

WSSA - The Voice of Snowmobiling in Washington









Welcome to 2015! Here's hoping for lots of snow from here on out!

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The riders of the Pacific Northwest Vintage Snowmobile Club aren't afraid to get out and enjoy their old iron. Photos from a ride last season at Blewett Pass.



INSIDE

Orr Creek Sno-Park Upgrade Winter Rendezvous Info WSSA Trail Grant Successes! State Parks Update WSSA Scholarship Info







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- President -

Dean Meakin

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My hope is that by the time you get this Snoflyer, you are up to your shoulders in SNOW. As for right now, we are being promised that we will see a dusting for Christmas. So far, the frost on my deck is all I have. We do not need a repeat of the 2013-2014 season. Snowmobilers: no matter what happens, please register your sleds as the funds are for the 2015-2016 grooming season. Remember, we are in it for the long haul. Thanks in advance for supporting this sport.

To the Washington State Parks Commission, thank you for the opportunity to be part of your retreat on Mt. Spokane. It was an honor and pleasure to enjoy the great outdoors together with all of you. Thank you to Pamela McConkey for including WSSA in your plans. We are ready to go again! Four inches of snow made it tough to really show how addictive and exciting snowmobiling in Washington is. Thank you to Empire Cycle and Powersports for providing the snowmobiles and manpower needed for this event. Go Arctic Cat!

The subject of 'fat tire bikes' and sharing the snowmobile groomed trails are currently under discussion. I want to hear from all the WSSA membership concerning this subject. WSSA makes decisions based on input from everyone. That means you need to communicate your thoughts to us. Please contact your District Rep and let them know where you stand. WSSA will then make recommendations based on your input and to include Washington State Parks. If you can't contact your District Rep for any reason, then please let me know and I will make sure your input is shared with the WSSA Board.

This is a final reminder for you to consider participating in 'All Trails to Olympia Day' on January 27th, 2015. Please contact Dee Alred and let her know you are going to join in the visiting and educating of your legislators. It would be great if we had constituents from every District in Washington. Let's get the rest of our monies due us back; 2029 is too long to wait for it. Also the 'Big Tent Coalition' rally on February 24th is another opportunity to speak to others at the Capitol.

Last call for Rendezvous 2015 at Priest Lake, ID.
Please get signed up as it is going to be a great one!
In closing, new snowmobile sales are on a slow in-

In closing, new snowmobile sales are on a slow increase in the USA, and that is a great thing! Please support those businesses that support us.



– Vice President

Sandy Sternod

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Wow, it's that time of the year again! Time to reflect and remember all of the wonderful experiences and people in our lives, and to look ahead to 2015! Each year seems to be busier than the last. Since time seems to fly by so quickly, there's no better time than the present to take a deep breath, relax and enjoy being with our families and friends. Now that Christmas and New Year's Day are behind us, there is much more time to focus on where the snow is to go riding on – like maybe somewhere in Washington.

The New Year definitely brings thoughts of reflection. We have so much to be thankful for and I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to each one of you who are part of our organization for all of your support year after year. It is a pleasure and a blessing to work with, and know so many wonderful people. For this, and for so many other times, we miss the chance to say, "thank you!" I also want to take a moment to recognize a few WSSA members that are struggling with health issues; Terry and Eunice Tanner, Dora Wolfe, and Mary and Bill Van Amburg. I hope each of you are feeling better and know

that the entire WSSA organization is hopeful that your health improves and 2015 will bring continued improvement.

I also hope in 2015 each of you will enter the year with an optimistic outlook and achievable goals in mind. May the joys of this season be with you and yours throughout the beginning of this New Year, and may all YOUR DREAMS come true in 2015 – like maybe some snow to ride on and play in. As I write this article it is 10 days before Christmas and my brand new sled still wants to know when we are going riding.

Okay, one more time, the January's meeting will be in Naches at the Forest Service offices. If you come early on Friday or stay until Sunday, you will have an opportunity to ride in the Ahtanum area. If you have not been before there is excellent trail riding in addition to back country riding. This is one of my personal favorite places to ride. Have you ever ridden your sled in the 'Super Bowl'? You can visit the association website for further details about the meeting place and time at www.wssa.us.

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District Reports



District 2 North By Bob Henrie bob.henrie@wssa.us (509) 826-2652

Mother Nature seems to be playing with us again this year! We received some great early snow in North Central Washington, then warm temperatures and rain took most of it away. As I sit here in the middle of December, we are praying for one more good snowfall so that we can start grooming in the Okanogan. I'm sure by the time this goes to print, winter will be in full gear!

Santa Claus was escorted into Conconully on December 13th by members of the Butte Busters Snowmobile Club. Instead of snowmobiles, the parade consisted of ATVs, side by sides, pickups and a fire truck. Neither rain nor lack of snow can keep Santa from his appointed rounds! The Town of Conconully, along with Santa, had refreshments and gifts for all the little ones who showed up. And, as usual, the bon-fire was spectacular; I'm sure it was still burning the next day!

I hope all of you had a great Christmas, and a happy New Year! I'm wishing for lots of snow so I have a chance to meet all of you on the trails! Hoping 2015 is a great year!



District 2 South By Matt Kensrud matt.kensrud@wssa.us (509) 433-2100

Being new still to the position of District 2 South Rep, this is only my second report; I am still learning the ropes and am continuing to make my first contact with some of the clubs and dealers in the District.

As for the snow report... we don't have any in mid-December, but we're all praying for a deep-pow day soon. Local clubs are busy getting ready for winter, should it arrive soon.

The Bavarian Boondockers Snowmobile Club presented the 3rd annual SnowFest in November. With one nice blast of snow followed by bluebird skies, SnowFest 2014 went off without a hitch. As club Vice President, I'd like to thank everyone who attended the event, vendors and stendees alike. Special thanks are extended to WSSA for attending SnowFest this year as well, and we hope to see the WSSA booth again next year.

My next report will include information on how the season is developing for the local sled dealers in the District, local club activities and a positive snow report.



District 3By Greg Figg
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Well, we received a teaser of snow in November around the Spokane area but then it warmed up to 60 degrees and we now have no snow again. With Christmas growing closer as I write this article, I am hoping it cools off and we get some snow in the mountains. The only good thing about this late snow is that it will allow us to stretch out our grooming dollars that may have run short this year. I plan to visit the clubs in my area after the first of the year when we might actually get to go snowmobiling. As the District 3 Representative I hope you all had a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.



District 4 NorthBy Craig Miller
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Hello everyone! As I write this we still have no snow. In fact I was out for a walk with my two dogs yesterday and I saw a girl walking in her tank top. Is this really mid-December? It was 60 degrees! My ame is Craig Miller, and I am the newly-appointed WSSA 4 North District Rep. I took over this position from Jerri McDonough who had to leave a little early. I want to thank Jerri for all her great service to

WSSA, District 4 North, as well as the greater snowmobile community. Jerri was a wonderful District Rep. and was very attentive to all the clubs in the district. She also gladly took on all the other assignments the WSSA leadership asked of her. Further, she is very active in the Sno-Jammers club activities. Thank you Jerri for your service to WSSA and all you have done for our sport!

Jerri's term will expire in February. It is a two-year commitment. I have decided to run for this position. I await WSSA President Meakin's return from his vacation so I can meet with him and plan to move forward with the election process. I am a member of the Junco Snowmobile Club. I live in Lakewood. I have been active in the sport for four years and I have been the WSSA Chair of Charity and Volunteer service for one year. Look for an election update in the February Snoflyer. I hope you will consider voting for me when the time comes. Let's hope for some big snow dumps soon!



District 4 South By Mike Ainslie mike.ainslie@wssa.us (509) 430-1494

Well, greetings to all! Let's start off by saying I hope everyone had a great Christmas and a very happy New Year. And that you all received something you can use snowmobiling for many years to come!

Well, it's mid-December as I write this article and we have no snow to speak of over here on my side at all, which is very, very disappointing for this time of year. I did attend a winter partnership meeting in December with the Forest Service, the local snowmobile clubs, and Skamania County Public Works. We had a long chat about keeping Curly Creek Rd. open so we can cut our drive down to get to Lone Butte Sno-Park. I would like to give a special thanks to Clay, the superintendent of the Skamania County Road crew. He is a snowmobiler himself and with his help they will be doing their best to keep the road open for us. Please feel free to contact me if and when you head up that way; I will be getting daily reports from the road crew as to whether or not Curly Creek Road has been plowed and if and when it is open.

