

SnoFlyer

WSSA - The Voice of Snowmobiling in Washington

Volume 37 • December 2014

Merry Christmas



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Wishing You a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

See you on the snow in 2015 ... or sooner!



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— *President* —

Dean Meakin

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It is all about location, location, location! Thank you, Bill Miller, for being a great host for our November Leadership meeting! The Central Washington University Campus was the perfect venue to bring together all the presidents and vice presidents of the clubs that are members of WSSA. You spoiled us for sure. You told me "go big or go home" and that is exactly what you did. You met our every need and more. What impressed me the most were the students! It has been a very long time since I have seen that kind of courtesy and respect towards us as we invaded their turf. Thank you students as you really made my day. My hope would be to return to this location again. Thumbs up!

Club presidents, vice presidents and leaders, thank you for your attendance and participation at this meeting. It was great to see all of you present. It shows me, WSSA and your club, you are serious about the importance of being a great leader in your organization. Great leaders are the cornerstone of great clubs. My hope is as a result of this meeting, you have been encouraged to be the best leader you can possibly be. Thank you again for spending your precious time with all of us at WSSA.

To all of our guest speakers, thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedules to come and share your expertise with

us. We need all of you to educate us on what is going on. This helps us to make the best decisions that we possibly can to promote and protect snowmobiling in this great state of Washington. You are all welcome to come to any of our future meetings.

'All Trails to Olympia' day is just around the corner. So don't forget to contact Dee Alred and let her know you will be attending. We are the only ones, 'snowmobilers', who can let our legislatures know what we need to survive! Let's get the rest of our monies due us back. 2029 is too long to wait for it.

On a lighter note, have you signed up for Rendezvous 2014 at Priest Lake? I hope you are not waiting for me as I am good to go! Let it snow! Looks like Rendezvous 2015 is in Walla Walla. Thanks Wayne Smith and Greg Figg. Gary Simmons, get ready for us!

As I write this in November, we are sitting on pins and needles waiting for it to snow so we can take the Washington State Parks Commission out on snowmobiles this Friday... I will report next month on the outcome.

The holidays are rapidly approaching, so remember, snowmobiling is a family sport! Use this time to draw closer together and enjoy each other's company while enjoying snowmobiling. I know I will!



— *Vice President* —

Sandy Sternod

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There were quite a few events happening in November for snowmobilers in Washington State. First, on November 1st, we had the honor of a ribbon cutting for a brand new sno-park, the Evergreen Sno-Park, which is just off the Woods and Steele Road, and can be accessed off the Golf Course Road on I-90. This is Phase I one of a sno-park development started back in the fall of 2008. There were over 50 attendees to this event including the Director of Washington State Parks, Don Hoch; our State Parks Winter Recreation Program Manager, Pamela McConkey; local county commissioners; Wayne and Florence Mohler; Howard Briggs; and many other local snowmobile enthusiasts who made this event possible.

The following Saturday, November 8th, the Spokane Winter Knights hosted their annual Snowmobile and ATV Show at the Spokane Fairgrounds. Many snowmobilers in Eastern Washington and Idaho enjoy this one-day event to sell their used sleds and accessories in the indoor swap meet, and check out all the latest aftermarket updates for their sleds, new gear and riding destinations. This is a really fun event.

Next, thank you to Bill Miller, District 5 North WSSA Representative, for providing an excellent venue for our November Leadership Meeting for WSSA club presidents at the Central Washington University Campus. Since Bill has been elected to his position he has done a tremendous job in signing up new associate members in Kittitas County, and volunteering his time at numerous events representing WSSA.

I want to also thank all of the club presidents and designers who represented their clubs and joined us at the November WSSA Leadership Meeting. Dean Meakin and I want to provide our clubs with essential information regarding the legal structure of your clubs and the benefits you can receive

as a non-profit organization. It is also important each of you take back to your club members, information regarding the current state of affairs regarding our winter access on public state and federal lands that we enjoy.

Looming on our horizon is the acquisition of Plumb Creek Timber land in Kittitas County by the The Nature Conservancy which will be finalized in December. James Schroeder, the Eastern Washington Director of Conservation at The Nature Conservancy, was a guest speaker at our meeting. He briefly discussed the present plan of the Conservancy which will be developing over the next six to nine months how they will develop and implement the future operations of the timber operations they are acquiring.

Looming on our horizon is, yes, another involvement in a lawsuit regarding lynx habitat. This time the suit has been filed in Montana and includes habitat in Washington State, amongst others. WSSA remains vigilant on protecting our rights to continue to have access to federal lands for motorized winter recreation, and we are preparing to be involved in this latest legal battle. Stay tuned and be prepared to answer the call for additional requests for donations to our Legal Action Fund. The Western States partner together in order to preserve our rights to keep access open on public lands not only for winter use, but for year around access.

Next on our agenda is SNOW, SNOW and more SNOW. While most of us will not see snowfall for Thanksgiving, I am hopeful we will enjoy snowfall before Christmas. Regardless of snow, however, it is absolutely essential anyone in the state of Washington register your snowmobile(s) for the 2014-15 season. While you may not think your registration renewal

Continued page 4

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CONQUERSNOW



Vice President, cont.

matters – YES IT DOES. Last year over 3,300 snowmobile registrations were not renewed which cost this year's program a minimum of \$231,000 towards this season's grooming, snow removal, sanitation, education and law enforcement in our sno-parks. In some areas this means your local riding will certainly see reduced services which could mean a late start in grooming, less frequency of grooming and/or a short-

ened season. Whether you plan to ride two or three weekends or every weekend, from your property or trailering somewhere, this impacts the next season and the financial viability of our program for the future.

Finally, the next WSSA meeting will be at the Naches Forest Service Ranger Station. If you are interested in what is happening with snowmobiling in Washington you are encouraged to attend and provide input. Our District Representative for 5 South, Paul Younie, will be hosting the January 2015 meeting. We look forward to seeing you there, and check out

some great riding hosted by the Yakima Ski-Benders Snowmobile Club. Please RSVP you will be joining us in Yakima (Naches). You can visit the Association's website for further details about the meeting place and time at www.wssa.us.

To all of the board members, clubs and volunteers, we appreciate the efforts our members continue to give. Each one of you really continues to make a DAILY difference.

District Reports

District 2 South

By Matt Kensrud
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As this is my first update for WSSA District 2 South, I believe an introduction is in order. My name is Matt Kensrud and I am the owner/operator of Kensrud's Kustom Wrench in Leavenworth, the local diesel and heavy equipment repair shop. In my 'spare time', I am the Vice President for the Bavarian Boondockers Snowmobile Club of Leavenworth. Knowing there has been a recent and extended lack of representation for District 2 South, I decided, at the recent WSSA meeting hosted by the Last Resort in Ronald, to offer my services insofar as my knowledge of our area and my love for the sport of snowmobiling and its multitude of aspects.

As the Bavarian Boondockers have been very busy getting ready for SnowFest, all of my recent conversations and interactions with local clubs and dealers have revolved around that event. I am excited about traveling to, and getting to know the snowmobile dealers and clubs represented by District 2 South. I want to introduce myself and learn about issues affecting local clubs and regions, present those issues to WSSA for discussion, and hopefully resolution. I know there will be a steep learning curve for this position, but I am excited about the opportunity to develop new relationships and bring new energy into the District.



District 3
By Greg Figg
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As the fairly new District 3 Representative I am still learning what I am supposed to be doing and not doing. Dean Meakin and Clarence Smith, where is the instruction manual for this job?

