



## Ski to Sea back after two years

After a two-year hiatus, original multisport relay race Ski to Sea is back this year. The seven-sport event is scheduled for May 29 and, as of mid-March, 248 teams were signed up. The maximum is 500.

Ski to Sea, a multisport team relay from Mt. Baker Ski Area to Bellingham Bay, was first run in 1973. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the race was canceled in 2020 and 2021. Race fees for last year, which totaled \$65,000, were deferred to this year's event.

Nonprofit promoter Whatcom Events also started a GoFundMe campaign with a goal of \$10,000 with the announcement to cancel the event for a second year.

"This decision was not made lightly," the announcement said. "It is based upon a host of considerations, including the inability to stage a race that would allow all of us to experience the personal comradery that is at the core of the event. The importance of this factor was highlighted by the results of our survey, which included an answer from more than half of the 263 respondents that they were unlikely or very unlikely to form a team under the current circumstances."

The board said a bad turnout could threaten the nonprofit's financial ability to run the race.

Teams consist of three to eight racers competing in seven different events: Cross Country Ski, Downhill Ski/Snowboard, Run, Road Bike, Canoe (2 paddlers), Cyclocross and Sea Kayak. Racers are allowed to participate in up to three legs on race day, for one team or multiple.

For more information and to register or volunteer, visit [skitosea.com](http://skitosea.com).



## Galbraith parking lot closed for construction

The Galbraith south side parking lot, which officially closed March 1, will be closed for six to eight weeks as crews finish the final phase of construction on the project, according to Whatcom Mountain Bike Coalition (WMBC).

WMBC encouraged mountain bikers to avoid overcrowding neighborhoods on the north and south side with parked cars. The organization also asked people to ride from home and explore other spots like Stewart and Chuckanut mountains on its Instagram.

The new \$425,000 parking lot will provide safer access to the south entrance of Galbraith Mountain and the Lake Padden trails for bikers and hikers. On any given weekend, cars and trucks overflow the current small parking lot off of South Samish Way. Most end up parking on the side of the roadway, putting them in danger of passing traffic.

With 140 spots, the new lot will offer four times the parking space. It will also have longer stalls to accommodate for longer vehicles and bike racks, two vault toilets, and a kiosk with maps and information.

Also as part of the project plans, Whatcom County will be installing a high-visibility crossing on Samish Way from the new parking lot to Galbraith Lane. This will connect the Lake Padden trails with Galbraith Mountain.

The Lake Padden connector trail will also be closed during construction.

For more information and trail statuses, visit [wmbcmtnb.org](http://wmbcmtnb.org).

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