

Snoflyer

*The official publication of the
Washington State Snowmobile Association*

*February 2020
Volume 42*

Winter Rendezvous 2020 in Chelan Join us February 14-17!

*Capitol in Olympia
as seen during
All Trails to
Olympia Day*



***Inside:** WSSA Elections - Vote NOW!
All Trails to Olympia Day
Tracked ATV/UTV White Paper
Winter Rendezvous Info*



View from Bethel Ridge, west of Yakima



Little Rubee Alred, a 4th generation snowmobiler!



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WSSA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership valid until August 31, 2020

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: _____

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Owner/Business Contact or Club Contact: _____

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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: Dean Meakin, President
2928 N. Nevada
Spokane, WA 99207
E-mail: dean.meakin@wssa.us
(800) 783-WSSA or (509) 220-1001

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING YOUR SPORT

WSSA MEETINGS AND IMPORTANT EVENTS 2019/2020

WSSA Winter Rendezvous Campbell's Resort, Chelan February 14th-17th, 2020

Join us for four days of fun in Chelan. Experienced off-trail riding groups as well as family-friendly trail rides. WSSA and the local clubs will set up rides you'll LOVE! Dinner on Friday and Saturday as well as some type of entertainment. Plenty to do in Chelan and a casino is nearby if you want to take a break from sledding. Join us!

WSSA Budget Meeting Naches Ranger Station, Naches March 14th, 2020

Season wrap-up. Find out what is planned for the upcoming summer and fall and help set WSSA's budget for the following year. Meeting starts at 9am.

International Snowmobile Congress Regina, Saskatchewan June 10th-13th, 2020

Take a vacation to Saskatchewan and become involved in snowmobiling at the international level! Find out how snowmobiling and snowmobile programs differ across the U.S. and Canada. A fun and educational time awaits! Visit www.snowmobilers.org/isc for details.

WSSA Summer Meeting & Campout Blu-Shastin RV Park, Peshastin (Blewett Pass) August 14th-16th, 2020

A fun family campout with meals provided Friday night through Sunday morning (for \$20 per person). Meeting starts at 9am on Saturday.

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Leadership

Dean Meakin, President
dean.meakin@wssa.us • (509) 220-1001



I want to take this time to thank the Department of Transportation for clearing and opening Snoqualmie Pass just in time so our WSSA board members and committee chairs could get through to join us at the January meeting in Cle Elum. We had a great meeting and caught up with all the activities that are going on all around the state. Several of our district reps will be holding elections to vote in a new or re-elect the same person for the next two years. Thank you to Ron Lind for volunteering to replace Bill Miller in District 5 North. Bill, thank you for the multitude of hours you have donated to the cause of WSSA. I hope you will enjoy your new southern location. I also hope you will continue in other areas for WSSA.

We voted to have our March 14th WSSA Budget Meeting at the Naches Ranger Station. Thanks to the Forest Service for offering up this location for our meeting.

By the time you read this, WSSA will have already been to Olympia. Thank you to Dee Alred for putting this all together. Starting with the meeting location, lunch, and making all the appointments for each of us, we appreciate your professionalism. I hope you will continue as the Chair of this great outreach program! I know sometimes it may seem to be more work and volunteer hours than you think it is worth, however let me share with you this work is the most important worth WSSA is involved with. Thank you. I am sure we will be talking about the outcome of Olympia Day 2020 at our next meeting.



I also want to thank all those who turned out in Olympia. This event is absolutely worth your time and trouble. Please share your experiences **with those who couldn't make it and encourage them to come out in 2021!**

The Western Chapter Meeting is now closer than ever. Go to: www.sledwest.org and click on the Events Calendar and get the details. This is a new adventure with 'Mountain Riding Area' and maybe 'Trail Riding Area' people in attendance. The afternoon is reserved for the actual 'Western Chapter' meeting.

Ok, let's take off eh! ISC 2020 is in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada. The dates are June 10th-13th, 2020. For more information please follow this link: www.snowmobilers.org/isc

This may sound like a broken record to you, however I still need to remind you that we, WSSA, are still trying to 'Build Bridges' and not 'Walls' in 2020. Please talk to your dealers, associate businesses and others about partnering with WSSA. There is strength in numbers! Go WSSA! Go outdoor recreation! Go Team WSSA!

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

Greetings WSSA members!

I hope everyone has had a chance to get out and enjoy the snow we have been blessed with. Hopefully we will get more as the winter goes on.

Please remember to check with the Northwest Avalanche Center or other avalanche center that serves your riding area **on the dangers before you. We all want to have fun in the snow, but we all want to make a return trip. If you're taking new people out, please make sure they have the equipment that they need for a fun safe ride!**

As I write this, I have been working on the Olympia Day event and have made appointments for the people who have signed up. We do have a bill allowing the use of tracked ATV/UTV vehicles on our trail system. Our goal is to treat them similar to the snow bikes. They will be able to license them as a snowmobile when they are tracked and the money would go into the snowmobile grooming program. WSSA has been discussing and studying this issue for several years. Hopefully things will work out in our favor. We want people to enjoy the outdoors and should welcome other riders into our fold.

Our main goal as an association is to keep the trails open and our grooming program intact. Every year we go to Olympia we stress this to all the legislators. We are self sufficient in that our program for grooming is paid for by snowmobilers, not the general public. It is a dedicated fund and every year we ask that it remains dedicated and for the legislature not to sweep it.

I hope to see you in February for our yearly Winter Rendezvous at Campbell's Resort in Chelan!



District Reports



District 2 South

By Matt Kensrud
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(509) 433-2100

Wow, lots going on in the district!

The Chelan club had their annual drag races and they were a big hit. Not as many racers as last year but a bigger crowd!

Wenatchee's Apple Country club is still struggling with low snow conditions; what a change from last year's record snowfall.

The Bavarian Boondockers had their first membership meeting/movie night. Twenty-two club members attended. They also had their first club ride to the warming hut. Lots of folks, just poor weather conditions hampered the riding.

The Lake Wenatchee Rec Club canceled their first club ride due to rain. Wenatchee Powersports and Dog House Motorsports were going to have a demo day at the rec club but logistics on the airstrip would not permit the event.

Eagle Creek Sno-Park: Myself and Billy Burgess, owner of Pacific Mt Services, had worked out a deal with the Forest Service on some land at the end of Eagle Creek Rd. for a state sno-park. Unfortunately at the last minute, after signing off on the project, they changed their mind due to a riparian zone issue. So moving forward, we made a lease agreement with a property owner at the end of Eagle Creek, which allows us to designate the property as a state sno-park. This means there is signage, sanitation, and law enforcement. This area is getting a lot more use due to the Bavarian Boondockers having leased property for the club on Sugarloaf Mt. The club has 138 members. This is a big step for local riders in the valley! Any question? E-mail me at kustom509@aol.com.



District 3

By Greg Figg

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(509) 534-3417

The snow has been falling in Northeast Washington and our riding season is well underway. Grooming is happening in the Mt. Spokane, Chewelah, Colville, Ione, and Usk areas.

Clubs are in full swing with the Colville Driftriders hosting a poker ride, the Winter Knights having an overnight ride at Priest Lake and other activities.

It is also the start of vintage racing at Priest Lake across the border in Idaho. Vintage races were held on January 25th and 26, and will be back on February 8th and 9th, and again on February 29th and March

(Continued on page 6)



Vintage oval at Priest Lake

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District Reports

(Continued from page 5)

1st. This year it looks like they have dyed the track a nice blue color.

