

Snoflyer

*The official publication of the
Washington State Snowmobile Association*

December 2018

Volume 41

***Wishing you a Safe and
Snowy Holiday Season!***

Merry Christmas

***Inside: Tips for navigating a white out
New warming hut at Tiffany Springs
Bonaparte Sno-Park improvements***

*Cover photo from the spring new sled photo shoot and provided
by the International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association*

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WSSA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership valid until August 31, 2019

Annual Dues (circle one): Individual/Family or 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: _____

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: _____ Email: _____ 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

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

Questions about WSSA? Contact: Jim Kingman, President
1331 Gibson Rd.
Selah, WA 98942
E-mail: jim.kingman@wssa.us or call (800) 783-WSSA

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING YOUR SPORT

WSSA MEETINGS AND IMPORTANT EVENTS 2018/2019

WSSA Membership Meeting The Last Resort in Ronald/Roslyn January 12th, 2019

All snowmobilers welcome! Join us upstairs for a mid-season update and find out what volunteers are doing for you on and off the snow. Guided rides planned for Friday (January 11th) and Sunday (January 13th). Meeting starts at 9am.

All Trails to Olympia State Capitol in Olympia February 5th, 2019

Have you ever talked to your legislators about snowmobiling? Join us in the Capitol to do exactly that! WSSA will make appointments for you and send an 'All Trails Veteran' along to your meeting if desired. We'll start at 8am at the Hilton DoubleTree downtown and then take the free shuttle to the capitol. More info available as the date nears.

WSSA Winter Rendezvous Hill's Resort on Priest Lake, Idaho February 15th-18th, 2019

Snowmobile right from the lodge to the trails?! Snow permitting, that is what we'll be able to do at Hill's Resort! Join us for four days of guided riding starting on Friday. Rides for ALL levels of riders.

Dinners available on Friday and Saturday nights. Fun evening activities! Both silent and live auctions on Saturday night. This is a fun weekend to ride in a new area and meet snowmobilers from around the state. Don't miss it!

WSSA Budget Meeting The Last Resort in Ronald/Roslyn March 16th, 2019

All members! Join us upstairs as we hammer out the 2019/2020 WSSA Budget and plan for a mid-season update and find out what volunteers are doing for you on and off the snow. Guided rides planned for Friday (January 11th) and Sunday (January 13th). Meeting starts at 9am.

International Snowmobile Congress Grand Rapids, Michigan June 5th-8th, 2019

A gathering of snowmobilers from around the U.S., Canada and Europe. Find out what goes on behind the scenes to make snowmobiling possible! Details available at www.snowmobilers.org/isc.

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

Chaparral Firebird.
Photo from an early
70s Chaparral
brochure.



Leadership

Jim Kingman, President

jim.kingman@wssa.us • (509) 698-3658



Well, still no snow on the ground yet but boy have I had a busy fall. I've had three snow shows in the last month, a Halloween party in the streets of Cle-Elum, four or five meetings and much more coming up soon with snowmobile clubs and grooming committees all starting to have meetings. I have always enjoyed attending these snow shows as it gives me a chance to see my long time friends I only see a couple times a year and the new ones I meet at these events. Expo was the first snow show to open the season and get some excitement going for the upcoming season. I also made the trip to the Spokane Winter Knights show and the Boondockers Snofest in Leavenworth. I really love these smaller shows too as they are always a blast and are very well organized. Everyone is always so friendly; I really hate to pack up and head home from all three shows.

One thing we are doing again this year is our raffle giveaway of a sled deck. Proceeds from this go into our Legal Action Fund to help protect our riding areas. We have a North Cascade sled deck this year donated by North Cascade Sled Decks from Marysville Washington and the Super Clamps donated by Diesel Werks from Cle-Elum. Please support both of these suppliers as this is a huge help to us that they wanted to both help with our raffle. If you have not yet bought raffle tickets they are \$5 each with us selling a maximum of 1,000 tickets. Contact me or anyone on the WSSA board and we will be happy to get you tickets if you would like to purchase some.

Something I do every year at this time is remind everyone about riding in closed areas when the snow hits. I too want to get out there and ride but also know when I have to sit back and wait it out. By this I mean in most areas, roads don't open for us to ride until around December 15th. Mostly due to the late hunting season and Christmas tree hunters. So the law is, unless you see the road closed signs up for wheeled vehicles, we can't ride there until they are up. If you still choose to ride it can be expensive for the fines but can also lead to us losing areas to ride because we ignore the law. I have waited all summer to get out there and another week or two certainly won't hurt too bad.

We do have a few Christmas parades coming up with the first one in Cle-Elum soon. I love how that small community turns out for their local events. I remember a few years back the weather was massively cold yet the sidewalks were still packed with people. You don't normally see this in larger populated areas. With that I will just leave you with Happy Safe Holidays everyone!

Dean Meakin, Vice President

dean.meakin@wssa.us • (509) 220-1001



Well it is over! You know I am talking about the election. I hope everyone you voted for got the victory. So now what? Well I am glad you asked. On February 5th, 2019, we will be going to our capital in Olympia to talk to all the newly elected officials. It is our responsibility to educate everyone at the Capital about our Winter Recreational Program. Share with them we are a self-funded user group and we want to keep our funds! Dee Alred will have plenty of talking points for us. You may be talking to someone you didn't vote for, that's ok, they are people too. They need the same education about WSSA as the ones you did vote for. You may be surprised by their responses. Remember, if we don't commit to do this, then we are falling short of our responsibility to this organization. I am also included in the 'WE'.

This is your second reminder concerning the WSSA officer elections that are online and coming soon. Please make sure you can log into your WSSA account now, so you know when the time comes to vote, you will be good to go. The Membership Committee can help you with the details.

This is your third reminder: Next year the International Snowmobile Congress will be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan, from June 5th-8th. So if you would like to attend, follow this link to get started: www.international-snowmobile-congress.com/isc2019. The best rates for flights are before January 1st.

I am working on a new educational program titled YAH! "You Are Here!". More will follow in the next publication.

Everyone, please be careful out there as we approach the holiday season. Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year!



District Reports



District 1 North

By Aaron Doran
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The Whatcom County Snowmobile Association has definitely pulled a rabbit out of their hat. In just a weeks time the volunteers have **successfully built a 10'x20' warming hut.** Frame, axles, stove and windows all donated by club members. Mt. Baker Roofing pitched in for all the roofing supplies. A large portion of the additional expenses were covered through a GoFundMe (more donations). The newest hut in District 1 North will be placed **at the 'Y' on Glacier Creek near the Kiddy Bowl.**

With Bear Paw and Excelsior open for grooming this year (Canyon Creek) and a new warming hut on Glacier, its shaping up to be an awesome season. So if you're going to ride the North side of Baker (HWY 542) you'll have plenty of great backcountry riding to test your skills and two warming huts to take the chill off.



District 1 South

By Tony Keys
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The Cascade Drift Skippers' Bag Pop event brings a full meeting every time. The topic of safety has gained a tremendous amount of appeal within the snowmobile industry and it is no different within individual clubs. At the November 14th Bag Pop event, all the members were invited to bring their avalanche backpacks and set them off at the end of the meeting. Occasionally one fails to go off, but that's the entire purpose of the pre-season test, to troubleshoot. Every tank is refilled and installed under the watchful eyes of experienced individuals.

On another topic of safety; the free avalanche courses at the local dealerships had a huge turnout; some events were standing room only. The Northwest Avalanche Center Sled Bash event had a great turnout as well and raised \$11,000 for avalanche education.

Events for the CDS group: December 8th is the annual Christmas party held at the

Last Resort. January 5th is the third annual Ladies Ride.



District 2 South

By Matt Kensrud
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Hello from District 2 South! Still waiting for snow here but there's a lot going on in the district.

I attended the Chelan club meeting on October 24th with another record attendance. The club has accomplished all of their projects; 25-Mile hut and North Shore are stocked with wood and ready for winter. At the meeting, the groomer asked the club for help brushing some of the trail system, mainly on the North Shore. The club is working hard planning for their upcoming events. First is the drag races held at the Mill Bay Casino in Manson on the 26th of January. It was nice to see the club at Snowfest 7; looked like they were getting good feedback in there booth.

Wenatchee Apple County Club also had record attendance. Topics for meeting included which Stemilt Partnership proposal to vote on and they also talked about snow cat maintenance and where they are going to stage the groomers. The club has a new lease for the Lilly Lake Sno-Park and they plan to put up new signage at the sno-park. It was noted Court Shipley is coming on board to start his grooming training. The club's Christmas party is planned for December 11th.

The Bavarian Boondockers had a great snow show with about 675 people through the door. Other business; the warming hut committee built a wood shed by the warming hut and stocked it with wood.

I missed the Lake Wenatchee Rec Club meeting as I was attending the Winter Knights' snow show. **I will be attending next meeting; sorry.** Any questions? Feel free to e-mail me at kustom509@aol.com.



District 3

By Greg Figg
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Greetings everybody from what we hope will be a snowy North-

east Washington!

Well, it is the end of November with the WSSA Expo and Winter Knights Snow Shows both in the history books. It was encouraging to see increased attendance this year and to hear vendors at both shows reporting very good sales!

In the Spokane area we are hoping for a great winter. Some have already been out riding at Lookout Pass with the snow that fell this past week. So it looks like the riding season

in NE Washington cannot be very far away.

I would encourage everyone to attend the WSSA Winter Rendezvous in Priest Lake, Idaho, this year **at Hill's Resort. It is over President's Day weekend which is February 15th-18th.** Please see this edition of the Snoflyer for more information and the registration form.



District 4 North

By Craig Miller
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Still we wait. I just returned from my Montana deer-hunting trip a few days ago. I traversed Snoqualmie Pass, **Idaho's 4th of July Pass and Lookout pass** as well as a few others toward the east of the Big Sky Country. The only place I saw a **trace of snow was on top of Idaho/Montana's Lookout Pass.** Otherwise bare and wet. As this is written, we wait for snow.

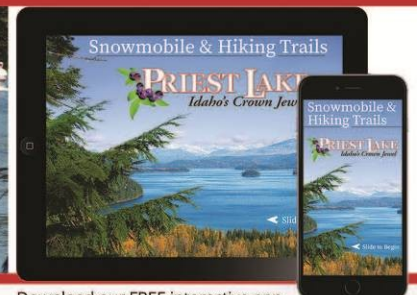
So I spent a day looking over the snowmobile and its enclosed trailer. I greased the **sled's rear suspension, examined the drive belt** and blew out the clutch with compressed air. I tightened all the fasteners I could reach especially on the skis and suspension. I keep the battery on a maintainer all the time so she started right up. I topped off the fuel tank with fresh 92 non-ethanol and made sure the oil tank was full. My 2016 Polaris AXYS 800 sure is frugal on oil compared to the old 2010 REV XP. I went through my gear and tunnel

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District Reports

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bag. Checked the first-aid kit. Charged my Garmin Rino. Put new batteries in everything that takes batteries; headlamp, strobe, transceiver. I also replaced my fire starters with new and better ones.

Need some riding buddies? There are two clubs active in my district. The Sno-Jammers; meet first Wednesday of each month at the Puyallup Round Table Pizza on Meridian at 7pm. Junco meets on the first Monday of each month at Hawks Prairie Restaurant in the Sports Bar in Lacey at 6:30pm for socializing and 7pm for the meeting. Look for the club jackets.