I did have the chance to talk with some of the members of the Colville Drifters as they are gearing up for another season along with their Poker Ride. I was encouraged to see they renewed their WSSA membership for this year. Thank you for renewing and getting club members to join also.

I have also made contact with the Coeur d'Alene Snowmobile Club and hope to have a joint meeting with them and the Winter Knights. The Coeur d'Alene Club has been a great help with information on upcoming land issues we all need to deal with. Look forward to additional conversations this winter with them.

Lastly, we are waiting for snow as Thanksgiving is approaching. We went literally overnight from too warm and wet to cold and dry. Maybe we can get a happy medium that will produce some snow in the mountains for sledding and skiing. Have a great holiday season and do your snow dance!

District 4 North

By Craig Miller
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Greetings from 4 North! My name is Craig Miller, and I am running for the 4 North Rep slot as Jerri McDonough's term is ending soon. Jerri asked if I would provide this month's district report.

First a little about me. I am entering into my fourth year riding

snowmobiles. I ride a slightly modified 2010 Rev-XP 800-R... yeah that's a Ski-Doo. I am currently a member in several clubs. My main club is the Junco Snowmobile Club based out of the Orr Creek Sno-Park. However I also belong to the Cascade Drift Skippers and the Yakima Ski-Benders since I have riding friends in each and I believe we need to support each other's clubs as much as possible. I am also the WSSA Chair of Volunteer and Charity. I will be working through WSSA to hold an election in the Tacoma area soon so I hope you will consider voting for me as your WSSA Rep.

As I write this we have zero snow in the District. I'm hoping we don't get locked into this cold clear weather pattern again. Junco will be involved in re-graveling the main lot at the Orr Creek Sno-Park to take care of the muddy conditions we have when the snow melts or the rain hits. This work is being partly funded by the Forest Service and several donations of materials and heavy equipment. Club members will be on hand over the weekend of November 22nd and 23rd to do the job unless we get major snow before that.

Lacking any other news for now... hope for lots of snow (after the re-graveling project)!



District 4 South
By Mike Ainslie
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Greetings everyone! We'll our season is getting closer... As I write this we have received our first storm of the season with some snow in the mountain passes... and that's a good sign for us. Maybe this will stick around and start the base we need to build on.

So with that in mind let's all make sure to have our sleds pre-seasoned and the trailers checked out also. If you are unable to do the work yourself on your sleds please contact a dealership or someone to check them out for you. Nothing more disappointing

than to head out for the first ride and break down and have to be towed back in.

Not much to report in my district as we are all just waiting for more snow. Please make sure to look up local clubs in your area and join them and help out whenever you can.

I just got an e-mail from the state letting us know that once again the snowmobile registrations are way down for this season. Please let's all make sure all of our sleds are registered for this new season. The money we get for this year is the money we spend for next year's grooming. So let's all do our part! Thank you! And let's all keep thinking... SNOW!



District 5 North
By Bill Miller
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We had a great Leadership Meeting at the Ellensburg Central Washington University SURC (Student Union and Recreation Center) on the 15th of November. It was nice to see the presidents of our state snowmobile clubs there. The featured speakers were Jennifer Hackett of Washington Hometown who gave a presentation regarding mapping; Jason Morgan of Stoel Rives provided us information regarding the current state of the lynx 'critical habitat' lawsuit; and James Schroeder from The Nature Conservancy gave us information regarding the Conservancy's purchase of the Plumb Creek Timber lands.

Mick Steinman announced he is doing exploratory work and planning for four warming huts in the I-90 area. He has asked that each club in District 5N help him with the plan. It would be great if the clubs could each have a designated volunteer to be on the planning committee. Thank you Jim Sternod of Stampede Summit Seekers for being the first volunteer.

Thank you to Richard Ro of the Sky Riders for the efforts on our WSSA Facebook page.

Think snow!


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Club News

Junco Snowmobile Club

By Craig Miller

Greetings snowmobilers from the Junco Snowmobile Club! Well the time is getting near as we wait for the snow to fly. Junco has had two meetings so far this 2014/2015 season. We will be having several rides as usual this season down in the beautiful Mt Adams area as well as our usual Charity on the Snow event at Orr Creek Sno-Park.

We do this charity event every year and all proceeds go to the Make-A-Wish Foundation to make possible the wishes of children suffering serious life-threatening illnesses. Our club has raised over \$65,000 since we began doing it. We have enjoyed a great amount of support from snowmobilers for this in the past and we hope you will continue to support us again this year. We will be on hand Friday, January 16th, to help you set up your RVs. We will be guiding rides on Saturday the 17th and Sunday the 18th. The charity auction will take place on Saturday night. There will be a potluck dinner in the hut prior to the auction. Please bring a dish to share. Also please bring a few items to add to the auction tables. There are always some great deals to be had. Come one and all to ride, have a cocktail, food and raise money for charity! We will be making breakfast for everyone on Sunday morning in the hut. Jim and Craig will be doing their 'world famous' pancake breakfast!

We meet at Hawks Prairie Restaurant in Lacey on the first Monday of each month during the season. Cocktails at 6pm in the lounge, the dinner meeting begins at 7pm. Please come and join us! Also follow us on Facebook!

Cascade Drift Skippers

By Kurt Zeuschel, President



Well, just like the rest of you, the Cascade Drift Skippers crew is anxiously awaiting the first snow and getting ready for the season. We had a great turnout at the WSSA Snow Show and signed up some new members.

After holding our meetings at the Issaquah Elks Club for many years, we had our last meeting there in October. Unfortunately, the Issaquah Elks Club has fallen on hard times and is forced to sell their building. Fortunately, we have found another venue in the Issaquah Brewhouse. We held our first meeting there for the November club meeting and found it to be a great location. We will continue to meet there on the second Wednesday of each month from January through April. For December, the venue will not be available for our regular meeting so we are opting to take care of club business at our annual Holiday Party at the Last Resort in Ronald.

We already have quite a few rides scheduled on the club calendar and once the snow flies, more will be added. These rides are varied and targeted to differing interests and skill levels: beginner, intermediate and advanced. We also plan to offer some rides that are intended to be snowmobile riding skills clinics as well as rides that include some avalanche safety exercises. Check out our website at www.cascadedriftskippers.com and click on the club calendar to get the latest.

In addition to riding our local areas, many of our members travel to other great destinations to ride. This year we have members going to such places as Whistler BC, Valemount BC, Priest Lake Idaho, McCall Idaho and Bear Lake Utah. See you on the snow!

Methow Valley Snowmobile Association

By Chelsea Miller



Well, the cold weather has arrived just within the last week, temperatures as low as six degrees in the morning and there is some snow on the mountaintops but no snow on the valley floor yet. It may be cold but the sun is shining and the valley is particularly beautiful with the fall colors in full force.

Our club members have been working hard on preparing for the upcoming snowmobile season. They have been out with their chainsaws, clearing trails and creating new ones. We are excited to try some new paths to and from some of our favorite locations.

We gathered all the Christmas boughs for the town of Winthrop to decorate their storefronts and provided the town with warming barrels during the annual Christmas at the End of the Road celebration (the weekend after Thanksgiving). This event, complete with fireworks, kicks off the winter season.

Our ride schedule for the season is complete and is available on our blogsite: <http://mvsnowmobile.blogspot.com>, and updates can be found on our Facebook page as well. We would really like to encourage snowmobile enthusiasts of any level to join us for a club ride. Our community provides fantastic snowmobiling, ice-skating, sledding, downhill and cross-country skiing, great local restaurants,

shopping, and many cultural events throughout the winter; there is something for everyone in the family.

The cold weather is here, now we just need a heavy snow year! I think our entire club is ready for snow after our summer full of wildfires.