Lastly, please consider attending the **WSSA Winter Rendezvous at Campbell's Resort** on Lake Chelan this year on February 14th thru the 17th. Please see this Snoflyer for more information.



District 4 North

By Jim Bauer
jim.bauer@wssa.us
(360) 508-9855

Greetings and welcome to 2020! Snow season is well underway and I am enjoying the pictures of everyone's adventures on Facebook. I hope everyone enjoyed our recent big dump. Fingers crossed for more of that.

A little news as to what is going on in District 4 North...

The Sno-Jammers are looking forward to the annual Fun Run coming up on February 8th. There will be poker hands and lots of raffle prizes. Look for me while you ride the circuit as I will be manning a WSSA booth at one of the checkpoints this year!

Clem (Clem's Enumclaw Powersports) and I will be holding a kids' ride out of Greenwater on March 8th. This is an opportunity to get the kids out in a safe environment. We typically ride to the cabin, have some snacks, and let the kids play around in the meadow. Look for more details to come.

Junco held its Charity-on-the-Snow event on January 18th and 19th. It was a great success, raising over \$5,000 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Oregon and Washington. The club was grateful for the many generous donations of their sponsors including Old Cannery Furniture, I-90 Motorsports, Clem's Enumclaw Powersports, Paulson's Motorsports, Jet Chevrolet, WSSA, Sno-Jammers, and many more! Sadly, Junco was not able to hold the planned dishpan race as members were busy clearing downed trees from the night before. Two large groups were able to ride out to Top Sail and Takalak Lake, enjoying the deep powder. With not a few, ahem, getting a little stuck.

A big thank you to both of our groomers, Backcountry Plowing and Grooming and R & R Grooming. A lot of hard work has gone into keeping the roads and trails clear of downed trees and grooming the new snow. Thanks for keeping us on the trails!

Upcoming meetings and events:

Junco - Club meetings, first Monday of the month, 7pm at Godfather's Pizza in Spanaway.

Sno-Jammers - Club meetings, first

think every year it keeps getting later and later for us and our really big snowfalls don't seem to show up until February. Hopefully it's just going to keep piling up for us in the mountains.

Our grooming is going at both the Mt. Adams and Mt. St. Helens areas. As I write this, neither one have all the trails opened up but hopefully within the next few weeks they will.

We have a new groomer at Mt. St. Helens for this year; Back Country Grooming. Travis has been doing the Orr Creek and Wakepish areas for the last few years and has done an amazing job there. You can find all his grooming updates on Facebook at Back country Grooming so please check him out and he will keep you up to date.

It's so sad to have to mention this but it only took one year before we saw the first vandalism of our brand new warming shelter that the Mt. St. Helens Trac Riders worked countless hours to get at the Marble Mountain Sno Park. It looks like someone had a big party inside the shelter and some how they broke the hand rail out of the concrete around the wood stove, broke the automatic door closer on the back door and they left tons of garbage inside the shelter. Another problem we've had is people keep shutting the damper on the wood stove all

the way and filling the inside of the shelter with smoke; it's not going to take long before it will start discoloring the beautiful inside of the building. We will make the necessary repairs to the stove and the handrail as soon as possible. It's a shame people can't respect the hard work and dedication that went into the rebuilding of this warming shelter and the countless hours and years of not having a shelter up there for everyone to use. If anyone knows or has heard anything about the vandalism, please contact me as soon as possible.

On a nicer and more pleasing note, the Trac Riders will again be hosting a ride for the Washington School of the Blind. The date is February 27th and so far the school has 40 students signed up

(Continued on page 7)



A successful 'Charity-on-the-Snow' event hosted by the Junco Snowmobile Club. Over \$5,000 was raised for the Make-A-Wish Foundation.



Wednesday of the month, 7pm at Round Table Pizza in Bonney Lake (until Puyallup location is available again). Annual Fun Run is **February 8th at Greenwater**. Kid's Ride, March 8th at Greenwater.



District 4 South

By Mike Ainslie
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(360) 430-1494

Greetings everyone in District 4S! We finally received the snow we've been waiting for in the Southwest Cascades. It's been long overdue down here. I

District Reports

(Continued from page 6)

for the event. It's a ton of fun to watch these kids enjoy the snow like they never have before. The club will also be doing a barbecue lunch up there for them after they enjoy their snowmobile ride and get back to the warming shelter.

The Mt. Adams Snowmobile Club will be having a Sweetheart's Ride on February 15th at the Flatttop Sno-Park. There will be raffles, door prizes and food at this event. It will run 10am to 4pm with the raffle starting at 3pm. It's a ton of fun for the whole family so please plan on attending. This is one of the club's fundraisers they hold every year.

I'm also very excited to share with everyone the Lone Butte Sno-Park now has a new sponsor for the warming shelter. It's Sliver Star Search and Rescue. I can't wait to see what they do up there with the warming shelter. It's been in need of some loving that's for sure.

Last but not least, I once again ask everyone to make sure to license your snowmobiles so we have money for next year to run our Snowmobile Program.

Let's all keep doing our snow dances so the snow keeps piling up in our riding areas!



District 5 South

By Rudy Classen
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(509) 961-6073

Thanks to the storms of the last few days we now have snow in all areas and the groomers are going full-time with snow down

to the parking lots. Don't know how long it will continue snowing or how long the cold weather will keep the snow in the hills soft and powdery but we hope it will be for a long time. Our deep snow riders are having a blast and some of the pictures they have been posting shows them standing in that beautiful white stuff up to their shoulders.

Several events in our area should now have plenty of snow to make them very successful. The first is the annual Yakima Ski-Benders Snow Fest/Poker Run held out of the Little Naches Sno-Park on Chinook Pass and will be complete when this Snoflyer is posted. This is a family fun run of 20-plus miles on groomed trails. Prizes are given away in the afternoon and one of the prizes will be a nice gently used sled for some lucky youngster.

The next event for the Yakima Ski-Benders will be their Kid's Ride out of the same sno-park on February 29th. Again this year this event will focus on teaching young riders how to ride safely and skillfully. Two nice and gently used snowmobiles will be given away to a couple of lucky youths. While the kids are out doing their thing, a Scavenger Hunt will also be held. Those who enter the Scavenger Hunt will be given maps of the area where colored plastic plates will be hung in the trees and bushes. Each plate returned will be entered in the raffle. I have to admit this is a real fun event for various Ski-Bender members because we have a reason to ride an extra two times that week; one to hang the plates and one to remove those that are not found. Some even ride to pick up plates that aren't there.

We recently received word from the horse's mouth that legislators were already eyeing our grooming funds and that is before the legislative session even started. As you know or should know, all of our grooming funds come from self-taxation. We get a good portion of the funding from our snowmobile tag fees and then we get additional funding from the gas tax that we pay. By state constitution, it the 18th amendment, the state gas tax on every gallon of gas that is put in the snowmobile is to go to our grooming fund. Currently the two together amount to about \$100. It is very important to register our sled (s) every year and at the same time I suggest you contact your local Washington State Legislators and give them an ear-

(Continued on page 10)

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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
EWS Motorsports	3102 Airport Rd	Pullman	WA	99163	www.ewsmotorsports.com	509-332-6512
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		425-868-1300
Sundance Landscaping	11609 172nd Ave NE	Redmond	WA	98052		425-533-6008
Anderson's Grocery	711 S Clark Ave	Republic	WA	99166		509-775-3378
Earthworks, Inc	PO Box 111	Ronald	WA	98940		
Roadhouse @ The Last Resort	14254 Salmon LaSac Rd	Ronald	WA	98940		509-649-3125
Boulder Creek Enterprises	14121 Salmon LaSac Rd-Ronald	Roslyn	WA	98941		509-649-2222
J & B Enterprises	PO Box 440	Roslyn	WA	98941		206-484-0204
Repin Construction LLC	PO Box 541	Roslyn	WA	98941		509-649-3323
Life Support	PO 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	PO Box 4279	Seattle	WA	98194	www.trailsidehomes.com	
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
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.procaliberbend.com	
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	196 Dunivan Rd	Vader	WA	98593		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		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
Baum Shelter Too	131 Bemis Gulch Rd	Warren	ID	83671	www.baumsheltertoo.com	208-636-4393
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

Please thank these highlighted business for advertising in our Snoflyer!