District 4 South

By Mike Ainslie
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Greetings to everyone! Well I hope everyone has started to get their sleds and trailers ready for the season. I know I talk about this every year, but trust me, as a mechanic, either doing it yourself or paying someone to do a pre-season inspection on your snowmobile and trailer is some of the best money you will spend all year. One thing you don't want is to be broke down once our season gets going.

As we all await the arrival of the snow, it's a great time to ask around about any snowmobile clubs in your local areas. Maybe stop by one of the clubs' meetings and see if it's something for you. Most clubs do events during the season and go on club rides, and do lots of charity things for their local communities. You will meet new friends and maybe get to ride places you've never been before.

With the season almost here, the Mt. St. Helens Trac Riders Club is almost finished with the new warming shelter at the Marble Mountain Sno-Park. We did a work party the first weekend of November starting on Friday and worked until 8pm on Sunday, and then came right back the following weekend. Its close, and I do mean very close, to being finished. At least for what we can get done for this season. Some things will have to wait until next summer.

I would like to give a very special THANK YOU to all the club members and volunteers who just showed up to help out in any way

they could, and for the work we were able to get finished on these two weekends. Believe me, this has been a major job to get this much finished before the snow falls. We got **a late start on the building so that's made this job even tougher.** Everyone needs to know this has all been done with all volunteer labor and countless hours of our club **members' time that has been devoted to see this project though.**

We have already been making some plans for upcoming events for the club this year to help in calibrating our new building. We will once again be having our annual Christmas party on the 15th of December. Please come and join us in this event. If you have small kids, bring a present and Santa will be there to give it to your child. We are hoping for SNOW so Santa can arrive on a snowmobile!

I'm very happy to announce that once again we will be holding our ride for the Blind School. We've already been told from the Blind School that they have over 50 kids signed up for this event. This event will be held the end of February. Once this event gets close I will be asking for anyone who would like to volunteer their time to help these kids enjoy a few hours of riding on a snowmobile and playing in the snow. We'll also enjoy a hot lunch back at our new shelter.

We are still without a groomer operator for the Mt. St. Helens area, so if you know someone who may be interesting in running the groomer, please have them contact me and I can get them in touch with the owner of our groomers.

So with all that, let's keep thinking SNOW SNOW SNOW! I hope everyone has a great upcoming holidays and be safe.



District 5 North

By Bill Miller
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(509) 899-0243

The Reecer Creek Riders (RCR) would like to thank their business partner LandTek Sight Solutions for the \$100.00 donation. Their donation is based on the goals of a snowmobile trails maintenance program the Reecer Creek Riders are developing. The trails require aggressive brushing. This brushing also provides safer roads in no snow seasons. The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) brushing budget has been

eliminated. In addition to Kittitas the RCR anticipate establishing business partners in Yakima, Grant and Chelan counties.

The RCR have three USFS Sawyer Certified members. These members are assisting the USFS, Department of Natural Resources, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Kittitas County in developing brushing maintenance of snowmobile trails.

Debra Davis and Brian Speeg at the Cle Elum USFS have been very supportive of a Washington State Snowmobile Association and Back Country Horseman of Washington (BCHW) partnership. This partnership will enable WSSA to award USFS Sawyer Certifications. Thank you Tom Mix and Tony Karniss at BCHW. This partnership has certified fifteen sawyers this year.

Recently the Evergreen Sno-Park had significant grading improvements. These improvements decreased the grade angles at the entrance and groomed trail.

Kittitas County Public Works has plans to expand the Manastash Sno-Park. This would provide safer parking at the end of the paved road. We look forward to supporting Jim Vandeventer on this project.

Think Snow!



District 5 South

By Rudy Classen
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Not much to report from here. Still waiting for snow up in the mountains. We have had a wee bit **but it hasn't been enough to stick around for more than a day or two.** However, most have put away their summer toys and are now getting their winter toys ready. It was so boring that at our first grooming meeting no one showed up but a few hard core winter enthusiasts so we had to cancel that meeting.

The Drift-A-Way club is busy setting their riding schedule and the Ski-Benders are hard **at work planning their annual 'kick off the season' Crab Feed. Don't know how many years they have been doing it, but it started way back some time in the last century.** In addition to all-you-can-eat crab, there is barbecue prime rib as the alternative. There will be the usual raffles after everyone has had their fill. The grand prize will be a two-night stay at the Bear Creek

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District Reports

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Lodge in McCall, Idaho; a \$300 value.

The Ski-Benders also have an 'over-the-snow' Scavenger Hunt on January 5th based out of the Tampico Sno-Park. This is a fun event with nice prizes and there is no cost to participants.

The Ski-Benders' Snowfest is January 27th, out of the Little Naches Sno-Park.

Some of us are working on the snowbike legislation again this year. We thought we had it done last year as it passed 98-0 in one of the first readings but it got caught up in a log jam during the final days of last year's short session. So we are at it again. It will be our main topic during our All Trails to Olympia Day when we meet with all of the legislators. We are always in need of more sledders to join us in Olympia, especially snowmobilers from the west side. So look at your calendar and try to make plans to be in Olympia on February 5th.

Our day in Olympia may very well be the most important function for WSSA. Without WSSA members calling on all of our legislators year after year we would not have gotten more of our gas tax money which is, by way of the Washington State Constitution, due us. The legislators would have continued using it for other purposes. This gas tax money goes for grooming and without it our grooming would be about half of what it is. So if you want to support your sledding, join us in Olympia or don't complain about non-groomed or poorly groomed trails.

If you want to see what working with legislators can do for us, go to WSSA's Facebook page and you will see pictures of the new Marble Mountain warming hut at Mt. St. Helens. It took about eight years to get the Forest Service to build a new warming hut on the site of one that was burned down. It still wouldn't be built if it wasn't for the District 4 South WSSA Rep contacting Senator Maria Cantwell and Congresswoman Jaime Herrera-Beutler. After Mike Ainslie talked to them, the project went from number 99 to number one.



District 6

By Gary Simmons
(509) 529-0210

Hello fellow snowmobilers! As I write this, I have just returned from sunny California so it doesn't seem possible that we are gearing up for snowmo-

Did you know?

The Washington State Parks Winter Recreation Program staff is producing geo-referenced PDF trail maps for use on your smart phone with a map reading app? Data plans and cell service are not required; the apps use your phone's built in GPS. To download maps, visit <https://parks.state.wa.us/1061/Mobile-friendly-maps>. (One free map reading app is Avenza; find it in your favorite App Store.)

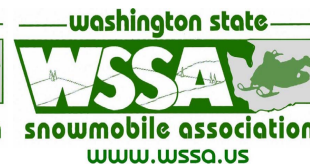


bile season. Yet, at the same time, I saw where 7,000 flights were cancelled late last week due to an East Coast storm. Who knows what that really means for us here out West. Will we have record snowfall this year instead? One can only hope...

In the meantime, our local clubs are once again starting to hold regular meetings and planning activities and events for when the snow does fly. I have already made my plans to attend our WSSA Winter Rendezvous at Hills Resort in Priest Lake, Idaho, on February 15th-18th. This is a great time to gather with fellow enthusiasts and snowmobile in new and different areas you might not get a chance to otherwise. If you have never attended, make your plans to join us over President's Day Weekend.

WSSA is again offering a scholarship to either a graduating high school senior or a person currently enrolled in a college, technical or vocational program. This is a \$2,000 grant, and will be given to the winner regardless of other grants or scholarships the student may also receive. With the rising prices in higher education, this scholarship can sure help. Be sure and look further in this Snoflyer for additional information.

That's it for now. Once again, think snow!



WSSA Legal Action Fund Raffle North Cascade Sled Deck

As you wander around the WSSA Expo and Swap Meet, don't forget to swing by the WSSA booth and pick up a raffle ticket or two. The tickets are \$5 each... but only 1,000 will be sold. Those are spectacular odds!

Legal action to protect your riding areas is expensive! WSSA needs to be able to defend snowmobiling when the issues arise and this means having a strong Legal Action Fund!

Any tickets not sold at Expo will then be available at the Spokane Snow Show and the Leavenworth SnowFest. If any tickets remain after all three shows, you will have a chance to buy them from a WSSA board member.

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

Deck donated and built by North Cascade Sled Decks in Marysville, WA. Features include:

All aluminum expandable sled deck
Adjustable legs for long or short box
11 foot 2 piece ramp

Includes center loading
Side lights and dome light
Carbide protectors for all 3 positions

Super Clamps donated by DieselWerxs.com in Cle Elum, WA

(Buying raffle tickets in support of the Legal Action Fund are in no way tax deductible.)

Club News

Tollgate Trail Finders

By Bob Smith, Vice President

Hi snowmobile friends and winter sports enthusiasts!

We are getting closer to kicking off our 2018-2019 snowmobile season at Tollgate. November 3rd was our first board meeting of the season to make plans for winter activities at the TTF (Tollgate Trail Finders).

We talked about including side by sides and snow bikes in our ride schedule; we want the club to be welcoming to all over-the-snow motorized winter sports vehicles that are approved by the Forest service. Even though the club may not be able to sanction them without amending our by-laws, the plan is to bring it before the general membership for a vote. In the meantime, as long as they meet the width requirements as set forth by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), they are legal to ride on the trails.

Our primary focus is on club rides on the TTF trail system. However, we would like to have a couple of weekend trips. One possibility is McCall, Idaho, the weekend of February 8th through the 10th. This would avoid the busy McCall Winter Carnival as lodging could be a problem. Halfway, Oregon is another getaway option.

With the Alpine Outpost Restaurant now fully operational we would like to show our support by having them either cater or dine in their restaurant after some of our monthly TTF club general membership meetings.

Jess Thompson, TTF Groomer Chairman, provided the following report: *"We have spent 70 hours working on both groomers summer through fall, 900 miles driven to/from the mountain, and 15 hours driving to/from mountain to work on the groomers. We spent \$3,325 on both groomers to get them ready for the season. We also spent \$4,530 on diesel fuel for the next season. Thanks to the Oregon State Snowmobile Association for providing us with these funds. The groomers are ready and waiting for the season to start.*

I did spend some time patching on the roof of the groomer shed, and with this latest rain, only had one small leak.

I am going to start replacing the 100 watt bulbs in the lower shop with LED bulbs as there are 17 of them which consume 1700 watts when they are on. I had one surcharge this last spring of \$90 for one day of being over the kilowatt limit, as we are considered a business instead of a residence. This is a new policy that UEC (Umatilla Electric Co-op) put in this last year for the spike in electrical use. We had a spike in electrical use for one hour as we had all the lights on, air compressor running, and the heater running. I have talked to UEC about this to try to get us changed to the same rate as a residence.

I have distributed trail maps to most of the advertisers on the back of the map, except for the Tri-Cities dealers and Lexington. I have volunteers lined up to get those out. This is the last year on the four-year cycle on the trail map, so there will be a new map next season.

Thanks to Larry Randall, John Mandershied and Tony Glover of the USFS for working with me to try to fix the water problems at Woodland highway crossing and the Spout Springs marsh area. They have placed logs in both places, and a small culvert at Spout so we can build a snow bridge over the water. If this does not work,



we will be looking at putting a culvert at the Woodland crossing and improving on Spout. TenEyke Meadow will still be a problem if we have a warm, wet winter like it started out last winter. The club will hopefully be successful in coming up with a solution in the future, because it is on private land.

Thanks to Allen Thompson, Doug Watson, Kurt Entze, Larry Mahana, Buckshot Carter for helping me get the groomers ready this summer."