Bonaparte Snow/ATV Club

By Bridgette Sterling, PR/Marketig

Hello Snow Lovers!

It has been seriously cold here in the Bonaparte area but no snow to report. Clear and cold seems to be our forecast for the near future.

The club will host our annual bucket ride between Christmas and New Years on Saturday, December 27th. Sign up will be at Bonaparte Lake Resort from 9am - 11am. The ride will start at the resort and everyone needs to be back by 3:30pm. Of course this event will depend on SNOW.

Also, since freezing temperatures don't seem to be a problem, the club will be hosting the 4th annual Ice Drag Races on Bonaparte Lake, Saturday, February 7th. As of now, racing divisions will be the same as last year, including the youth division. For all of the information about the races or the bucket ride, please contact Mike or Bridgette Sterling at (509) 486-2277 or bigrock-ranch@wildblue.net.

Have a safe and happy holiday season!

Tri-River Snowmobile Club

By Kurt Hensley, President

The Tri-River Snowmobile Club is waiting for a lot of snow to go with this cold weather - Brrrrrr! We have completed putting wood in the Black Canyon Shelter for the snowmobile season, thanks to Robin and Gary Whiteley and my wife Julie and I.

We had great turn out for steak at the November meeting and our December meeting is at Tom and Donna Windsor's with turkey being the main course. It will be our White Elephant gift exchange.



Tri-River club members hard at work installing signs on their local trail system.

We will be planning the events for the new year starting with our Chili Feed on January 10th at the Black Canyon Shelter and hope you all can come! Also looking forward to our Benefit Ride out of Loup Loup Sno-Park in February. We invite anyone to come and ride with us this winter. Call me at (509) 689-2843. Think snow.

Yakima Ski-Benders

By Rudy Classen, President



Even though we have had a couple of members ride in the area already this year, the snow is only a couple of inches deep and we keep hoping some of the white stuff we all see falling in the Midwest will make its way here. But so far no such luck.

We enjoyed seeing many of you at the WSSA Expo where we offered a drawing for three days of guided rides in our area. The winner of the drawing is - DRUM ROLL - Chuckie Koepeke of Othello. A number of our leading businesses have offered outstanding discounts for Chuckie and his five friends in an effort to make sure they all enjoy the experience to the max. And of course a number of Ski-Benders, who will do almost anything to ride, have stepped forward and offered to be guides. The only thing lacking is snow.

The local outdoor recreation community is pleased to have a new administration at the Naches Ranger Station and positive results have already been seen. In the spring of 2013, a bridge across Soup Creek at the back of a sno-park near Rimrock Lake was washed out and the then management at the

Naches Ranger station pretty much looked at that as an opportunity to close and area and all of the familiar reasons for not replacing the bridge were presented to us. However, with the departure of the previous leadership, new personnel have come in and are willing to work with all user groups. What a beautiful experience! One such person is Bill Zimmer who is in charge of Outdoor Recreation.



In the middle of October, the U.S. Forests Service delivered logs, which came from danger trees that had to be cut down, to the site of the old bridge. Then a group of hard core outdoor recreationists went to work and over a period of three weeks, built a very nice sturdy bridge that will last for many decades. I will try to list all of those who worked on the bridge but I may miss someone and for that I apologize. Roger Brittain, Jim Kingman, Fred Pitzer, Jim Singer, Steve Divine, Don Wagoner, Doug Mason, Terry Joralemon and Lanny Flaherty.

Most of the above mentioned are snowmobilers but others enjoy fourwheeling, mushroom hunting and various other forms of outdoor recreation. It was really great to have everyone working together for the common good. And if you see Mr. Bill Zimmer around, thank him for his help.

Work on our annual Crab Feed, Dec. 13th, is progressing and tickets are \$25 for all you can eat and again this year prime rib will be the alternative choice. If those two choices don't whet your appetite then nothing will. Tickets are scarce again this year so if you want to join us in a super fun evening, go to our Facebook page, Yakima SkiBenders, and order your tickets. You won't regret it. Also, look up our future events and plan to join us!

Our annual Christmas party will be during our regular meeting on Dec.2nd at El Rincon and everyone has a great time that evening. It looks like the first order of business will be our famous SNOW DANCE.

Northwest Glacier Cruisers

By Julie Street Doran



The Northwest Glacier Cruisers (NWGC) have had another great month. The snow had been falling and we are anxiously waiting to fire up the sleds and head up to the mountains for lots of family-friendly events.

We are participating in this year's Sedro Woolley Christmas

Continued page 8



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Professional 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 helmet and other safety apparel. Never drink and ride. ©2014 Polaris Industries Inc.

Club News

Parade on Saturday, December 6th, at 5pm, and the Mount Vernon Christmas Parade on Sunday, December 7th, also at 5pm. Come join us!

Two important upcoming dates to remember: The Northwest Avalanche Center Avy Training class on December 18th, location to be determined. We will also have avalanche and beacon training on December 20th at Ploeg's place on Mount Baker.

The Bavarian Boondockers SnowFest and Skagit Valley Polaris Open House once again were big successes. We met many new faces and were reunited with old friends. Thank you everyone for all the hard work you have done.

The NWGC are still raffling a 1st prize BCA Avalanche package, and the 2nd prize is a gift certificate for a sled wrap from Arctic FX! The winner of the raffle items will be announced at the 2015 Mt. Baker Shootout. Thanks to Mike Duffy Avalanche 1, Andy Wenburg BCA, and Stephanie Santeford for the Avy Package, and Bryan Flinker from Arctic FX, 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. Email us at northwestglaciercruisers@gmail.com for any information. Look forward to seeing you on the mountain!

Sky Riders

By RaeAnne Ro, Secretary



Winter is coming! Hopefully soon we'll have some snow to go along with these below-freezing temperatures, but until then, a small group of the Sky Riders are keeping warm brushing trails! Bundled up and ready to go with chainsaws in hand, four of us braved the elements and had a work party. With the weather reports constantly changing, we are hopeful all our hard work on the trails in our area will pay off this year with some good snow and easier routes for our groomer.



Club President Richard Ro, along with Vice President Chris Merrifield and his son Kasen, out doing some trail work to get ready for the snow! Photo taken by RaeAnne Ro.

On top of trail work, President Richard Ro has been keeping busy with the local Grooming Council and WSSA meetings. It was great to finally hear from The Nature Conservancy about their plans for the Plum Creek land purchase that affects a huge portion of our riding areas around Cle Elum. There are still no guarantees, but we are thankful there will be no changes to this snowmobile season and are hoping The Nature Conservancy will keep us in mind as they move forward with this acquisition.

Spokane Winter Knights

By Greg Figg, President



The Spokane Winter Knights are in the thick of our busy season as we get ready for winter. We just finished up our Spokane Snow Show and it was successful again this year. We are already planning our show for next year. I want to extend a giant "thank you" to all the Winter Knights and WSSA folks who donated countless hours and many Crock Pots of food to make this show successful once again. We could not have done it without your help!

As I write this, we are gearing up for our next event which will be the



The CCC cabin at Mt. Spokane wrapped up until spring. Money is being donated to help with the restoration of this cabin.

Washington State Parks Commission tour of Mt. Spokane. The Winter Knights will be helping with transportation and providing lunch to the Commission with our counterparts in the Nordic Ski Association. We also will be presenting to the Commission on snowmobiling in Northeast Washington and what the Winter Recreation Program means to us. Lastly, both the Winter Knights and WSSA will be presenting checks to the Parks Commission for \$1,000 each. These funds will be used for the restoration of the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) cabin built in the 1930s under the Franklin Roosevelt 'New Deal' works program. I have attached a photo of the cabin as it sits this fall wrapped up until spring.

