabin. Out via [Snowy Hilton](#) and [Snowy Log](#), back via [Snowy Cabin](#), [Snowy Owl](#), and [Snowy Hilton](#) - 3 - 4 hours
- Destination - Lean-to. Out via [Snow Vista](#) and [Snowbound](#), back via [Snowbound](#) and [Snow Vista](#) (a big loop).
- Destination - Nordic Hilton shelter. Out via [Snowy Hilton](#), back the same way - 3.5 - 4 hours.
- Destination - Nordic Hilton shelter. Out via [Snowy Hilton](#), back via [Snowy Log](#) - 4 - 4.5 hours.
- Destination - Nordic Hilton shelter. Out via [Snowy Hilton](#), back via [Snowy Log](#) and [Snow Vista](#) - 4.5 - 5 hours
- Destination - Meadow Cabin. Out and back via [Snow Vista](#) - 6 - 7 hours

The trails listed below are best done by skiing to the start point with your snowshoes tied on your pack, leaving the skis off the trail, and then skiing a loop back to the skis.

- Ski Lower Meadow, then [Snowy Summit](#) to Meadow Cabin
- Ski Riverside, then [Snow Business](#), [Snowy Leon](#), and [Snow Vista](#)

- Ski Riverside, then [Snow Business](#), [Snowy Leon](#), [Snowy P.M.](#), [Snowy Valentine](#), and [Snow Vista](#).
- Ski Riverside, then [Snowbound](#), [Snow View](#), [Snow Business](#), and [Snow Goose](#)

Reminder

Please do not walk on the ski trails. In many places snowshoe trails cross ski trails. Lift your snowshoes over the tracks so that you do not damage them.

Additional information

Please contact Rick at 250 763 0124.