

Yurt for Meissner Sno-park

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The Tumalo Langlauf nordic ski club is working to raise between \$12,000 and \$15,000 for a yurt to put up at the Virginia Meissner Sno-park — and if it can collect the money soon, the structure could be in place this year.

“Last year was a watershed year in terms of the community seeing what Meissner could really be,” said Dale Navish, Tumalo Langlauf board president. “More people are wanting to use it for different events, besides just families.”

And while people had previously talked about putting in a lodge at the popular ski area, that can get expensive, he said — so the group, with an OK from the Forest Service, opted for a less pricey option.

“We were thinking, wouldn’t it be nice to have something right there at the trailhead,” Navish said. The yurt, which would probably be about 30 feet across, would be a place for people to sit, warm up and possibly buy hot chocolate or some food — a “nice community place for people to gather,” he said.

The yurt could cost up to \$15,000, he said. However, the club has already received about \$6,000 from family and friends of Jane Tormey, who donated money to name the shelter as a memorial to her. And Navish is working on finding a source for the rest of the money — if it comes through, the group hopes to set up the yurt this winter, he said.

“With this sort of thing, the sooner the better,” Navish said.

Volunteers are working at Meissner this weekend to prepare for the upcoming ski season, he said. Some are building a fence along the edge of the sno-park to help direct people to the main entrance, while others are building a new woodshed for the Meissner Shelter built last year.

Last winter saw several new changes at the sno-park, including an expansion of the parking lot and about six miles of trails, he said.

The Tumalo Langlauf Club provides a service for the public at Meissner, said Shane Jeffries, Bend-Fort Rock district ranger.

“It’s invaluable. They provide all the grooming up there for us. They oversee all the maintenance,” he said.

Plans for the sno-park include expanding the parking even more, he said, and the Forest Service is still considering that option.

The agency is also working on finalizing plans for a new sno-park at the intersection of the Cascade Lakes Highway and the cutoff road to Sunriver, he said. A draft decision for that proposed Kapka Sno-park, which would include parking and trail connectors for snowmobilers and skiers, should be released this fall.

On the Web

To help out or to join the Tumalo Langlauf Club, visit the club’s website at www.tumalolanglauf.com.



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