

# ***Snoflyer***

*The official publication of the  
Washington State Snowmobile Association*

*March 2023*

*Volume 45*

***On the downside of the season...  
But it is way too early to put the sleds away!***

***Inside:***

***ACSA Mountain Riding Area Meeting Update  
State Parks Update  
Club News***

Aim your phone  
here, click, and join  
WSSA today!



Cover Pic: Mt. Rainier as viewed from Raven's  
Roost on Chinook Pass. Photo by Ryan Mead.





**COME SLEDDIN' WITH US ...**



*Click here for up-to-date grooming reports!*

Photo Credit - Craig Hill

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**GROOMED TRAIL REPORT**

**UPDATED DAILY**



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## WSSA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership valid until August 31st, 2024

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

### FAMILY/INDIVIDUAL: (\$25)

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Registered Sleds: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Riders: \_\_\_\_\_

Legislative District: \_\_\_\_\_ Congressional District: \_\_\_\_\_

### ASSOCIATE- Business or Dealer (\$50) and Clubs (\$25)

Name of Business or Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Owner/Business Contact or Club Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Snowmobile Dealer? (circle one): Yes No

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Website: \_\_\_\_\_

PAYMENT: Cash: \_\_\_\_\_ Check #: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card (Visa or M/C): \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration: \_\_\_\_\_ V-Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Dues: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Contribution to Legal Action Fund (not tax deductible): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail Application and Payment to: WSSA Membership  
2130 Lower Peoh Point Rd.  
Cle Elum, WA 98922

### Membership questions?

Contact Wayne or Florence at [membership@wssa.us](mailto:membership@wssa.us) or (509) 674-4401

Questions about WSSA? Contact: Dee Alred, President  
9104 Wide Hollow Rd.  
Yakima, WA 98908  
E-mail: [delia.alred@wssa.us](mailto:delia.alred@wssa.us)  
(509) 965-8305

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING YOUR SPORT

## WSSA MEETINGS AND IMPORTANT EVENTS 2022/2023

### WSSA Meeting at the Lake Wenatchee Rec Club March 11th, 2023

Our annual budget meeting. Starts at 9am. A lunch option will be provided. Hoping to schedule rides for Friday and/or Sunday. Help set the financial direction of your state snowmobile association.

### International Snowmobile Congress June 7th-June 10th, 2023

Join us in Moline, IL, and visit friends... or make new friends... from around the country and learn about snowmobiling in other states, provinces and European countries. Visit [www.snowmobilers.org/isc](http://www.snowmobilers.org/isc) for details.

### WSSA Summer Meeting & Campout August 18th-August 20th, 2023

Join us at the Blu-Shastin RV Park in Peshastin for a weekend of fun! Friday night chili feed. Root beer floats and a duck race on Saturday.

### International Snowmobile Congress 2024

Green Bay Wisconsin! Home of the Packers and Lambeau Field! More details posted as they become available.



## Snoflyer Advertising Targets Snowmobilers!

Advertise with us! Rates starting as low as \$25 a month for Dealer/Associate members

Club ads heavily discounted - advertise your events!

E-mail or call for details  
Matt Mead, Publicity Secretary  
(509) 424-1575 or [snoflyer@wssa.us](mailto:snoflyer@wssa.us)

## 2022/23 Season Ad Rates

	Digital	Digital & Print^
Full Page	\$160	\$260
3/4 Page	\$135	\$215
1/2 Page	\$110	\$180
1/4 Page	\$90	\$145
Credit Card*	\$25	\$50

Single issue rates - discounts for multiple issue buys

Club rates: 25% off full & 3/4 page, 50% 1/2 & 1/4 page

\*Available for Clubs & Associate Members only

^Only available for months a print issue is offered



## Leadership

**Delia Alred, President**  
**delia.alred@wssa.us • (509) 965-8305**



Another great Winter Rendezvous has come and gone. At last count we had 88 people signed up for Saturday night! What a great time I had talking with all those people! Some came just because it was a three-day weekend and they could ride all three days. The ride leaders did a fantastic job with their groups and Ron Alred did a great job getting all those people to lead our group. The people in WSSA's District 5 South are very proud of the riding we have in this area! Our grooming is the best in the state and our clubs support them 100%. We went out several times to cut trees out of the way for our groomers and as I write this, we will go out again tomorrow.

The Ski Bender's 'Kids Ride' just wrapped up and it was another awesome event for the club! They reconditioned four sleds to give away to lucky kids. Each year this event just gets bigger and better!

Our next meeting will be on the 11th of March at the Lake Wenatchee Rec. Club. This is our budget meeting. If we finish early, we will all go for a ride, snow permitting. I hope you can join us and learn firsthand just what we do for the snowmobilers in Washington State!

## Washington snowmobiler, Dan Kitts, wins BlueRibbon Coalition Sweepstakes

**Contact: Ben Burr, Executive Director, BlueRibbon Coalition (801) 602-4287**

BlueRibbon Coalition is excited to announce the winner of our Yellowstone Snowmobile Adventure Sweepstakes was Dan Kitts. Dan is a longtime member of the Washington State Snowmobile Association, and BlueRibbon Coalition (BRC) has always appreciated the support it has received from the snowmobile community in Washington. Since Dan is a lifelong snowmobiler who has spent substantial time in Yellowstone already, he chose to redeem the cash prize from the sweepstakes. This means we will be running a follow-up sweepstakes to offer the vacation package to Yellowstone to a second winner. We hope WSSA members will take the opportunity to enter and support our legal fights to keep public land open for snowmobiling across the nation! You can enter by visiting <https://sharetrails.org/sweepstakes>



The Three Bear Lodge in West Yellowstone has generously offered to provide a 5-day, 4 night winter adventure in Yellowstone National Park and/or the surrounding forests (valued at \$2,800). Three Bear Lodge was a valuable partner in the multi-year fight to maintain regulated access for snowmobiles into Yellowstone National Park, and they are committed to keeping public lands open for snowmobile recreation for future generations to enjoy.

Because snowmobile access to the park is highly regulated, one of the best ways to get guaranteed access into the park is through an official concessionaire such as Three Bear Lodge. These tours always sell out, and the small amount of non-commercial passes available to the general public are distributed by a lottery where demand vastly exceeds supply. Even if you don't win the prize, you should put a winter excursion hosted by Three Bears Lodge on your bucket list, because it is one of the best ways to be guaranteed to see the park in winter from a snowmobile.

The prize also includes a travel stipend of \$2,000 to cover the costs of travel to West Yellowstone and any other incidental expenses.

## Join WSSA and help support snowmobiling in Washington State!

### What Does WSSA Do For YOU?

- WSSA's Legal Action Fund defends snowmobiling in Washington against adverse land-use actions.
- WSSA members work on behalf of all Washington State snowmobilers in Olympia's Capitol.
- WSSA District Reps represent snowmobilers' interests with local land officials and in regional trail grooming councils.
- WSSA travels to Washington D.C. to discuss snowmobile related issues with your congressional representatives and national land managers.
- WSSA represents snowmobilers on the national level with a voice in the American Council of snowmobile Associations and the International Snowmobile Council.
- WSSA hosts the annual Snowmobile Expo & Swap Meet in Puyallup – the largest snowmobile event in the Pacific Northwest.
- WSSA's successful Trail Grant program helps fund new sno-parks & warming huts, trail upgrades & facility improvements.
- WSSA's annual Winter Rendezvous offers you the opportunity to ride in different parts of the state with guided rides and evening social gatherings.
- WSSA supports snowmobile and non-snowmobile projects and charities to boost the image of snowmobilers across the state.

# WSSA Awards

## Congratulations to our 2022/2023 WSSA Award Winners!

(Please note this will be updated in next month's Snoflyer with as many pictures of recipients receiving awards as we can gather!)

### **Snowmobiler of the Year**

**Gary Simmons**

Walla Walla

### **Snowmobile Couple of the Year**

**Ed Mola & Lisa Anderson**

Renton

### **Snowmobile Club President of the Year**

**Joshua Simpson, Junco Snowmobile Club**

District 4 North

### **Snowmobile Club of the Year**

**Junco Snowmobile Club**

District 4 North

### **Dealer Member of the Year**

**North Cascade Sled Decks**

Marysville

### **Associate Member of the Year**

**Motortoy Rentals & Tours**

Cle Elum

### **Groomer Business Owner of the Year**

**Travis Martinek, Back Country Plowing & Grooming**

Randle

### **Groomer Operator of the Year**

**Michael 'Travis' Huff, R&R Grooming**

Naches

### **Groomer Coordinator of the Year**

**Don Wagoner, Ahtanum Rep.**

Yakima

### **Dedicated Service Award**

**Matt Mead**

Selah

Congratulations!

Congratulations!



## District Reports



### District 1 North

**By Hans Brubaker**  
hans.brubaker@wssa.us  
(360) 922-8296

Whatcom and Skagit County sno-parks were visited by State Parks Winter Program head Corey Tolar and staff member Travis Travis in early February. These gentlemen kindly took two days out of their busy schedules to meet with club members, Forest Service staff, and visit key sno-parks including Glacier Creek, Canyon Creek, and the Mt. Baker NRA (National Recreation Area). The visit provided the opportunity for the snowmobile clubs to share local issues of concern and look for ways to better work together to serve the snowmobiling public.