District Reports

(Continued from page 7)

full. Google the 18th amendment, I dare you.

You won't get this in time to act upon it this year but you can join us next year when WSSA holds our annual 'All Trails to Olympia Day'. This is one of the most important events WSSA holds each year as we make an effort to visit each Senator and Representative on behalf of our snowmobiling community. Every year we stress the importance of our grooming fund, how snowmobiling is important to many rural communities and how much commerce is involved in our state because of snowmobiling.

Well it has happened again; the Forest Service working against the snowmobiler. If you have been reading the Snoflyer you will remember the sledgers in District 4 South, which is around Mt. St. Helens, spent eight years battling the area Forest Service to get their warming hut rebuilt after it had been burned to the ground. They finally got their warming hut built but only after Mike Ainslie, the WSSA representative in the area, and the Mt. St. Helens Trac Riders, went to the media

and also contacted Representative Jamie Herrera Beutler from Vancouver and Senator Maria Cantrell. Once Mike and the Trac Riders did that the project went from 98th on the priority list to number 1 in one day.

What has been happening down there recently will make you burn or it should. The warming hut is about 1/8 mile from a gate that is closed during the non-sledding season because the parking lot and warming hut are for snowmobilers. The Forest Service wanted to open the gate before it snowed. Mike told them the hut would then suffer from vandals. The Forest Service opened the gate and sure enough a beer party was held there and the warming hut was vandalized. Shame on the dirtbag vandals, but double shame on the Forest Service for not heading Mike's advice.

Oh by the way, when talking to Mike I asked and was told the head ranger is the same one who was resisting by all means the rebuilding of the warming hut. In many areas the local Forest Service works closely with all groups of Forest users including sledgers, just as our local Forest Service in

Naches does; but that does not seem to be the case in all areas.

Hopefully those in the Marble Mountain area will let their representatives know what has happened and who is responsible. Here are some of the persons you may want to contact:

- Jamie Herrera-Beutler - (360) 695-6292
- Maria Cantwell - (206) 220-6400
- House members of Natural Resources from our area:
- Rob Bishop - (202) 225-0453
- Louie Gohmert -

(202) 225-3035

- John Curtis - (202) 225-7751
- Russ Fulcher - (202) 225-6611



District 6

By Chris Shires

chris.shires@wssa.us
(509) 521-5511

District 6 Representative nominations and voting completed for the Blue Mountain Snowmobile Club (BMSC) - I was reelected. Waiting on results from Pomeroy club - expect same result.

Both riding areas now have snow and are riding and grooming is current.

The BMSC Bucket Run is March 7th - registration begins at 9am at the Touchet Corral Sno-Park.

Have fun; be safe.



WSSA Legal Action Fund Raffle North Cascade Sled Deck

Buy a raffle ticket (or several) in support of WSSA's Legal Action Fund and win a sled deck! The drawing will happen on Saturday night during WSSA's Winter Rendezvous in February. The tickets are \$5 each and 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!

Contact your WSSA District Rep or any board member for tickets. Support the sport and help us protect snowmobiling for future generations.

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 provided 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.)



I think we all know who this might be... (Glenn Warren)

Interested in a chance to earn the WSSA Scholarship in 2020?

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 \$2,000.00 grant, and will be given to the winner regardless of other grants or scholarships the student may also receive. You can find the requirements at www.wssa.us under the 'Scholarship' menu item on the left margin.



Club News



Methow Valley Snowmobile Association

By Dan Stanley,
Vice President

The snow has finally hit the Methow Valley! Still behind past years' levels, but enough to get off the trails.

The Methow Trails Grooming Association is grooming all scheduled routes.

Earlier in the year we had club members riding dirt bikes with chainsaws, working on keeping trails clear.

Our club puts on weekly rides to different areas of the Methow. We build a big fire and cook hotdogs. All snowmobilers are welcome and the dogs are free. If interested, go to our Methow Valley Snowmobile Association blog and click on calendar to see when and where the next ride will be, and while in there, if you are wanting a used sled or accessories, look at our items for sale.

We hosted our yearly Christmas dinner again this year. We had 170 people come to our event at the Winthrop barn. It is free to the public and most of the food is donated by local merchants.

We are working on this year's Bucket Run (Poker Run). We are relocating it this year to the Eightmile Sno-Park outside of Winthrop. The main route will be on groomed trails, but we are adding areas for the more experienced riders. There will be cash prizes, gifts and food. Tickets will be available soon for the February 16th event, or you can get them the day of the event. Contact me at dstan@methow.com for more information.



Apple Country Snowmobile Club

By Tim Downs

Greetings all snowmobilers from the Apple Country Snowmobile Club!

Snowmobiling takes a hardy type of person to spend an X-amount of money to ride 12 weeks a year. In our neighborhood, the weeks are dwindling rapidly. There is nothing quite like being on top of the mountain,

machine running perfectly and no tracks. We are privileged beyond belief with the experiences of riding snowmobiles. I look back on the very first ride I ever took and it was



Snowy drive up to Blewett Pass.

quite by accident. Our family was skiing McCall, Idaho, and our bones were weary after a long day, (maybe needed to be in better pre-season shape), and my wife suggested we rent some snowmobiles. That



Yes, you can ride to the top of Chumstick Mountain.

progressed to a vacation cabin in Leavenworth and three snowmobiles. Then a house and four snowmobiles and I blame this crazy sport! (OK, about 10% of that lifestyle change.) Now that I am retired, the bones are just as sore and I pick my days a little more carefully for good weather. It's a wonderful life.

January 11th we scheduled our first organized ride in the Colockum. Cancelled - no snow, so no show. We could've, would've or

should've had a bonfire in the parking lot and roasted hot dogs from the back of our trucks. Snowfall was still seven days away. At this writing, our groomers are ready to roll. Need just a little bit of snow beneath the tracks. We have traveled over the



Two early rigs and a beautiful day.

mountain passes a couple of times and they have snow. But the Colockum has trickle late. Blewett Pass looks good, and the usual suspects have been driving up Eagle Creek to the Sugar Loaf area, so there is snowmobiling to be had. Lots of opportunity to re-



Road to Sugarloaf.

move snow from our driveway, but that's not quite as much fun on the Kubota as it is on my snowmobile, but it's close.

We have celebrated a couple of club members' birthdays in January. We're missing Don and Judy Ray, who moved to the West Side. He also has a January birthday.

On Friday (January 24th) we are meeting with Washington State Parks employees with the prediction of a fabulous

(Continued on page 13)

THE MOUNTAIN IS YOURS FOR THE TAKING



ski-doo.