Other Items discussed and calendar dates to keep in mind are as follows:

- Dec 8th - Annual Bluewood ride (snow permitting)
- Dec 29th - End of year party/poker run
- Jan 5th - General meeting
- Jan 15th-20th - OSSA Convention, Diamond Lake Resort
- Feb 2nd - General meeting
- Feb 15th-18th - WSSA Winter Rendezvous, Priest Lake
- Mar - **2nd General meeting, elections, 'steak out'!**
- April 6th - End of season party (At Wildhorse???)

TTF swag for sale; on display at the clubhouse for you to check out:

- Long sleeve shirt - \$20
- Short sleeve shirt - \$15
- TTF hats - \$15

We will have updates on our website www.tollgatetrailfinders.org. Make sure to "like" us on Facebook so you get the latest updates; www.facebook.com/Tollgate-Trail-Finders-Snowmobile-Club-216591179932.

Junco Snowmobile Club

By Craig Miller, Vice President



Greetings snowmobilers! Junco took on the responsibility of running the WSSA Snow Show Blue Lot Swap Meet again for the second year. It's always a challenge and we try hard to minimize any confrontations with our fellow riders. We are all volunteers, and we as riders are all in this together. Right?

First, I'm happy to report we only had one grumbling malcontent. But in fairness, it was about 5:45am in the dark and they had been in line for a while. That is just proof that you can't please everyone. Secondly, if you came into the Blue Lot to sell or park you were met by the lovely ladies and gentleman of our Junco Snowmobile Club. They were collecting the vendor forms from sellers and swap meet fees and the donations for parking.

If you gave a donation for parking as the great majority did, you are congratulated. Yes, as usual in society, especially nowadays, there are some who depend on everyone else to carry them. There were some complete tight wads out there and you know who you are. These are the ones who just show up and ride. There is a lot more to running a snowmobile program in Washington than just showing up in the sno-park and mounting your sled. Get involved. This sport is here because a very small fraction of volunteers (who also have jobs, kids, and busy lives) donate their time to be sure it's adequately planned, funded and managed. Snowmobiling is a self-funded winter recreation program that would not exist but for the volunteer hours donated to make it happen.

Over the past two years Junco has done duty for WSSA at the Snow Show; we have concentrated on meeting all

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Club News

(Continued from page 9)

of you at your car window, providing a warm smile and bidding you a warm greeting while collecting your parking donation. These extremely important donations go directly into the WSSA Legal Fund.

There are evil forces at work against the motorized community that use the public forest lands. There is a well organized and well-funded coalition of so called 'green' groups who think allowing motorized access to our forests should be stopped immediately if not sooner. Some are so radical that they want 'human free' forests. They call for the abolishment of human access, let alone motorized access. They use so called endangered species legislation as well as large corporate donations to fund their radical, ideological movement. Companies like R.E.I., Patagonia and The North Face are but a few examples of their supporters. Buy your outdoor gear from companies that don't use their profits to kick you out of the woods.

WSSA works with other organizations such as the American Council of Snowmobile Associations and the BlueRibbon Coalition, as well as motorized clubs, to fund the fights to keep our public lands open to the motorized community. This is where your donations to the WSSA Legal Fund go. I'm proud to report over the past two WSSA Snowmobile and Power Sports Expo and Swap Meets, the tiny Junco Snowmobile Club of give or take 12 families, has raised \$15,846 in Blue Lot parking donations for the fight to keep the trails open to motorized users.

I thank all of you who gave a donation and some gave a lot. Thank you!

Now, lets go riding!

Northwest Glacier Cruisers

By Julie Street Doran



The Northwest Glacier Cruisers (NWGC) hope everyone is having a wonderful holiday season! We all once again are having a big finish to 2018 and are planning an even bigger start to 2019 with lots in store.

Just a friendly reminder that when grooming has started, you are NOT to drive past the 'NO WHEELED VEHICLE' signs; if you do, you are tearing up our groomed roads. Please tell your 4x4 friends to STAY OFF OUR ROADS!

Our mission: To promote the sport of snowmobiling through good fellowship and sportsmanship, community service, education of our youth, and cooperation with local authorities to maintain our riding areas.

Also a reminder, Washington Fish and Game Department officers will be patrolling sno-parks this year. Get your tabs and sno-park permits. The permits must be displayed on your wind-

shield, not on the dash, not on the console. Every dime for your tabs and permits goes to our grooming program. Every dime of your ticket for not having them goes to the state. Please do your part to help our grooming program! Thank you to all of you that already have them, we appreciate it!

A Tribute to Luke Rohde: We are happy to announce a new program that Arctic FX has offered up. They are donating all of the profits from the sale of the Luke Rohde Tribute Wrap. Northwest Glacier Cruisers has been asked to facilitate this new program in co-operation with his family and his friends.

(Continued on page 11)

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(Continued from page 10)

We are going to offer a raffle for a full sled wrap of your choice; the proceeds from this raffle will be used for scholarships for the avalanche courses in the state of Washington. We will offer ticket sales from our website www.northwestglaciercruisers.com and will also offer tickets at the Shoot Out on March 23rd. The drawing for the sled wrap will be during the Shoot Out and we will also raffle off the scholarships for the avalanche courses. We will offer one wrap this year and one next year so far. We have added a new tab to our website and a link to purchase tickets. Please be sure to give name, address and phone number. Need not be present to win.

I am so amazed at the snowmobile community near and far! We so appreciate this and we hope that you will take advantage of this great opportunity to pay tribute to our friend Luke. Please share out to everyone so we can give away lots of scholarships! Thanks Fritz for helping come up with this idea!

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 more information about all upcoming events by finding us on Twitter at @NWGCSledders and also on Facebook at Northwest Glacier Cruisers. E-mail us at northwestglaciercruisers@gmail.com for any information. We look forward to seeing you on the mountain!

Apple Country Snowmobile Club

By Tim Downs

December greetings from the Apple Country Snowmobile Club (ACSC) to all you snowmobilers. ACSC is up and running like we haven't been for many a year. Our membership has increased by four times. We meet and have to introduce ourselves. The November meeting had a special guest by the name of Matt Kensrud (our WSSA District Rep) who was there to give us a little encouragement for Search and Rescue and encouragement for WSSA. The man could sell snow to a snowmobiler. He brings enthusiasm to any gathering... one of the good guys. He and the Bavarian Boondockers are busy getting their warming hut set up and Snowfest ready in Leavenworth. (Which if you didn't know about it until now, you missed it.)

Our membership has soared because of politics and land-use management procedures in the Colockum. Lady Justice is an interesting lady. I guess we'll just see how this works out. Your participation politically for snowmobile access sometimes takes effort; so be involved, stay involved and get involved.

On a lighter note, we are looking forward to our Christmas party that will feature a few stories, a few gifts and good snacks.



Tim Downs view while slacking Phoenix.

Upcoming On-The-Snow Club Events:

- Dec 8 - Tollgate Trail Finders Annual Bluewood Ride**
- Dec 15 - Mt. St. Helens Trac Riders Christmas Party at new Marble Mountain Warming Hut**
- Dec 29 - End of year party/poker run**
- Jan 5 - Cascade Drift Skippers Ladies Ride**
 - PNWVSC Vintage Ride at Lake Wenatchee
 - Yakima Ski-Benders Scavenger Hunt in the Ahtanum
- Jan 19 - PNWVSC Vintage Meet at Lolo Hot Springs Resort, MT**
- Jan 26 - Lake Chelan Snowmobile Clubs Drag Races, Manson**
- Jan 27 - Yakima Ski-Benders Winterfest at Little Naches**
- Feb 15-18 - WSSA Winter Rendezvous at Hill's, Priest Lake, ID**
- Mar 23- NWGC Mt. Baker Shoot Out**

**** All events snow permitting!****

Please contact the club/association sponsoring the events for updated, detailed information. (Contact info can be found in this Snoflyer.)

Have an event you would like listed? E-mail info to snoflyer@wssa.us.

Would your club like to run an ad for an upcoming events. Club rates are half the listed rate on the rate sheet - almost giving them away!

Clubs - Show us your LOGOs!

Our snow grooming committee, headed by Cal Anderson and side-kick Mike Bratton, are changing the oil and getting the State tracking beacons tuned up. The season is cooling down with snow in the forecast.

The explanation of our featured 'snowmobile picture' is the reason I missed November's Snoflyer. I was looking at the clouds forming in the Phoenix area and not a snowflake to be seen. My apologies for fumbling on the November article.

See you in the hills!

Pacific Northwest Vintage Snowmobile Club

By Kevin Hancock, Webmaster



Our members teamed up with the Vintage Snowmobiles of the Inland Northwest club to put on a FANTASTIC display at the Winter Knights Show and ATV Expo. The event was on November 10th. They had two contests, People's Choice and President's Award. The walk away winners of the awards went to Paul Kruger and Candy Johnson for their popular restored 1969 Mercury 220E, and Dick Feil and his TOTALLY AWSOME 1966 Arctic Cat King 460D. Congratulations everyone for a wonderful-showing at this annual event.

During the shows we take the opportunity to share labor hauling sleds. Two of our Montana members had picked