The day after Thanksgiving will find us in the Coeur d'Alene Holiday Parade showing off our new and improved snowmobile trailer float complete with snowmobiles and elves. No Grinch's allowed this year!

Lastly, I need to mention our Christmas Dinner this year will be held on December 13th at the Ramada Airport Hotel. Hope to see everybody there!

Have a Merry Christmas!

Stampede Summit Seekers Snowmobile Club

By Jim Sternod, President

Welcome to hopefully a 'big snow' winter season. While this may be our first club article in the Snoflyer for some time, you should know our club has been very active within WSSA for a number of years. For all of you folks that attend the WSSA Expo in October each year, you should know our club members manage the Swap Meet inside the fairgrounds. Our club members donated 280 hours of volunteer time this year during this three-day event. We handle everything from the space reservations, the set-up and layout, traffic, and the loading and unloading of all the great stuff that makes up the Swap Meet. The experience of our club members managing the Swap Meet these past 14 years allows us to help (hopefully) all of the Swappers get their trucks and trailers in and out of the fairgrounds somewhat painlessly. We thank everyone who supports the Swap Meet and endures the set-up and take down of this event.

This year on November 7th, our club had the honor of assisting with the raffle drawing at Pierre's Polaris in Kenmore during their winter Open House. John and Everett donated a Polaris Electric Bicycle valued over \$1,200 for their drawing. The raffle generated \$570 in revenue which was donated to the WSSA Legal Action Fund and presented at the November 15th WSSA Leadership Meeting in Ellensburg. We want to give a big "THANK YOU" to PIERRE'S POLARIS for their continued support to WSSA and local snowmobilers who enjoy the incredible customer service their staff continues to provide.

For the fun stuff... some of our members have been riding since the early 70s, and others have been riding only a few years. Besides all of the work parties, trail work and sno-park clean-ups, we ride every weekend, and sometimes on those snowy days during the week. Also, a number of our members take an annual trip to Wyoming in mid-February for the great powder snow and riding you see in all the DVDs of

backcountry riding. We also make an annual trip back in the late March to Jackson Hole for the Championship Hill Climb.

If you are interested in riding anywhere along the I-90 corridor, please contact us by e-mail at stampedesummitseekers@gmail.com, or call me at (206) 948-2946.

In closing, I want to thank all of my club members/riding buddies for all of your hard work that helps support WSSA, the Expo Committee and our great sport. You all have gone unheralded too long! Looking forward to seeing everyone on the snow, and out in the backcountry. Ride safe, ride hard!

Pacific Northwest Vintage Snowmobile Club

By Kevin Hancock, Vice President



Like the other snowmobile clubs in Washington, we are anxiously waiting for snow, passing the time rushing to finish a project, or working on the last items on the sleds we want to ride. However, several of our members were also getting ready for when things go wrong. If you had not already guessed, that getting ready is avalanche training. You wouldn't think vintage snowmobiles can get into avalanche country, but the potential for avalanche is anywhere. A friend helped dig out a group of skiers who were buried while standing in a road cut.



Do you have a couple of classics stashed away somewhere? Low snow years can be great for the classics! (Good snow years are fun for the vintage too of course!)

For several seasons Bombardier has sponsored free snowmobile avalanche clinics around the state. If you have not already done so or missed the free Bombardier training, there is still time to get some. The Northwest Avalanche Center and several mountaineering clubs still have classes available for this coming season. To play it safe we must know where it is safe. At a minimum you should have the training to know when it is safe and when it is not.

Several members amongst us commented on Matt Mead's article in October's Snoflyer, 'Run what ya bring!' We know the feeling of riding the oldest and slowest sleds on the mountain. But we have a blast riding them! And after talking it over we realize because of last year's poor midyear snow, we put more miles on our old and slow vintage sleds than our newer rides. When friends at work were complaining there was no snow to go snowmobiling, we could say that we were out every weekend having a great time riding. Matt mentioned the costs associated with the latest and greatest, and how hard it is for families to be in that league. But a lot of you still have an older sled, or come across older sleds for very little money. How about if the conditions are poor this coming season, instead of staying home, pull out that old sled and come out to enjoy the winter! It is always a great weekend when you are outside playing in the Pacific Northwest winter wonderland.

If you are not so spontaneous, we are planning several vintage snowmobile rides this coming season. The first one starts at the Fish Lake Sno-park on January 17th. Everyone is invited, old sled or new. Fish Lake and all of our other planned events are posted on our website: pnwvsc.org.

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 works:

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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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

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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• C.S.A.• Caliber Products• Cascade Chamber of Commerce• Cascade Playtime Rentals• Clutched• Dan Gardiner Films• Full Throttle Inc.• FXR• Gizmo Enterprises• Guides Choice• HID Source• Holeshoot Inc.• I-90 Motorsports• Island Park Cabins & Lodges• Larson Powersports	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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• SK Northwest/Polaris of 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 Motorsworks• Yellowstone Tour & Travel
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Professional 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 helmet and other safety apparel. Never drink and ride. ©2014 Polaris Industries Inc.

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<p><u>GUIDED AND NON-GUIDED TRIPS</u> <u>MULTI-DAY SNOWMOBILE EXCURSIONS</u> <u>TECHNICAL RIDING CLINICS</u> <u>SNOWMOBILE AVALANCHE COURSES</u></p>			

Winter Rendezvous 2015

Feb. 13th - 16th

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Entertainment & Prizes



Registration period ends
Friday, February 6th

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 enchiladas, 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
12715 E. Deer Creek Rd.
Chattaroy, WA 99003

Questions? call (509) 690-7059

OR

Register & Pay by Credit Card On-Line @
<http://www.wssa.us/>

Note: Be sure and go through Member Log In

Safety

Safety by Steinman

By Mick Steinman, Safety Chairman

mick.steinman@wssa.us

(206) 949-7837



The snow is starting to accumulate into a depth that we can ride off-road across open fields and logging areas. These areas look like they are flat, hard and ready to ride. We all rode the same areas last year. With the new snow covering the rocks, stumps and holes, many of the hazards are lurking just under the snowline to damage your sled or even worse, injure you, the rider. **Be especially careful riding off-road in the early season.**

Snowmobiling is a very safe sport if you follow a few rules and use common sense.

Practice with your avalanche beacon several times a year. Practice with your riding group and make sure everyone has turned their beacon on. Carry your shovel and probe in your backpack along with the other ten essentials plus more. A good practice is to carry enough gear to spend two days in the backcountry during a blizzard.

On Thursday, February 5th, 2015, The North West Avalanche Center (NWAC) is hosting the Annual Snowball Auction/Dinner. All proceeds benefit NWAC for education, forecasting, their website and other resources. Check Brown Paper Tickets website for your tickets or call me at (206) 949-7837 for more details.

Check the weather and avalanche forecasts before every ride.

NWAC.US (Cascades/Olympics)

Wallowaavalanchecenter.org (Blue Mountains)

Idahopanhandleavalanche.org (Spokane area)

Remember, 'the life you save, may be your own!'

Basic Safety & Common Sense

By Jim Kingman, Safety Committee Member

Well this month I am going to just touch quickly on using common sense/safety and the use of alcohol when riding snowmobiles. I hope not to bore anyone with my personal story from many years ago.

