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Elections: Because *The Mountaineer* went to press two days before votes were to be counted, the results of the club's board of trustees election could not be printed. Please refer to the club's website, mountaineers.org, for the tallies. They will be printed in the December *Mountaineer*.

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- M3 More history on 'Freedom of the Hills'**
- M5 Scenes from a work party**
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- M8 Branches & Limbs**

Destinations Your pull-out guide to lodges



The Mountaineer

www.mountaineers.org

The Sno-Park story Mountaineers are vested in park usage and origins

By Ken Guza

When you ski or snowshoe on a trail associated with one of about 50 Sno-Parks in Washington, do you ever wonder about the how this trail system started and how it keeps going from year to year?

Since 1978, I've been a member of the Olympia Branch of The Mountaineers and have used the Sno-Parks regularly. I hadn't really thought about how the Sno-Park system worked until a year ago when I was appointed to the Winter Recreation Advisory Committee for the State Parks and Recreation Commission. This agency oversees the funding and policies that govern the Sno-Park system.

Being on the Advisory Committee has been both an education and an opportunity to provide public service. I want to take this opportunity to provide The Mountaineer community with the ABC's of

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Jo Backus photo

Those who use winter trails have Mountaineers, led by Ruth Itmer, to thank. They brought the idea to lawmakers in 1975.

The long arms of HCPs stretch to our trails