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SKNORTHWEST.COM

A BRP BRAND



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Club News

(Continued from page 11)

ride. If you're just now reading about this... you missed it.

We look forward to the WSSA Winter Rendezvous in Chelan.

Don't forget your donations for the Auction that supports WSSA's Legal Action Fund! Let's raise some dollars to keep our trails open for winter recreation.

Happy trails to Chelan!



Tollgate Trail Finders

By Bob Smith, Vice President

Happy New Year snowmobile friends!
It's hard to believe it's a new decade... 2020... but wow here we are! We start this new decade with a brand-new 2020 Tucker Sno-

Cat to groom the many miles of trails around Tollgate. We have a membership of over 120 members and a good balance in the bank to keep the lights turned on.

We are starting the new year with our club bylaws brought up-to-date and voted in by our membership. Bob Carrell worked tirelessly updating the bylaws as well as getting our club's IRS tax status updated as a nonprofit. Many thanks Mr. Carrell!

The club is working to update our website and make it more user-friendly. Board member Jeff Wagner is working with the Walla Walla Community College computer science department to bring it up-to-date and into the new decade. Hopefully we will be able to take membership payments electronically soon.

Bluewood Ride - Brandon Christensen and Glenn Warren led the 95-mile round-trip ride to the Godman warming shelter. There were more than a few sore muscles the following day from the long



Oooh, shiny! 2020 Tucker at work on the Tollgate Trails.



Early season Tollgate to Bluewood ride. Fun was had by all!

ride but fun was had by all. Huge thanks to the Blue Mountain Snowmobile club for cooking some amazing burgers for our crew, it was much appreciated.

Poker Drawing and Holiday Party - We had a phenomenal turnout for the Poker Drawing-Chili Feed and Holiday Party on the December 28th. There were several thousand dollars (Continued on page 14)

WSSA Contacts

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- VACANT -

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- VACANT -

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Website/Webmaster • Dean Meakin
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Tracked ATV/UTV • Matt Mead
(509) 424-1575 • matt.mead@wssa.us

Club News

(Continued from page 13)

in cash and prizes given away at the party. Many thanks to all who donated the cash



Numerous prizes donated for the club's Poker Draw & Holiday Party.

and prizes for the event. We especially want to mention our corporate sponsors, Big D Powersports and Rentals, Hollis Zschokke State Farm Insurance, Goss Family Jewelers, Don Johnson Polaris, Desert Pump and Irrigation and RC Adventure Footwear. Our club was able to raise well over \$2,500 from the event!

Club Rides - Many of the club members still meet up at the club house on Saturday morning about 9am to go out on a ride together. Watch the Tollgate Trail Finders Facebook page for the latest ride announcements and schedule.

WSSA - Winter Rendezvous - February 14th-17th. **Campbell's Resort on Lake Chelan.** Experienced off-trail riding groups as well as family-friendly trail rides. WSSA and the local clubs will set up rides you'll LOVE! Dinner on Friday and Saturday as well as some type of entertainment. Plenty to do in Chelan and a casino is nearby if you want to take a break from sledding. https://www.wssa.us/content.aspx?page_id=4002&club_id=431529&item_id=1086105

McCall Winter Getaway. The club is planning a winter getaway to McCall Idaho in mid-February. This was a great success last year and it included UTVs as well as snowmobiles. Plan to attend; it should be a great time as McCall is a beautiful winter wonderland.

Club officer and board member elections - March 7th is our club elections. If you are interested in running for a leadership position, let us know so we can get you on the ballot. This is also the date for our end-of-the-year party... We call it the Steak out... More details to come.

The Tollgate Trail



Club elections on March 7th!

Finders are looking forward to another great season of snowmobiling. Come and be a part of our snowmobile club and enjoy the weekend rides that usually originate at our club house around 9am.

Think Snow and have a great season of sledding!



Tri-Rivers Snowmobile Club

By Kurt Hensley, President

The Tri-Rivers Snowmobile Club was busy during the month of January with several projects. We have sponsored Dina Lund and her dog sled



The Tri-Rivers club is sponsoring Dina Lund and her sled dog team.

team, 'Little Loup Creek Huskies'. We worked on breaking out several trails for her dog sled team.

We have also been busy getting the last of the trail signs out in the Conconully area. Some hard working members spent a snowy day getting the last two signs out.

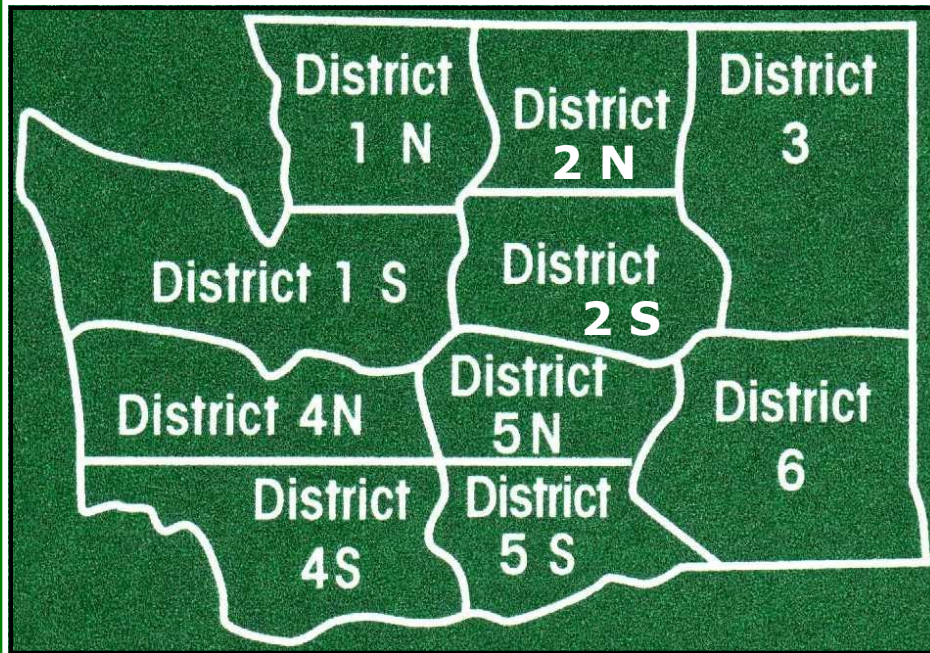
(Continued on page 16)



Tri-Rivers members enjoying a mostly blue-sky day!



Snowmobile Clubs



Note: Facebook addresses in blue

District 1 North

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

Northwest Glacier Cruisers

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

Whatcom County Snowmobile Club

Clark Morgan
(360) 305-4171
whatcomsnowmobileclub@gmail.com
[Whatcom County Snowmobile Club](#)

District 1 South

(King County)

Cascade Drift Skippers

Tony Keys
(208) 880-1096
tjkrash@gmail.com
www.cds.clubexpress.com
[Cascade Drift Skippers](#)

District 2 North

(Okanogan/Ferry Counties)

Assoc. of Okanogan County Snowmobile Clubs

Tom Windsor
(509) 429-3488 • twindsor40@msn.com

Bonaparte Snowmobile/ATV Club

Mike Olmstead
(509) 486-1134
bonaparte.snowmobile.atv.club@gmail.com
[Bonaparte Snowmobile/ATV Club](#)

Butte Busters Snowmobile Club

Ron Hirst
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[Butte Busters Snowmobile Club](#)

Crawfish Lake Snowmobile Club

James Peterson
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Methow Valley Snowmobile Assoc.