Once again State Parks is saying sled registrations are very low as of right now. So please, let's all do our part and register our snowmobiles... we need this money for our grooming of the trails, plowing the sno-parks, and providing sanitation services for the next season.

Well, let's all keep thinking SNOW! And hopefully it will come soon. Thanks, and I hope you have a great time when you do get out on the snow.



District 5 South By Paul Younie paul.younie@wssa.us (509) 952-9478

Well, in Central Washington we have had a lot of meetings, but not a lot of snow. Just a wee small bit of fluff in our mountains so far.

I had the opportunity to work at the WSSA Expo in Puyallup and also at the Spokane Snow Show. Met a lot of people who told a lot of good stories.

Pay attention to any news coming in about the Canada lynx, the wolverine, or the Forest Service Winter Travel Management Plan. All of these issues demand our attention.

Soon, the snow will come. This lull gives us time to prepare our sleds, trailers, backpacks, and snow gear. Be prepared. No

The Yakima Ski-Benders just had their annual Crab Feed Fundraiser on Dec. 13th. They sold out at 350 and went to 357. Looks like they need a bigger place! Thanks to all the hard workers. We had new members helping cleanup and boy were they

a hoot! My wife, and Liz, Melissa, Nancy and Rudy, all go crazy getting all of the plans a rolling. It is a lot of work. We want to thank the dealers and racers for showing off some of the snowmobile products. Thanks to all of the businesses whom contributed prizes to our raffle. Thanks to all of the Ski-Benders for preparing a truly great meal and evening.



District 6
By Gary Simmons
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I missed the WSSA Club President's meeting in November. Grant Hudson, President of the Blue Mountain Snowmobile Club, went in my place. I think he picked up some ideas he can use in the local club. The Mt. Misery Snow Drifters out of Pomeroy are busy getting ready for their 'Bucket Run' on January 24th. This is a well-attended event with over 100 snowmobiles participating. That's about all that's going on with the clubs so far this year.

We are still waiting for snow... Until next month...

WSSA MEETINGS AND IMPORTANT EVENTS 2015

All Trails to Olympia Day

January 27th, 2014 DoubleTree by Hilton, 415 Capitol Way N., Olympia

Meet at 8am. Further details in this Snoflyer!

WSSA Winter Rendezvous at Priest Lake

February 13th-16th, 2015 Hill's Resort at Priest Lake, Idaho

Big Tent Outdoor Coalition Rally in Olympia

February 24th-16th, 2015

9am inside the Capitol Building. Join us for a chance to talk to legislators and others about snowmobiling in Washington State

WSSA Budget Meeting

March 7th, 2015 9am at the Last Resort in Ronald/Roslyn Join us and find out where your money goes!

International Snowmobile Congress, Niagara Falls, New York

June 10th-14th, 2015

Meet snowmobilers from around the world and learn what happens at the national and international level!

Details and registration information at www.isc2015.com

WSSA Summer Meeting & Campout

August, 2015

Blu-Shastin RV Park on north side of Blewett Pass

Join us for a weekend of fun! Chilli and dogs on Friday night around the fire. Breakfast, followed by an informative meeting on Saturday. Legal Action fundraising fun and potluck dinner on Saturday night, along with another campfire. Breakfast again on Sunday before saying our goodbyes!

Visit www.wssa.us or check your latest Snoflyer for updates on these upcoming events.



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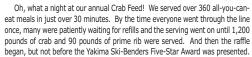


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Club News

Yakima Ski-Benders

By Rudy Classen, President



This year the recipient was Liz Van Amburg who richly deserved our highest award for all the energy she brings to our club. She has also been instrumental in organizing our participation in the annual Chinook Fest Music Festival. Last year Liz also almost single handedly organized the 'Little Ladies Ride' with Brandy Floyd. That event turned out to be a full weekend of riding, camping, eating and enjoying each other's company, plus a number of little girls learned how to ride from one of our best, Brandy Floyd. Snow permitting, we hope to do it again this season on the weekend of March 14th-15th.



The Ski-Benders Crab Feed fundraiser was a sold-out success with approximately 360



Wow, does this look good or what?! Not a fan of crab? The ve was prime rib!

I never cease to be amazed at how so many club members work so long and hard to make our events successful. This year was no different. Almost two dozen were at the Pomona Gun Club hall at 9am to decorate and most of them were still there at 11:30pm cleaning up. During that time everyone was served a great meal and thousands of dollars' worth of donated items were raffled off. Proceeds of which make it possible for us to support some worthy causes such as the Yakima County Search and Rescue, Nile Valley Fire Department, March of Dimes, Make-A-Wish and American Cancer Society. It is hard

to believe next year our Crab Feed could be better, but the American spirit dictates that we are going to try.

With our Crab feed behind us, we are not so patiently waiting for snow. Several early birds have already been up but the rides were short and this past week what snow was there has turned to ice. The weather forecast doesn't offer much hope at least until the middle of January. However, we are now busy planning our annual SnoFest which is going to be held on Sunday, February 8th.

For a schedule of events, join us on Facebook at Yakima SkiBenders, or check out our website at www.yakimaskibenders.net; you will be glad you did.

My wife and I, along with a number of others from the Yakima area, are also looking forward to the WSSA Winter Rendezvous which will be held at Hill's Resort, northeast of Spokane. Hill's Resort is a great place along the western shore of Priest Lake. The rides should be spectacular and the company will be great, so if you can, join us.

Don't forget to make plans to join WSSA for the annual 'All Trails to Olympia' day during which every single state representative and senator is contacted and presented with a list of concerns for snowmobilers. I strongly believe several years ago when recreational funds were swept from other accounts, our grooming money was left alone because of this annual effort by WSSA. Olympia is a long way from Spokane, but Olympia is not far from the west side of the Cascades. If you are retired, join us, if you are working that day, take the day off and join us. This day is big in keeping our access.

It is getting down to the end of the season so GO SEAHAWKS!

Bonaparte Snowmobile/ATV Club

By Bridgette Sterling, PR/Marketing

HAPPY 2015! Hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a very

Happy New Year! As I write this article, we are still snowless. We had a foot of snow fall the week of Thanksgiving and then... the Pineapple express blessed us with flooding rains and hurricane force winds. The snow melted quickly leaving us with YUCK everywhere. We are all anxiously awaiting round two of the

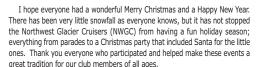
winter blast here. Sleds are licensed and fueled, now all we need is the blanket

Our club is still planning on holding the annual Ice Drag Races at Bonaparte Lake on Saturday, February 7th. Hopefully Mother Nature will cooperate. As of now the lake is not frozen but there is still plenty of time. Registration will be at Bonaparte Lake Resort from 7:30am - 9:30am with youth races 12 and under starting at 10am. Other race divisions are as follows: 600 stock, 700 stock, 800 stock, 800 improved, 800 modified, 900 stock, 900 improved, and open. For any information, please call Mike Sterling at (509) 486-2277 or bigrockranch@wildblue.net. You can also follow updates on our Facebook at Bonaparte Snowmobile/ATV Club.

As always - THINK SNOW!

Northwest Glacier Cruisers

By Julie Street Doran







Apparently NWGC members were not so naughty this past year as Santa visited their Christmas party.

We have lots of events still planned for this sledding season and are just waiting for the snow to fall! Everyone is welcome to come join! We will be having Avalanche Training on January 24th at Ploeg's Place, 9am, on Mount Baker. This is very importance for everyone to practice, no matter your level of experience. It is a great refresher course to keep you up to date with the latest gear and to be ready for anything!

A day to really look forward to is on January 25th. NWGC will be hosting its annual Play Day; sure hope to see you on the mountain!

February 7th or 8th is the Club Ride and Camp Out with the Whatcom County Snowmobile Association.

Lots of great events to look forward to and we will keep everyone posted with the latest information.