I purchased my first snowmobile in my senior year of high school, 1972. I have never missed a season of riding even on the low snow years. We rode every weekend we could and in the late 70's and early 80's we added a night ride almost every week. Being the dumb kids we were, on our night rides we would sometimes haul around a bottle of M.D. wine and have a few shots every time we would stop for a few minutes. One evening on the way out, I had an issue where I almost missed a corner and had a ski hanging over a cliff that probably was 1,000 feet straight down. Well, somehow I pulled it back onto the road and stopped there and just sat until my group came back looking for me and my heart rate dropped to below 100.

That was the last time I ever had a drink and rode a snowmobile. Don't get me wrong, I believe that having a drink in the RV or around the campfire is okay, as long as that's where it stays. We have to set an example for our kids, grandkids and our sport in general.

We have many new faces in the WSSA family and many might not be aware that a few years back while I was WSSA President or Vice President, (can't remember which one), WSSA adopted a policy of 'ZERO TOLERANCE'. This was a slogan the International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association and the American Council of Snowmobile Associations presented at one of my five meetings in Washington D.C. After bringing this back to WSSA, I believe it was many meetings with much discussion before this was adopted.

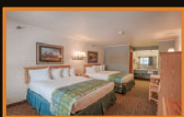
If you haven't looked in the WSSA safety trailer lately, look at all the posters on the wall. This is what I, my friends and club members have been doing for many years.

Ride safe, use some common sense and PLEASE don't drink and operate a motor vehicle of any kind. Maybe that will keep both of us alive to enjoy another day.



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



Waconia Ride-In 2015

Information provided by Valdi Stefanson, Secretary & Webmaster,
Waconia Ride-In Committee, (651) 462-4497



The world's largest vintage snowmobile event is inviting a whole new audience to its January show. YES, the Waconia Ride-In announces that it has created a new CLASSIC class to include snowmobiles model years 1986-1995. Before now, snowmobiles from this decade were not involved in vintage snowmobile events. This marks the first time a major old snowmobile show has honored snowmobiles that are 20-25 years old.

This move to incorporate a new generation of old snowmobile fans has been inevitable. After all, these sleds were the 'first ride' for many of today's younger adults and middle-aged snow-belt residents. "It is time to invite them to the party", stated Waconia Ride-In President John Zeglin.

Who knows, this CLASSIC class may well catch on with other vintage snowmobile events because the 1986-1995 snowmobiles are readily available and at reasonable prices. After all, as the older vintage snowmobile 'barn finds' dry up, these machines will fill the demand. The demand is fueled by fathers and mothers wanting to involve their children in winter outdoor recreation that they themselves enjoyed as teenagers and young adults. With new snowmobiles today costing over \$10,000, it appears these CLASSIC class snowmobiles fit the bill for affordable family fun in the cold crisp winter air!

In fact, this January 24th and 25th Waconia Ride-In will celebrate its 25th anniversary! This year we honor MINNESOTA ICONS – the two remaining Minnesota snowmobile manufacturers that have provided over 50 years of fun times and memories for generations of those of us who refuse to hide inside throughout the winter months. This is not a competition between the two Minnesota brands, but rather a celebration of their combined contribution to winter outdoor excitement.

Many snowmobilers include the Waconia Ride-In as a bucket list must. Visit www.mwvss.com to learn about the weekend jam-packed with antique, vintage and classic snowmobile fun. For example, did you know their trail ride alone includes more than 500 participants? WOW!

Come join the fun and at their Sunday judged show see the new CLASSIC class including both Survivor and Restored categories.

MAKE EVERY TRIP A ROUND TRIP.

Check the weather and avalanche forecast at www.nwac.us before heading out.

Become a friend of NWAC and support the service

Photo by Brent Anderson

Help... WSSA Volunteer and Charity needs you to report your work!

By Craig Miller, Volunteer/Charity Chair

Greetings from your WSSA Chairman for Volunteer and Charity. My name is Craig Miller. I need your help! As you may know, WSSA is attempting to keep track of all your Charity and Volunteer hours... with limited success so far in my tenure. I know you have all been very busy volunteering and raising money for charities and volunteering your time and talent for the good of the snowmobile community, and the community at large.

I know our club, the Junco Snowmobile Club, is busy volunteering to re-gravel the parking lot at the Orr Creek Sno-Park, and planning our annual Charity On The Snow event for January 16th - 18th, to raise money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. If you and your club are involved in volunteer or charity work, please drop me an e-mail to let us know what you did, and how many hours you did it. Or... how much money you raised for a charity. This way WSSA can showcase your hard work to help further the cause and let people know how snowmobilers benefit the community at large. Make your hard work and hours count! If you don't report it, we can't count it. You can reach me at craig.miller@wssa.us. My contact information is also available in the back of the Snoflyer and on the WSSA website.

REMEMBER TO REPORT! It's very important. Thanks and safe rides!

(Editor's note: WSSA-collected volunteer and charity information is also forwarded to the International Snowmobile Council where it is compiled with information from other snowmobilers from around the country. It is amazing the impact snowmobilers nationwide truly have!)

WSSA Legal Action Fund Raffle

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

Stocking Stuffer

Time is running out... Tickets are running out... But you still have a chance to win this trailer. Tickets are only \$5. The odds on this raffle are great as only 1,000 tickets will be sold! Only 1,000! Wouldn't these tickets make a great stocking stuffer?

Help build WSSA's Legal Action Fund so we can defend your riding areas! Purchasing tickets gives you a chance to win, and builds our... your... fund.

Triton's trailers are light in weight but offer heavy-duty strength. These aluminum trailers hold up exceptionally well to the elements and will not rust or corrode.

The Triton XTD11-101 offers an 11-foot long deck and is 101 inches wide to accommodate today's largest mountain sleds. A gas shock makes tilting effortless and the torsion axle suspension offers a smooth ride and easy towing. Check out some of this trailer's additional features:

- Custom aluminum extrusion frame
- Front fold-down ramps/guards
- EZ-Lube hubs (superior to Bearing Buddy)
- Sealed lighting with protected and molded wiring harness
- Treated plywood deck with lifetime warranty
- "Anti rattling" system throughout

You will have an opportunity to purchase them at the January WSSA Meeting in Naches, and if any are still available, the Winter Rendezvous at Hill's Resort at Priest Lake.

Don't miss your chance to win this top-rated trailer and help support WSSA's Legal Action Fund. **The more you buy, the better your odds of winning!**

WSSA extends special thanks to Kent Lisko of Kastle West Distributing for his continued support of our Legal Action Fund.





ACSA Update

By Christine Jourdain
Executive Director

The American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA) is the only national association committed to your issues – SNOWMOBILE ISSUES ACROSS THE UNITED STATES. ACSA serves as a national watchdog organization that monitors and acts on snowmobile issues across the Snowbelt.

ACSA exists to:

- Provide an information platform to members and snowmobilers and emphasize the importance of coming together annually in DC for the Fly-In, (this spring will be the 16th year of this event), to inform and educate decision makers and at the International Snowmobile Congress, (this year will be the 47th annual), to discuss common issues.
- Serve as a fact-finding entity, gathering and disseminating information on creating, keeping and expanding trails and riding areas.
- Educate and influence politicians and land managers on riding opportunities and challenges.
- ACSA provides continuing educational information that aids local clubs and associations in their decision making process.
- ACSA establishes relationships with other user groups with similar concerns and challenges.

ACSA recently partnered with the Utah Snowmobile Association and Utah Avalanche Center to develop new avalanche education materials that are now available.

This spring the updated Facts and Myths books were circulated. Other projects included the Assessment of OHV Use on Groomed Snowmobile Trails and the Snowmobile Friendly Communities. The Groomer Training Manual is in the process of being updated.