The Northwest Glacier Cruiser's hosted the annual Youth Day again on February 11th, at the Mt. Baker NRA Sno-Park. As you will see in the club news photos, the event was well attended, and with so many kids in full rally mode. The parents and adults were all smiles as well. I think it's safe to say this may be the largest kids event on the snow in Northwest Washington outside of commercial ski areas. Having an older 'kid' myself, this event always brings back so many fond memories of involving our youth in our favorite sport. One of my friends commented, "I really needed this day with my kids". We can't thank the Glacier Cruisers, and other clubs with similar events, enough for hosting these gatherings and giving families the opportunity to enjoy time together.

As happens many years, the best snow-falls of the winter have begun and the mountain sleds can finally earn their keep. Safety is number one in these storms and must be practiced with your riding group. I learned one useful fact from our NWAC (Northwest Avalanche Center) forecaster recently. The key difference between 'High' and 'Considerable' forecasts is that with a 'High' rating, avalanches are expected to occur naturally, and with a 'Considerable' rating, they are expected to need a human trigger. The size and potential danger of avalanches with these ratings is the same. This was helpful for me to learn as we have many 'Considerable' days, and now I know they are basically 'High' days if I'm riding terrain.



### District 2 South

**By Matt Kensrud**  
matt.kensrud@wssa.us  
(509) 433-2100

Well there goes round two of winter with a couple of feet forecasted in the Cascades; that is great news! February was extremely busy with club

rides, poker runs, and of course the Washington State Snowmobile Association's Winter Rendezvous ride which I attended. I had a lot of fun seeing everyone and meeting new-to-me riders.

Not much in the way of new business in the district; things seem to be moving right along.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

(Continued on page 7)

# WEST YELLOWSTONE Montana

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## District Reports Continued...



(Continued from page 6)

### District 3

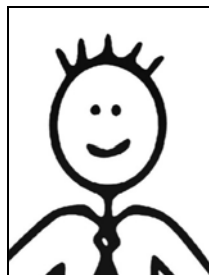
By Greg Figg

greg.figg@wssa.us  
(509) 534-3417

The snow has continued to fall in North-east Washington and our riding season is in high gear. With the recent snow the off-trail conditions continue to improve. While the snowpack is good, some of our groomers have run out of money early this year with the season starting on December 1st.

On a separate note, we are still monitoring the Winter Travel Planning that is underway for the Panhandle National Forest in Washington and Idaho. In fact, we met with the Forest Service to go over some maps and verify the location of our trails. More to follow on this.

Lastly, my District 3 position is up for election this year. The election will be held at the McDonald's located at 6321 N. Monroe at 6pm on March 15th.



### District 5 North

By Jason Holmes  
jason.holmes@wssa.us  
(253) 226-4939

Happy March everyone!

We recently held the annual WSSA Winter Rendezvous in Yakima. Thanks to everyone who put forth the time and energy for this great event. I was impressed to see most of the rides were full and well attended. On Sunday I took the opportunity to ride out of Little Naches for the first time and went over to the Greenwater cabin bright and early in the morning. We passed R&R Grooming in the groomer on the way up and got to the cabin about an hour before they showed up. We got the fire in the stove going and helped set up the chili feed for all the riders who showed up during the day. We had a pretty easy time finding the cabin even in the poor visibility in the meadows that day.

Now for the fun part. In the good old social media world there was some conversation about how the "grooming world is mis-

managed and it should be like Oregon or Idaho or Canada" blah blah blah. My good friend Brian Bilderback felt like he deserved to pay for my bar tab and brought my name into the conversation on social media. Thank you Brian.

First off, it's hard to say a program is being mis-managed when the budget is public information; each year's budget is proposed and voted on by the SMAC (Snowmobile Advisory Committee), which consists of individuals from all outdoor backgrounds volunteering their time. So, if any of the social media financial/budget experts would like to volunteer their time and be able to ascertain the grooming budget is truly being mis-managed, please step forward.

Second, our grooming program is severely UNDER-FUNDED. When you begin to compare retail prices by looking at top-of-the-heap sleds in 2000 to the top guns in the same class in 2023, the picture changes dramatically. For example, the retail price for a top-dog Polaris or Ski-Doo 600-class snowmobile was approximately \$6,599 in 2000. In 2023 one of the most inexpensive entry-level snowmobiles for adults set you back around \$8,000-\$10,000

(Continued on page 10)

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# Supporting Businesses

## Washington State Supporting Businesses (Listed alphabetically by city)

Cycle Barn Smokey Point	PO Box 3338	Arlington	WA	98223	www.cyclebarn.com	360-530-7800
Mt Baker Moto-Sports LLC	2111 Iowa St	Bellingham	WA	98229	www.mtbakermoto.com	360-676-4096
PNW LED	18715 95 <sup>th</sup> St E	Bonney Lake	WA	98391	www.pnwled.com	253-233-7547
Mission Outdoors	PO Box 7350	Bonney Lake	WA	98391	www.missionoutdoors.org	253-831-8309
Evans Marine	1058 E Woodin Ave	Chelan	WA	98816	www.evansmarine.com	509-682-4402
Mountain Addiction	362 Porcupine Ln	Chelan	WA	98816	www.mountainaddiction.com	509-881-8016
High Country Outfitters & Camp Wahoo!	1780 Nelson Siding Rd	Cle Elum	WA	98922	www.campwahoo.com	509-674-8331
<b>Motortoy Rentals Tours Service</b>	<b>1313 Spansky Way</b>	<b>Cle Elum</b>	<b>WA</b>	<b>98922</b>	<b>www.motortoyrentals.com</b>	<b>509-674-6807</b>
Sportland Yamaha Inc	4402 Bullfrog Rd	Cle Elum	WA	98922	www.sportlandyamaha.com	508-649-2259
The Cottage Cafe	911 East First St	Cle Elum	WA	98922	www.cottagecafecelelum.com	509-674-2922
Bennys Colville Inn	915 S Main St	Colville	WA	99114	www.colvilleinn.com	509-684-2517
Colville Motor Sports	165 W Birch Ave	Colville	WA	99114	www.colvillemotorsports.com	509-684-5540
Gibsons North Fork Lodge	100 West Boone	Conconully	WA	98819	www.gibsonsnorthforklodge	509-826-1475
Shady Pines Resort	125 West Fork Rd	Conconully	WA	98819	www.shadypinesresort.com	509-826-2287
<b>Lone Fir Resort &amp; Café</b>	<b>16806 Lewis River Rd</b>	<b>Cougar</b>	<b>WA</b>	<b>98616</b>	<b>www.lonefirresort.com</b>	<b>360-2385210</b>
Cascade Towing and Repair	2560 E Sparks Rd	Easton	WA	98925		509-656-2400
Silver Ridge Ranch & RV Resort	182 Silver Ranch Rd	Easton	WA	98925	www.silverridgeranch.com	509-656-0275
Bob Feil Boats & Motors	2131 Sunset Hwy	E Wenatchee	WA	98802	www.bobfeil.com	509-884-3558
The Fab Shop	10315 16th St E	Edgewood	WA	98372	www.thefabshop.com	253-568-9124
Central Powersports	2310 W Dolarway Rd	Ellensburg	WA	98926	www.centralpowersports.com	509-933-1737
Ellensburg Powersports	309 S Main St	Ellensburg	WA	98926		509-925-9330
Ellensburg Tire Center	400 W University Way	Ellensburg	WA	98926		509-925-1044
Jet Motorsports	1005 S Canyon Rd	Ellensburg	WA	98926	www.jetmotorsportswa.com	253-606-0108
<b>Luft Trailer Sales</b>	<b>907 N Hibbs Rd</b>	<b>Ellensburg</b>	<b>WA</b>	<b>98926</b>	<b>www.lufttrailers.com</b>	<b>509-962-5445</b>
Clem's Enumclaw Powersports	408 Roosevelt Ave	Enumclaw	WA	98022	www.enumclawsuzuki.com	360-825-4502
High Cascades Power Sports Apparel	2001 S 292 <sup>nd</sup> St	Federal Way	WA	98003	www.highcascades.co	253-886-8944
Soundview Consultants LLC	2907 Harborview Dr	Gig Harbor	WA	98335	www.soundviewconsultants.com	253-514-8952
Pacific Logging LLC	9823 163 <sup>rd</sup> Ave NE	Ganite Falls	WA	98252		425-508-9150
I-90 Motorsports	200 NE Gilman Blvd	Issaquah	WA	98027	www.I-90motorsports.com	425-391-4490
Trailside Homes	PO Box 1829	Issaquah	WA	98027	www.trailsidehomes.com	509-674-6828
Pierre's Polaris	7504 NE 175 <sup>th</sup> St Ste 8	Kenmore	WA	98028	www.pierrespolaris.com	425-488-8600
Ridenow Powersports Tri-Cities	3305 W 19 <sup>th</sup> Ave	Kennewick	WA	99338	www.ridenowtricitities.com	509-735-1117
Greg's Motorsports	5817 184 <sup>th</sup> Ave Ct E	Lake Tapps	WA	98391		253-380-0558
59er Diner and Cabins	15361 US Hwy 2	Leavenworth	WA	98826	www.59erdiner.com	509-763-2267
Cascade On Site Rentals	9588 E Leavenworth Rd	Leavenworth	WA	98826		509-423-3828
Dan's Food Market	1329 US Hwy 2	Leavenworth	WA	98826	www.dansfoodmarket.com	509-548-5611
Leavenworth Snowmobile Rentals	15361 US Hwy 2	Leavenworth	WA	98826	www.leavenworthsnowmobilerentals.com	509-763-0333
Mountain Springs Lodge	19115 Chiwawa Loop Rd	Leavenworth	WA	98826	www.mtsprings.com	509-763-2713
Pacific Mountain Services	22745 Brown Rd	Leavenworth	WA	98826		509-670-6665
Loon Lake Marina	41080 Marina Rd	Loon Lake	WA	99148		509-233-2303
<b>Premier Polaris</b>	<b>122 Charles St</b>	<b>Monroe</b>	<b>WA</b>	<b>98272</b>	<b>www.premierpolaris.com</b>	<b>360-794-8669</b>
Levi's Auto Parts	500 E 3 <sup>rd</sup> Ave	Moses Lake	WA	98837		509-765-4567
D and G Marine	15379 SR 536	Mount Vernon	WA	98273	www.dandgmarine.com	360-630-1132
Lifestyles Honda Skidoo	3302 Cedardale Rd Ste E100	Mount Vernon	WA	98274	www.lifestyleshonda.com	360-416-3950
Elk Ridge Campground	13880 SR 410	Naches	WA	98397	www.elkridgecampground.com	509-658-2093
Gold Creek Station	18431 SR 410	Naches	WA	98937		509-658-2583
Xtreme Powersports	1930 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ave N	Okanogan	WA	98840	www.shopxtremepowersports.net	509-826-5771
WA State Parks Winter Rec Program	1111 Israel Rd SW	Olympia	WA	98504	www.state.parks.wa.us	360-902-8595
Blu-Shastin RV Park	3300 US Hwy 97	Peshastin	WA	98847	www.blushastin.com	509-548-4184
Chet's Honda/Polaris	17 H Street SW	Quincy	WA	98848	www.chetshonda.com	509-787-3617
Backcountry Plowing & Grooming	859 Cispus Rd	Randle	WA	98377		253-722-4123