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Supporting Businesses

Washington State Supporting Businesses

Puget Sound Restoration Inc	5802 Cemetary Rd #B	Arlington	WA	98223	www.psrestorationinc.com	360-548-3525
Power Sports Repair	2001 2ndSt 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
Jay's Snowmobile Service	1325 Hanson Loop	Burbank	WA	99323		509-845-2089
Chelan Rentals Resort	1800 Cooper Gulch Rd	Chelan	WA	98816	www.chelanrentals.com	509-687-8467
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
Aster Inn & Antiques	521 E 1st St	Cle Elum	WA	98922	www.asterinn.com	509-674-2551
High Country Outfitters & Camp Wahoo!	1780 Nelson Siding Rd	Cle Elum	WA	98922	www.campwahoo.com	509-674-8331
MotorToys Snowmobile Sales, Svc, Rentals	1313 Spansky Way	Cle Elum	WA	98922	www.motortoysofcleelum.com	509-674-6807
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.cottagecafecleelum.com	509-674-2922
Whispering Pines RV Park	100 Whispering Pines Dr	Cle Elum	WA	98922	www.whisperingpinescleelum.com	509-674-7278
Benny's Colville Inn	915 S Main St	Colville	WA	99114	www.colvilleinn.com	509-684-2517
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
Gibsons North Fork Lodge	100 West Boone	Conconully	WA	98819	www.gibsonsnorthforklodge	509-826-1475
Kozy Kabins & RV Park	111 East Broadway	Conconully	WA	98819		509-826-6780
Shady Pines Resort	125 West Fork Rd	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
Easton Saloon	1860 Railroad	Easton	WA	98925		509-656-2309
Silver Ridge Ranch	182 Silver Ridge Ranch Rd	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.adventurepsrentals.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
Luft Trailer Sales	907 N Hibbs Rd	Ellensburg	WA	98926	www.lufttrailers.com	509-962-5445
Webb Power Sports	907 N Hibbs Rd	Ellensburg	WA	98926	www.webbpowersports.com	509-933-1737
Clem's Enumclaw Powersports	408 Roosevelt Ave	Enumclaw	WA	98022	www.enumclawsuzuki.com	360-825-4502
LLUMIN8 Lighting	42315 Auburn Enumclaw Rd SE	Enumclaw	WA	98022	www.llumin8.com	253-233-7547
Jet Chevrolet - RV Inc.	35700 Enchanted Pkwy S	Federal Way	WA	98063	www.jetchevrolet.com	877-538-2438
Soundview Consultants LLC	2907 Harborview Dr	Gig Harbor	WA	98335	www.soundviewconsultants.com	253-514-8952
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.ridenowtricies.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
Pacific Logging LLC	8425 123 rd Ave NE	Lake Stevens	WA	98258		425-508-9150
Greg's Motorsports	5817 184 th 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 Auto Parts	1320 US Hwy 2	Leavenworth	WA	98826	www.napaonline.com/wa/leavenworth	509-548-7319
Dans Food Market	1329 US Hwy 2	Leavenworth	WA	98826	www.dansfoodmarket.com	509-548-5611
Leavenworth Snowmobile Rentals	15361 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
Lynwood Motoplex	17900 Hwy 99	Lynnwood	WA	98046	www.motoplex.net	425-774-0505
Smokey Point Cycle Barn	15202 Smokey Point Blvd	Marysville	WA	98271	www.smokeypointcyclebarn.com	360-530-7800
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
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
Washington Tractor	PO BOX 1098	Okanogan	WA	98840		877-422-3030
Xtreme Powersports	1930 2 nd 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
Mac's Tire of Omak	631 Okoma Dr.	Omak	WA	98841		
Pateros Trading/Rivers Restaurant	245 Lakeshore Dr	Pateros	WA	98846	www.howardsontheriver.com	509-923-2200
Blu-Shastin RV Park	3300 US Hwy 97	Peshastin	WA	98847	www.blushastin.com	509-548-4184
Moto-Trax	3319 Rodesco Ct SE	Puyallup	WA	98374	www.moto-trax.com	253-312-7382
Chet's Honda/Polaris	17 H Street SW	Quincy	WA	98848	www.chetshonda.com	509-787-3617
Roosterbuilt LLC.	PO Box 166	Ravensdale	WA	98057	www.roosterbuilt.com	425-432-3278
Rainier Welding Inc	19020 NE 84th St	Redmond	WA	98053	www.rainierwelding.com	425-868-1300
Sundance Landscaping	11609 172nd Ave NE	Redmond	WA	98052	www.sundancelandscaping.com	425-533-6008
Anderson's Grocery	711 S Clark Ave	Republic	WA	99166		509-775-3378
Earthworks, Inc.	P.O. Box 111	Ronald	WA	98940		
Boulder Creek Enterprises	14121 Salmon LaSac Rd-Ronald	Roslyn	WA	98941		509-649-2222
J & B Enterprises	P.O. Box 440	Roslyn	WA	98941		206-484-0204
Repin Construction LLC	PO Box 541	Roslyn	WA	98941		509-649-3323
The Last Resort	14254 Salmon LaSac Rd-Ronald	Roslyn	WA	98941	www.thelastresortwa.com	509-649-2222
Life Support	P.O. Box 433	S. Cle Elum	WA	98943		509-260-0091
Dianes Tank Removal Services LLC	PO Box 77738	Seattle	WA	98177	www.dianestankremoval.com	206-510-9497
Trailside Homes	P.O. Box 4279	Seattle	WA	98194	www.trailsidehomes.com	509-674-8190
Landtek	20029 82 nd Ave SE	Snohomish	WA	98296		425-489-9972
Empire Cycle & Powersports	7807 E Sprague Ave	Spokane Valley	WA	98212	www.empire-cycle.com	509-892-6368
509-Kart-O-Rama Inc	13701 24 th St E Unit A4	Sumner	WA	98390	www.kartoramainc.com	253-891-3490
Larson Powersports Northwest	7815 South Tacoma Way	Tacoma	WA	98409	www.larsonpowersportsnorthwest.com	253-344-5930
Complete Repair Services	7242 Littlerock Rd.SW	Tumwater	WA	98512	www.completerepairservicesllc.com	360-570-2210
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
Independent Trailer & Equip Co	1602 Rudkin Rd	Union Gap	WA	98901	www.itec-inc.com	509-452-3672
Procaliber Motorsports	P.O. Box 1679	Vancouver	WA	98668	www.procalibervancouver.com	866-796-5020
G & G Automotive Machine	34 S Palouse	Walla Walla	WA	99362		509-525-2890
Wenatchee Power Sports	3031 G.S. 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
Cowlitz Motorsports	PO Box 846	Winlock	WA	98596		360-520-3911
Three Fingered Jacks	176 Riverside Ave	Winthrop	WA	98862	www.3fingeredjacks.com	509-996-2411
Winthrop Inn Motel	960 Hwy 20	Winthrop	WA	98856	www.winthropinn.com	509-996-2217
Ride Motorsports	19035 Woodinville-Snohomish Rd	Woodinville	WA	98072	www.ridemotorsports.com	425-487-3881
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	www.owencycleinc.com	509-575-1916
Premier Power Sports	1504 Fruitvale Blvd	Yakima	WA	98902	www.premierpowersportswa.com	509-965-9889
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
Mountain Village Resort	Jct Hwy 21 & 75	Stanley	ID	83278	www.mountainvillage.com	800-843-5475
SK Northwest/Polaris of Portland	250 SE Division Pl	Portland	OR	97292	www.sknorthwest.com	503-238-2510

Club News

(Continued from page 11)



The PNWVSC joined forces with the Vintage Snowmobiles of the Inland Northwest at the Spokane Winter Knights show and had another great display of classic machines.



PNWVSC members help each other out! This sled slowly moving from MT to its new home on the West Side, currently resting in Spokane, waiting for a member heading that way...

up a 1969 Homelite For-
ester from Peerless, MT,
earlier this year. When
they went to the Winter
Knight's show in Spokane
they brought it with
them. It is now safely
stored in Spokane until
one of our members in
the Puget Sound region
can arrange a ride to get
it home, or go fetch it
himself. What a fantastic
group of people working
together making our
sport better.

Cascade Drift Skippers

By Stephanie Driskell, President



Greetings sled friends!
Thanks to all the new and returning mem-
bers for such a great turnout at our Novem-
ber meeting. We had an excellent presenta-
tion on GPS basics from Search and Rescue
team member Tom Imm. One of the most important points was to
PRACTICE with your GPS! Know how to create and name waypoints,
turn on tracks, and how to accurately report position data. The first
time you figure it out shouldn't be in an emergency situation, when
you're trying to find your way out of the backcountry.

We also had a fun time announcing the winners for our
membership raffle. Congratulations to Ray Crisp, Tim Staple-
ton, and David Bertschi, who each won a \$200 fuel gift card
from the club, and to Jim McGraw who won tickets for a Mari-
ners game (thank you to the Trouts).

We wrapped up the meeting with our bag pop event. After
a brief countdown, we had approximately 20 members gather
and deploy their avalanche airbags! This was a great way for
folks to experience pulling the cord, and test their airbags be-
fore getting out on the hill.

Following the bag pop, we had trained members on hand to
demonstrate how to fold and repack the airbags and refill the
air canisters on site.

Like last year, we had one bag that did not deploy. In both
cases, the failure was in how the bottle was connected. On
BCA Float bags, the trigger cable nut **MUST** be screwed onto
the trigger pin, before screwing the trigger cover over the ca-
ble nut. Failure to complete this critical step will prevent the
system from inflating. For detailed instructions on replacing
the cylinder, please familiarize yourself with your owner's
manual. Thanks to Jack Davis, Scott Johns, Tim Penelerick,
Chris Mayer, Kurt Zeuschel, Tony Keys, and Carl Corn for
providing the refills.

Keep up these snow dances, and we'll see you out on the
snow!

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The CDS Bag Pop (and refill) event was well attended and is a great way to en-
sure the avalanche bag worn all season will work properly if ever needed.

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Sno-Jammers Snowmobile Club

By Brian Schindler, President

Merry Christmas! And Happy Holidays! (Snow falling on our riding areas counts as a holiday, right?!)

As I'm writing this in November, there is a distinct lack of snow in the mountains. It looks like there is some in the forecast, so hopefully by the time you are reading this we have enough to start riding.

We've had a few work parties in the last few weeks to get things ready for the season in the Greenwater area. The cabin at Government Meadows is now completely stocked with about eighty cords of firewood for the winter, and we also finally got around to a bit of maintenance around the cabin that was needing to be done. A special shout out to Dan Johnson and the Hi Country Beelers for bringing people and equipment to help get all the wood cut, split, and stacked. (And for all the other work he does for the sport and the area year-round!) We also spent a day brushing back a few of the riding trails off the 1900 road, but there always seems to be more to do.

Our New Year's ride this year will be in Seeley Lake, Montana. If you are going to be in the area between Christmas and New Year's, **stop by the Seeley Lake Motor Lodge and say "hi".** (For more information, please check our club website at www.snojammers.org.)

We also look forward to seeing everyone at our annual Fun Run in February. It will be held the second Saturday in February (on the 9th this year) at the Cabin at Government Meadows. We will have hot food and cold drinks at the cabin. As always, cash prizes for top hands, and lots of raffle prizes. Top prize this year will be an avy bag backpack.

Due to the New Year's holiday falling the day before, our January meeting will be pushed back one week to January 9th. Everything else will be as normal. Round Table Pizza at 16016 Meridian E, Puyallup. Social hour starts at 6PM, and the meeting starts at 7pm. Hope to see you there.



Methow Valley Snowmobile Association

By Don Fitzpatrick, Jr., Secretary

The Black Pine Basin hut now has a glove-hat-helmet dryer built on three sides of the stove. The last window is installed and everything is back on the walls.

We are in touch with the Forest Service to determine which roads are opened and closed following our big fire season. They are working well with us.

The Groomer Association received a GPS for their Snow Cat. No more sleeping on the job. (They never sleep; we have the best groomers on the East side!) They have been working hard to get all the equipment ready.

We had a fun meeting on the 20th. Program was a year of pictures and lots of memories.

We sure could use some snow...



Chek out the new drying rack and window in the Black Pine Basin hut! Will make a great place to hang out this winter!



Bavarian Boondockers

By Matt Kensrud, President

The club has been super busy working on a wood shed at the warming hut and filling it with wood. The hut is ready to go; just add snow!

Snowfest 7 was great; the club had 675 people through the door! We cant wait for next year! Thank you all for attending! We added 24 memberships to our roster.

This season we will be sending out club news in e-mails once a month to club members.

Don't forget to go to the America Alpine Institute website to sign up for the AIARE 1 courses the club is hosting.

Any questions, e-mail us at info@bavarianboondockers.com.



WSSA Trail Grant

New warming hut at Tiffany Springs, west of Conconully

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

In 2017 the Butte Busters Snowmobile Club, Tri-Rivers Snowmobile Club, Association of Okanogan County Snowmobile Clubs and the Mountain Trails Grooming Association, applied for and received WSSA Trail Grants to construct a mobile warming shelter. This two-year project was to be completed and the shelter placed on site by November 2018. Grant funds were received by all four applicants totaling \$4,000 and the warming shelter was constructed during the summer of 2018 and moved to Tiffany Spring Camp Ground in the Okanogan/Wenatchee National Forest west of Conconully in October 2018.

The U.S. Forest Service requires us to remove the mobile shelter at the end of each snowmobile season when the snow melts. This shelter which is 10ft by 20ft is built on a 20-foot goose-neck trailer, allowing us to move it in and out of the forest campground based on seasonal snow conditions. As seen in the included photos, the shelter is not completely insulated, but will be completed during the summer of 2019. However, the warming shelter is completely operational with an installed stove and will be equipped with benches, chairs and clothes drying hooks prior to December 2018. Members of the Butte Busters Snowmobile Club cut and stacked firewood for the shelter in October 2018. The wood will be restocked prior to each snowmobile season as needed.