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www.mvsnwmobile.blogspot.com
[Methow Valley Snowmobile Association](#)

Mountain Trails Grooming Assoc.

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North Central ATV Club of WA

Tim Weller
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ncatvclub@live.com
[North Central ATV Club of Washington](#)

Republic Tree Benders

Brian McKay
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bam2604@yahoo.com
[Republic Tree Benders Snowmobile/ATV Club](#)

Tri-River Snowmobile Club

Donna Windsor
(509) 923-2823
[Tri-Rivers Snowmobile Club](#)

District 2 South

(Chelan/Douglas Counties)

Apple Country Snowmobile Club

Jim Burts
(509) 860-3980
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[Apple Country Snowmobile Club](#)

Bavarian Boondockers

Matt Kensrud
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info@bavarianboondockers.com
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Lake Chelan Snowmobile Club

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[Lake Chelan Snowmobile Club](#)



Lake Wenatchee Recreation Club

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[Lake Wenatchee Rec Club \(LWRC\)](#)



District 3

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

Chewelah Sno Posse

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Colville Driftriders

Steve Fogle
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Spokane Winter Knights

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[Spokane Winter Knights Snowmobile Club](#)



District 4 North

(Grays Harbor/Lewis/Mason/Pacific/Pierce/Thurston Counties)

Junco Snowmobile Club

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[Junco Snowmobile Club](#)



Lewis County Drift Skippers

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Northwest Boondockers

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Sno-Jammers Snowmobile Club

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[SnoJammers](#)



District 4 South

(Clark/Cowlitz/Skamania/Wahkiakum Counties)

Mt Adams Snowmobile Club

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[Mt Adams Snowmobile Club](#)

Mt St Helens Trac Riders

Doug Wick
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[Mt. St. Helens Trac Riders](#)

District 5 North

(Kittitas County)

Barnyard Racing

Erik Clark
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Hi Country Beelers

Dan Johnson
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Reecer Creek Riders

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Snomads

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Teanaway Snowmobile Club

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District 5 South

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Cascade Snow Drifters

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Chinook Pass Snowmobile Club

Bob Jump
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Drift-A-Way Snowmobile Club

Jim Kingman
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Yakima Ski-Benders

Liz Van Amberg
(509) 759-5179
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
www.tollgatetrailfinders.org
[Tollgate Trail Finders Snowmobile Club](#)



Pacific Northwest

Pacific Northwest Vintage Snowmobile Club

Ray Bergstresser
(509) 466-6249 • pnwvsc@gmail.com
pacificnorthwestvintagesnowmobileclub.org
[Pacific Northwest Vintage Snowmobile Club](#)



Vintage Snowmobiles of the Inland N.W.

Dave Brummer
(208) 755-8334 • dbrummer@stimsonlumber.com
www.wsvsa.com/VISOTINW.html

Club News

(Continued from page 14)



Tri-Rivers members putting up the last of the trail signs for the season.



Drift-A-Way Snowmobile Club

By Matt Mead

The Drift-A-Way club members were patiently waiting for snow through mid-December. Before the snow hit, a couple of them went up and replaced several missing trail arrows at intersections on the trail system near Rimrock Lake on White Pass. Additional signing improvements are planned for the future.

The day after the official season began on December 15th, a few members took their first ride up on White Pass. While snow was lean down low, they found a few feet at higher elevations and fresh powder to boot!

Mid-week rides, typically on Thursdays, are in full swing. This group has been affectionately(?) labeled the 'Thursday Misfits' by our club president, Jim King-

(Continued on page 17)

WE HAVE 2019 & 2020 PRO-RMKs IN STOCK

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(Continued from page 16)

man. As a charter member, I can see how the title might be appropriate...



Typical 'Thursday Misfits' ride...



We recently 'baptized' our youngest member, Rubee Alred. At just over a year old, Rubee enjoyed a snowmobile ride up at the



Rubee Alred and her Daddy Jeffrey

Tieton Airstrip on a recent Sunday. This was a precursor to riding with Mom and Dad at the Ski-Benders Snow Fest the following

weekend. Four generations of Alreds were riding that day.

Several members also belong to the Yakima Ski-Benders and volunteered at their recent Snow Fest held at the Little Naches Sno-Park, manning a checkpoint, serving food and tracking poker hands. Snow Fest is a great family outing; check it out next year if you've never been!

Four of our members ventured to Olympia for the 'All Trails to Olympia' event hosted by WSSA. We met with our local legislators and educated them on snowmobile-related issues. Several were also invited to join us on a future ride!

Upcoming? Several members will be manning a WSSA checkpoint at the Sno-Jammers Fun Run on February 8th. Stop by for a cup of hot chocolate!

Many Drift-A-Way snowmobilers will converge in Chelan for WSSA's Winter Rendezvous over Presidents' Day Weekend. Chelan has great riding and WSSA will provide meals and entertainment on Friday and Saturday night for registered guests. At least a couple of members plan to head up to the Methow Valley Snowmobile Association's Bucket Run on that Sunday.

Are you looking for a welcoming family club? Join us on a weekday or weekend club ride or stop by our next meeting at Round Table Pizza by Fred Meyers in Yakima. First Monday of the month; dinner at 6pm.



Winter Knights

By Greg Figg,
President

The Winter Knights Club rides are in full swing right now. We have rides coming up this year to Priest Lake and McCall. This is in addition to all of our local rides.

As always our club meetings are the 3rd Thursday at the New Tech Skills Center at 4141 N. Regal Street in Spokane. An optional dinner is at 6pm and the meeting at 7pm.

Our current ride schedule is posted on the club website at:

www.spokanewinterknights.com

*Clubs:
Show us your
LOGOs!*



Northwest Glacier Cruisers

By Jessica Ronhaar

Upcoming: Youth
Snowmobile Day at

Ploeg's Place on February 8th and 9th. FREE all day avalanche practice with the Northwest Avalanche Center. We will barbecue both days.

March is busy with Luke's Memorial Ride on March 14th and the Shoot Out on March 21st.

We finally have our snow and Baker is open with good snow. Our huts are stocked and ready for visitors. So please come visit!

We had our TNT Highway 20 Ride on January 11th. Ninety-eight hot dogs were



85 participants from several different clubs enjoyed the TNT Highway 20 Ride on January 11th.



consumed and multiple clubs attended with over 85 participants.



Bavarian Boondockers

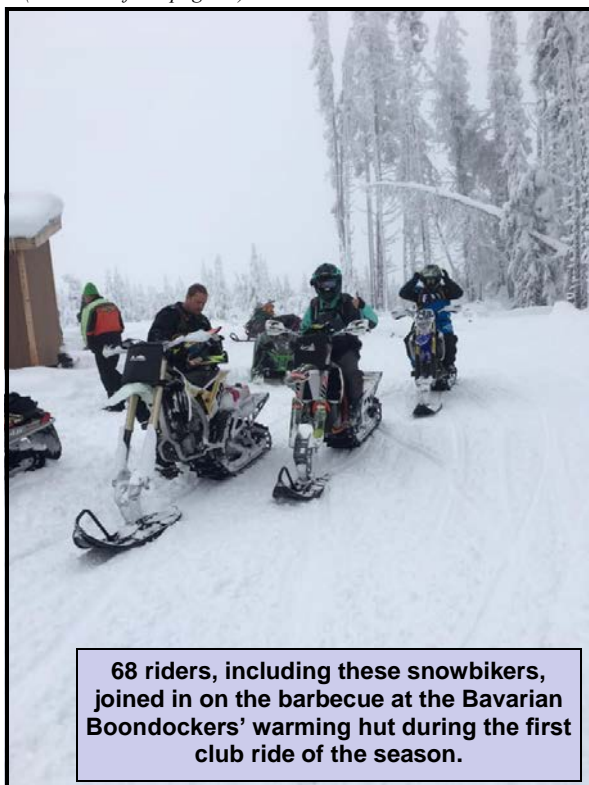
By Matt Kensrud,
President

Greetings! The club held its first club ride with 68 riders attending. Burgers, hotdogs, and stew were served for lunch. Thank you to those who donated! The riding was okay, the visibility was at an all-time low, but the company was good.