NWGC is still raffling a first prize BCA Avalanche Package and the second prize is a gift certificate for a Sled Wrap from Arctic FX! The winner of the raffle items will be announced at the March 2015 Shootout weekend. Mike Duffy, Avalanche 1; Andy Wenburg; BCA, and Stephanie Santeford for the Avy Package and Bryan Flinker from Arctic FX - thank you so much for your help with these items.

NWGC's meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month at Coconut Kenny's at 7pm. Located at 1060 South Burlington Blvd. in Burlington. Everyone is welcome! You can also find out more information about all upcoming events by finding us on Twitter at @NWGCSledders and also on Facebook at Northwest Glacier Cruisers. E-mail us at northwestglaciercruisers@gmail.com for any information.

Look forward to seeing you on the mountain!

Methow Valley Snowmobile Association



By Chelsea Miller

We have started our weekly club rides and have been enjoying each other's company. There is nothing like being out in the sunshine all day during the winter. The weather warmed up for a few days and



The Methow Valley Snowmobile Association continued their annual tradition of serving up

it rained - but we think we have developed a good base for the rest of the season! So now we want more snow!

On Christmas Day we hosted a free Christmas dinner for the Methow Community. This is an annual event we continue to enjoy coordinating every year. This year we extended the hours due to an anticipated higher volume of attendees due to the fires last summer. This is a benefit our club members look forward

a free Christmas dinner to those who needed

to each year, taking time from their families, and giving back during the holiday season. Remembering the true spirit of the holidays.

On January 31st we will co-host the annual Benefit Ride, to support local snowmobilers in need. This ride leaves from the Loup Loup. North Summit Sno-Park and goes to Conconully where we eat lunch together. This event is co-hosted with the Butte Busters Snowmobile Club

Come join us at our President's Day Weekend Bucket Run. Sunday, February 15th - mark your calendars. It is an all-day event with cash prizes for the top hands and raffle prizes donated by our community. A great event for the whole family! Entry fee includes lunch and a collectible souvenir button. We hope to see you there! Arrive early to meet some of our club members. Learn more on our blogsite: http://mvsnowmobile.blogspot.com.

Like us on Facebook to stay up-to-date on current snow conditions, activities, club ride information, and etc.

Tri-River Snowmobile Club

By Kurt Hensley, President

Greetings from the Tri-River Snowmobile Club! We are doing a huge snow dance as there is not enough snow to snowmobile in mid-December.

We are planning our Chili Feed on the 10th of January at the Black Canyon Shelter.

Come join us snowmobiling! For riding info, call me at (509) 689-2843.

Hoping you all had a great holiday season and look forward to seeing you in New Year! Think snow!

Cascade Drift Skippers

By Pete Beaupain, Secretary

A few of our more intrepid riders have already been out to try the snow. They have ridden Greenwater, Gold Creek, Stevens Pass, Gallagher and British Columbia. All of this was done in the period from the week before Thanksgiving to the week after. Since then, the snow has been pretty much washed away. In the cases when they were able to get well above 4,000 feet, they were able to find three-plus feet of snow. Below that, it was strictly road riding, and kind of sketchy at that. As for myself, I haven't been on a sled yet, but on December 4th while on the way to Cle Elum, I took a side trip to Crystal Springs, then very

Continued page 8

Club News

easily drove my tow car on packed snow to the summit of Stampede Pass... which tells us there wasn't much snow in that area.

On an entirely different note, there is a fascinating process happening in our club's most frequent riding area (I-90 to Blewett Pass). You may have heard that the State of Washington recently purchased 50,000 acres of forest land that is a few miles north of Cle Elum, about midway between Easton (on I-90) and Mineral Springs (on US 97). The area has been named the Teanaway Community Forest. Washington's Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) will jointly administer the Forest. To help with this task, a 20-member advisory committee has been appointed. The committee members include farmers, state scientists, local government officials, all manner of recreationists and more: essentially all owners and users of the Forest area. The State's primary goal for the Forest is to preserve and enhance the year-round water flow from the Forest into the Yakima River. Land uses such as farming, livestock grazing and recreation will be optimized for the maximum benefit of the community that is consistent with the primary goal of watershed protection. Winter recreation is not considered to be a significant threat to the watershed, and all existing snowmobile use will be allowed to continue. Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) recreation, however, is viewed differently. As we all know is true (unfortunately), some ORV recreationists have abused the land, and there are people both in the community and on the advisory committee who would like to see ORV recreation banned in the Forest. The committee as a whole has decided to take a less-severe, but still cautious, approach. The committee is recommending to DNR and WDFW (remember, the committee is advisory, not rule-making) that ORV access be allowed to three U.S. Forest Service trailheads located within the Forest, but to gather information before allowing other ORV usage. DNR and WDFW have a data-gathering process that can be used to gather and analyze usage information. The process of gathering and analyzing the data is expected to take about two years. This analysis will be used to make later decisions about which farming, livestock, recreation and other uses can be allowed while still meeting the primary goal of watershed protection. I have attended some advisory committee meetings, and I believe they are a very even-handed and clearthinking group who will give really reasonable recommendations to DNR/WDFW.

Pacific Northwest Vintage Snowmobile Club



Where's the snow! According to tonight's forecast it is coming this week. This is the fourth week I was lead to believe that. It is not easy waiting for the season to start, especially if you are a vintage snowmobile guy with fourteen sleds.

PNWVSC



Whether old or new, our machines need maintenance and tweaking to keep them in

I thought I had six vintage sleds ready to go, only to realize there are only three ready for the trails. Having to wait for snow gives me more time to get more of them ready. One of our members, Stephen Phillips, our webmaster, wrote this little biography of what a 'Vintage Snowmobile Guy' goes through this time of year. Kind of gives you an idea why we love these old sleds, and put so much of ourselves into them.

"Outside my drafty workshop a chilly wind blasts across the Skagit Valley. It's a typical early December day: overcast, windy, and damp. At this dark hour I reckon many snowmobilers are snug in their homes watching TV and possibly warming up next to a crackling fire. This intrepid vintage snowmobile

enthusiast however has other endeavors for the evening. It's time for a preseason ritual as old as the snowmobile itself: maintenance! Though despised by many as a necessary evil or even ignored entirely, I actually enjoy this time of grease, oil, and adjustment. It provides an intimate knowledge of the machine and all its moving parts, as well as confidence that these parts will continue to do their job. Skids get pulled, slides checked, shafts greased, ski alignment tweaked, track tension set, carbs adjusted, etc. For me the time flies by and the job is suddenly done. My old steeds are now ready for a winter's worth of adventure.

"Curiously, the need for this ritual is one of the few aspects of snowmobiling that hasn't changed drastically with the march of time and the technological advancements that come with it. Slides still wear, lubrication still dries out, and water always ends up where it should not be. The necessary intervals are longer now for sure, but that doesn't preclude the need for maintenance entirely. So while you're waiting for some snow this year, thumb through that dusty owner's manual and give your sled a thorough checkup."

Keep up the snow dancing; it works.

Junco Snowmobile Club

By Craig Miller, Vice President

Hi fellow snowmobilers! Not much snow so far so Junco, with the help of the Forest Service and our plow operator, decided to re-gravel the main parking lot at the Orr Creek Sno-Park. We put in over 150 hours with 10 club personnel and several people organized by Gary Kittlemen, our plow contractor. The Forest Service allowed us to access one of their gravel pits so enough rock material could be hauled to do the job properly. Please see the article and photos in this issue of Snoflyer.

While we were working on the parking area, several club members did some needed repair work on the warming hut. A new chimney stack was installed, and the wood stove was cleaned and painted. A few roof repairs were made and broken light fixtures replaced. A new entry door snow grate was installed and secured. Member Jimmy Bower used his small track hoe to do some dirt work near the front of the hut, relocate the outdoor fire pit, and dig out an old stump that was a tripping hazard. Special thanks to all the people who volunteered their equipment and turned out to make this work possible.

Over the weekend of January 16th, 17th and 18th at the Orr Creek Sno-Park, Junco will hold their annual Charity on the Snow event to raise money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Over the previous several years we have raised in excess of \$65,000 in donations to help Make-A-Wish grant the dream wishes of seriously ill children. We will have a fun weekend with guided rides, games for the kids, our Saturday night party, charity auction and pottuck dinner, and Sunday morning Pancake Breakfast. There is a huge RV parking area. Please join us at the foot of beautiful Mt. Adams to help raise money for this great cause, to score some great deals at the auction, eat great food, and hang out with some really fun snowmobilers. Please bring an auction item or two to donate, a dish to share on Saturday night, chairs to sit in and the beverage of your choice. Pray for SNOW!