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**Denotes an Associate who offers a WSSA Membership Discount!**



# Supporting Businesses

## Washington State Supporting Businesses (Listed alphabetically by city)

Sundance Landscaping	11609 172nd Ave NE	Redmond	WA	98052		425-533-6008
The Last Resort Operations	14254 Salmon LaSac Rd	Ronald	WA	98940	www.thelastresort.us	509-649-2222
Repin Construction LLC	PO Box 541	Roslyn	WA	98941		509-649-3323
Life Support	808 Lincoln St	S. Cle elum	WA	98922	www.lifesupporti90.org	509-674-2968
Dianes Tank Removal Services LLC	PO Box 77738	Seattle	WA	98177	www.dianestankremoval.com	206-510-9497
High Mark Real Estate Services	2021 NW 58 <sup>th</sup> St	Seattle	WA	98107	www.highmarkhomesales.com	206-861-5525
Kart-O-Rama Inc	13701 24 <sup>th</sup> St E Unit A4	Sumner	WA	98390	www.kartoramainc.com	253-891-3490
Old Cannery Furniture	13608 Old Cannery Way	Sumner	WA	98390	www.oldcanneryfurniture.com	253-863-0422
Hank's Harvest Foods	412 E Methow Hwy	Twisp	WA	98856		509-997-7711
Twisp NAPA Auto Parts	214 S Methow Valley Hwy	Twisp	WA	98856	www.napaonline.com	509-997-2461
Premier Power Sports	2615 Main St	Union Gap	WA	98903	www.premierpowersportswa.com	509-965-9889
Procaliber Motorsports, Inc	PO Box 1679	Vancouver	WA	98668	www.procaliberbend.com	360-256-5000
G & G Automotive Machine	34 S Palouse	Walla Walla	WA	99362		509-525-2890
Wenatchee Power Sports	3031 GS Center Rd	Wenatchee	WA	98801	www.wenpow.com	509-665-6686
Radcomp Technologies	136 N Main St	White Salmon	WA	98672	www.gorad.com	509-493-2221
Three Fingered Jacks	176 Riverside Ave	Winthrop	WA	98862	www.3fingeredjacks.com	509-996-2411
Nob Hill Auto Wrecking	2609 West Birchfield Rd	Yakima	WA	98901	www.nobhillautowrecking.com	509-452-2803
Apple State Power Sports	1707 N 1st St	Yakima	WA	98901	www.applestatepowersports.com	509-575-1916
VanAmburg Enterprises Inc	2920 River Rd Ste 1	Yakima	WA	98902	www.vanamburgent.com	509-225-6681

## Out of State Supporting Businesses (Listed alphabetically by state then city)

Baum Shelter Too	13956 Nisula Rd	McCall	ID	83638	www.baumsheltertoo.com	208-636-4393
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
Mountain Village Resort	Jct Hwy 21 & 75	Stanley	ID	83278	www.mountainvillage.com	800-843-5475
Truck Boss USA	7040 SE 298 <sup>th</sup> Ave	Gresham	OR	97080	www.truckbossdecks.com	503-313-2795
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**DON'T RIDE IMPAIRED SO YOU COME  
HOME SAFE TO YOUR FAMILY.**



Visit [snowmobileinfo.org](http://snowmobileinfo.org) for safe riding information.

# District Reports *Continued...*

(Continued from page 7)

while the costs of the most costly high-performance snowmobiles vary from \$17,000 up to \$23,000! That's almost a 400% increase in 23 years. However, the costs to register your sled and what goes into funding the grooming program have not kept up at the same pace.

It's been said, posted, documented and talked about a million damn times. Our grooming program is funded by sled registrations. For example, my 2018 snowmobile cost \$90-ish dollars to register this year. My sled registration initiated a refund from the State Gas Tax Program that goes into the grooming budget as well. For my \$90-ish dollar sled registration I also received a sno-park pass valued at \$50. So all in all (these are general numbers) I pay \$90-ish dollars to register my sled, receive a \$50 sno park permit, and in conjunction with the gas tax rebate approximately \$100 per registered sled goes into the grooming program.

Now, because I don't identify as a certified social media financial/budget expert, BUT I do attend the SMAC meetings where they review and approve the so-called mis-managed funds, and attend the grooming council meetings to stay informed, I do know the Snowmobile Program budgets for grooming operations, sno-park plowing and sanitation, law enforcement, maintenance/repair of state-owned groomers, and projects local clubs bring to the table that help our trail systems. In a nutshell, let's say the Snowmobile Program starts with \$2.5 million. I can guarantee the grooming programs across the state don't see that \$2.5 million. One more thing, to those who say "my tax money gives me access to our lands" or "it's my right" to have free access to **these lands... you are almost correct.** There are two FOR SURE things that give your access to this terrain. The first thing is your left foot, the other thing is your right foot. If you choose

other avenues to recreate the land managers have costs associated with that. Also, if your sno-park is on Forest Service Land, State Parks signs an access agreement, (and of course fees are associated with that agreement), that allows the motorized user group to recreate out of that sno-park. Keep that in mind if you continue to harass State Parks and wonder why your sno-park access agreement doesn't get renewed.

Ok, so do you want to help? First, we really need people to register their sleds. Second, take a minute and think about how much you are willing to pay to register your sled so our grooming program can be funded at the levels they need to be. You want double the amount of grooming? Paying double keeps us in the same boat. You want a full 16 week grooming season? (Pray for that type of snow!) Paying double keeps us in the same position we are in now. How about when everything (cars and trucks) goes electric someday and we no-longer receive a rebate from the gas tax to help fund our grooming program? That's about 50% of your current **grooming dollars... paying double** puts us in the same position we are in now.

Want to help? Join a club that has a grooming coordinator who understands what they are doing and doesn't spread misinformation like some sort of plague. Join a club that focuses on the issues within our state and not **about the 'hashtag' or the 'GoPro'** on their helmet.

Join WSSA. It does ALOT for the snowmobiling community that you may not see right up front. It helps keep our recreational world connected to all the land managers and organizations that have an influence within our sport. Please help. We need it.



# Notes



## TO ALL WSSA CLUBS

WSSA is again offering a grant program to be made available to WSSA member clubs for trail and trailhead improvements such as brushing or clearing of trails, signage, gravel, bridges, gates, rental equipment for such work, parking lot repair or use as matching funds for NRTP grants.

WSSA wants to keep this as simple as possible. The grant limit is \$1000 per club. The club applying for a grant must have a current membership in WSSA and no outstanding WSSA Grants that are not completed. The deadline for the application is April 15th 2023. The goal is to award grants by June 15th 2023.

The process for the grants are as follows:

All applications for the grants go to Chairman Jim Kingman. Jim then forwards the applications to the appropriate District Reps for input. The district reps will review and report back to the Grant committee Chairman. District Reps are required to sign application to be considered for a grant. The chairman will then forward all applications to the committee for scoring. Sometimes there are more applications than there are funds to handle all of them. The committee will decide off of the scores if some get partial funding or if the lowest scores don't get funded. Total grant money for 2023 is unknown until the March Budget meeting

Please be sure to complete the applications and attach a map and landowners permission letter.

Jim Kingman

WSSA Trail Grants Chairman 2023

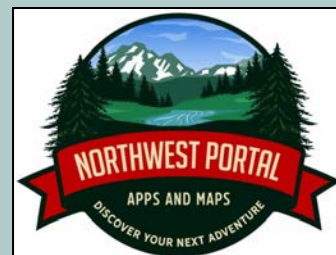
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- \* Our new icon shows the three states of the Pacific Northwest. We are steadily expanding into adjoining areas of Idaho and Oregon.