(Continued on page 18)

Club News

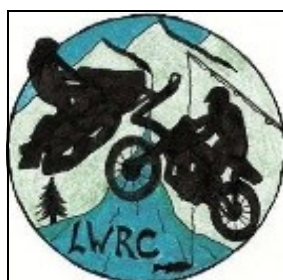
(Continued from page 17)



68 riders, including these snowbikers, joined in on the barbecue at the Bavarian Boondockers' warming hut during the first club ride of the season.

The club held their first membership meeting/movie night; 22 folks attended.

For more info on what the club is up to, check out our website at www.bavarianboondockers.com, or if you have a question, e-mail bavarianboondockers@gmail.com.



Lake Wenatchee Rec Club

By Marilyn Mylius,
Vice President

February 15th is our Annual Poker Ride

- Buy hands at the Clubhouse from 8-10am. Prize monies split between two highest hands and lowest hand. Wenatchee Powersports and Doghouse Motorsports will be at the clubhouse all day with demo machines! Lunch available for purchase at the clubhouse after the ride.

Events are subject to change depending on SNOW! Check for updates on our Facebook page.



Yakima Ski-Benders

By Liz Van Amberg,
President

Happy New Year from The Yakima Ski-Benders! As I write this, the Yakima Ski-

Benders 39th Annual Chinook Pass Snow Festival is this coming weekend. This event is always well attended. Thank you Paul and Ronna Younie for all your hard work getting this event ready! More next month on how it turns out!

On February 29th we have the Kid's Ride and Scavenger Hunt. Plans have been in the works for all these great events for months. I personally have not made (Continued on page 19)



FEBRUARY 15, 2020 SNOWMOBILE POKER RUN

Open to public! No pre-registration required. Bring cash or check to purchase poker hands and food.

Date: February 15, 2020 (weather permitting)

Registration: 8-9:45 a.m. (last rider must leave the LWRC clubhouse by 10 a.m.)

Return time: By 3 p.m. (ALL riders must return to the LWRC clubhouse by 3 p.m. for prizes)

Cost (per person): \$10 cash or check for one hand (increase your chances and buy a bundle! \$15 for two hands or \$25 for five hands)

Food: Lunch available for purchase starting at noon (cash or check)

Volunteer Opportunity! If you don't ride but would like to join in the fun, please contact the LWRC about helping us out with registration/check-in or trail checkpoints. All volunteers receive our gratitude and free lunch.

Questions? Contact Mike at mkbormans@frontier.com or (425) 418-5144.

Ride Safe

- ❖ Don't ride alone
- ❖ Ensure your equipment is in good condition
- ❖ Wear proper attire and helmet
- ❖ Do not carry more than 1 passenger
- ❖ Never ride impaired by drugs and/or alcohol
- ❖ Follow other riders at a reasonable distance
- ❖ Come to a complete stop before crossing roads
- ❖ Inform others about your travel plans
- ❖ Check the weather forecast

Lake Wenatchee Rec Club

14400 Chiwawa Loop Rd
(Lake Wenatchee airstrip)

Leavenworth WA 98826

509-763-3858

Wenatchee Powersports snowmobile demonstrations!

(Continued from page 18)

it out on the snow but hope to change that next Saturday!



Last year's big winner of the Kid's Ride, Aspen Jo Karcz, with Joe Labernik.

I want to give a shout out to all the clubs; I see great things happening all over the State! Keep up the great work! Until next month, ride safe!



Pacific Northwest Vintage Snowmobile Club

By Kevin Hancock, Webmaster

Now that the snow is here our club is busy getting ready for rides, going on rides, or participating in shows.

On the second weekend in January a group of us spent our time testing the sleds they plan taking on our trip to Whistlin' Jack Lodge at the end of the January. Two of our members rode on Highway 20 in the Mt. Baker area, while a couple others met for the weekend at the Flattop Sno-Park in the Mt. Adams area.

The rides were successful! The members who went to Mt. Baker rode two Ski-Doo Olympics and are now ready for the trip. They did learn they need to bring extra gas, while two others learned their sleds need more work because of fuel contamination issues. Easy fixes, so they should be ready before the weekend.

On the weekend of January 18th, some of our group traveled to Lolo Hot Spring Resort outside Lolo, MT. The Missoula Snowgoers held their annual Winterfest event. They had skijoring races where a snowmobile tows a skier, vintage, classic and modern snowmo-

biles on display, a snow moxie with slalom, and cloverleaf timed runs.

As I write this, our next event is our annual over-night ride from Taneum Sno-Park to Whistlin' Jack Lodge in Cliffdell. After that there are vintage snowmobile races in Priest Lake, ID, a modern sled ride in Southern Oregon from Crescent Lake to Crater Lake National Park with a stay at Diamond Lake, and then we meet for our annual show and ride at the Last Resort in Ronald.

There is a lot of riding and fun to look forward to!



PNWVSC members tested their vintage rides in preparation for an overnigher to Whistlin' Jack Lodge in late January.



Safety with Jon

S.A.F.E.T.Y

By Jon Ferrian — wssasafety101@gmail.com

Hello Washington Sled Heads!

Each month I try to make your WSSA safety article fun and entertaining while being educational. This month I thought I would tackle making an entire article around the word S.A.F.E.T.Y and have some FUN with it! Wish me luck and here we go...

S – SITUATIONS

- Most of the time we all have control of the SITUATIONS we put ourselves into and the better we plan our trips and look at the avalanche forecast, the more control we have over putting ourselves into dangerous SITUATIONS.
- Did you do your sled maintenance? Did you check the avalanche conditions? Did you check your trailer lights? Do you have chains with you?
- If you think ahead about the SITUATIONS you are going to be putting yourself into, the better you can plan for it and be prepared for anything while having a fun and safe trip every time! ("Make every trip a round trip!")

#LiveLARGE

Jon Ferrian LIVE



A – AWARENESS

- Next is to have a high level of AWARENESS of your current situation and plan as it is happening and never be afraid to adjust course along the way.

(Continued on page 21)

S.A.F.E.T.Y.



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Breakfast 7:00 - 11:00 am
Lunch & Dinner 11:30 am - 9:00 pm
Drinks until closing

(Continued from page 20)

• If you have a trip planned but then a major storm rolls in and you are now in whiteout conditions and it is not safe to push on, do you have the AWARENESS to assess your situation in that moment and not be afraid to change your plans to keep everyone in your group safe?



5, 4, 3, 2, 1... LAUNCH!

• Have you ever found yourself on a steep avalanche slope and then thought to yourself in the moment that "I shouldn't be here"? That is a great example of situational AWARENESS and being willing to change course to stay safe.