Forest Service Snowmobile Rule - This is the result of the lawsuit filed by the cross-country ski group, Winter Wildlands Alliance (WWA), which alleged snowmobilers were not being managed by the U.S. Forest Service. The draft rule was released this summer and the final rule is expected by January 31st, 2015. ACSA, the International Snowmobile Manufacturers and the Idaho State Snowmobile Association, continue to be involved in the pending appeal. Since April, 2013, when the decision was handed down, the three groups have paid in excess of \$120,000 to defend the snowmobilers' access.

We are optimistic that the final rule will be one the snowmobile community can comply with – and that it satisfies the WWA's concern over snowmobile management.

Yellowstone National Park will be open to snowmobilers this winter – including for the first time in over a decade - snowmobilers in non-commercially guided groups! These opportunities are very limited, so if you are interested, you should apply now. The application process is online at www.recreation.gov.

ACSA once again has partnered with SnowTrails TV on a 'Discover ACSA' video that will be included with the series. This video is also available for snow shows, meetings, etc. The SnowTrails TV show airs on the Destination TV network on Saturday mornings.

Educational webinars will continue to be offered to interested snowmobilers. Upcoming topics will include the Importance of Website Content, Help – Our Website Stinks, Benefits Available to Non-Profits, and How to Get Your Articles Printed in Local Newspapers.

The 2015 CASH Calendars are now available. This is a fundraiser for both the state associations and ACSA! The cost is only \$20 – with 365 chances to win!

We are hopeful we will be able to host some Enlightenment Rides this winter – where we can get decision makers out on snowmobiles for them to see firsthand our successes and challenges.

ACSA has had the opportunity to attend and display at many snow shows and state conventions/annual meeting across the country this fall. Thank you for allowing us these opportunities -- the exposure and awareness at these events has been awesome!

The 2015 International Snowmobile Congress will be held in Niagara Falls this June.

KNOW

Before

You Go

Get your avalanche forecasts at:
 Washington Cascades (206) 526-6677
 Northern Oregon (503) 808-2400
 Idaho Panhandle (866) 489-8664
Forecasts linked at www.wssa.us



State Parks Update

By Pamela McConkey,
State Parks Winter Recreation Program Manager

Don't forget! Price Creek West-Bound Sno-Park will close in 2015.

The Price Creek West-Bound Sno-Park will close after the 2014/2015 winter season. That gives us this season to go up and use this sno-park. Working with the State Department of Transportation (DOT) on finding an alternative location to replace this sno-park resulted in no new property but a resolution to expand the Crystal Springs Sno-Park when the DOT work is concluded. Anyone who has crossed Snoqualmie Pass over the past several years has seen the fantastic improvements the State DOT has made to Interstate 90. As this work continues and moves to the east it will take out the Price Creek West-Bound Sno-Park and the Price Creek East-Bound Rest Area.

2014 Spokane Winter Knights Snow Show.

If you didn't go to the Spokane Winter Knights Snow Show in 2014, you should definitely put it on your calendar for 2015.

The Spokane show was a GREAT success, well attended and well put together. The Winter Knights dedicate a tremendous amount of time, effort and coordination into putting this show together; great job Winter Knights!

A special thanks goes to all the volunteers who spent countless hours putting the show together, checking in the volunteers and exhibitors, supplying food and beverages to the exhibitors and show workers and the amazing gifts in the drawings.

State Parks had a booth at the show and had the opportunity to see familiar faces and meet new people throughout the day. Much of the day was spent educating people on how the Snowmobile Program works, where the funding comes from and how the money is spent; handing out our new brochure and giving away ice scrapers. Thanks to Sandy Stermod, Vice President of WSSA, and Nan Berger of the U.S. Forest Service, Colville, your Parks staff had the opportunity to do some concentrated networking, assist the Deputies with the Youth Safe Rider Class and even get a bite to eat. Thanks Sandy and Nan!

The State Parks Director, Don Hoch, purchased a Discover Pass and gave it to the Winter Recreation Program to use in a drawing. Lots of folks put their name in the hat, but only one winner was chosen. Congratulations to Billy Thorson Jr., from Eatonville, Washington.

Current Snowmobile Registration Status:

This graph shows we are behind 1,328 registered snowmobiles from last season. If this trend continues, you will see much less revenue spent on the snow next year. The Washington Winter Recreation Program is fully self-supporting, relying entirely on user fees to cover the costs of trail grooming, snow removal, sanitation, trail signs, brochures, maps, education, enforcement and administration that winter recreation users want. Every user generates costs, and every user must help pay for services to continue.

Snowmobilers from out-of-state will be required to have a snowmobile Sno-Park Permit. Snowmobilers visiting Washington for just one day will be required to purchase a minimum of a one-day Sno-Park Permit. If you are planning to stay longer, a seasonal snowmobile Sno-Park Permit for \$40 would be recommended. These permits can be purchased on-line at www.parks.wa.gov/winter. Scroll down and click on "Sno-Park Permits". These Sno-Park Permits must be displayed in the window of your vehicle

Snowmobile Registrations				
	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	Monthly 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		
December	10,171	5,724		
January	3,743	2,727		
February	1,288	2,864		
March	375	612		
April	85	105		
May	23	39		
June	20	24		
Total:	28,239	24,689	7,398	(1,328)

Do you have a child 12 to 16 years?

A Youth Safe Rider class is offered several times each year. This year so far, we have held a Youth Safe Rider class during the WSSA 2014 Expo and Swap Meet in Puyallup and another during the Winter Knights Snow Show in Spokane. The next class will be offered in December in the Wenatchee area. Call your Winter Recreation Program staff for more details at (360) 902-8684. This is a highly regarded and mandated training for youth 12 to 16 years of age. Through a partnership with the Chelan County Sheriff's Department, we have two of the top rated instructors in the State. Sergeant Kent Sisson and Deputy Rich Magnusson are great instructors and make learning fun for the children. There is no cost for the training; all you need to do is sign them up, bring them and their sack lunch and pick them up at the end of the day. Mark your calendars and get your children their Safe Rider Certification!

Be safe!

State Parks Commissioners on the snow!

By Matt Mead, Publicity Secretary

I just returned from a fun event at Mt. Spokane where Pamela McConkey and Wayne McLaughlin, our State Parks Winter Rec folks, put together an outdoor adventure for the Governor-appointed State Parks Commissioners. These folks drive the direction of our Washington State Parks and State Parks-managed programs, so it is important for them to see our winter recreation program in action.

It might have been a bit of wishful thinking that there would be enough snow to actually take part in snowmobiling, dog sledding, snow-shoeing and skiing, but we tried. We had about two inches of snow on the ground so Commissioners were able to ride snowmobiles slowly around the parking lot, and the dog mushers on hand were kinda/sorta giving dog sled rides around a short trail loop. Instead of snowmobiling up to the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) cabin, they were driven in a chained-up shuttle bus.

WSSA had our safety trailer on display outside the Selkirk Lodge and answered any questions the guests had. The Winter Knights had their Search and Rescue trailer on hand as well. Empire Power Sports, a local Arctic Cat dealer, displayed a handful of new sleds (which were also some of the machines ridden by the Commissioners.) The Nordic folks were showing off a trailer-mounted warming hut they are building to put on the local ski trails and a new concessionaire, Fitness Fanatics, had their trailer full of skis and snow-shoes on hand and explained how they were going to provide rental gear onsite this winter.

Lunch was a team-effort with barbecuing led by the Spokane Winter Knights and consisted of burgers, dogs and salmon. Chili, chips, salads and a host of desserts completed the meal. During lunch, we heard presentations from Dean Meakin about WSSA, and Greg Figg on the Winter Knights and

local area snowmobiling. We also heard from the local Nordic ski club, the County Search and Rescue, and some of the Commissioners.