Spokane Winter Knights *By Greg Figg, President*



Even though we do not have any snow at this time the Winter Knights have been busy with winter activities. We just had our annual Christmas Party the other night and we had a good showing with about 100 members and guests in attendance. One of the highlights of the evening was the 'snowman contest'. This consisted of having one person from each table being dressed by the other table members as a snowman.

While we are waiting for the snow to fall we are planning the rides for the WSSA Winter Rendezvous this year. We are putting together a good selection of trail and off-trail rides. Plus the Winter Knights will host a free lunch at the Ritz Warming Hut on Rendezvous Saturday for all that show up. Hope to see all of you at the Rendezvous.

Sky Riders Snowmobile Club





It came and went all too soon... for a few short days, it looked as if the snow may come early this year. And then, the following week, record high temperatures and back to mud.

The Sky Riders have been keeping plenty busy over the last month, logging over 250 volunteer hours in just a few weeks. Along with brushing trails, we were asked by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to help



A Sawzall and members of the Sky Riders club are all that were needed to help DNR remove an abandoned camper.



Many saws make for quick work! Jason Rothermel, Dave Chambers and Richard Ro getting it done!

with a special 'camper clean-up' off of Taneum Road. What better way to spend a snowy Saturday morning than in the woods, Sawzall in hand, cutting up an abandoned camper?! It was a fun way to log some hours and get to know a couple of our local DNR officers a little better.

Sky Riders have also been keeping tabs on the status of the Teanaway Community Forest. It looks like we've made a little headway in having motorized recreation at least considered in the recreational plan study. We need to keep showing up and voicing our passion for snowmobiling and all motorized recreation. The other user groups are not going to keep quiet we need to have our voices heard as well. Like so many other areas, if we don't keep fighting for this now, we will likely lose it. Please take the time to fill out the surveys, go to the meetings and do what you can to help.

I hope everybody had a wonderful Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year! Happy trails!



WSSA - The Voice of Snowmobiling in Washington

Junco Snowmobile Club works to improve the Orr Creek Sno-Park.

By Craig Miller, District 4 N Rep.

After several years, our main parking area at the Orr Creek Sno-Park was beginning to fail. It was getting very soft and muddy with even light-duty truck traffic. Club members Jim Martinek and Jimmy Bower, in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service and the Orr Creek snowplow contractor Gary Kittleman, formulated and executed a plan to re-surface the parking lot.

Several years ago the Junco Snowmobile Club decided to develop their dream of having their own sno-park near the foot of Mt Adams in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. They did the leg work to get permission from the government by writing proposals and grant requests. The approval was granted and the Orr Creek Sno-Park was born. The members and volunteers donated time and heavy equipment to clear the rocks and stumps, put in access roads and make the necessary improvements. It took some time but it began to take shape. A composting toilet was constructed. The grading and surfacing of the parking area was completed. Lastly, a beautiful warming hut was built to Forest Service specification using heavy timber construction. A huge, specially constructed wood burning stove was installed and a concrete floor was added. It has taken literally hundreds of volunteer hours but the result is one of the finest sno-parks I have ever seen.

After several seasons the main parking lot needed attention. The Forest Service gave us a grant of \$1,200 for fuel and donated some 100 yards of crushed rock ballast. Our plow contractor, Gary Kittleman who has an earth moving company, donated his time, personnel and heavy equipment to get the job done. Junco also donated club funds to help cover expenses. Likewise, several members and friends turned out to help on the parking lot and warming hut repairs. The crushed rock was hauled from a state-owned pit some 30 miles distant. Some members helped haul rock in five-yard dump trailers with their personal pickups. Member Jimmy Bower donated his small track hoe and did a lot of site improvement work. The gravel was dumped, spread and compacted by a massive rolling machine. The lot looks beautiful and is very firm.

For some odd reason, we always have people shooting up the hut. This hunting season some fool shot what seemed to be 20 or more holes through the metal roof and shot out a couple of light fixtures. This vandalism has been a yearly event. We sealed the holes in the roof... again, replaced the broken light fixtures, replaced the stolen entry door snow grate, and put up a new stove pipe and top cap. I'm not sure how to prevent this senseless damage but thanks to the club, the hut is good as new.



Rock was hauled 30 miles with some using their personal trucks to tow five-yard dump trailers.



A small track hoe was used to do a lot of site improvement work thanks to Jimmy Bower



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All Trails to Olympia Day

Join us and talk to your legislators about snowmobiling!

Information provided by Dee Alred, All Trails Coordinator



Here is a rundown on how the event

We are meeting at the DoubleTree by Hilton, 415 Capitol Way N., Olympia, WA 98501. Phone number is (360) 570-0555; fax is (360) 570-1200.

Meet in the hotel's Phoenix Room for orientation at 8am.

On the table there will be maps of the Capitol campus, Dash schedules (Dash is the free shuttle bus to the campus), our 'issues' sheets, Snoflyers, and a "How to talk with your legislators" tip sheet.

Please read the "How to talk with your

legislators"; this will help you in starting a conversation with them.

Please read and understand our 'issues' statement. If you have any questions concerning the issues, please ask. This is the reason we are here! (After talking with your legislators, please leave a copy of our 'issue' statement and a Snoflyer.)

All attendees will have appointment cards already made out ahead of time. There will be 3x5 cards made out with the times of your appointments. This year those cards will have GREEN highlights. The legislative district numbers are on these cards. (If your district number is not on a card, please do not take it. It is meant for someone else.)

If this is your first time to Olympia, please let me know so that I can arrange for someone to go with you to your appointments.

The cards that have a YELLOW highlight on them are 'drop-in' cards. These are the legislators that we do not have appointments with. I would ask that all attendees that have a few spare moments take a yellow highlighted card and stop in to those offices to deliver our 'issues' sheet and answer any questions the aides may have.

Our goal is to deliver our 'issues' sheets to every single legislator's office in Olympia. If, at the end of the day, all the 3x5 cards are gone, then we will have delivered our 'issues' sheets to all 149 offices!

Lunch will be from 12:00pm until 2:00pm. If you get back late, we will still feed you! Please let us know how things go as we will always strive to do better!

Note: All Trails to Olympia Day attendees are asked to contact Dee at your earliest convenience so she can schedule appointments with your legislators. E-mail me at delia.alred@wssa.us or call (509) 965-8305.



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Motor Toys (Cle Elum)

(509) 674-6807

www.motortoysofcleelum.com

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www.lakechelanonline.com/rentals.html

Silver Ridge Ranch

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Webb Powersports

(Ellensburg) (509) 933-1737 www.webbpowersports.com

List compiled by Florence Mohler, WSSA Tourism Chair. Please call (800) 784-WSSA (9772) with tourism questions or updates to this listing.

ote: WSSA does not endorse any business listed. WSSA provides this list only as a courtesy. Please report any errors in listing to Florence Mohler at (800) 784-9772.k





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rofessional rider on a closed course, Polaris recommends that all snowmobile riders take a training course. Do not attempt maneuvers beyond your capability. Always wear a helm and other safety apparel. Never drink and ride. (\$2014 Polaris industries inc.



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snowmobile association
Registration Form
Last Name First Spouse Children Names/Ages
Mailing Address: City State Zip Phone # () E-Mail?
Friday Night Mexican Specialty Buffet Adults (ages 13 & up) @ \$35/ea. Children (5-12) @ \$10/ea. 4 & under free.
(Cheese enchilades, tortillas, sliced chicken, beef, baked potatoes, black beans, sautéed peppers, & toppings) # Adults x \$35 = \$ + # Children x \$10 = Sub Total \$
Saturday Night Dinner Buffet Adults (ages 13 & up) @ \$35/ea. Children (5-12) @ \$10/ea. 4 & under free.
(Baron of beef, chicken & chanterelle mushroom fettuccini, au gratin potatoes, broccoli, baked beans, & salads) # Adults x \$35 = \$ + # Children x \$10 = Sub Total \$
Friday & Saturday TOTAL AMOUNT \$
Make check payable to WSSA and mail w/ this form to: Wayne Smith OR Register & Pay by Credit Card On Line @
Chattaroy, WA 99003 http://www.wssa.us/
Questions? call (509) 690-7059

Rendezvous Update:

Information provided by Greg Figg

The Winter Knights are hard at work planning some great rides for the greater Priest Lake area for the 2015 Winter Rendezvous this year! If you plan on participating in the 'more aggressive' off-trail rides, be sure to bring your beacon, probe, and shovel. It's always best to be prepared just in case! The less aggressive off-trail/trail rides are shaping up too. The club will be hosting a free hamburger and hotdog lunch on Saturday at The Ritz warming hut for all WSSA riders.