The Association of Okanogan County Snowmobile Clubs would like to express our appreciation to WSSA for the trail grants and to those members of the Butte Busters who constructed the shelter and moved it into place at Tiffany Springs.



COULD YOUR CLUB BENEFIT FROM A WSSA TRAIL GRANT? DO YOU HAVE A PROJECT IN MIND? ARE YOU AWARE CLUBS CAN JOIN FORCES AND APPLY FOR GRANTS BENEFITTING A SINGLE LARGE PROJECT? DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE WSSA TRAIL GRANT PROGRAM? CONTACT OUR WSSA TRAIL GRANT CHAIR, ROXANNE BRITAIN, AT (509) 658-2045 OR RBFOSIL@GMAIL.COM

Winter Rendezvous 2019

Feb. 15th -18th

Great Fun for all riding levels

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Silent & Live Auctions (for Legal Action Fund)

Awards Ceremony & Dinner (Fri & Sat Night)

Entertainment · Prizes



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—washington state—
WSSA
snowmobile association

Registration Form

Last Name _____ First _____ Spouse _____

Children Names/Ages _____

Mailing Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # (____) _____ E-Mail _____

Friday Night Dinner (Adults & Children 13+ @ \$35/each) (Children 7-12 @ \$15/each) Under 7 free

Adults _____ x \$35 = \$ _____ + # Children _____ x \$15 = _____ Sub Total \$ _____

Saturday Night Banquet (Adults & Children 13+ @ \$35/ea) (Children 7-12 @ \$15/ea) Under 7 free

Adults _____ x \$35 = \$ _____ + # Children _____ x \$15 = _____ Sub Total \$ _____

Method of Payment: Check or Credit Card (Visa/Master Card only) TOTAL AMOUNT \$ _____

Credit Card Info:

Make payment out to WSSA and mail form to:

Name on Card _____ Card # _____

Fred Pitzer

Expiration Date _____ Security/CCV # _____ Signature _____

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Yakima, WA 98907

(509) 534-3417

WSSA Scholarship 2019



WSSA will be offering a scholarship to either a graduating high school senior or a person currently enrolled in a college, technical or vocational program. This will be a \$2,000 grant, and will be given to the winner regardless of other grants or scholarships the student may also receive. In addition to completing an application, an essay is required.

Essay Topic: The cost of everything in winter recreation over the past ten years has skyrocketed. Snowmobiling is an expensive sport when you take into consideration all things connected to it. Groomers and all their attachments, the ones doing the grooming, a home for the groomer, sno-parks, plowing, administration, trail construction/maintenance, and the list goes on. Money does not grow on trees in the USA or Canada. Even when we find money to help our cause, we run into roadblocks because of the origin of the items we are trying to buy. There must be a better way.

Essay Challenge: In the USA and Canada, there is money available to support our needs in the snowmobile world. Finding it, qualifying it, and acquiring it is the beginning of your challenge. See list below:

1. Where traditionally do the funds come from for your local and State/Provincial snowmobile needs?
2. What are the funds available to be used on?
3. How do you petition for these funds?
4. Are there funds available that are not being petitioned for in your area?

Finally, can you share with us your thoughts and ideas of how to financially support our cause for the next generation of snowmobilers?

Full scholarship details can be found on our website at www.wssa.us under the 'Scholarship' menu item.

Safety with Jon



By Jon Ferrian — wssasafety101@gmail.com

Hello sledders!

Please review this great article from our guest contributor this month, Mike Duffy From Avalanche 1:

Navigating a white out – Tips for sledders

By Mike Duffy, BCA sled ambassador

I've been on many rescues where people were stranded or lost due to whiteouts. Once, we came across one group who were asking where the road was; they were on it. If you're overdue and people are looking for you, stay together in one spot. Don't keep moving. A moving target is hard to find and leads to extended searches.

Prevention is critical, but we can all get surprised by sudden weather changes.

A defining characteristic of a good mountaineer and snowmobiler is the ability to know when to turn back. I always look at forecasts and have found NOAA to be reliable. The 'Radar and Satellite Image' section on their website—and/or their NOAA Radar Weather app—gives a visual of what areas are getting the storms, wind speed and direction, and the movement of the storm. While riding, I'm always watching for clouds coming in and winds increasing.

Navigating a Whiteout: Three ways to increase your odds before the visibility drops.

- 1. Look at your map as you go.** It is easier to know where you are. Don't pull it out once lost.
 - 2. As you're riding, look for reference points over your shoulder.** See what it looks like from the direction of not only going in but coming out. If you're new to an area, keep the routes simple. Avoid shortcuts on the way, stay on a simple, defined route. Better to stick to the areas you know when visibility is bad. Take photos of signs on the way in and make notes.
- Start tracking with your GPS when leaving the parking area.** I use a Garmin Montana 680t which automatically starts tracking when turned on. It features a big touchscreen that is large enough to navigate on the go. It's much easier to follow your track out than try to find your way from point A to B.

Navigating a Whiteout: Six things to do once the visibility drops.

- 1. Regroup.**
- 2. Come up with a plan.** Do we wait it out or start heading out? Take into consideration that it's much harder to navigate a whiteout in the dark. Is there a route you can take through the trees that you know well? Trees offer better reference and less wind. Safety of the group is essential. Don't compound the problem. Be ready to spend the night out.
- 3. Stay together, ride close and slow.** We have crept out of areas about 10 feet apart going 10 mph using GPS. In other situations, we walked ahead and found the trail marker pole and moved the sleds from pole to pole. Use a compass to determine the direction of travel. Do not send one person ahead to find the way—you may not see them again.
- 4. Have your GPS mounted so you can drive and see it.** I use a Ram Mount on the handlebar. Other options include dash mounts. I want it visible, so I don't waste time pulling it out of my pocket.
- 5. If you don't see the person behind you, stop.** Everyone knows the plan is to regroup at the last seen point if separated. Radios are very useful in these situations.

(Continued on page 19)



White on white. Terry Ricks in the lead, navigating a whiteout by snowmobile.

(Continued from page 18)

6. If you can't make it out, go to a place protected from the wind and make yourself visible. Prepare to spend the night.

Proficiency with a GPS is gained through practice. Looking for geocaches will hone your skills: www.geocaching.com. In the summer, I use GPS on dirt bike trips, setting tracks and following them in reverse. The Garmin Montana GPS is one of the easiest to use.

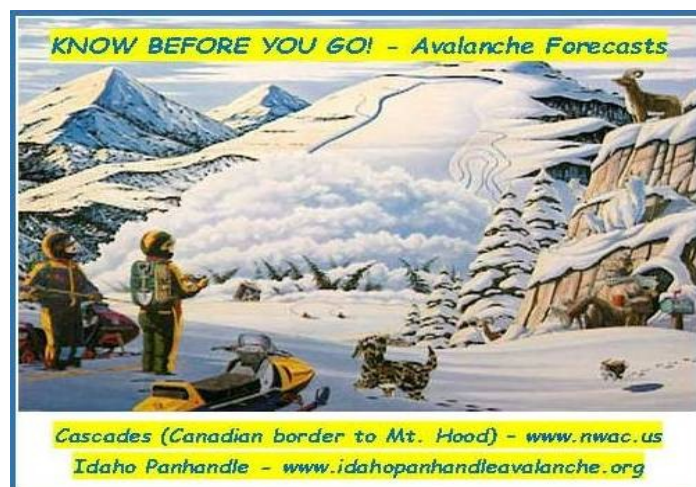
Navigating a whiteout isn't a good situation to be in. Keep calm, have a plan and move deliberately to your goal.

BCA sled ambassador Mike Duffy provides professional avalanche education for mountain riders, snowmobile clubs, and dealers. Visit Avalanche1.com for a schedule of courses, or to book Mike to present at your location.

Article reprinted with permission from www.backcountryaccess.com/navigating-whiteout-tips-for-sledders.



Looking for stranded skiers by snowmobile at midnight in a whiteout.



State Parks Update

By Pamela McConkey, Winter Recreation Program Manager



WOW! It's been a busy fall!

- Staff has been preparing contracts for trail grooming, snow removal, sanitation, education and enforcement and sending them out to our terrific contractors that spend countless hours out in the elements of winter making sure our play grounds are ready.
- This fall, along with preparing contracts, staff has also been busy complying with the deadline for submitting applications for Recreational Trails Program Grants. These grants, when successful, help us in supplementing dollars for trail maintenance, i.e., trail grooming, snow removal, brushing and more.



- Other and much more enjoyable tasks have included the WSSA Snowmobile Expo, the Spokane Winter Knights Snow Show, and the Bavarian Boondockers Snow Fest. These snow shows offer everything: swag, clothing, equipment, sleds, sled decks and trailers, information and seminars, camaraderie and lots of fun. Thanks to these organizations, we continue to have great venues for reaching snowmobilers and to share information about the trails and sno-parks; and how the program is funded by each sled registration and associated fuel tax – not with general fund dollars – not with Discover Pass revenue – but solely by sled registrations. This simple funding mechanism continues to run and provide these

critical services for all snowmobilers in Washington.

- Staff is investigating a new way to offer safe rider training, via the internet. Although only a few states in the nation provide Safe Rider Training via the computer, Washington believes that with the changing times, this is the way young people learn, using iPads, smart phones, laptops and computers. Although the program is not a reality yet, we hope to be live soon. The cost will be around \$30.00 per student. We will continue to offer the in-person classes and the practical portion will continue to be in-person. **Thanks to the Chelan County Sheriff's office for partnering with Winter Recreation on this important endeavor.**
- Best advice for Winter 2018/2019? Register your sleds, take an **avalanche course, get the gear, know how to use the gear...** practice! Be safe!



Snowmobile Registrations						
	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY 18-19 Difference
July	166	149	145	134	148	14
August	1,142	531	676	782	2,307	1,525
September	3,546	2,968	3,145	2,946	1,682	(1,264)
October	2,544	1,662	2,139	2,489	1,882	(607)
November	2,870	3,129	3,362	4,360		
December	6,656	11,575	13,170	6,973		
January	2,741	3,528	3,196	3,358		
February	381	1,164	1,513	1,166		
March	68	298	686	674		
April	42	82	181	175		
May	22	32	93	93		
June	23	30	84	71		
Total:	20,201	25,148	28,390	23,221	6,019	(332)

24%

11%

Bonaparte Sno-Park Update

By Matt Mead, Publicity Secretary

Last winter during the WSSA Winter Rendezvous, District 3 Rep Greg Figg and I took a short road trip with Pamela McConkey and Jason Goldstein from the Washington State Parks Winter Recreation Program to the Bonaparte Sno-Park to meet with a concerned snowmobiler.

At issue was a lack of parking at the sno-park and a safety concern regarding riders using the lake to access the trail system where the other way was riding down the side of a narrow plowed road.