Did we accomplish our goal? I'd say YES! Every Commissioner who rode a snowmobile was excited and a couple want to go for a real ride this winter. (Bring it on!) I also had an enjoyable talk with one of the members of the WRAC (Winter Recreation Advisory Committee) who I thought might have been an anti-snowmobiler, but as it turned out, was interested in purchasing a utility-type machine to reach farther into the backcountry to access new ski areas!

A special thanks to Pamela McConkey, State Parks Winter Recreation Program Manager, for inviting organized snowmobiling to play a significant role in this event.



The State Parks Commissioners' Tour showcasing winter recreation was well attended.



With lacking snow cover, sampling winter recreation was difficult. That being said, a short dog sled demonstration ride was provided.



WSSA was on hand with our safety trailer. In addition to safety, we talked to attendees about snowmobiling on Mt. Spokane and around the state.



The Spokane Winter Knights took care of barbecuing hamburgers, hot dogs and salmon for our lunch. Their Search and Rescue trailer drew a lot of compliments.

WSSA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership valid until August 31, 2015

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

Family/Individual (\$25)

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____ County: _____

Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____

of Registered Sleds: _____ Number of Riders: _____

Legislative District: _____ Congressional District: _____

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

Name of Business or Club: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Owner/Business Contact or Club Contact: _____

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

Phone: _____ Email: _____ Website: _____

PAYMENT: Cash _____ Check # _____ Credit Card (Visa or M/C) _____

Dues: \$ _____

Contribution to Legal Action Fund*: \$ _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

Mail Application and Payment to: WSSA Membership

2130 Lower Peach Point Rd.

Cle Elum, WA 98922

Questions about Membership? Contact Wayne or Florence at membership@wssa.us or (509) 674-4401

Questions about WSSA? Contact: Dean Meakin, President

2928 N. Nevada

Spokane, WA 99207

(800) 783-WSSA or (509) 220-1001

E-mail: dean.meakin@wssa.us

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING YOUR SPORT

*Contributions are not tax deductible

Matt's Misc.

By Matt Mead • WSSA Publicity Secretary

matt.mead@wssa.us • (509) 697-6062



Matt Mead

SAWS Donation! Most are aware the Snowmobile Alliance of Western States (SAWS) disbanded a few months ago and I covered it here. At the time, Dave Hurwitz had mentioned SAWS was planning on making a donation to WSSA's Legal Action Fund as they closed down. At our last WSSA meeting it was announced SAWS made two donations totaling a bit over \$8,800. Wow! That is awesome! WSSA extends a heartfelt thanks to Dave and SAWS for this contribution.

Speaking of donations... WSSA received a \$1,000 donation to the Legal Action Fund from a single donor. I don't have the person's name, nor do I know if they would want it published anyway, but WOW, THANKS!

Polaris Winning Riders. And as a final comment on the WSSA Legal Action Fund, WSSA has deposited our donation from the Polaris Winning Riders program there. The 2014 donation was \$800. (I don't think I acknowledged the 2013 donation which was \$850. Thanks Polaris!)

Evergreen Sno-Park now open! What a long journey! But a grand opening ceremony was held a few weeks back and the new sno-park off of Woods and Steele near South Cle Elum is constructed and will be available for use this winter. At this time, it is about half the size of what the sno-park will be in the end, but there is still plenty of room. It will be a whole lot nicer than parking along the side of Woods and Steele, that's for sure. The grand opening was a fundraiser for the Kittitas Parks and Recreation District (KPRD) to help them pay off their debt. If you have a chance to donate to this cause, please do; there wouldn't be a new sno-park without the KPRD.

Central Oregon Avalanche Association offering AIARE Level 1 Avalanche Scholarships. Central Oregon Avalanche Association will be offering two scholarships for sledders to take an AIARE Level 1 Snowmobile specific avalanche class January 2/3/4th, 2015, in Bend, Oregon, through Central Oregon Adventures and Oregon Ski Guides. This scholarship is available to any two snowmobilers who are willing to give a little back in exchange for the tuition being covered for them. The tuition runs \$350.00 each.

The scholarship information is posted on the WSSA website, and if you have other questions, please contact Amber at Central Oregon Adventures, at (541) 593-8887.

Take care when firing up those sleds for the first time of the season... This is probably too late for most, but I thought it was worth passing along. A friend and fellow WSSA member mentioned to me his sled's motor was torn apart after a catastrophic failure. I asked what happened and he said when he went to fire it up for the first time this season, he bent a rod and who knows what else when he hit the key. Turns out that over the summer, one of the cylinders had filled up with injector oil and a crank on the starter pushed the piston against the non-compressible oil. Something had to give. Anyway, another friend mentioned he is always careful to pull his sleds over slowly by hand for that first time to make sure the pistons move up and down freely. Hmm, made me think. I pretty much just grab the cord and yank, or hit the key on the electric start ones. Think I'll do it a bit different from now on...

Warming shelters along the I-90 corridor trails. Mick Steinman, our WSSA Safety Chair, has just announced a plan to bring four warming shelters to the

I-90 corridor snowmobile trail system. What a fantastic idea! I really hadn't paid much attention to the fact there aren't any around there; surprising since it is the heaviest used snowmobile area in the state! This process won't happen overnight, and a lot of help will be needed. If nothing else, I hope those who typically ride this area will be willing to open their wallets and pull a few dollars out when it comes time to build these shelters.

The Nature Conservancy land purchase.

There is A LOT of speculation regarding what will happen to the lands recently purchased by The Nature Conservancy. And at this time we don't know for sure what the final outcome will be. We do know The Conservancy has been working hard to reach out to all land users so far, and WSSA believes this is a truly positive thing. But let me make couple of comments some may not have considered.

First, I was caught off guard by a comment a local Kittitas County Commissioner made. He said he has made a sigh of relief with The Conservancy's purchase. His position is there has been a lot of concern and speculation in Kittitas County because for years the Commission has known the land would eventually be sold, but was unaware who it would be sold to and if it might be developed. Look around Kittitas County and note the development that has occurred and the recreational access lost. While we don't know what the final land management plan will look like, we do know outdoor recreation will be a key aspect of it. (They have told us the plan will include keeping the land productive in timber harvest too, although not the usual clear cutting as seen in the past.) So we can look at The Nature Conservancy as the bad guy... (although they have done nothing to affect our access at this point...) but the point is the land has always been a wild card since it was privately owned. Think about your own property... you control it and who accesses it... and you can sell it whenever you choose.

Now, let me kick you in the butt and tell you this is YOUR FAULT! We aren't organized enough. And not just us, but all the motorized community. What if every one of us had put \$50-\$100 a year into a 'land purchase account' starting several years back. We could have bought this property. We could be looking to buy property anytime it came up for sale. And just like The Nature Conservancy, we could conserve the land for future generations to enjoy. (Obviously the difference being we would guarantee continued motorized access since that would be the prime focus.) And while buying land might be a little ambitious, (although I don't really see why it should be), another option is purchasing easements. This idea is gaining ground in the Northeast where the snowmobile community has purchased easements guaranteeing their trails on private lands. The properties can be sold, but the easement states snowmobile access will remain.

Think about it...

British Columbia institutes new registration for ATVs, snowmobiles and dirt bikes. Owners will have to pay a one-time fee of \$48 to register their vehicles and be added to a province-wide database, and they will be required to display a license plate or a decal. The registration starts out voluntary,



but becomes mandatory next June. The president of the Snowmobile Federation, Erin Hart, believes the new system will cut down on off-road vehicle theft and notes B.C. has long been known as the dumping ground for stolen off-road vehicles right across Canada and the U.S. Sounds like a step in the right direction to me.