F – FAMILY/FRIENDS/FUN

- Safety in numbers! Never Ride Alone!
- Snowmobiling is more FUN if you have other people with you!
- Join a snowmobile club, find a social media group and make some new FRIENDS to ride with as there is always safety in numbers to help each other out when you're stuck, lost or in trouble!
- There is nothing more satisfying to me then bringing my FAMILY out on the mountain with me including my wife and kids. It is also a great time to have parents or a sibling visit from out-of-state and take them snowmobiling also!
- Snowmobiling is a team sport!

E – EVERYONE HAS A VOICE

- Back to safety in numbers – If your ride in a group and take time to make sure EVERYONE HAS A VOICE and is allowed to provide input on the day's ride

(Continued on page 22)

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

From the International Snowmobile Tourism Council (ISTC) & And the International Snowmobile Media Council (ISMC)

Your life matters! The ISTC and the ISMC want to bring to the attention of all snowmobilers riding in the West, how important it is to KNOW BEFORE YOU GO.

We strongly urge snowmobilers to check the avalanche forecast before heading out no matter where you ride in the West. You have the training (Are You Beeping?) and the tools but DID YOU CHECK THE AVALANCHE FORECAST? Very easy to do: go to www.avalanche.org and click on the state you are going to ride in.

You can look at the avalanche statistics from last season on the ACSA website www.snowmobilers.org. They were compiled by Mike Duffy, one of the top avalanche experts in the U.S. Also on the ACSA website is Snowmobile Education and Safety.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO, and live to ride another day.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO! – Avalanche Forecasts



Cascades (Canadian border to Mt. Hood) – www.nwac.us

Idaho Panhandle – www.idahopanhandleavalanche.org

WA/OR Blues – www.wallowaavalanchecenter.org/forecast/blues



Safety with Jon

(Continued from page 21)

then you can help make sure everyone is riding in their comfort zone and you are not dragging someone into an area they cannot make it into or out of.

- Whether you are a ride leader or an attendee on a ride you should follow your gut instincts and listen to that little voice in your head. Don't be afraid to speak up and share your thoughts and encourage everyone around to ensure EVERYONE HAS A VOICE!

T – TEAMWORK

- There are many aspects to snowmobiling where TEAMWORK helps create a safe riding environment.

O Ride as a TEAM up the trail and let everyone know they need to be responsible for the person behind them on the trails so the TEAM does not get separated or lost on the ride.

O TEAMWORK is critical to help get unstuck. Many hands make easy work. Ski pulls, lifts and strategy are all more effective with TEAMWORK!

Y – YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY!

- Bottom line is YOU are in control of your own destiny!
- YOU make the decisions that will put YOU in danger or keep YOU out of danger.
- YOU can keep others safe or put others in danger.
- It doesn't matter if YOU are the leader or part of the riding group, YOU can control your own destiny by following the recommendations above and by doing your own research and by holding yourself accountable!

Thank you again for your time you took to read this short WSSA safety article! I hope you have an amazing and fun time this winter out on the snow!

#LiveLARGE



Fun times riding with friends!

2020 WSSA Elections

Online voting underway now!

Ends February 14th at 10pm

By Wayne Mohler, Membership Co-Chair

Nominations for the offices of President, Vice President, Publicity Secretary, and Membership Secretary have closed. Candidates are:

- President (one-year term) – Dean Meakin
- Vice President (one-year term) – Delia Alred and Jon Ferrian
- Publicity Secretary (two-year term) – Matt Mead
- Membership Secretary (two-year term) – Wayne/Florence Mohler

Online voting is open through February 14th at 10pm. Results will be announced at the Winter Rendezvous banquet in Chelan on Saturday evening, February 15th.

In order to vote you must hold a current paid-up Family/Individual or Dealer Associate membership. Log on to the WSSA website – www.wssa.us – using your username and password. On the home page, click on the VOTE NOW button at the top. The ballot with the slate of officers will come up. Make your selections and save. That's it – you're done!



On the family/individual memberships, both the primary and secondary member may vote. If the secondary member doesn't have a username and password, the secondary member can be added by updating the primary member's profile. On the home page, the member's profile is in the log-in dialogue box at the upper right of the screen. In the Membership Info dialog box, click on Clubs/Additional Members to add the secondary member.

If you have specific questions, contact WSSA membership at membership@wssa.us or 509-674-4401.



Follow the State Parks Winter Recreation Program on Twitter

@WaStatePks_WNTR

State Parks Update

By Pamela McConkey, Winter Recreation Program Manager

Snowmobile Advisory Committee (SMAC) Winter Meeting

Many folks spend the winter months indoors dreaming and waiting for spring or summer... but not SNOWMOBLIERS! The Snowmobile Advisory Committee recently held their winter meeting in Wenatchee and spent a day on the snow looking at the trail system,



The weather in Wenatchee made for a wet and sloppy ride for the SMAC meeting, but riders had a good time nonetheless!

trail markings, visiting with other snowmobilers from around the state and the local club members. The Lake Wenatchee Rec Club once again opened their doors and hosted the ride, provided hot apple cider, coffee and hot chocolate. The club also had several volunteers, including the groomer contractor – Pacific Mountain Services - out on the trails with us. Snowmobiling is a great family sport and fun for almost all ages! (Babies and toddlers are excluded from driving a snowmobile. ☺) Snowmobiling is also a great way to make new friends, volunteer for trail crews (trail brushing), avalanche education, search and rescue, grooming councils, enjoy club events or just enjoy being outdoors in the snow taking in the breathtaking views of snow covered mountains and meadows. Come on out and



enjoy the snow and the beauty of Washington when blanketed with snow!

After a day on the snow, it was time to get down to business. The Committee met on Saturday, January 25th, at the Wenatchee Convention Center and discussed a variety of issues. Some of the topics were around the passing and subsequent litigation of I-976. This initiative, if enacted, has the potential of reducing your program revenue. What would that mean? Less grooming, less snow removal, less sanitation, less education and enforcement. Right now we don't know what the outcome will be, so the SMAC members who are made up of snowmobilers and others from around the state had some serious conversation and brainstorming about the future of the program and future revenue. Several ideas were discussed and the Committee asked Program Staff to look into several ideas, one being the possibility of a trail grooming sticker that would be dedicated funding for the program. There's much to work through and we are in the beginning stages of things; the Committee wants to be proactive and not wait until its too late and be reactive. If you have ideas and want to share them with the staff or the Committee, you are welcome to e-mail us at winter@parks.wa.gov or attend the next SMAC meeting scheduled for July 31st back in Wenatchee.

Snowmobile Registrations are Lower than Last Year

We are hopeful with the January storms and epic snowfall that numbers will rebound and put us back on track. Your program is 100% funded through snowmobile registrations!

Summer Budget Meeting

The summer Funding Meeting has been scheduled for July 31st and August 1st in Wenatchee. The SMAC voted to hear all non-budget issues on Friday evening and dedicate the Saturday session completely to the budget. This will mean a very busy agenda for Friday and a full day on Saturday. If you want to join us, the meetings are open to the public and all are welcome.

Snowmobile Registrations							
	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY 19-20 Difference
July	166	149	145	134	148	166	18
August	1,142	531	676	782	2,307	222	(2,085)
September	3,546	2,968	3,145	2,946	1,682	2,974	1,292
October	2,544	1,662	2,139	2,489	1,882	3,357	1,475
November	2,870	3,129	3,362	4,360	2,960	2,372	(588)
December	6,656	11,575	13,170	6,973	8,320	6,726	(1,594)
January	2,741	3,528	3,196	3,358	3,433		
February	381	1,164	1,513	1,166	1,602		
March	68	298	686	674	958		
April	42	82	181	175	258		
May	22	32	93	93	90		
June	23	30	84	71	83		
Total:	20,201	25,148	28,390	23,221	23,723	15,817	(1,482)

News

All Trails to Olympia Day

By Matt Mead, Publicity Chair

This marked our 19th year for a trip to Olympia to lobby our legislators on behalf of snowmobilers.