Remember that Idaho registrations are available at Hill's Resort as well as many other businesses in Priest Lake.

Here is a list of some other accommodations in the Priest Lake area, if you choose not to stay at Hills Resort.

> Inn at Priest Lake (208) 443-2447 www.innatpriestlake.com 5310 Dickensheet Rd. Coolin, Idaho 83821

Coolin Motel (208) 443-2712 www.coolinmotel.com 266 Cavanaugh Bay Rd. Coolin, ID 83821 coolinmotel@gmail.com

Cavanaugh Bay (208) 443-2095 www.cavbay.com 4024 Cavanaugh Bay Rd. Coolin, Idaho 83821

Elkin's Resort (208) 443-2432 www.elkinsresort.com 404 Elkins Rd. Nordman, ID 83848

Grandview Resort (208) 443-2433 www.grandviewpl.com 3492 Reeder Bay Rd. Nordman, ID 83848

Priest Lake Lodge (208) 443-2538 www.nordman-idaho.com 36442 Highway 57 Nordman, ID 83848

WSSA Legal Action Fund Raffle

For a new Triton XTD11-101 2-Place **Aluminum Trailer!**

Did Santa bring you a new trailer as you had hoped? No? You still have a chance to win one while supporting the WSSA Legal Action Fund. Join us at an upcoming meeting or event for a chance to buy your tickets! Only \$5 each! Drawing to be held February 14th, 2015, during Winter Rendezvous. Need not be present to win.

WSSA extends special thanks to Kent Lisko of Kastle West Distributing

for his continued support of our Legal Action Fund.

WSSA WINTER RENDEZVOUS AGENDA THURSDAY, February 12th

2:00 pm to 6:00 pm

FRIDAY, February 13th 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

8:30 am to 4:00 pm 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm

6:00 pm

6:00 pm to 7:00 pm 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

8:00 pm to Midnight 10:00pm

SATURDAY, February 14th 8:30 am to 4:00 pm

2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

5:00 pm to 6:00pm

7:00 pm to 10:30 pm

10:30 pm to 11:00 pm

SUNDAY, February 15th 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

2:00 pm to 4:00 pm 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

MONDAY, February 16th

Early check-in, Welcome packet, Sign up sheet for Friday

guided rides. Info available for local attractions

Check-in. Welcome packet for new arrivals, Sign up sheet for Saturday guided rides.

Guided rides. Open time for non-riders.

Hospitality hour. No host bar. Submit snowmobiling pictures for photo contest of action, worst stuck/other mishaps,

scenery and family shots Welcome by Hill's Resort

Dinner...Mexican Specialty Buffet.

Speaker, U. S. Border Patrol. WSSA General Meeting. Treasurer's report, Minutes of last meeting, Old/New business,

Entertainment: Bingo.

First Annual Polar Bear Plunge led by WSSA President.

Guided rides. Lunch hosted by Winter Knights at Baldies Pelke Warming Hut, "the Ritz". Open time for non-riders. Submit snowmobiling pictures for photo contest of action worst stuck/other mishaps, scenery and family shots. Sign up sheet for Sunday guided ride. No host bar. Silent Auction opens. Pictures for photo contest

displayed; voting begins. Triton trailer \$5 raffle tickets on sale supporting Legal Action Fund.

WSSA General Meeting. Election of Officers. Photo contest voting ends; votes tabulated.

Dinner Buffet, Silent Auction closes, Guest speaker, awards, Triton Trailer raffle, short live auction, contest winners

Pay for; pick up Auction items.

Guided ride to Coolin. Observe vintage snowmobile races (optional). Continue to Cavanaugh Bay. ate lunch/dinner at Cavanaugh Bay. Return ride to Hill's Resort

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Black Pine Shelter Upgrades - WSSA Trail Grant Success Story!

Methow Valley Snowmobile Association, Winthrop

By Chris Holm

Snowmobiling is winter sports enthusiasts' number one sport across the Nation. Men, women, children of all ages and abilities love to rev up their engines and take off into the mountains, riding in all sorts of snow conditions. Local and state organizations continually stress the importance of safety, as accidents can 'ruin your whole day' for lots of people. One of the hazards of riding in the mountains is the availability of shelter, specifically a warm shelter, when needed.



Methow Valley snowmobilers pulled together and upgraded the Black Pine shelter with a new concrete floor, new stove, and fresh paint. Way to go!

The Methow Valley has such a shelter at Black Pine Basin, a shelter we built in conjunction with the Forest Service in the late 1990's. The guest sign-in book at the shelter demonstrates how appreciative its guests are many times during the season. Thus, improvements were badly needed. A grant from WSSA provided some funds toward getting that done. As the picture shows it took the combined cooperation of snowmobilers and local businesses, who donated both materials and personnel, to accomplish the task.

A new concrete floor was poured, a new stove was installed and the outside of the building was repainted. Using the volunteer labor of a dozen members it was completed in just a couple of days and is now ready to provide warmth and shelter for many winters to come. Riders leaving from a variety of sno-parks can now know that there is relief when needed. The Methow Valley Snowmobile Association wishes to extend our gratitude to WSSA, Cascade Concrete, and Brandenburg Construction of Winthop, and to all snowmobilers who chipped in to work. It demonstrates what can be accomplished when cooperation is the impetus.



WSSA Trail Grant in the Okanogan

By Tom Windsor, President, Association of Okanogan County Snowmobile Clubs

Okanogan County has 400 miles of groomed snowmobile trails and at least that number of un-groomed roads and trails. The central part of the county has about 200 miles of these roads and trails. The Association of Okanogan County Snowmobile Clubs (AOCSC), with the assistance of a WSSA Trail Grant, has been able to make minor repairs on our groomed snowmobile trail signs and get them all installed at strategic trail intersections on the groomed trail routes in the central county area. Additionally, we were able to maintain and post the sno-park bulletin boards of all the sno-parks in the central county trail system.



Tom Windsor working on the Peacock Meadow Sno-Park billboard.



Bill Johnson removing downed trees on groomed trail route.

All groomed roads in the central county area were logged out by AOCSC volunteers in preparation for grooming operations. The trail grant will also assist the AOCSC in maintaining the snowmobile warming shelter located at Hunter Meadow on Washington State Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) land in the Loomis Forest of Northern and Central Okanogan County. This warming shelter was remodeled two years ago by AOCSC volunteers with money from a WSSA trail Grant, monetary donations from AOCSC volunteers, and lumber and other materials provided by WDNR.





THANK YOU!

I would like to thank the following businesses, organizations and snowmobile clubs for donating items at the WSSA Snow Show in Puyallup for the Legal Action Fund Silent Auction to be held at our Winter Rendezvous in February. - Ron Alred, Auction Chairman

- 2 Cool Air Vents
- 509 Films
- **American Council of**
- Snowmobile Associations Amsoil Lubricants (Larry Fandrich)
- **Bavarian Boondockers**
- Snowmobile Club
- **Between The Lines Design LLC**
- **Bob Feil Boats & Motors Blown Motor**
- **BlueRibbon Coalition**
- **Caliber Products**
- **Cascade Chamber of Commerce**
- Cascade Playtime Rentals
- Clutched
- **Dan Gardiner Films**
- **Full Throttle Inc. FXR**
- Gizmo Enterprises **Guides Choice**
- **HID Source** Holeshot Inc.
- I-90 Motorsports
- Island Park Cabins & Lodges
- **Larson Powersports**

- **Luft Trailer Sales**
- **Mountain Addiction**
- **Mountain Fit Hoods**
- Norracks Off-Road Vixens
- **Premier Polaris**
- Pro Caliber Longview Rescue Tape NW
- Ride Now Power Sports Ride Rasmussen Style
- Safety ShirtZ
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- Portland
- Simply Fleeced
- Sno-Dirt Products/Over the Top Spokane Winter Knights
- **Starting Line Products**
- Stylit LLC
- Sure Load LLC Thrive Life w/Amenities
- Thunderstruck Films
- **True Adventure Gear** Van Amburg Enterprises
- Watts Up Toyz/Stateline Polaris
- **Xtreme Motorworks** Yellowstone Tour & Travel



State Parks Update

Pamela McConkey & Wayne McLaughlin, Washington State Parks Winter Recreation Program, (360) 902-8684 or winter@parks.wa.gov

Well here we are again, just like last year, we are waiting for the snow to arrive.