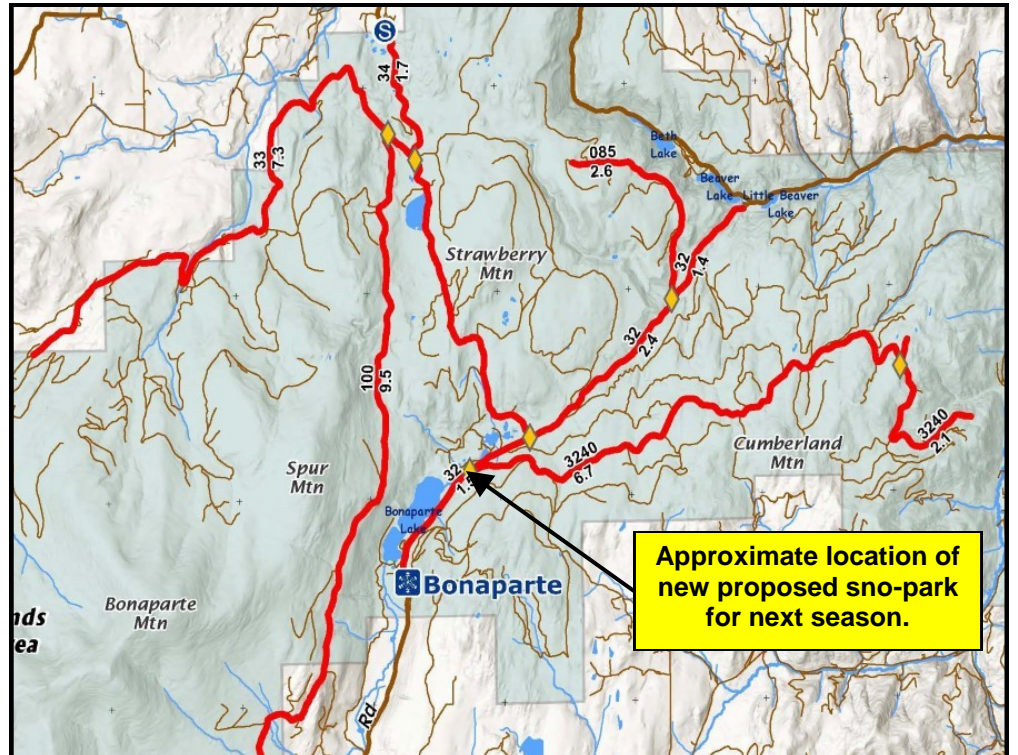
The snowmobiler walked us around the current sno-park and showed us the limited parking and that it had recently become worse due to a change in the area plowing. He also took us down the road to where the trails really began and showed us where additional sno-park parking could be created.

Pamela and Jason took plenty of notes and promised they'd look into things.

During a recent event, I'd overheard State Parks talking about the Bonaparte Sno-Park and changes that were in the works. Later I e-mailed our Winter Recreation Program staff for an update and here is what I learned:

"Yes, the changes at Bonaparte are in the works; probably move the Sno-Park next season. We met with the county, some snowmobile club members and the district ranger this summer. This year we did get permission to plow through the campground and gained some additional parking near the picnic shelter above the parking lot. New signs are installed and snow poles will be placed to help identify large rocks, posts and gates to prevent damage."

The location of the new proposed sno-park is on Forest Service property and completion will be contingent on satisfying all of their criteria. Stay tuned for updates.



Learning and Celebrating Washington's Trails!

By Wayne Mohler, Trails Chair

The Washington State Trails Coalition (WSTC) held its 12th biennial conference at the Wenatchee Convention Center in Wenatchee on October 25th - 27th. The conference was attended by over 250 trails leaders from businesses, non-profits, and municipal, county, state, tribal and federal agencies. The conference was an excellent opportunity for networking, attending dozens of high quality presentations on a wide range of topics, or helping celebrate the winners of the second annual WSTC awards.

The conference was set up with breakout sessions with four themed tracks: 1.) shared trails and shared advocacy, 2.) inclusivity, diversity and access, 3.) public lands – multiple-use and balancing values, and 4.) managing for change.

The Washington State Parks Winter Recreation Program teamed up with the Washington State Snowmobile Association in making a presentation in the 'managing for change' section of the program. Pamela McConkey and Jason Goldstein spoke of the partnerships and challenges in managing the Winter Recreation and Snowmobile Programs and Wayne Mohler spoke about the grassroots and volunteer efforts of the Washington State Snowmobile Association and working with clubs and other organizations on legislative, charity, tourism, trails, and advocating for public lands access.

Next year the WSTC will hold a planning meeting/caucus for the 2021 conference. You can check out more details of the 2018 conference at www.washingtonstatetrailscoalition.org.



News



Parking area modifications at Tollgate's Spout Springs Ski Area

Contact: Darcy Weseman, USFS Public Affairs Officer, (541) 278-3722

In order to alleviate safety concerns raised by the Spout Springs Mountain Resort (Spout Springs), the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) is working toward an agreement with Spout Springs to make modifications concerning administration of the parking lot north of Highway 204. Once Spout Springs opens for the season, the north parking area would become day use parking only for all vehicles, including the area designated to allow for truck/trailers parking.

This agreement responds to safety concerns expressed by Spout Springs regarding their ability to obtain liability insurance needed to open for winter operations.

The north parking area is within the Spout Springs Mountain Resort Special Use Permit and is utilized by ski area customers and other winter recreationists. The parking area is managed in partnership with Spout Springs and the Forest Service and is part of Oregon's sno-park program.

"Our objective is to have Spout Springs operate their downhill and cross country operations during the 2018 and 2019 ski season, while providing for the safety of all users," said Walla Walla District Ranger Mike Rassbach. "To address the issues identified by the resort, I have agreed to designate the north parking area for day-use only during their winter operating season. We understand this is a change from previous years and thank the public for their co-operation to help us have a safe and successful winter season."

Sno-park use would continue to be available on a first come-first serve basis and require an ODOT (Oregon Department of Transportation) sno-park

permit from Nov. 1st - April 30th.

"I know this will impact folks who have planned to use this area for overnight parking" said Rassbach. "We are committed to providing multiple-use opportunities for all forest visitors,

**NO
OVERNIGHT
PARKING**

while also balancing the needs of the ski area."

Alternative overnight parking for truck/trailers is available at neighboring sno-parks, including Morning Creek, Woodland, and Andie's Prairie. Additionally, vehicles without trailers can continue to park overnight at the south parking area (located on the south side of Highway 204).

Forest officials would assess the effectiveness of these changes in addressing safety issues raised by the resort at the end of the season. Comments or concerns regarding the parking area modifications are welcome and can be submitted to Walla Walla District Ranger Mike Rassbach at (509) 522-6293 or mrassbach@fs.fed.us.

Spout Springs Mountain Resort is located on Umatilla National Forest System lands and operated under a Ski Area Term Special Use Permit (SUP) setting terms and conditions that guide the operation of the ski area. Additional information about Spout Springs Mountain Resort is available at www.spoutspringsskiarea.com. Additional information about Oregon Sno-Parks in the Tollgate area is available at www.tripcheck.com/Pages/Sno-Parks. Additional information about the Umatilla National Forest is available at www.fs.usda.gov/umatilla.

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www.adventurepowersportsrentals.com

Chewack River Guest Ranch

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(509) 996-2497

www.chewackranch.com

Leavenworth Snowmobile Rentals

(Leavenworth)

(509) 763-0333

www.leavenworthsnowmobilerentals.com

Motor Toys

(Cle Elum)

(509) 674-6807

www.motortoysofcleelum.com

Mountain Springs Lodge

(Lake Wenatchee/Leavenworth)

Tours Only

(800) 858-2276

www.mtsprings.com

Sharkey's Watercraft & Snowmobile Rentals

(Chelan)

(509) 687-2312/9819

www.lakechelanonline.com/rentals.html

The Last Resort

(Ronald/Roslyn/Cle Elum)

(509) 649-2222

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.

CROSS WITH CARE

STOP. STAND UP. LOOK BOTH WAYS.

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



Membership Matters

**By Wayne and Florence Mohler,
Membership Co-Chairs**

Since the majority of the membership renewals and new member sign-ups have been received it's a great opportunity to say 'thank you' for supporting WSSA.

The snow show season in Washington is wrapped up for another year with the Bavarian Boondockers' Snow Fest concluding on November 17th. We enjoy members who stop by at the WSSA booth to chat, join or renew their membership, or buy some of the WSSA shirts, caps or other promotional items.

Please use the membership application in the Snoflyer, or go to our website www.wssa.us under membership to renew or sign up as a new member. If you have any questions about membership, please e-mail us at membership@wssa.us or call at (509) 674-4401.

It's time to get your plans together for the WSSA Winter Rendezvous that will be coming up over President's Day weekend in February.

We wish everyone a great holiday season and looks forward to several months of great snow to make a memorable snowmobile season.

Remember – Your Membership Matters!



**Reader's Pic - A beautiful day on White Pass near
Rimrock Lake last February.**

WSSA Legal Action Fund Auction — Seeking donations!

To WSSA snowmobile clubs and other interested parties:

This coming February at WSSA's Winter Rendezvous at Hill's Resort at Priest Lake, we will continue with the tradition of the past seventeen years of a silent and live auction benefiting the WSSA Legal Action Fund. These auctions have been a huge success; last year we raised \$3,464 but we were down \$1,874 from 2017. We would like to see more clubs and others participate to help strengthen our funding to protect our access to public lands. The short live auction is for our big ticket items and this has become a big hit with the audience. The auctions will take place at the banquet on Saturday night, February 16th. The dates for Rendezvous 2019 are over President's Day weekend: Friday, February 15th through Monday, February 18th. There will be scheduled guided rides Friday through Sunday and short business meetings on Friday and Saturday nights.

The items the clubs donate have become very popular and certainly add a 'sparkle' to the auction. All the clubs participating have come up with great ideas. Each club is again being asked to contribute something for the auction that represents the area the club meets in. The item does not have to be snowmobile related. A few ideas or suggestions are: specialty product items from your area of the State such as apples or wine from Chelan, wine from Walla Walla, chuckar cherries or wine from Yakima, Boehm's chocolate or Fischer's Meats beef jerky from Issaquah, smoked salmon from Bellingham. Other ideas: gift certificates for stays or restaurants anyplace, guided snowmobile rides from anyplace. You could possibly work with your local Chamber of Commerce to come up with an idea to promote your area of the State. Crafts would be fine also. I think you get the idea.

I would very much appreciate knowing what you are going to donate ahead of Rendezvous. That way I can get the bid sheets ready before I arrive at Priest Lake. It saves a lot of time during set up of the auction on Saturday. Please e-mail me the description of your item and the value.

Sincerely,

Ron Alred, WSSA Auction Chairman
rdalred1971@gmail.com or (509) 965-8305

ACSA E-News

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

Delisting the wolf as an Endangered Species

We were recently informed about the Manage our Wolves Act, which had been introduced and scheduled for a vote. This was sponsored by Rep. Sean Duffy (R-WI) and cosponsored by Reps. Collin Peterson (D-MN), Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA), and Dan Newhouse (R-WA).

It will require the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (FWS) to reissue the 2011 and 2012 final delisting rules for the Western Great Lakes and Wyoming populations of gray wolves.

It will require FWS to promulgate a rule within 60 days to delist all wolves in the Lower 48, excluding the Mexican gray wolf subspecies. This bill will exempt its provisions from further judicial review.

It was debated and passed the House on November 14th by a vote of 201-187.

Thanks to all who contacted their member of Congress! If you would like to see how your member voted, visit <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2018/roll418.xml>

Top 5 states for acres burned

California: 1,516,799 acres

Nevada: 1,023,745 acres

Oregon: 901,583 acres

Idaho: 605,442 acres

Oklahoma: 586,538 acres

Election consequences

As you may have noticed, the long awaited mid-term election recently took place. The Democrat Party won control of the House and the Senate remains in the hands of the Republicans.

U.S. Senate Republicans unanimously nominated Sen. Chuck Grassley to be Senate Pro Tempore. This also makes Grassley, who was first elected to the Senate in 1980, third in the line of presidential succession following the Vice President and the House Speaker.