- \* You can find those App name updates and our:  
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# Club News



## Lake Wenatchee Rec club

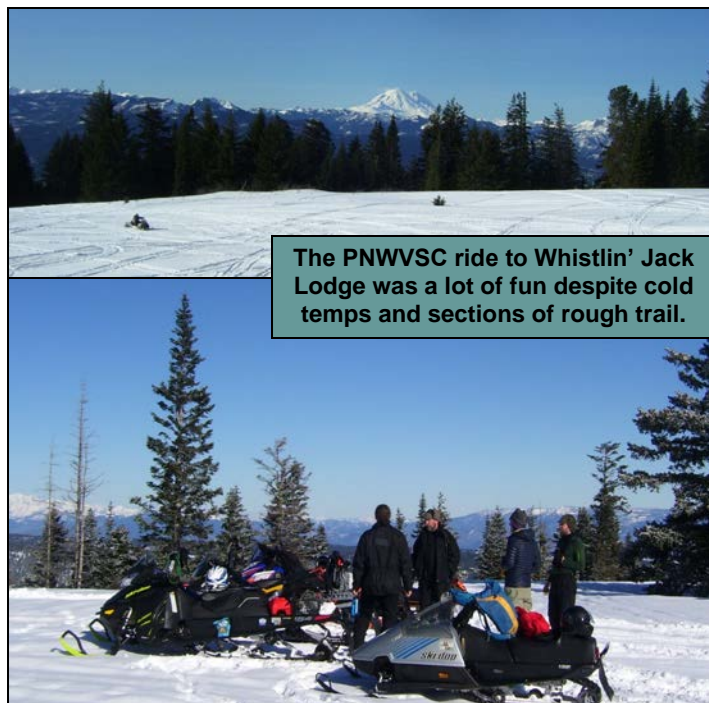
**By Marilyn Mylius,  
Vice President**

Hi all! Marilyn here from the Lake Wenatchee Rec Club. We just had a fantastic day and turn-out for our Annual Bob Melson Poker Run on Saturday the 18th. Had about 130 riders and the best hand of four queens won \$600! The weather was great and some folks were surprised at how great our trails are holding up.

We still have plenty of snow and the groomer guys are doing their usual fantastic job of smoothing everything for us!

We still have our geo-cache event going on until March 15th, so not too late to join in. Even folks that may just get one or two stickers qualify for prizes! Check out our Facebook page or go to Eventbrite and look for Lake Wenatchee Rec Club events.

for their best modern sleds, and two were on somewhat older machines. The weather was



On the way back to the sno-park they took a different route after the horse camp, which ran along the Walter Spring road. It was a nice change which added to the fun. Along the way they were checking to see if the directional signs the club put out that are used to guide riders from the sno-park to the lodge were still there, and not damaged. It is a good year for the signs; only one was missing with no damage.

There was good snow and good people at our first Conconully Vintage Snowmobile Show Weekend! We are expecting this will be the first of an annual event. The club participants had a great time, and expect this event to grow in attendance. If you are interested in old sleds, and a fantastic area to ride modern machines for the weekend, this is an event to add as one of your winter outings.

Lake Wenatchee taken from Route 4D on Pole Ridge.



Looking forward to another month of riding in the Lake Wenatchee and Entiat ridge area. Hope to see some of you out there! I've attached a photo of Lake Wenatchee taken from route 4D on Pole Ridge.



awesome, but cold. It was a brisk 9-degrees at the lodge the next morning when leaving.

The trail was cold and icy much of the way which kind of made the mountain sleds a challenge to keep on the roads, and also prevent them from overheating. They found themselves doing a lot more off-road playing since they had that capability, and needed to get into the fluff as much as possible.

Stephen and Paul found some nice new play areas along the way, and a new scenic lunch spot that they did not know existed. During the rough sections of the trail, three of them were happy to have the nice suspension and seats of the newer sleds. The other two guys took a bit of a beating. As they found in past years, there was no grooming in the rough middle section of the trail. Also, this year, the section of the trail from the 'horse camp' to the top of the hill was also whooped out. This, combined with the middle section, made for a lot of whoops in both directions.



Vintage snowmobile racing has been a sport for a lot of years now, the largest and best known is in Eagle River, WI. For vintage racers in the Pacific Northwest, the most popular events are the races held at Priest Lake, ID. The venue has been increasing in size every year with this year's racing reaching 354 entries over the weekend of February 18th and 19th. Our mem-

(Continued on page 14)



## Pacific Northwest Vintage Snowmobile Club

**By Ray Bergstresser,  
President**

We had another successful riding event from the Taneum Sno-Park to Whistlin' Jack Lodge. This year three of the riders opted





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# Club News *Continued...*

(Continued from page 12) bers have participated in the races both at Priest Lake and at Eagle River, winning top spots. And, this year was



**Congratulations Austin Halverson who placed first in his class.**



**PNWVSC members participate in vintage racing at Priest Lake and other venues as well.**

no exception. Congratulations Austin Halverson who placed first in his class.

This show and racing event completes our organized events for the 2022–2023 season. We will be now shifting to our summer shows. Our first event has been historically in June. We will be posting updates and the locations and times as they draw closer on our website, [www.pnwvsc.org](http://www.pnwvsc.org); and our Facebook page, Pacific Northwest Vintage Snowmobile Club.



## Winter Knights

**By Al McCarty,  
President**

"No soldier left behind", or something similar, is the recurring mantra often heard in military circles. It's such a popular saying

that it's woven its way into the mainstream and adopted to fit any situation where a group of people are attempting a common goal with objectives that may have unintended consequences. This concept often comes into play whenever my buddies and I trek off the grid astride our high-horsepower machines and attempt to conquer whatever it is that drives us into this madness. Unfortunately, not everyone in our clan finds continual success in their efforts. Each one of us has been a victim of circumstance at times, and if it wasn't for the unspoken comradery we share, someone just might not make it home. Sullen thought, but real. Interestingly enough, the latest example of this mantra occurred not in the dangerous backcountry, but on a set of groomed trails on a club ride, not too long ago. We held the usual rider meeting in the parking lot and then instructed all riders to line up at the trailhead to be accounted for. I took my spot at the lead while others fell into place according to their perceived riding speeds. My wife took her place in the sweep position as I began counting each sled down the line. I counted three times, and each time came up one rider short. I walked the line, counting once again, this time out loud. When I got near the end of the line, I noticed who was missing. I approached her husband and asked where she was. His only answer was a set of shrugged shoulders and a look of dismay. A voice from the line-up said she might have left with the only other group of riders in the lot that morning, mistaking them for us. A thorough glance of the parking lot proved no one was around, so the decision was made to head out and hopefully come across her somewhere along the trail. Admittedly, I was a bit nervous, and as ride leader, felt a certain uneasy responsibility for her disappearance.

Luckily, it was snowing lightly and had been for a few hours before we arrived, so it was easy to pick out the sled trails of the group ahead of us. At the first intersection, signs indicated the three-plus-one riders turned right, a direction we did not originally intend to go. I led our group of eleven in that direction until the next intersection, where a left turn was made. At this point, I figured if I took off at a fast rate, I might be able to catch up to her, knowing this trail had several miles before the next intersection and assuming she, as an older lady, would not be riding near the speed I intended to. After several miles at over 50 mph average with no sign of her, my worries became disturbing. Two of my rider buddies

were right behind me when we stopped at the next intersection. We all stared at each other in amazement for a few moments, no doubt with the same thoughts, as the remaining of the eleven caught up to us, one by one.

The fresh sled trails had all turned right, down a trail heading far away from our planned destination for the day. I asked my two buddies to head down that trail, as far and as fast as they were comfortable, to see if they could find her before the day was a total loss. They agreed, and the rest of us sat there trying to figure out our next move in case she wasn't found. Many thoughts went through my head. I remembered seeing the three guys unloading their mountain sleds as we began gathering earlier for our rider meeting. Aggressive looking sleds, they were. I also noticed that each rider wore an inflatable avalanche backpack, along with shovels and probes sticking out of various places. These guys probably had no clue this lady was hot on their tails, trying to keep up as they raced toward the high country. I began to worry just how far she would try to follow them. The 'no one left behind' engrained in me played with my emotions as questions flooded my thoughts. What if we never found her? Would she know how to get back to the parking lot? What if she crashed trying to keep up with those guys? Why wasn't her husband more worried than I was? Would this be the ultimate failure in ride leading that no one ever wants to suffer? I was a mental wreck.

Time has a funny way of warping itself when emotions are involved. To me it seemed like an eternity, but to those actually watching the clock, it was about ten minutes or so when one of my buddies came racing back from the lost trail with his thumb held high. Moments later the lady arrived, closely followed by my other buddy that, as I learned later, was not going to let her get lost again. Spontaneously, we all began applauding as the group of twelve was now back into one. I expected the husband to come forward and at least have some words for her, but that didn't happen until the next check-up/intersection stop. In the end, it all worked out and everyone was safe and relatively sound.

My heart skipped a few beats that day. I had never encountered this before and wasn't sure how to best handle it. The thought of losing someone on a ride to any level of disaster is unbearable, and I'm thankful to have so many great buddies riding with me, both on and off the trails, (Continued on page 15)



## Club News *Continued...*

(Continued from page 14) that help to make it all right. My mother used to always say as I left the house on my bike, motorcycle, or in my car or truck, "Don't go any faster than your angel can fly". I do believe in angels, and maybe it was my angel that helped me keep my promise that day to leave no one behind. Maybe it was all of our angels working together. In any case, twelve started out, and twelve returned back. A good day it ended up to be. I just hope it will never be repeated.