But wait! Remember how last year we thought all was lost, that the winter was a bust... but then, WOW, did we get some great snowfall! So, don't be caught unprepared when the snow does arrive.

While waiting on the snow, how about making sure our sleds are all registered and ready to go? When the snow does arrive, the Winter Recreation Program will be using funds that were put into the Snowmobile Account during the 2013/2014 winter season. These funds will be used to plow snoparks, groom trails, provide sanitation, education and enforcement, and administration for the 2014/2015 winter season.

The Snowmobile Program does not operate like many other government programs. The only money spent is the money that is already 'in the bank'. We don't spend money we don't have! Even if the snow doesn't arrive until January or February, it's important to register our sleds.

Watching for snow!

The Winter Recreation Program consults a variety of resources to keep an eye on the weather, snow depths, and avalanche conditions.

Check out this website operated by the National Weather Service. A great resource for finding out about weather alerts and forecasts! www.weather.gov

For longer term weather and climate forecasts, visit this site maintained by the Office of the Washington State Climatologist. www.climate.washington.edu/

Interested in more information about El Nino, La Nina, and Neutral Winters? Check out this website and get into the science involved in predicting how ocean temperatures and currents help determine what kind of winters we might have. www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/precip/CWlink/MJO/enso.shtml

A very useful source for snow depth information is available from the SNOTEL Data Collection Network operated by the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) of the Department of Agriculture. The NRCS maintains dozens of data collection sites in the mountains throughout Washington. Visit www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/snow and check out snow depth data in areas where you snowmobile.

Before you head off to the mountains to ride for the high country, please check out this website operated by the Northwest Avalanche Center to find out more about avalanche hazards in the area you wish to visit. Remember, safe rides begin at home! www.nwac.us

State Parks Commission Tour - Mt. Spokane

As covered in last month's Snoflyer, the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commissioners took a tour at Mt. Spokane on Friday, November 21st, to get an understanding of the variety of winter programs being offered around the state. There was just enough snow on the ground to give the impression of winter, which helped immensely. Unfortunately, there was not enough snow for a quality snowmobile ride. However, this did not prevent a very successful event.

The Parks Commission, along with Executive Staff and volunteers, was split into two groups. One group took a shuttle to visit some warming huts and hear presentations from the Friends of Mt. Spokane. The second group of folks remained at Selkirk Lodge and were able to ride snowmobiles around the parking lot, and ride behind a dog-team on a 'chariot' of sorts. The two groups then switched places so everyone had opportunity to be informed of all the various winter programs at Mt. Spokane State Park and around the state.

As part of this event, the Commissioners and Executive Staff were able to visit the WSSA Safety Trailer, learn about the new warming hut on wheels that is under construction, and tour the Spokane Winter Knights Search and Rescue Trailer and equipment. The Commissioners were very engaged with representatives of each winter sports activity offered in the area.

Many thanks go out to the WSSA members who helped with the tour, the Safety Trailer, and especially to the Spokane Winter Knights who provided some snowmobiles to ride, and the delicious hamburgers, hot dogs, salmon, veggie burgers, and condiments!

Winter Recreation Staff received a letter from the Chair of the State Parks Commission complementing all the volunteers and partners for what the Commission believes was one of the best tours they have received! Thanks to all who participated!

Snowmobile Registrations						
	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	Difference		
July	148	190	166	(24)		
August	300	1,298	1,142	(156)		
September	4,707	4,145	3,546	(599)		
October	3,154	3,093	2,544	(549)		
November	4,225	3,868	2,870	(998)		
December	10,171	5,724				
January	3,743	2,727				
February	1,288	2,864				
March	375	612				
April	85	105	1			
May	23	39				
June	20	24				
Total:	28,239	24,689	10,268	(2,326)		

Registration numbers for the 2014/2015 season are still trailing last season's down year. Less registrations this season ans less money on the snow next seaso

Safety

Safety by Steinman

By Mick Steinman, Safety Chairman mick.steinman@wssa.us (206) 949-7837

The new avalanche awareness video 'Knowledge is Powder' is just out on Vimeo. Check it out. WSSA and other sponsors helped provide funding. https://vimeo.com/113677686.

Last year we had nine avalanche-related deaths in Washington and average 30 deaths in the U.S. every year. Fortunately none of these were local snowmobilers. We average 10 deaths per year as snowmobilers in the U.S. Education is the way to save lives. Using the current local avalanche forecast and carrying the proper avalanche and other safety tools will increase your group's safety.

Avalanche awareness classes take about two to three hours and are just the beginning to avalanche education. Level I classes are three-day classes. Level II classes are an additional four days. For those into true snow science you can get a Level III at five additional days.

The American Alpine Institute is offering two snowmobile-specific AIARE (American Institute for Avalanche Research and Education) Level I courses this winter for \$425. The lecture portion of the course is broken up into two evening sessions and will be held in Leavenworth, and the field days will go to the Mt. Baker National Recreation Area on the south side of Mt. Baker. Instructors and students will be on snowmobiles for the field portions of the course. In addition to the standard avalanche curriculum, students will learn about special circumstances and situations that are unique to snowmobilers.

Session 1:

Lectures - Monday, Jan 26th and Wednesday, Jan 28th, 5:30pm - 9:30pm Field days - Saturday and Sunday, Jan 31st and Feb 1st, all day

Session 2:

Lectures - Monday, Feb 9th and Wednesday, Feb 11th, 5:30pm - 9:30pm Field days - Saturday and Sunday, Feb 14th and Feb 15th, all day

Visit http://www.alpineinstitute.com/catalog/avalanche-training-aiare-1, or call (360) 671-1505 to schedule your class today.

Washington State Snowmobile Association \$1,500 Scholarship

By Kay Lloyd, Scholarship Chair Scholarship

To all members of the Washington State Snowmobile Association:

The deadline for applying for this year's WSSA Scholarship is March 15th, 2015. For a copy of the application, please contact me at ky_lloyd@yahoo.com.

This lucky person needs to be a graduating high school senior or currently enrolled in college or vocational school. This scholarship will be awarded regardless of other grants or scholarships the student may receive. An alternate (2^{nd} in line) will be chosen if the winner decides not to enroll in college.

The winner of this scholarship will automatically be entered into scholarship contests with the Western Chapter of the International Snowmobile Council and the International Snowmobile Media Council with the possibility to win up to an additional \$3,000 in scholarships!

This year's topic is: "You have been asked by your state snowmobile association to meet with your state representative at the state capitol to talk about snowmobiling. You have a 15 minute appointment to emphasize snowmobiling. What three points or issues would you emphasize with them and why did you pick these three?"

Your essay should provide a glimpse at what is compelling to you and your peers and what should be added or changed to make an organization more appealing.

Your essay will be evaluated on the basis of persuasiveness, logic, and composition.

WSSA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership valid until August 31, 2015

Annual Dues (circle one): Individual/Family/Club - \$25 Associate - \$50

Family/Individual (\$25)

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Business Type:		Snowm	obile Dealer? (d	circle one): Yes No
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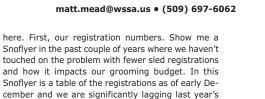
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Matt's Misc.

By Matt Mead • WSSA Publicity Secretary



down year. We have raised our registration fees in an attempt to add additional funding, but it isn't going to make up the difference. Flat out, we need more snowmobile registrations.

