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 Sno-Parks.

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