### **Yakima Ski-Benders**

**By Liz Van Amburg,  
President**

The Yakima Ski-Benders have been busy this past month. We had the privilege of hosting WSSA's Rendezvous over Presidents Day Weekend. We

had a no-host bar Friday and Saturday. I am a rookie so it was interesting to see how everything was done. Several



club members lead rides on Friday, Saturday and Sunday covering three areas including Chinook Pass, White Pass, and the Ahtanum. Several of the rides offered a meal hosted by either the Chinook Pass Snowmobile Club, Drift-A-Way Snowmobile Club or R & R Grooming and the Yakima County Grooming Council.



Winter Rendezvous as viewed from the Ski-Benders' no-host bar.



Thank you Matt for everything you do. This year's Family Fun Run on Chinook Pass was hosted by Andy

From where I stood everyone had a great time. Thank to everyone who helped!

Congratulations to Matt Mead; WSSA made a special achievement award to a person who is so deserving. Matt has been such a huge part of snowmobiling in the Yakima area as well as at the state level.

(Continued on page 16)



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## Club News *Continued...*

(Continued from page 15) and Stephanie Beaman. Thank you both for a job well done! We had more riders than we have in the past and the prizes were amazing. The club was able to offer free food and drinks this year. I love when we can give back to our sport. Each rider received a shirt, raffle ticket and the first hand for \$25 with the option to buy more hands. First place received \$800 for adults and kids! Thank you to all the sponsors and riders for making this another successful event.

As I write this, our Annual Kids Ride is

just a couple of days away. There are 120 kids currently signed up. Audeena and Jeff Smith are the hosts. I am looking forward to seeing all the kids and how much they have grown! Brandy Floyd and The North West Free Riders are the featured riders again this year. Thank you, Brandy and Matt, for being at all of The Kids Rides we have hosted. I hope to have many pictures from this event in the next issue.

Keep the weekend of June 8th-11th on your radar. Yakima Ski-Benders are hosting the beverage garden at Chinook Fest again

this year. The tickets are on sale and the line-up is out. Please contact myself or Mike Van Amburg at (509) 225-6681 if you would like to volunteer.

I appreciate how hard our club members have worked this past season to put on some amazing events and rides as well as cutting out trails from so many fallen trees. Together we all are making a difference for our sport. Think snow and see you out there.



### **Methow Valley Snowmobile Association**

**By Evie Johnson,  
Secretary**

Wow what a season we have had so far up here in the Methow. We have had many group rides and some were focused to support snowmobile events in the area.

Recently we had a very successful annual Bucket Run event. Our local and corporate business support was amazing. It allowed us to give away over \$4,000 of donated prizes. Almost every participant went home with a prize! The event would not be possible if we didn't have all the great volunteer's step up and help make the ride happen. Join us next year up here in the Methow.

The Methow Valley Snowmobile Association (MVSA) is excited about the new beacon check station installed at Early Winters which is at the end of Highway 20. Although the station is a little hillbilly it does the job. With the Forest Service's help we installed the beacon reader in a donated birdhouse and placed it at the start of the trail. Next year we are hoping to have a beacon station installed for Harts Pass as well. Stay tuned for updates on Harts Pass road being plowed to extend our snowmobile season this spring. Every year MVSA advocates to get the job done for our sled family.

Join us this season out in the hills of the Methow and come visit one of our awesome huts.

(Cont. on page 17)



**The Ski-Benders had a successful fun run on January 28th and the food was free!**



**HAVE FUN  
ON YOUR  
RUN**

**BUT DON'T DRINK  
'TIL YOU'RE DONE**





## Club News *Continued...*

(Continued from page 16)



### Sno-Jammers Snowmobile Club

By  
**Christina Hamlyn,  
Vice President**

The snow is finally back! I am happy to see our season isn't quite over yet!

As you read this, our 33rd annual Fun Run will have just completed and you can check out the next WSSA Snoflyer edition for pictures of our event. I would like to give a HUGE shout-out to all of our T-shirt sponsors, checkpoint sponsors, and club volunteers who have helped make this a successful event once again! We could not do it without you all!

A week following our Fun Run, on March 12th, Clem will be hosting his annual Kid's Ride at the Government Meadows Cabin. All kids are welcome to take part in this fun

event! The Northwest Avalanche Center (NWAC) will be present as well to share avalanche safety and education.

On March 25th, Bill Yager will be hosting a sled recovery ride out of the Crystal Springs Sno-Park. This is a great opportunity to advance your sled recovery skills and learn some new tips and tricks. Everyone is welcome! More details can be found on our website at [www.snojammers.org](http://www.snojammers.org) and on our Facebook page.

Have you ever thought about joining a club? Maybe you have been following us on Facebook for awhile and enjoy seeing all the fun we have been having. If this sounds like you then there is no better time than the present to join the Sno-Jammers! We are a family-friendly club and are always looking for new members

and families to join us. We meet every first Wednesday of the month from September to May at the Round Table Pizza in Puyallup. Join us for social time at 6pm and then the meeting starts at 6:30pm. See you all on the snow! #SupportTheSport (Continued on page 18)

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# Club News *Continued...*



## Bavarian Boondockers

By Matt Kensrud, President

Hello everyone! I hope all is well. We had a great club ride with Northwest Avalanche Center forecaster/trainer Ryan Kitchen. It was very informative and we had a lot of fun checking out the snow pack and talking about terrain. On our next ride we have a special guest, 509 Ambassador Indee Girven. She will be here to answer questions and talk to the girls about riding techniques and different aspects of snowmobiling. We possibly could have another club ride; not sure, depends on the snow. Check out the website or Facebook for time and day.



## Drift-A-Way Snowmobile Club

By Matt Mead, Secretary

Drift-A-Way members were BUSY in February! Actually, let's go back to the end of January; a few members were busy helping the Ski-Benders set up for their poker ride and then manned a checkpoint flying the WSSA banner. Other Drift-A-Way members joined in the fun and rode the course hoping to build a great poker hand.

Next up, several

(Continued from page 17)

members rode with the Snowmobile Advisory Committee and helped lead them around the Little Naches area on a Friday before their Saturday meeting. It was a fun day covering just over 70 miles.

Drift-A-Way members were threatening a camping trip and we pulled it together in a few days, camping the weekend of February 11th and 12th. In looking at the calendar, this was one of the few free weekends we had! It was a great time with a few rides out of the Cold Creek Sno-Park and several shared meals. Youngest member Ruby really took a liking to her 120 Ski-Doo on the trip!

The following weekend was the WSSA Winter Rendezvous. On Friday, one member led an on-trail/off-trail ride at Boulder Cave and enjoyed lunch at the Little Bald hut served up by the Chinook Pass Snowmobile Club. Another member was busy leading a trail ride in the Ahtanum. On Saturday, the Drift-A-Way club hosted a couple of rides and lunch at the Cold Creek Sno-Park; riders visited Conrad Meadows and Section 3, and enjoyed burgers and potato salad in the sno-park for lunch. On Sunday, members led rides again in the Ahtanum. It was a busy weekend!

Things didn't slow

down for a few members the next weekend either as they were helping out with the Ski-Benders Kids Ride.



Great views during Drift-A-Way campout weekend.



Drift-A-Way-led WSSA Winter Rendezvous Ride.



Mid-week ride adventures!



Other riding was also going on during February. Some riders ventured to Idaho and Oregon for adventures as well!

And of course our mid-week rides were their own adventures, playing in the Ahtanum, and on White and Chinook Passes. More snow would have been welcome,

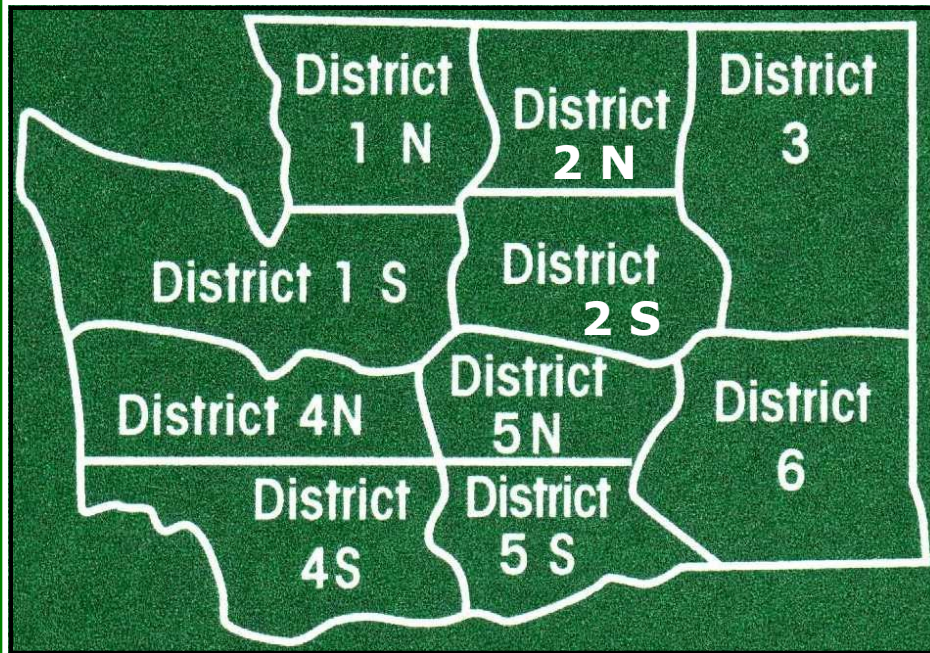
but we enjoyed fun rides with great people regardless!

Our next meeting is rapidly approaching on Monday, March 6th, at 6pm at Round Table Pizza in Yakima. If you are looking for a low-key club that welcomes riders of all ages and abilities, check us out!