Let's look at popularity. Show me a snowmobile manufacturer with significant growth in sled sales in the U.S. (Don't even try, you can't.) Now show me a snowmobile manufacturer with significant growth in ATV/UTV sales. The economy continues to struggle, but there is growth, especially in the side by side market. It makes sense; an ATV/UTV can be used year round while most are only going to get three to four months of use from a snowmobile each year. And some of these folks are buying track kits for their machines and looking for a place to ride. So here is an

Of course there is a downside. Again, we don't have any significant data on trail impact. Cold/hard trails are no problem. There may be a problem with a four-person side by side on tracks on a warm/soft trail as the 'pounds per square inch' of flotation doesn't compare to a lightweight snowmobile. Probably the biggest concern though is one of size, specifically width. Some of these machines are pretty wide stock, never mind when a set of tracks are installed.

opportunity to put more money into our program!

But we have to make a decision about what is more important. Do we find solutions for the potential problems, even if it means making a bigger compromise than we would like, but which allows us to hopefully start growing our snowmobile program again? Or do we say 'NO WAY', and instead continue to watch our numbers dwindle, our clout lessen, and with some really bad luck, eliminate our sport altogether?

Consider one other thing... There are a whole lot of non-motorized extremists who want us gone. We survive because we do have some organizational clout and we are quick to chip in and get projects done for the benefit of a multitude of users. As our numbers deteriorate, so does our ability to do these things. Bottom line is we need more motorized winter recreationists!

As with the bicycles, WSSA doesn't have the power to allow/disallow use. But we do have lobbying ability with State Parks, the Forest Service and in Olympia. You need to let us know what direction you want to go.

Yamaha Motor Corporation launches new E-commerce website. Okay, enough heavy stuff, now onto the fun! Yamaha Parts and Accessories, a division of Yamaha Motors, now offers consumers the ability to purchase Yamaha apparel and accessories at a single online destination. And yes, snowmobile gear is included! Check it out at www.ShopYamaha.com.

Weak Russian ruble and you. Think Russia's teetering economy and weak ruble don't affect you? It does. BRP (Ski-Doo) just cut their full-year earnings forecast due to this very thing. Here's the deal – all of the sled makers have been growing their markets in Russia and Europe while things are stagnant in



Matt Mead



North America. Higher profits mean more development money which brings us great new things each year. The reported 23-percent fall in quarterly profit is no small hit!

Riding Wyoming this year? Be aware their nonresident (and resident) user fee increased from \$25 to \$35 last July. The last fee increase was back in '05. Yup, they too are trying to boost their snowmobile program!

What's a snowmobile in Minnesota? A new law recently took effect in the gopher state outlining the legal definition of a snowmobile. It says "the legal definition of a snowmobile is a self-propelled vehicle originally manufactured and designed for travel on snow or ice steered by skis or runners". Snowmobiles DO NOT include vehicles equipped with aftermarket ski and track configurations such as an ATV, an off-highway motorcycle, an off-road vehicle, a mini truck, a utility task vehicle, vans with tracks and skis and some Bombardiers.

Hmm, not very inclusive. Well, unlike us, they don't appear to have registration/funding problems! The biggest issue I see with the new definition though is the impact on snow-bike conversions (which are allowed here), although it may not be a growing segment in the Midwest.

Portable warming shelters. Trailer-mounted warming shelters were discussed in last month's Snoflyer and since then I've heard of yet another proposal for such a hut. The Chewelah Sno-Posses are looking at the possibility of building and setting a shelter in their area in Northeastern Washington. We'll keep you posted as this project moves forward.

Advertisers and Associates need your support.Don't forget to let our advertisers and Associate member know you appreciate them. Our sport needs them, and they need you.

Publicity Secretary position needs to be filled! It's been a fun and fulfilling position, but after 11 years I need to step back. My term runs for just over another year and I'm committed to that, but it would be great for another snowmobiler to step up and start assuming responsibilities earlier. I'm happy to start working with a new volunteer right now, or anytime leading up to the end of my term. Learn the ropes today and I'll step aside whenever you are ready! If you are interested in serving with WSSA, you won't find a more fun position! (Like I mentioned last month, this is probably the best Board position in WSSA!)

Facebook and Twitter? Facebook 'likes' grew by 80 in the past month and are over 1,450! Nice! We are on Twitter at @wssaus too!

Snoflyer or website comments? Don't hesitate to get in touch if you have a concern or question with the Snoflyer, WSSA website or our Facebook site. You can reach me at snoflyer@wssa.us or (509) 697-6062. Address mail to 440 McKee Rd., Selah, WA 98942.

Fat-tire bikes on sled trails. Okay, let's jump right in with some items that might be a bit controversial... although honestly, I don't think this first one ought to be. First, what's a 'fat-tire bike'? Basically a mountain bike with bigger flotation tires. They excel on surfaces such as sand and snow, terrain not easily conquered by bicycles in the past. Their popularity is growing and they are looking for more snow opportunities.

While this is a non-motorized segment, they aren't fully compatible with cross-country skiers due to the potential of destroying the tracks set by the groomers in many areas. So instead, some are seeking out snowmobile trails. I suppose some snowmobilers will oppose this, but I truly don't see why. Our trails are currently open to skiers, snow-shoers and mushers, so what's the harm in throwing bikes into the midst? Remember, what sets us apart from the extreme non-motorized crowd is our inclusive, multi-use nature.

Snowmobilers should only have two concerns on this issue: 1.) What is the physical impact to our trails? 2.) Are they going to pay to play? In regards to the first one, I'm not aware of any studies being done. But I would question just how much impact a few bikes could really have... when conditions are good (cold, set trails), they would leave no marks; when conditions are bad (warm, sloppy trails), just how far do you think they would ride before calling it a day given the workout they'd have? I think the bigger concern for snowmobilers should be one of funding. Want to use our trails? - Help pay for them! Not sure what the answer is here, but it doesn't seem an insurmountable problem. Given their possible impact at this time, purchase of a motorized sno-park permit might suffice. Maybe in the future, some type of sticker program for their bikes.

Why am I bringing this up now? A member of the Methow Valley Snowmobile Association, a snowmobiler and a 'fat biker', is working to implement a pilot program in the Methow Region to open a couple of snowmobile trails to fat-tired bikes. He's been talking to the local grooming association along with the Forest Service. He recently brought WSSA into the mix because the other parties involved wanted to make sure WSSA was on board and/or not in opposition.

As it turns out, there is currently a fly in the ointment. The Forest Service. The State Parks Winter Recreation Program was ready to move on fat-tire bikes last fall when the Forest Service asked them to wait while they 'studied' the issue. Greeeaaat, now here's a way to slow/stall the project! I honestly don't know what there is to 'study'... If we already allow skiers, snow-shoers and mushers, what is the difference in adding another mixed use?

So, what does WSSA need from you? INPUT! Am I right on this issue? Or am I way off base? It's important for you to provide feedback to WSSA on this fat-tire bike issue. WSSA can't make fat-tire biking allowed or disallowed, but the fat-tire bikers in the Methow are seeking our approval. They know WSSA's input is important to the decision makers at State Parks and with the Forest Service.

Okay, controversy number two! I think WSSA and its members need to start thinking about allowing tracked ATVs/UTVs on our snowmobile trails. Gasp! Did you just read what you thought you just read?! Yup. Hear me out.

Again, we have a couple of major things to look at

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Snowmobile Clubs are the reason we have places to ride! They maintain trails, build sno-parks & provide wood for local warming huts. They are a great place to meet new friends for year round fun. Join a local club today!