Other changes from the GOP Senate will see John Thune (SD) moving up to the number two position as whip, and John Barrasso (WY) shifting up to Conference Chair. Todd Young (IN) will be moving into the Chair of the National Republican Senatorial Committee. The other new face in GOP ranks will be Iowa's Joni Ernst, who prevailed to be elected to be Vice Chair of the Republican Conference.

Over on the House side, Congressman Liz Cheney (WY) was elected to serve as the GOP Chair.

It is expected that Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) will continue to chair the Senate Energy Committee and Senate subcommittee on Interior appropriations.

Maria Cantwell (D-Washington) will remain the ranking member on the Energy Committee and Tom Udall (D-NM) will remain the ranking Democrat on the appropriations subcommittee.

The House Natural Resources Committee is expected to be headed up by Raul Grijalva (D-AZ) and current Chairman Rob Bishop (R-UT) may move to ranking member.



The Resource Committee Federal Lands Subcommittees are up in the air because Colleen Hanabus (D-HI) and Don McEachin (D-VA) are not from public lands states.

The change in House leadership may put an end to major energy and endangered species rewrites. There are some issues that will need to be completed in lame duck, including the Appropriations.

In case you missed it....

Before the Senate left Washington for campaigning, they set up a few issues to deal with in the upcoming lame duck session.

The Department of the Interior is waiting for their final appropriations for FY 2019. This budget includes all of the public lands. Staffers from the Senate/House Natural Resources Committees are already having informal conversations about the makeup of an omnibus public lands bill.

BRP (Bombardier Recreational Products – Ski-Doo) has been among the top 100 Canadian companies that invest the most in research and development for several years now. Innovation is essential to continue satisfying customers' need to live extraordinary adventures. This is achieved through research and development, among other things, and it places them at the forefront of their industry.

Yamaha Motor USA announced it is moving their headquarters out of southern California. They are relocating the company's management team to the Atlanta Georgia facilities. The testing and racing departments will remain in California for the time being.

Safety and responsibility

Although it's beginning to look like winter in many places, that does not mean snowmobile trails and riding areas are open!

Public land managers have guidelines on the opening of their riding season.

Private landowners have leases that clearly state when the trail system opens.

For more information, contact your State Snowmobile Association or the District Rangers at your local Forest Service office.

Just because you may see tracks does not mean it is open or legal. Know before you go!

Land access issues

Utah Roadless Rule - Utah Governor Herbert is planning to ask the U.S. Department of Agriculture for permission to thin forests, clear out dead trees and do controlled burnings on protected areas that account for nearly half of National Forest lands in the state. The Governor is seeking to adjust how the U.S. Forest Service's Roadless Area Conservation Rule is applied in the state to allow for better state influence over National Forests following a particularly brutal wildfire season. The effort is intended to give forest managers the flexibility they need for projects to make forests more resilient and protect watersheds, air quality and wildlife habitat.

California National Forests - A quick status report on the five California forests currently going through the OSV

(Continued on page 25)

(Continued from page 24) (over snow vehicles) designation processes:

Plumas National Forest (NF): The DEIS (Draft Environmental Impact Statement) was issued on October 25th and their first 45-day public comment period will end on about December 11th. If you do not comment now, you cannot comment once the Final FEIS and Draft ROD (Record of Decision) are issued. Once the FEIS and Draft ROD are issued sometime in 2020, comments will be accepted from those who previously commented. You are encouraged to submit comments now on the DEIS and can do so by clicking here: <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/CommentInput?Project=47124>.

Eldorado NF: They issued their FEIS and Draft ROD on October 31st. There is a 45-day Objection Period, which will end on about December 16th. It is your right to submit comments. Details can be found: www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=46034. Submit comments to: Randy Moore, Regional Forester, ATTN: ENF OSV Project, 1323 Club Drive, Vallejo, CA 94592 or Fax: 707-562-9229.

Tahoe NF: They issued a DEIS April 13th which was open for public comments until May 28th. There will be one more public comment period after they issue a FEIS and Draft ROD - timeline unknown but likely not until late 2019 into 2020. Once this has been issued, we will post the information.

Stanislaus NF: A DEIS on August 23rd and the first public comment period ended on about October 9th. There will be one more public comment period after they issue a Final EIS and Draft ROD sometime in 2020. If you commented earlier, you will have the right to comment further when the Draft ROD is published. Once this has been issued, we will post the information.

Lassen NF: The FEIS and Draft ROD were issued on March 29th. An Objection Period closed on about May 18th. This is essentially completed, except they must decide how to resolve the many objections which were received. (They can either dismiss or change/tweak their draft decision.) No further action on this Forest at this time.

Reminder: DEIS - Anyone can comment. FEIS - Anyone can comment. Draft ROD - Can only comment if you submitted comments on the DEIS or FEIS. Objection Period on the ROD - Can only comment if you submitted comments on the DEIS or FEIS.

Do you have any land access issues in your area? If so, please let us know!

Recreational Trails Program

Ever wonder where the Federal Highway Gas Tax goes every time you fill your sled? It goes into a special fund - the Recreational Trails Program. Based on a formula, these dollars get sent back to each state for distribution to trails.

U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar from Minnesota recently introduced the RTP Full Funding Act of 2018 (S. 3604). This legislation will require

a study to determine the best available estimate of the total amount of non-highway recreational fuel taxes. The Coalition for Recreational Trails, of which the ACSA is an active participant, requested the legislation as a step toward increasing the federal funding for trail construction and maintenance. The coalition is encouraging other senators to cosponsor this bill.

Changing places - Changing faces

David Vela was nominated to serve as the National Park Director in August. He currently serves as Grand Teton National Park Superintendent. A seasoned National Park Service leader, Mr. Vela has served at every level of the organization with distinction throughout his career. He has a long track record of leadership on behalf of the people and places of the National Park Service.

Join our mail list at https://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/manage/optin?v=0018aalHdu4GfQQmtoXs64F1sdeS4_o_0Is. Follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/AmericanCouncilofSnowmobileAssociations>.

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

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The Snowmobile Safety and Access Resources Information Center was developed and is operated by the American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA) with funding provided by the Recreational Trails Program administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation – Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

ISMA Update



Safe Riders! video chapters are up and running on the ISMA Website!

Contact: Ed Klim, President, ISMC, (517) 339-7788

The snowmobile manufacturers are pleased to announce that the Safe Riders! You Make Snowmobiling Safe® safety campaign is celebrating its 24th year of helping to educate snowmobilers to keep safety at the top of their minds while out riding. The campaign will continue to feature the Safe Riders! poster series, safety brochures, decals, and Snowmobiling Fact Book that we distribute free of charge to safety instructors throughout North America.

We are excited about the expansion of the Safe Riders! program with the addition of the new Safe Riders! video chapter series featuring 13 separate video chapters on snowmobiling lifestyle and safety related guidelines and practices. The chapters are each 1-3 minutes in length and can be viewed or downloaded from the ISMA (International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association) website www.snowmobile.org. The chapters can be viewed from our website through our YouTube channel, or, if needed you can download the segments to be used off your own computer.

The video chapters cover the following subjects:

- Snowmobile lifestyle
- Getting started in snowmobiling
- Impaired riding
- Snowmobile avalanche preparedness
- Snowmobile operation
- Hand signals while snowmobiling
- Snowmobiling on trails and respecting private property
- Snowmobile preparation
- Snowmobile apparel
- Snowmobile clubs and associations
- Locating snowmobiling riding areas
- Trailering for snowmobilers
- Snowmobilers' ethics



The new video chapter series is very inclusive and is available for use immediately.

The Safe Riders! program has positively influenced, educated, and informed hundreds of thousands of snowmobilers around the world and we have distributed millions of posters, decals, brochures, and Fact Books to the snowmobile community throughout the 24-year history of the campaign.

We are now distributing Safe Riders! information to clubs, associations and safety trainers. If your club or association would like to obtain our free collateral materials, please contact the ISMA office at ISMASue@aol.com to get a copy of our order form. Just fill it out and fax, e-mail or snail mail it back to the office and we can send you the items you are interested in for your use this snowmobiling season.

We are looking forward to a great safe snowmobiling season!



Visit www.snowmobile.org for Safe Riders! material. Please use to promote club membership and snowmobile safety!

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ON SLEDS
THAT FIT**

- SMALLER ENGINES
AND SLED SIZE
- MUST BE ABLE TO
STEER AND CONTROL

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Matt's Misc.

By Matt Mead, Publicity Secretary

Spout Springs parking. In this issue is an article provided by the Forest Service out of Walla Walla regarding a change to parking near the Spout Springs Mountain (Ski) Resort. I've got to say, I'm a bit confused. 'Safety' is cited as being an issue, but I'm not sure how prohibiting overnight parking in the one section where trailer parking is allowed is going to affect safety one way or another. (This area is most dangerous during the day when you have people, snowmobiles and highway traffic all in close proximity; overnight would be a pretty quiet time.) Overnight parking is still allowed on the other side of the road in the area closed to trailers. This smacks of directly targeting snowmobilers, and in this case, cabin owners who park here to access their cabins north of this parking area. Maybe it's just me, but I still think there is more to this than we are hearing from the Forest Service.

Teanaway Community Forest Recreation Plan. The Department of Natural Resources just released their 'Notice of Final Determination for Teanaway Community Forest Recreation Plan'. I gave it a quick read and snowmobilers have fared well. (A big thanks to Wayne Mohler for being on this Teanaway committee and looking out for our interests!) Among other things, the documents contain comments submitted and the DNR's responses to them. I encourage you to check it out at <http://WSSA.clubexpress.com/docs.ashx?id=447792>.

Expert riding tips. Many of you may not know that I'm a professional rider... well, that is what I tell myself anyway... so imagine my surprise when I see Bret Rasmussen giving away all my secrets. Okay, in all seriousness, Ride Rasmussen Style has teamed up with Ski-Doo and is presenting a series of videos offering backcountry riding tips. This is really good stuff and I'm learning a lot. If you haven't seen them, check them out here: https://www.facebook.com/pg/riderasmussenstyle/videos/?ref=page_internal.

Washington snowmobile trails app. As I write this, the WSSA Board is making a decision to go forward with a partnership with Washington Hometown regarding a new trails app. Owner Jennifer Hackett has made several presentations to WSSA and other groups regarding tailored trail maps for our state. I don't believe this app is directed specifically at snowmobilers, but trail users of all backgrounds. That being said, a distinct user (such as a snowmobiler) will see data tailored specifically to their activity. WSSA's involvement at this time will be a small buy in where our logo will be splashed on the app and we'll help promote the app and opportunities for clubs and businesses to buy in as well. My experience with trails apps so far (basically Polaris' version and Avenza) have been mixed, so it will be interesting to see how this plays out. What I am most excited about is

a promise to also provide geo-tagged PDF maps that will work in Avenza. Rollout of the app for snowmobilers is scheduled for this month. Visit

www.washingtonhometown.com to see the progress and view the maps currently completed.

(Note, Jennifer wants to hear from you to help her improve the accuracy of the maps; her maps are based on State and Federal provided data which isn't always accurate.)