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# Snowmobile Clubs



**Note:** Facebook addresses in blue

## District 1 North

(Clallam/Jefferson/Kitsap/Skaagit/Snohomish/Whatcom Counties)

### Northwest Glacier Cruisers

Tom Shields  
(360) 661-0003  
northwestglaciercruisers@gmail.com  
www.northwestglaciercruisers.com  
[Northwest Glacier Cruisers](#)

### Whatcom County Snowmobile Club

John Varner  
(360) 510-1560  
whatcomcountysnowmobileclub@gmail.com  
[Whatcom County Snowmobile Club](#)

## District 1 South

(King County)

### Cascade Drift Skippers

Darren King  
(360) 224-5411  
darren.j.king@hotmail.com  
www.cds.clubexpress.com  
[Cascade Drift Skippers](#)

## District 2 North

(Okanogan/Ferry Counties)

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### Republic Tree Benders

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### Tri-Rivers Snowmobile Club

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### Lake Chelan Snowmobile Club

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## District 3

(Grant/Lincoln/Pend Oreille/Spokane/Stevens Counties)

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### Lewis County Drift Skippers

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### Northwest Boondockers

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### Sno-Jammers Snowmobile Club

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## District 4 South

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### Stampede Summit Seekers

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## District 5 South

(Benton/Klickitat/Yakima Counties)

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### Chinook Pass Snowmobile Club

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### Drift-A-Way Snowmobile Club

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### Yakima Ski-Benders

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## District 6

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### Mt. Misery Snow Drifters

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## Pacific Northwest

### Pacific Northwest Vintage Snowmobile Club

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### Vintage Snowmobiles of the Inland N.W.

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# Membership

## Membership Matters

By Wayne and Florence Mohler,  
Membership co-chairs

As we reach the end of WSSA's business year, (March 1st through February 28th), this is a good time to mention our membership year runs from September 1st through August 31st. The reason this is important for new members is you can join after March 1st and receive the remainder of this year and next year's membership – 18 months – for \$25. If you've been thinking about joining, this is a good time to go ahead and do it. Overall, our membership decreased slightly over the past year. When you consider we currently have 1,140 active members and there are 22,722 snowmobiles registered in Washington (FY22), it's pretty easy to see we have a lot of room to grow so we can better represent snowmobiling in Washington. That's where the clubs, dealers, and our association can really help out the new snowmobiler by hosting events, social media posts, etc., to get in touch with the new snowmobilers and help them figure out where to go, what to wear, and how to have a safe and enjoyable snowmobiling experience, and most of all to make new friends. There are a

lot of clubs that already have effective outreach to bring in new members and for others, this is a chance to help make those first experiences good experiences.

With WSSA's 50th year anniversary now in the rearview mirror we need to start looking at how to position the organization to be meaningful and relevant for the next 50 years! It was great to finally have a Winter Rendezvous after a two-year hiatus. Good food, good riding and good friends - just what is needed to bring us closer to the end of this season and to begin planning for the future.

This is still a great time to join a club, (many have summer activities), join WSSA and volunteer to work on one of the many committees, and to enjoy the rest of the season.

If you have any questions about membership, please e-mail us at [membership@wssa.us](mailto:membership@wssa.us) or call (509) 674-4401. And remember – Your Membership Matters!

Aim your phone here, click, and join WSSA today!



## WSSA's Associate Partnership Program

Luft Trailer Sales in Ellensburg is offering a 10% discount on parts.

**Are you next? Add your business name here!**

With all the challenges facing everyone during this past couple of years, we have a program with our Associate members to try to bring our snowmobile members together with our Associate members through an affinity or loyalty program. It's very simple and straightforward – As an Associate, just let us know how you would like to participate. WSSA will publicize the Associate members and what they are offering in the Snoflyer and on social media. Just contact [membership@wssa.us](mailto:membership@wssa.us) to get signed up!



# WSSA Contacts

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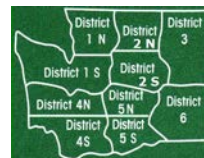
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# State Parks Update



## State Parks Winter Recreation Program

By Corey Tolar, Winter Recreation Program Manager



The 2022/2023 winter season has had its issues. Lots of snow, then no snow, trees down, and above average temperatures around a good part of the state, not to mention equipment breakdowns. Be assured the staff is working hard each day to work through these situations to find solutions and to keep the snow-parks plowed and the trails groomed.

### SMAC Winter Meeting

The Snowmobile Advisory Committee (SMAC) winter meeting was held on February 4th in Yakima which included a ride on the 3rd out of the Little Naches Sno-Park towards Greenwater which totaled about 70 miles. There was a good turnout as about 30 riders participated including Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), U.S. Forest Service, SMAC committee members, and local riders. Everyone seemed to enjoy the ride and appreciated the opportunity to meet in person instead of virtual. A special thank you to Matt Mead for leading the ride.

A great turnout of riders on the SMAC Ride leaving from the Little Naches Sno-Park.



### Snowmobile Advisory Committee (SMAC) Funding Meeting for 2023-2024 Season

The SMAC funding meeting is scheduled for July 29th in Wenatchee. Funding applications and the budget will be evaluated, discussed, and determined during this meeting. More information will be provided as we get closer to the summer budget meeting.

### 2023/2024 Funding Applications

Keep an eye on our website in mid-March for the 2023/2024 funding applications! The funding applications must be completed and received by our office or postmarked by June 1st, 2023. Any applications received after the deadline will not be considered for funding so be sure to get them in on time.

### Winter Recreation Brief at the WSPRC January Commission Meeting

I recently had the opportunity to brief the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (WSPRC) on the state of the Winter Recreation Program during the recent commission meeting held in Lacey. The commissioners were engaged and asked some good questions about funding and the services provided. A few of them had used the Nordic Pulse website, which we are piloting this year and gave some positive feedback.

During the meeting the Commission was able to recognize Jason Goldstein as he was presented his certificate and pin for 25 years of service to Washington State. Congratulations Jason.

### Snowmobile Registrations

The snowmobile registrations through January are listed below and as you can see snowmobile registrations are currently down 1,316 from the same period last year. We need everyone to register their snowmobile and be sure to pass the word around. Remember when you reg-

ister your snowmobile you get a free sno-park permit. Please pass the word to register snowmobiles as less registrations mean less funding into the program.

Did you know when you registered your snowmobile this year the **money collected will be spent on next winter's services?** That's how your snowmobile program works. Unlike other government

programs, this program works with funds that are IN the snowmobile account and not what revenue is possibly projected. Much like your personal bank account, you can only spend what you have.

### Winter Recreation Contact Information

E-mail:  
winter@parks.wa.gov  
Phone: (360) 902-8684



### Snowmobile Registrations

	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY 22-23 Difference
July	149	145	134	148	166	151	186	147	(39)
August	531	676	782	2,307	222	249	1,291	636	(655)
September	2,968	3,145	2,946	1,682	2,974	3,220	3,418	3,385	(33)
October	1,662	2,139	2,489	1,882	3,357	3,189	2,274	2,078	(196)
November	3,129	3,362	4,360	2,960	2,372	5,009	2,860	3,787	927
December	11,575	13,170	6,973	8,320	6,726	7,229	7,681	6,995	(686)
January	3,528	3,196	3,358	3,433	4,514	3,295	3,337	2,703	(634)
February	1,164	1,513	1,166	1,602	1,293	1,541	1,072		
March	298	686	674	958	355	636	449		
April	82	181	175	258	89	219	153		
May	32	93	93	90	135	108	116		
June	30	84	71	83	126	179	92		
Total:	25,148	28,390	23,221	23,723	22,329	25,025	22,929	19,731	(1,316)

Visit  
the State Parks Winter Recreation Page at  
<https://www.parks.wa.gov/130/Winter-recreation>  
for  
Sno-Park Info,  
Mobile Friendly Maps,  
Updated Grooming Map,  
and Other Useful Information



# Notes

## WSSA Rendezvous - Yakima!

By Greg Figg, Winter Rendezvous Chair

I just returned from the WSSA Winter Rendezvous 2023 in Yakima, Washington. This was another successful Rendezvous as our attendance was around 90 people for **Saturday night's dinner. The snow conditions** this year were surprisingly good, even some fresh snow!

We had three days of rides that were just phenomenal! I know everybody who rode came back with a tired grin on their face.

We had the event this year at the Yakima Valley Museum and folks got to look around the museum at the history of the area. We also had movie night on Friday, and elections and the silent auction on Saturday night. The silent auction is a great cause raising money for the WSSA Legal Action Fund. The food was catered in and was very good both nights as we all went home full!

I wanted to thank all the folks who **helped with this year's event. It took a village to pull off the event this year!** **(More info & pics will be in the April Snoflyer - Ed)**

## ACSA Mountain Riding Area Meeting

By Wayne & Florence Mohler,  
Membership Co-Chairs



The American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA) Mountain Riding Area meeting was held in Alpine, Wyoming, on Friday, February 24th, at the Flying Saddle Resort. Prior to the meeting, Avalanche training was provided by the Bridger-Teton Avalanche Center along with Wyoming Parks. Following are notes and highlights of the meeting which was attended by 30-35 people from nine states including MI, IL, SD, NE, WY, UT, ID, WA and OR.

Sierra Snowmobile Foundation Raffle – Dan Long, ACSA President, won the snowmobile.