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Larson Powersports Northwest	4001 20th St E	Fife	WA	98424		253-344-5930	
Tracy's Quality Painting, Inc.	3008 14th Ave NW	Gig Harbor	WA	98335		253-858-8242	
Alpine Electric LLC	3730 234th Drive NE	Granite Falls	WA	98252		425-346-7327	
I-90 Motorsports	200 NE Gilman Blvd	Issaquah	WA	98027	www.I-90motorsports.com	425-391-4490	
Pierre's Polaris	7504 NE 175th St Ste 8	Kenmore	WA	98028	www.pierrespolaris.com	425-488-8600	
Ridenow Powersports Tri-Cities	3305 W 19th Ave	Kennewick	WA	99338	www.ridenowtricities.com	509-735-1117	
Bob's Lift Trucks & Equipment	426 Naden Ave S	Kent	WA	98032		253-872-0401	
Good Time Motors	7979 S 180th St	Kent	WA	98032		206-909-4997	
Norracks	1612 217th Avenue Ct E	Lake Tapps	WA	98391	www.norracks.com	253-862-6102	
59er Diner	15361 US Highway 2	Leavenworth	WA	98826	www.59erdiner.com	509-763-2267	
Mountain Springs Lodge	19115 Chiwawa Loop Road	Leavenworth	WA	98826	www.mtsprings.com	509-763-2713	
Allsport Polaris/Honda	19505 E Broadway Ave	Liberty Lake	WA	99016	www.allsportracing.com	509-926-5044	
Loon Lake Marina	41080 Marina Rd	Loon Lake	WA	99148		509-233-2303	
Holz Enterprises Inc	6226 Chasteen Rd	Lynden	WA	98264	www.holzracingproducts.com	360-398-7006	
Lynnwood Motoplex	17900 - Highway 99	Lynnwood	WA	98046		425-774-0505	
Mountain View Lodge & Resort	25 Wapato Parkway	Manson	WA	98831		800-967-8105	

Washington State Supporting Business

Smokey Point Cycle Barn	15202 Smokey Point Blvd	Marysville	WA	98271	www.smokeypointcyclebarn.com	360-530-7800
Speedway Marina	15008 Smokey Point Blvd	Marysville	WA	98271		360-658-1288
WHAC Corporation HVAC	PO Box 1401	Marysville	WA	98270		360-653-4262
Graystone Tile	15226 16 th Ave SE	Mill Creek	WA	98013		206-618-6133
Premier Polaris	122 Charles St	Monroe	WA	98272	www.premierpolaris.com	360-794-8669
Levi's Auto Parts	500 E 3rd Ave	Moses Lake	WA	98837		509-765-4567
Moses Lake Collision Repair, Inc.	1006 W Marina Dr	Moses Lake	WA	98837		509-764-8001
Lifestyles Honda Skidoo	3302 Cedardale Rd Ste E100	Mount Vernon	WA	98274	www.lifestyleshonda.com	360-416-3950
Skagit Valley Pawn Co	628 W Division St	Mount Vernon	WA	98273	www.skagitvalleypawn.com	425-422-7792
Gold Creek Station	18431 State Route 410	Naches	WA	98937		509-658-2583
Washington Tractor	PO BOX 1098	Okanogan	WA	98840		877-422-3030
Complete Repair Services	7242 Littlerock Rd. SW	Olympia	WA	98512		360-570-2210
WA State Parks Winter Rec Program	1111 Israel Road SW	Olympia	WA	98504	www.parks.wa.gov	360-902-8595
Koala Street Grill	914 Koala Ave	Omak	WA	98841		509-826-6375
Mac's Tire of Omak	631 Okoma Dr	Omak	WA	98841		509-826-0586
Pateros Lakeshore Inn	PO Box 277	Pateros	WA	98846	www.pateroslakeshoreinn.com	509-923-9555
Blu-Shastin RV Park	3300 US Highway 97	Peshastin	WA	98847	www.blushastin.com	509-548-4184
Northwest Motorsports Inc	400 River Rd	Puyallup	WA	98371		253-256-4600
Chet's Honda/Polaris	17 H Street SW	Quincy	WA	98848	www.chetshonda.com	509-787-3617
Roosterbuilt, LLC.	P.O. Box 166	Ravensdale	WA	98057	www.roosterbuilt.com	425-432-3278
Rainier Welding Inc	19020 NE 84th St	Redmond	WA	98053		425-868-1300
Sundance Landscaping	11609 172nd ave n.e.	Redmond	WA	98052		425-533-6008
First Rate Mortgage	200 Mill Ave S Ste 410	Renton	WA	98057	www.CurtTiedeman.com	425-988-2501
Anderson's Grocery	711 S Clark Ave	Republic	WA	99166		509-775-3378
Watts Up Toyz	541 Meadows Dr S	Richland	WA	99352		509-592-1447
Boulder Creek Ent	14121 Salmon LaSac Rd-Ronald	Roslyn	WA	98941		509-649-2222
The Last Resort	14254 Salmon LaSac Rd-Ronald	Roslyn	WA	98941		509-649-2222
Life Support	808 Lincoln St	S Cle Elum	WA	98943		509-674-2968
Dianes Tank Removal Services LLC	PO Box 77738	Seattle	WA	98177	www.dianestankremoval.com	206-510-9497
J & B Enterprises	12727 Phinney Ave N	Seattle	WA	98133	www.dianestankreinoval.com	206-363-4670
•	520 Pine Ave	Snohomish	WA	98291	www.alv4v4.com	800-752-9979
Olympic 4x4 Supply	13701 24 th St. E Unit A4	Sumner	WA	98390	www.oly4x4.com www.kartoramainc.com	
Kart-O-Rama, Inc. Action Rentals	1419 East 55th St			98404	www.actionrentals.net	253-891-3490
		Tacoma	WA		www.actionrentais.net	253-284-9284
Hank's Harvest Foods	412 E Methow Hiway	Twisp	WA	98856		509-997-7711
Twisp NAPA Auto Parts	214 S Methow Valley Hwy	Twisp	WA	98856	www.napaonline.com	509-997-2461
Independent Trailer & Equip Co	1602 Rudkin Rd	Union Gap	WA	98901	www.itec-inc.com	509-452-3672
Old Town Station Restaurant	2530 Main St	Union Gap	WA	98903		509-453-8485
G & G Automotive Machine	34 S Palouse	Walla Walla	WA	99362		509-525-2890
Jones AG	3090 Rd U SE	Warden	WA	98857		509-855-6492
Button Jewelers	444 N Mission St	Wenatchee	WA	98801	www.buttonjewelers.com	509-663-4654
Wenatchee Power Sports	3031 G.S. Center Road	Wenatchee	WA	98801	www.wenpow.com	509-665-6686
RADCOMP Technologies	136 N Main	White Salmon	WA	98672	www.gorad.com	509-493-2221
Cowlitz Motorsports	PO Box 846	Winlock	WA	98596		360-520-3911
Methow River Lodge and Cabins	110 White Ave	Winthrop	WA	98862	www.methowriverlodge.com	509-996-4348
Winthrop Inn Motel	960 Hwy 20	Winthrop	WA	98856	www.winthropinn.com	509-996-2217
Nob Hill Auto Wrecking	2609 West Birchfield Rd.	Yakima	WA	98901	www.NobHillAutoWrecking.com	509-452-2803
Owen's Yamaha-Suzuki Polaris	1707 N 1st St	Yakima	WA	98901		509-575-1916
Premier Power Sports	1504 Fruitvale Blvd	Yakima	WA	98902	www.premierpowersportswa.com	509-965-9889
Valley Marine Inc	1904 Fruitvale Blvd	Yakima	WA	98902	www.valleymarineboats.com	509-453-6302
VanAmburg Enterprises Inc.	2920 River Rd Ste 1	Yakima	WA	98902	www.vanamburgent.com	509-225-6681
Out of State Survey than Burst						
Out of State Supporting Busin		W		05776		F20 662 0077
Kastle West Dist	55 Matmor Rd	Woodland	CA	95776	www.kastlewest.com	530-662-8879
Cheap Thrills Rentals	303 N Third St	McCall	ID	83638	www.cheapthrillsrentals.com	208-634-7472
Elkins on Priest Lake	404 Elkins Rd	Nordman	ID	83848	www.elkinsresort.com	208-443-2432
Hill's Resort	4777 W Lakeshore Rd	Priest Lake	ID	83856	www.hillsresort.com	208-443-2551
Idaho State Snowmobile Association	10400 W Overland Rd, PMB 384	Boise	ID	83709	www.idahosnow.org	208-305-1453
Pro Caliber Motorsports of Bend	3500 N Highway 97	Bend	OR	97701	www.procaliberbend.com	541-647-5151
SRCC	145 W Dartmouth St	Gladstone	OR	97027	www.srcc.biz	503-310-7729















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