Advertisers and Associates... Support them! And let them know WHY you support them! (WSSA and the Snoflyer can't survive without them.) Enough said, right?

Publicity Secretary position available March of 2016... Or sooner if you would like to step up now! I'm willing to work with this new volunteer at any time. Come on and give it a try! Don't tell anyone, but this is probably the best Board position in WSSA!

Facebook and Twitter? Facebook 'likes' are over 1,380! We are on Twitter at @wssa.us 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.

WSSA MEETINGS AND IMPORTANT EVENTS 2014-2015

WSSA Leadership Meeting

January 10th, 2014

9am in Naches (just west of Yakima on Hwy 12) at the Naches Ranger Station

Guided snowmobile rides planned for Friday and Sunday - Join us!

All Trails to Olympia Day

January 27th, 2015

The Capitol in Olympia

More details to come - Take this day and visit with your local legislators!

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

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

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BlueRibbon Coalition

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www.cds.clubexpress.com

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Okanogan Trails Coalition

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Apple Country Snowmobile Club

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www.applecountrysnowmobileclub.com

Bavarian Boondockers

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www.bavarianboondockers.com

Lake Chelan Snowmobile Club

Treavor Bodle • (509) 682-0143
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www.lkchelanSnowmobileclub.com

Lake Wenatchee Recreation Club

Mike Kennedy • (509) 763-0266
www.lakewenatcheereclclub.com

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Chewelah Sno Posse

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Colville Drifters

Steve Fogle • (509) 684-3601

Selkirk Trailblazers

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Lewis County Drift Skippers

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Vintage Snowmobiles of the Inland Northwest

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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!

Washington State Supporting Business

Washington State Supporting Businesses

Power Sports Repair	2001 2nd St SE	Auburn	WA	98002	www.powersportsrepair.com	253-334-8402
Washington Cedar & Supply	1400 W. Main St.	Auburn	WA	98071	www.washingtoncedar.com	253-833-6149
Mt Baker Moto-Sports, LLC	3950 Home Rd	Bellingham	WA	98226	www.mtbakermoto.com	360-676-4096
ILR Performance	23407 123rd St E	Buckley	WA	98321		253-735-5549
Jay's Snowmobile Service	1325 Hanson Loop	Burbank	WA	99323		509-845-2089
Chelan Rentals Resort	1800 Cooper Gulch Road	Chelan	WA	98816	www.chelanrentals.com	509-687-8467
Evans Marine	1058 E WoodinAve.	Chelan	WA	98816	www.evansmarine.com	509-682-4402
Mountain Addiction	362 Porcupine Lane	Chelan	WA	98816	www.mountainaddiction.com	509-881-8016
Aster Inn & Antiques	521 E 1st St	Cle Elum	WA	98922	www.asterinn.com	509-674-2551
Bator Lumber	920 East 1st St	Cle Elum	WA	98922		509-674-2430
Best Western Snow Cap Lodge	809 W Davis St	Cle Elum	WA	98922	www.snowcaplodge.com	509-674-0200
Cabin Creek Electric	207 E 1st St	Cle Elum	WA	98922	www.cabincreekelectric.com	509-656-3049
Cle Elum Econo Lodge	906 East First St	Cle Elum	WA	98922		509-674-2380
High Country Outfitters & Camp Wahoo!	1780 Nelson Siding Rd	Cle Elum	WA	98922	www.campwahoo.com	509-674-8331
Los Cabos Family Mexican Restaurant	812 W Davis St	Cle Elum	WA	98922	www.loscaboscle-elum.com	509-674-5790
MotorToys Snowmobile Sales, Svc, Rentals	1313 Spansky Way	Cle Elum	WA	98922		509-674-6807
Reliable Auto Service	703 E 1st St	Cle Elum	WA	98922		509-674-0637
The Cottage Cafe	911 E 1st St	Cle Elum	WA	98922	www.cottagecafecleelum.com	509-674-2922
Benny's Colville Inn	915 S Main St	Colville	WA	99114	www.colvilleinn.com	509-684-2517
Carey's Autobody Inc	1101 S Main	Colville	WA	99114	www.careysautobody.com	509-684-2587
Clark's Marine & Powersports	192 DeGrief Rd	Colville	WA	99114	www.johnsmarinesvc.com	509-684-4581
Colville Motor Sports	165 W Birch Ave	Colville	WA	99114	www.colvillemotorsports.com	509-684-5540
Granite Peak Inspection, Inc	2668 Highway 20 E	Colville	WA	99114	www.granitepeakinspection.com	509-684-5827
Gibson's North Fork Lodge	100 West Boone	Conconully	WA	98819	www.gibsonsnorthforklodge.com	509-826-1475
Kozy Kabins & RV Park	111 East Broadway	Conconully	WA	98819		509-826-6780
Shady Pines Resort	125 West Fork Road	Conconully	WA	98819	www.shadypinesresort.com	509-826-2287
Sit'N'Bull Bar & Grill	PO Box 322	Conconully	WA	98819		509-826-2947
Bob Feil Boats & Motors	2131 Sunset Hwy	E Wenatchee	WA	98802	www.bobfeil.com	509-884-3558
Silver Ridge Ranch	182 Silver Ridge Ranch Road	Easton	WA	98925	www.silverridgeranch.com	509-656-0275
The Fab Shop	10315 16th St E	Edgewood	WA	98372	www.thefabshop.com	253-568-9124
Adventure Power Sports Rental	907 N. Hibbs Rd	Ellensburg	WA	98926	www.adventure rentals.com	509-933-1737
Arnold's Ranch & Home	615 S. Main St.	Ellensburg	WA	98926		509-925-6181
Baird & Miller LLC	801 Manastash Rd	Ellensburg	WA	98926		509-899-0243
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
Fitterer's Furniture	4th and Main	Ellensburg	WA	98926	www.fitterersfurniture.com	800-992-9828
Heinrich Auto Supply. Inc.(NAPA)	PO Box 1020	Ellensburg	WA	98926		509-925-5371
Luft Trailer Sales	907 N Hibbs Rd	Ellensburg	WA	98926	www.lufttrailers.com	509-962-5445
Perkins Restaurant & Bakery	1504 Highway 97	Ellensburg	WA	98926		509-925-4662
Webb Power Sports	907 N Hibbs Rd	Ellensburg	WA	98926	www.webbpowersports.com	509-933-1737
Enumclaw Suzuki-Yamaha-Polaris	408 Roosevelt Ave	Enumclaw	WA	98022	www.enumclawsuzuki.com	253-825-4502
H.I.D. Source	42315 Auburn-Enumclaw Rd SE	Enumclaw	WA	98022	www.HIDSOURCE.com	253-848-0908
Jet Chevrolet - RV, Inc.	35700 Enchanted Pkwy So	Federal Way	WA	98063	www.jetchevrolet.com	877-538-2438
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
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		206-363-4670
Olympic 4x4 Supply	520 Pine Ave	Snohomish	WA	98291	www.oly4x4.com	800-752-9979
Kart-O-Rama, Inc.	13701 24th St. E Unit A4	Sumner	WA	98390	www.kartoramainc.com	253-891-3490
Action Rentals	1419 East 55th St	Tacoma	WA	98404	www.actionrentals.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
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 Supporting Businesses

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
Stateline Polaris	84853 Hwy 11	Milton-Freewater	OR	97862	www.statelinepolaris.com	800-600-5309



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SEA-DOO

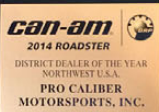


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