ACSA Update – Christine Jourdain, Executive director, indicated the Fly-In will be held at the Residence Inn, Washington DC, from April 23rd-25th. There will be an ACSA meeting **on the 23rd, speakers on the 24th, and visits to the 'Hill' on the 25th.**

ISC 2023 - The International Snowmobile Congress (ISC) will be in Moline, IL, June 7th-10th. The host hotels are the Wyndham and The Element (Marriott). Details on speakers, etc are being finalized. **There will be a 'road trip' south to Muscatine on Wednesday.** A FOSPAC (Friends of Snowmobiling Political Action Committee) event consisting of outdoor games is being planned.

ISC 2024 - The event will be in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

ACSA Awards – Youth, Club, Family, Dealer, Snowmobiler OTY, etc: Need to be submitted by April 1st.

Economic Study presentation – Kim Raap, Trailwork Consulting, gave a presentation on a recently completed economic study for Wyoming. The study was conducted by the University of Wyoming. The study revealed a total economic impact of \$255M with \$193.8M direct, \$61.2M secondary, and \$17.6M in government revenue. A brief overview will be available soon and the full report is available on the snowmobilers.org website.

Avalanche Center presentation – The Director of the Bridger-Teton Avalanche Center described the mission (public safety, data collection, information exchange, accident reporting and community engagement) of the centers. There are 22 entities in 12 states with the U.S. Forest Service running 14 of the centers. An additional center may be added in Southeast Idaho in the future

State reports: Each of the states represented provided a brief report on snowmobiling in their respective states.

ACSA Scholarship: ACSA has created a committee to do the groundwork for establishing a scholarship program, which will be discussed/presented at ISC. As a kick-off to build up funding, an auction was conducted and \$1,040 was raised. It is also anticipated remaining funds from the Bill Townsend Memorial Scholarship Fund may be used to support an avalanche training stipend. More to come on these two items.

Due to closed roads, cancelled flights, and other commitments, several attendees **spent a day or two 'relaxing' at unanticipated locations or cancelled their attendance.** Given the challenges getting to Alpine, the meeting went well and afforded a great opportunity for exchange of information. The weather, once there, was great; not -26F as it was a week earlier!

## WSSA 2023 Scholarship



The Washington State Snowmobile Association will again be offering a scholarship to either a graduating high school senior or a person currently enrolled in college. This will be given to the winner regardless of other grants or scholarships the student may also receive.

The applicant must be a member of the Washington State Snowmobile Association; submit the completed application form; submit a resume detailing his/her involvement in snowmobiling as well as extra-curricular activities; and include an essay. (Essay info on WSSA website.)

**Click the 'Scholarship' menu item at [www.wssa.us](http://www.wssa.us) for details and the application forms.**

The deadline is March 31st, 2023. Contact Shami Ruggles, WSSA Scholarship Chair, at (509) 979-4852 or [sixruggs@gmail.com](mailto:sixruggs@gmail.com) with questions.



# ACSA E-News

**Contact: Christine Jourdain, Executive Director,  
ACSA, (517) 351-4362**



## Order to Restore Wild Bison Population

Recently Interior Secretary Deb Haaland signed an Order to restore bison populations across the country, using \$25 million from the Inflation Reduction Act passed by Congress last year.

Haaland said the Order will improve the department's efforts to restore the wild populations and the nation's prairie grassland ecosystem by working with other federal agencies, states, tribes and private landowners.

The Order notes the American bison, the centerpiece of the Interior Department's seal and the U.S. national mammal since 2016, "is inextricably intertwined with grassland ecology and American culture." Bison also are important to many Native American tribes in the Great Plains.

## Waters of the U.S.

Ryan Zinke (R-MT), former Interior Secretary, who returned to the House this year, said at the Conservative Political Action Conference that the GOP's new House majority gives it the power to completely defund EPA's 'Waters of the U.S.' (WOTUS) regulation.

"For those that don't follow it, imagine the federal government taking jurisdiction over waters that are in all intermittent streams, cow ponds, and vernal pools," Zinke said, claiming about 90% of Montana's waters are covered by the EPA policy released last year. "But if the federal government can have jurisdiction in your backyard over a water pond, you know we're in trouble."

Lawmakers are also working to stop the regulation using the Congressional Review Act, and both chambers are likely to vote on the measure soon.

## EPA Eyes Broadening E-15 Sales

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to eliminate a gasoline volatility waiver for 10% ethanol fuels in eight states next year because the waiver would lead to an increase in harmful emissions during the summer months, officials said.

The move opens the door to year-round sale of gasoline containing 15% ethanol, called E15, in those states.

The agency issued a notice of proposed rulemaking recently in response to a petition last year from the governors of the eight states. They had asked EPA to kill the '1-psi waiver' for E10 fuel, saying it would provide parity between that fuel and E15, since the two fuels' volatility is nearly identical.

## Delist The Grizzly Bear?

New legislation from Congresswoman Harriet Hageman (R-WY) could direct U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland to remove the Yellowstone area's grizzly bears from the federal endangered species list.

"The Greater Yellowstone population of grizzly bears should have been removed from the endangered and threatened species list 15 years ago," Hageman said in a press release. "The grizzly bear has been listed since 1975, and its original recovery goal was 500 bears. Today, the number of bears is more than double that goal and has become a threat to people and livestock in Wyoming."

"The goal of the Endangered Species Act should always be to stabilize declining populations of wildlife, then remove the species from the list when recovery goals and benchmarks have been met. Unfortunately, like we see in all facets of the federal government, once an agency has control, they are loath to surrender it for any reason."

## Ice Bridge From Michigan to Canada

There is a more exciting, temporary way to travel between Michigan's Upper Peninsula and Canada each winter season — although, modes of transportation are limited and you still have to check in with customs.

An ice bridge forms between Drummond Island in Chippewa County and St. Joseph Island in Ontario, Canada, during the winter months each year.

Once the ice has frozen to a safe depth, locals are able to enjoy winter activities on the trails.

The Drummond Island ice bridge in the Eastern U.P. officially opened for the season on Friday, February 10th, and will remain open until the ice starts to melt around springtime, making travel dangerous.

What can people ride on the ice bridge? Those looking to have some winter fun can snowmobile, dog sled, cross-country ski, aero sleigh, or bike on the ice bridge connecting the two islands. Cars and trucks are not permitted.

The trails are wide, free from congestion, and marked with evergreen trees across the ice to prevent snowmobilers from getting lost while riding in the dark or during inclement weather, according to the Drummond Island Tourism Association.

## Did You Know???

As the steward of the 193-million-acre National Forest system, Forest Service Chief Randy Moore has a supply and demand problem; millions of trees to remove from overstocked forests but not enough places to put them.

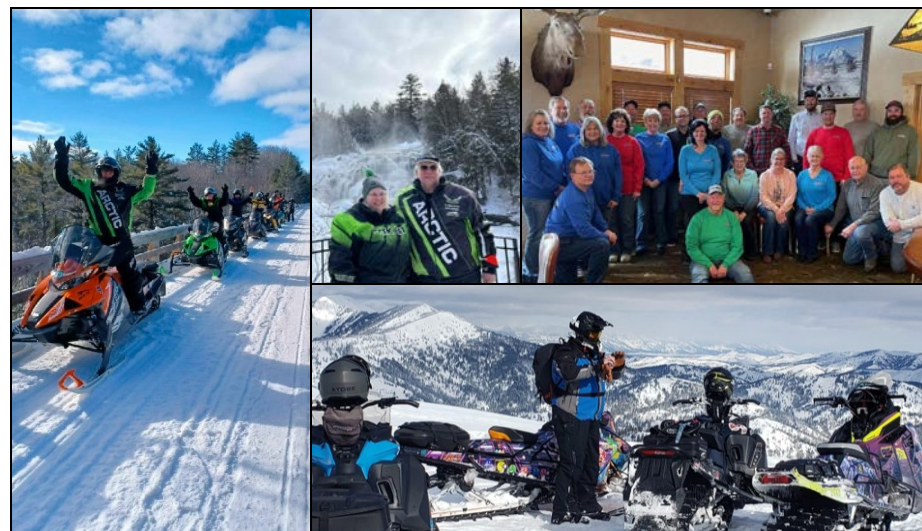
So the Forest Service is putting the economics of timber to a test, shipping sawlogs more than 1,000 miles from the West Coast to the Black Hills of Wyoming and South Dakota — and hoping the experiment sticks. Moore told E & E News he's not sure how long the timber transport pilot project will last but that his main goal is to keep mills open in places like the Black Hills, where his agency's own policies to limit timber harvests on the 1.2-million-acre Black Hills National Forest have been blamed for squeezing local mills.

## You Should Have Joined in the Fun!!

We had meetings with great discussion, great ideas, participation and input.

And we had rides! After all, we bought these snowmobiles for the fun - right?!

Here are a couple of photos from the Trails and Mountain Meetings/Rides.



## Are You Following Us?

[www.facebook.com/AmericanCouncilofSnowmobileAssociations](https://www.facebook.com/AmericanCouncilofSnowmobileAssociations)

**(Information pulled from weekly e-mail blasts and edited for publication in the Snoflyer.)**



**Visit [www.snowmobile.org](http://www.snowmobile.org) for Safe Riders! material. Please use to promote club membership and snowmobile safety!**



# Matt's Misc.

By Matt Mead,  
Publicity Secretary

**Not enough hours in the day...** That's the reason this Snoflyer is running late and the Winter Rendezvous coverage is mostly missing. My wife would say **I've got too many commitments between WSSA, two local clubs and the local grooming council.** Maybe. But the last three weeks have been a blur between leading a ride at Rendezvous, providing lunch the next day, displaying the WSSA safety trailer at the Yakima Ski-Benders' Kids Ride the next weekend, hosting WSSA's annual Military Appreciation Ride the following week, and then manning a WSSA-sponsored checkpoint at the Sno-Jammers Fun Run two days later. Add in the prep and trailer configuring for these events... and the fact I may or may not have a personal life... hopefully you get the picture.