United Snowmobile Alliance. A new 'national' organization

(Continued on page 28)



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(Continued from page 27)

has formed and is called the United Snowmobile Alliance (USA). I know several of the key members personally and they are a group of dedicated individuals; friends of mine. But things are just a bit sticky. Currently, members include states in the Northeast; New York, Vermont, New Hampshire and Massachusetts... (maybe others, not sure). These are states which have had issues with the American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA) and have dropped out (or threatened to). (ACSA has tried to bring them back, but the parties involved haven't found common ground.) I'm not sure what happens going forward. Will the ACSA and USA march on and co-exist? Will they work together (now or in the future)? Will the Alliance grow to include states in the Midwest and West? It's too early to say. I am glad to see the Northeast States gearing up to work as a team on the National stage as that is what ACSA offers and banding together on common causes provides more clout. Would you like to learn more about USA? Check them out on Facebook at www.facebook.com/unitedsnowmobilers.

What do professional powerboat racers do in the winter?

Go snowmobiling of course. Not sure how this became a news story, but it was reported there would be a gathering of them in Saratoga, WY, for the fifth annual International Snowmobile Rally, January 25th – 28th. In addition to just being a fun time, the event is a fundraiser for a college scholarship the group has set up. I guess it makes sense... they spend a lot of time on the water and snow is just frozen water... Not sure if you have to be a powerboat enthusiast to attend; details at <http://saratogahotspringsresort.com/2018/01/2018-international-snowmobile-rally>.

Problems registering your 'new' vintage snowmobile?

Kevin Hancock, an active member of the Pacific Northwest Vintage Snowmobile Club, recently conveyed a story of his problem registering a machine he had recently purchased. Kevin reported: *"The Washington State Department of Revenue has a new policy requiring vintage snowmobiles to be appraised before the department of licensing can issue a license. Where the problem comes is when a vehicle manufacturer is now out of business and not available to do a proper appraisal. The database developed by the department that assigns a value on vehicles is incomplete. This forces someone who's trying to license something to go to a dealer to get it appraised. In my case there's no Skiroule dealers; not since 1977. Now I have to go to any snowmobile dealer. Today's dealer have no idea what it's worth. Still, they are required to give an appraisal on their letterhead with the business card of the person that gave the appraisal to turn over to the Department of Revenue. This is unfair in a lot of ways; asking a company to make something up, then holding them accountable to their appraisal. The department's policy is deficient in several ways. It forces people to lie, asking for information that's not available anymore, and not having a sufficient database."* This was the first time I'd heard about this and I've since looped in the WSSA Board and Legislative Team; we'll see where it goes from here.

NHSA can't catch a break. I previously reported on an issue the New Hampshire Snowmobile Association (NHSA) was dealing with; basically they had tried to set up a website portal making it easy for snowmobilers to join a club which would enable them to receive a reduced registration fee. In setting it up, they worked with the local clubs to set a standard club membership fee, I'm assuming in an effort to get snowmobilers to join a club based on location and/or how they 'fit' the club, and not solely on the cost of club membership. The fee also covered a membership in NHSA. This ended up

putting them in hot water with the State, allegedly violating antitrust and consumer protection laws; in the end they had to be clear clubs were free to set their own membership rates and snowmobilers could choose not to join NHSA. All this caused NHSA to make **amendments to the association's constitution and bylaws.** But now an individual has filed a lawsuit against NHSA claiming the organization's governing documents were changed without proper notice, depriving members the chance to have an opportunity to review and discuss them; the claim is the proposed changes were not submitted to the members in writing. His contention is the amendments changing the dues and membership structure are not valid despite a special meeting vote by delegates approving the amendments. **The plaintiff has asked for a jury trial and to be awarded attorney's fees and costs.** This whole situation is a shame. Like any snowmobile organization, NHSA is trying to do what they believe is best for the sport of snowmobiling. With the exception of a couple of paid positions in the organization, this group is run by a cadre of volunteers. **Volunteers aren't perfect and they certainly aren't always aware of some of the nuances in the law and make mistakes that have to be corrected.** I find it sad an individual feels they need to sue, knowing it is going to cost NHSA money that would be much better spent on **protecting and promoting snowmobiling.** Isn't there a simpler, cheaper way, to solve this?

Build a bridge! That's the plan in Langlade County, Wisconsin, where the Forestry Committee recently accepted a DNR grant to fund a bridge over the Wolf River near White Lake for ATVs, snowmobiles and other users. There is currently a nearby bridge for cars and trucks, but as you can imagine, it isn't ideal for sharing with snowmobilers in the winter. More than 100 people came to the committee meeting to support the \$400,000 bridge project with only one in opposition. It's still a long climb though; the Department of Transportation has to approve the location next to the current bridge. The entire project will be funded by this grant and through donations.

Don't miss the biggest event to ever hit Snow King Mountain! That was the headline of the press release. This is part of the Woodie's Racing AMSOIL Championship Snocross series to be held in Jackson Hole, WY. This event will be televised on CBS Sports. Better make plans quick; the event is scheduled for December 7th and 8th! Details can be found at www.snowkingmountain.com.

Empowering female snowmobilers! I saw an article about a group of women riders in British Columbia called Braap Babes with No Limits. Their claim is to provide a supportive environment for women to learn the sport. The group was formed due to the need for a safe, encouraging space to learn. This club was just recently formed in October and has ties with No Limits Motorsports, a Ski-Doo dealers in Squamish. Their plan is to offer a combination of events that will teach riders of all levels various skills. This includes learning about equipment, social events and group

(Continued on page 29)



A Braap Babe in action! (From their Facebook page.)

(Continued from page 28)

rides. Founding members believe women will appreciate learning in a stress-less environment of other women. I think this is a great plan. One thing that has always cracked me up is husbands and boyfriends taking their gals out and putting them on inferior equipment and taking them places they shouldn't be going, and then wondering why they aren't having a good time. How long until we have a girls-only snowmobile club in the WSSA listing of clubs?... Oh, check them out on Facebook at www.facebook.com/braapbabeswithnolimits.

Court rules for spectators.

In Michigan, the case of two snowmobile race attendees who were injured has had a change, as the decision has been reversed by an appellate court. **I'm not going to go into great detail,** (it was a hillclimb event where the machine got away from the rider and came back down the hill), but I just want to ask the question. If you attend a race event, are you, at least at some level, responsible for your own well-being? I say yes. Snowmobiles and race events can be unpredictable. There is always the chance for something to go wrong and for someone to be hurt. Race promoters should be responsible for providing reasonable safeguards and racers must ensure their machines are in safe working order. But spectators need to be smart enough to not congregate in a potentially unsafe area, regardless of the promoter's and racer's actions. Like every aspect of life, we are responsible for our actions (inactions) as well. Is it really appropriate to sue because we had bad luck? Because we didn't think or act smart? There is certainly a time and a place for liability lawsuits, but I'm not sure this was one of them. (Want more details of this case? Read the article here: <https://legalnewsline.com/>

stories/511609591-mich-court-rules-for-spectators-run-over-by-snowmobile-at-race.)

Print edition for January?

That is currently the plan; depends on how much revenue we have raised from Snoflyer advertising. There may actually be two versions; one with a set number of pages printed and an expanded version online. We'll know next month. Stay tuned!

Help us sell Snoflyer advertising.

We still want to expand advertising in the Snoflyer and you can help. This issue contains a rate sheet specific for future issues for reference. If you are an Associate member, join us! Come on, it's a write-off anyway, and you will be supporting the sport you live for! Maybe you are just Joe-member, but know of a business who might like to advertise; share the info with them. And a new category added is the 'business card' ad. It's a business card-sized ad for cheap, only available to Associate members. All advertising (except the business card ad) will also get the business a place on our website banner rotation, and all digital ads (including the business card ad) will be hot-linked to their website.

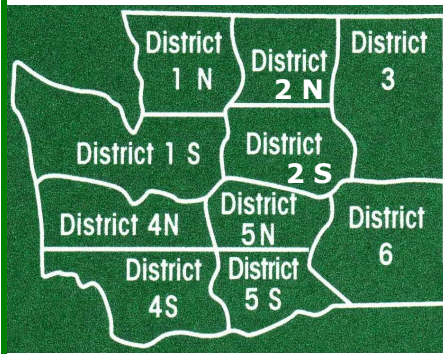
Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and now Snapchat!

Facebook 'likes' are over 2,555! Find us on Twitter at @wssaus and on Instagram at WSSA.US (not WSSA_US)! (Snapchat? You'll have to ask my daughter; I'm too old to understand Snapchat. We need to work on this one.)

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. Send an e-mail to snoflyer@wssa.us or call (509) 424-1575.



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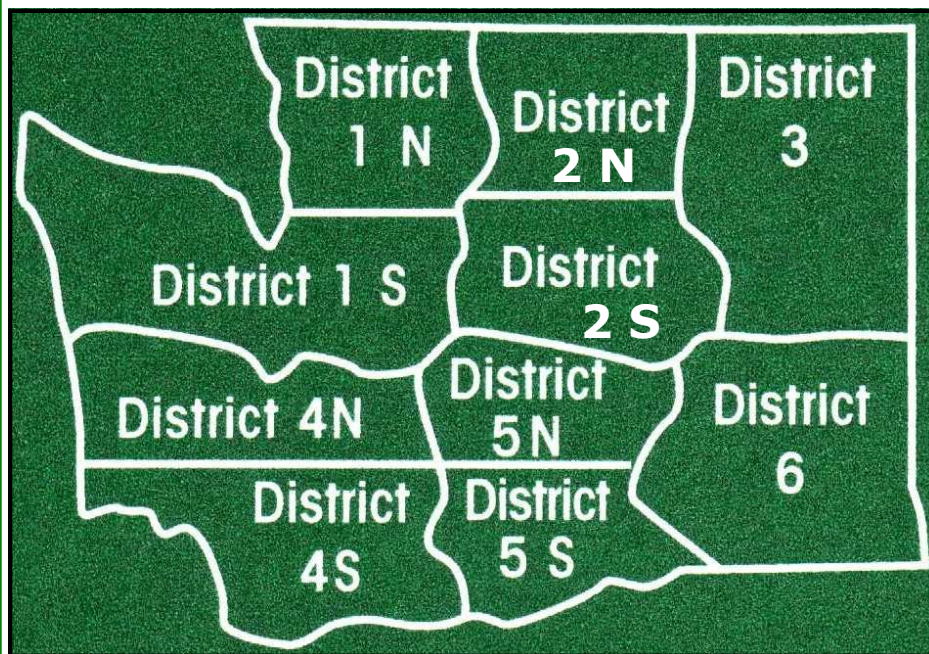
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Snowmobile Clubs



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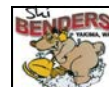
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Yakima Ski-Benders

Seth Ahlbrecht
(509) 985-9116
yakimaskibenders@hotmail.com
www.yakimaskibenders.net
[Yakima SkiBenders](#)



District 6

(Adams/Asotin/Columbia/Franklin/Garfield/Walla Walla/Whitman Counties)

Blue Mountain Snowmobile Club

Jake McNeil
(509) 521-5511
verticalescape03@hotmail.com
[Blue Mountain Snowmobile Club](#)

Mt. Misery Snow Drifters

Kent Flynn
(509) 566-7012 • klflynn@msn.com
[Mt Misery Snowdrifters](#)

Tollgate Trail-Finders

Brandon Christensen
(509) 830-3706
tollgatetrailfinders@gmail.com
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[Tollgate Trail Finders Snowmobile Club](#)



Pacific Northwest

Pacific Northwest Vintage

Snowmobile Club
Ray Bergstresser
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pnwvsc@gmail.com
pacificnorthwestvintagesnowmobileclub.org
[Pacific Northwest Vintage Snowmobile Club](#)



Vintage Snowmobiles of the Inland N.W.

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ski-doo.