**Pain is a reminder to not do stupid stuff.** At least that is what I keep telling myself. I injured my knee on a Sunday ride when I dropped off a small cornice I didn't see in foggy/snowy/flat light conditions and banged it on the handlebars. While preventable, this wasn't really a case of me doing dumb stuff.

But fast-forward a week when I was moving too fast just off the trail and was coming back on the trail and didn't see the deep hole until too late; the choice was to brake and fall into the hole or nail the throttle and hope to clear it... I made the wrong choice and hit the far side at speed and the same knee hit the handlebar AGAIN. And I was stuck in the hole anyway. I came away with a swollen knee and tender tendons leading down to my right foot. It hurt so bad the next day I actually only rode a short, sit-down trail ride... wincing the whole way.

What lessons should I take from this? Maybe wear some protective gear? Slow down and better assess the situation? Realize I'm not as young or talented as I sometimes think I am? Whatever... I'm still nursing the knee though.

**Electric snowmobile charging is now getting much faster for Taiga Motors.** Taiga Motors recently announced its electric snowmobiles will soon have access to a software update enabling DC fast charging for their snowmobile's battery hardware.

The three sleds introduced feature a 27 kWh battery pack, with an estimating range of about 60-87 miles. But the best charge rate you could achieve was on a 240V level 2 charger which takes about 3.5 hours. With

the DC fast charging capabilities, replenishment times of 0-80% can be achieved in 30 minutes. With the update,



owners can plug into any Taiga charger or standard EV DC fast charger using the CSS 1 combo connector. Yeah, that last part is gibberish to me too, but I guess if you own a Taiga, you probably understand it.

**Snowmobiler dies after collision with trail groomer.** Let me be blunt here. If you collide with a trail groomer, you are an IDIOT. And while I'd have pity for your family, none for you. SLOW DOWN. Have you seen how fast a trail groomer moves? Yeah, they aren't the problem. This accident happened in Minnesota recently. 5:30pm on a Thursday. Responding deputies reported the operator of the snowmobile was rounding a corner when he collided with an oncoming grooming machine.

**Heartbreaking...** An eight-year-old girl recently died in a snowmobile crash in Northern Wisconsin. Officials said the girl was sitting in front of a male adult on the snowmobile when it crashed into a tree.

Lot's of us have ridden with our young kids in front of us, but there is a reason I've run the PSA at right. There can be deadly consequences.

**Electric Snowmobiles from Ski-Doo and Lynx introduced.** Expected to hit the market next year, they will feature what BRP refers to as Rotax E-Power technology with a range of up to 31 miles. Pretty laughable, right?! The models will include the Ski-Doo Grand Touring Electric as well as the European-only Lynx Adventure Electric.

BRP claims the machines will provide a "unique ride that is inviting for first timers to experience the world of snowmobiling."

Initially these machines are only going to be offered to 'Uncharted Society' outfitters, which are 'BRP-certified' guide companies. BRP claims their goal is to reduce their carbon footprint.

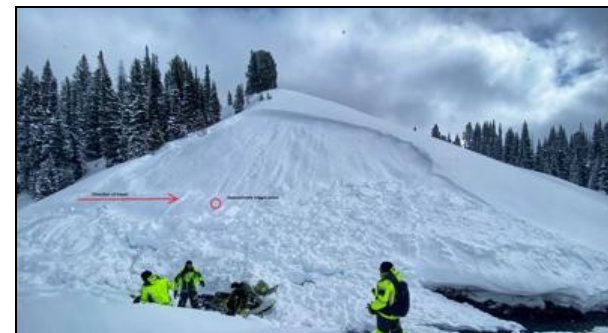
**I'm a Ski-Doo guy through and through,** but this should just be a bad joke. Maybe they should just rebadge Taiga machines.

**This is pretty low.** It was reported thieves stole a snowmobile from the scene of a fatal collision in Northern Minnesota. A woman was killed while riding her snowmobile when she collided with a semi-trailer. Before the family could retrieve snowmobiles from the crash site, somebody stole one of them. Authorities followed snowmobile tracks and did find the machine and a man and woman have been charged with felony theft. (The machine was returned to the family.)

## Avalanches - Avoid them!

Seems like simple advise. The reason I bring it up is because in February a Wisconsin man was swept down into a creek drainage in Wyoming where he was buried under his snowmobile and 6+ feet of snow.

His group conducted a beacon search, and found him with avalanche probes, but it took



about an hour and half to dig him out. In addition to the snow depth, the water in the creek interacted with the snow to create slush.

You can have an airbag and beacon and your friends can all have shovels and probes, but your odds of rescue are pretty much zero

(Continued on page 14)



BLUERIBBON  
COALITION

DON'T USE KIDS  
AS AIRBAGS

KEEP THEM SAFE.  
PUT 'EM ON THE BACK.

This message brought to you by the American Council of Snowmobile Associations  
www.snowmobilers.org





## Matt's Misc. Continued...

in a situation like this as you will run out of the most precious commodity: time. The above incident demonstrates how deadly 'terrain traps' — areas like gullies or stream-beds where even a small amount of snow can bury a person under feet of debris — can be in the backcountry. Other avalanche-caused killers can be sliding into trees, rocks or sending the victim over a cliff. In addition to thinking about a slide risk, look around and see where you or your friends might end up if a slide were to occur; make that part of your decision as well.

**'3 Old Guys' gear up for March adventure.** A snowmobile trek from Minnesota to Alaska. Paul Dick, Rob Hallstrom and Rex Hibbert snowmobiled from Grand Rapids, MN, to Churchill, Manitoba, in 2019. They are ready for this challenge now, a 4,000-mile trek from Grand Rapids to Fairbanks, AK. They call themselves '3 Old Guys' and are all ex-snowmobile racers and long-distance riders. Ages range from 65 to 72. They all have completed 'Cain's Quest', an extreme 2,000+ mile snowmobile race in Labrador, Canada.



The course they've charted will take them mostly on groomed trails from Grand Rapids to Flin Flon, Manitoba, and beyond that, a backcountry route that includes portions of Reindeer Lake, Wollaston Lake and Lake Athabasca in northwest Saskatchewan. They'll follow ice roads to the Great Slave River and up to Great Slave Lake, the Mackenzie River to the Arctic Ocean at the northern tip of the Yukon, cross the Richardson Mountains to the Porcupine River, and then southwest to the Yukon River, and then finish the trip on the Yukon Quest sled dog trail into Fairbanks.

What machines will they ride? New Arctic Cat Norseman 8000X snowmobiles. Each of them will pull tow-sleds loaded with supplies, including enough spare snowmobile parts to handle almost any breakdown that might occur. Each will also carry 30 to 40 gallons of

gasoline. In addition to food, gasoline and spare parts, their gear list includes an Arctic Oven Igloo-model 'hot tent', a wood-stove, and sleeping bags rated for -60F. They'll also have a couple of different satellite communicators which will allow them to send text messages and let a few people follow their course in real-time.

They'll stay in hotels where possible, but figure the camping gear will probably get plenty of use. On the Mackenzie River, they've made tentative plans to stay in a trapper's cabin with a trapper one night.

If all goes according to plan, the adventure-seekers anticipate the trip will take about a month. They'll fly home at the end of the adventure and figure out how to get their snowmobiles back to Minnesota later.

Want to follow along? Check out the '3 Old Guys Ride to Alaska' Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100088934197535>

**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. Call (509) 424-1575 or e-mail to [snoflyer@wssa.us](mailto:snoflyer@wssa.us).



## SNOWMOBILE RENTALS IN WASHINGTON

**Chewack River Guest Ranch**  
(Methow Valley/Winthrop)  
(509) 996-2497  
[www.chewackranch.com](http://www.chewackranch.com)

**CJ Marine**  
(Lake Wenatchee Area)  
(Lake Wenatchee Area)  
(206) 878-8668  
[www.cj-rentals.net](http://www.cj-rentals.net)

**Leavenworth Snowmobile Rentals**  
(Leavenworth)  
(509) 763-0333  
[www.leavenworthsnowmobilerentals.com](http://www.leavenworthsnowmobilerentals.com)

**Motortoy**  
(Cle Elum)  
(509) 674-6807  
[www.motortoyrentals.com](http://www.motortoyrentals.com)

**Mountain Springs Lodge**  
(Lake Wenatchee/Leavenworth)  
Tours Only  
(800) 858-2276  
[www.mtsprings.com](http://www.mtsprings.com)

**Red Ace's Customs & Rentals**  
(Mossyrock - Orr Creek Sno-Park)  
(360) 880-1608  
[www.redacesrents.com](http://www.redacesrents.com)

**Ride Finesse**  
(Ravensdale)  
(206) 883-4635  
[www.ridefinesse.com](http://www.ridefinesse.com)

**Sharkey's Watercraft & Snowmobile Rentals**  
(Chelan)  
(509) 687-2312  
[www.lakechelanonline.com/rentals.html](http://www.lakechelanonline.com/rentals.html)

**The Last Resort**  
(Ronald/Roslyn/Cle Elum)  
(509) 649-2222  
[www.thelastresortwa.com](http://www.thelastresortwa.com)

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

**Note: 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.**