Approximately 15 members of WSSA visited Olympia on January 28th for the annual 'All Trails to Olympia Day' event. Our primary goal was to educate legislators on the importance of maintaining our dedicated fund; so far this legislative session the proposed budgets floating around are leaving our funds intact. (If that changes as we near the end of this legislative session, we'll be letting you know so you can lobby to protect them.)

Our secondary goal this year was to garner support of our Tracked ATV/UTV bills, SB 6363 and HB 2592. We were happy to discover many were aware of our bills and we didn't find any obvious objections from legislators.

Overall, 'All Trails' attendees felt the day was very successful although we did encounter one snafu. Legislators just recently implemented a 'no paper' policy; this means they were not receptive to our 'issues sheet' we always deliver to them. Most also didn't even

want our Snoflyer newspaper. While I originally thought the reason was an environmental concern, we actually discovered it was driven by records maintenance. Going paperless is a result of a recent Washington Supreme Court ruling - state legislators must comply with the state's Public Records Act where they are required to keep records of all the work they do with the public. As a way to streamline the archiving process, they would prefer to receive everything via e-mail. Live and learn, and next year we'll do things differently. One thing that didn't change was their appetite for Hostess Sno Balls! As in years past, we didn't seem to have any problem in handing them out to legislators and their staff!

Hats off to this year's attendees who tried to touch base with nearly 150 legislative offices; this is no small feat! Next year, for the 20th anniversary, we could really use your help. With 49 legislative districts, we should have a minimum of 49 attendees; one from each district. Dee Alred, our 'All Trails' Committee Chair, will set appointments with each legislator for each WSSA member coming. In addition, if it is a person's first time visiting, she will arrange a veteran to go along with. This is such an easy and educational event and shouldn't be missed. Don't believe it? Ask someone who has been! Hope to see lots of new faces next year!



Membership

Membership Matters

By Wayne & Florence Mohler, Membership Co-Chairs

Memberships continue to arrive, but at a much slower pace than in October and November. The final renewal notices were mailed in late December. Your membership is essential for WSSA to speak for and represent the interests of snowmobilers at all levels of government. Whether it is land use issues, such as over-snow travel, wildlife closures, legislative concerns, or protecting the funds in the dedicated snowmobile account, your membership makes our collective voice stronger. Numbers count!

Since snowmobile clubs and WSSA are all volunteer organizations, it takes a lot of people to effectively represent the snowmobilers' interests. If you are inclined to get more involved and seek out these volunteer opportunities, the Snoflyer or the WSSA website www.wssa.us is a good place to start. If you're not a club member and want to find new riding partners, or explore new areas - give one of the clubs a call. And for your friends who are not members - sign them up!

Welcome to all the new members and 'thank you' to those who have renewed. If you have any questions about membership or online voting, please e-mail us at membership@wssa.us or call (509) 674-4401.

And remember - Your Membership Matters!

To WSSA Snowmobile Clubs:

This coming February at WSSA's Rendezvous at Campbell's Resort in Chelan, we will continue with the tradition of the past eighteen years of a silent and live auction benefitting the Legal Action Fund. These auctions have been a huge success; last year we raised \$5,005. We would like to see more clubs 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 15th. The dates for Rendezvous 2020 are over President's Day weekend: Friday, February 14th through Monday, February 17th. There will be scheduled guided rides Friday through Sunday and short business meetings on Friday and Saturday nights.

The items the clubs donated 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 Chelan. 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
(509) 965-8305



News

International Snowmobile Hall of Fame (ISHOF)

Contact: Phone: 715-479-2186, Fax: 715-479-8947, www.ishof.com



Founded in 1984 by Elmer Cone of Bovey, Minnesota, the International Snowmobile Hall of Fame (known today as ISHOF) is on public display inside the World Snowmobile Headquarters in Eagle River, Wisconsin.

Since its founding, over 125 individuals representing the recreational side of snowmobiling have been inducted into this prestigious Hall of Fame. They represent trail developers, volunteers, journalists, promoters, industry, adventurers, legislators, club founders and others who have shown tremendous dedication to the sport of snowmobiling. They are the true foundation of the sport. Without them, snowmobiling would not have become the premier winter sport that it is today.

Each year, a selected few inductees and special award recipients are added to the Hall of Fame. A few are well known. Many are known only in their local area, state or province. At the World Snowmobile Headquarters, they are all showcased with the honor and recognition they so deserve.

The International Snowmobile Hall of Fame was founded to provide a place for the snowmobiling community, governments and related organizations to recognize the dedicated individuals related to the worldwide sport of snowmobiling. These dedicated individuals are the heartbeat of snowmobiling. Their goal has been building the infrastructure for the sport including communicating any barriers that may exist. With many hands and minds, they've all helped to build bridges between nature and various user groups to coincide together; teamwork that has helped everyone respect our natural resources and the rights of those who use them responsibly.

The International Snowmobile Hall of Fame will record into its archives the achievements of the visions each individual has portrayed in the development of the machines, infrastructure, local and international organizations along with the artifacts of their visions, that led to recognizing the historical infrastructure for the sport of snowmobiling and displaying the evolution of the snowmobile, from first beginning to current years and on. See the detailed history of ISHOF, all the past inductees and award winners at www.ishof.com

On our website, you will also find all the details on how to make nominations (due by April 1st) for new inductees and groomer of the year programs for the upcoming season, contact information, Facebook postings and more.

ISHOF is a 501 (c)3 corporation and accepts secure donations on our website or sent directly to ISHOF, 1521 N. Railroad St., Eagle River, WI 54521-8141. To preserve the past, the future of the International Snowmobile Hall of Fame depends on donations from individuals, clubs, businesses and associations. Thank you so much for your assistance. Our future depends on you!

Sponsorship opportunities are also available for our programs. Please contact any one of our officers for details.

Current Officers:

President - Joann Smith - joann@powersportsproductions.com

Vice-President - Jeff Schwaller - jschwaller50@gmail.com

Secretary - Judy King - bjkingmn@gmail.com

Treasurer - Dale Vagts - dvagts@hotmail.com

Board of Directors - Scott Anderson, Tom Anderson Russ Davis, Richard Decker, Jona Eliason,
Dave Guenther, Bob Linn, Les Ollila, DeLyle Pankratz,

Past President - Bill Schumann,

Emeritus Director - Elmer Cone



News

WSSA Vice President candidate profile

Information provided by the candidate

Vote Dee Alred for Vice President of WSSA

Greetings Snowmobilers!

I am a candidate for the position of Vice President of the Washington State Snowmobile Association (WSSA) and would like your vote.



I have been snowmobiling since 1991 when my husband Ron and I thought that, as a family, this would be an enjoyable way to get out on the snow. Our boys were teenagers and we were able to enjoy many weekends exploring the eastern slopes of the Cascades together. As the years passed, we were also able to pass our passion of riding on to our grandkids. We originally joined the Washington State Snowmobile Association to help keep our trails open. During our time with WSSA we have met many new friends, joined several snowmobile clubs, participated in many on-the-snow events, and have enjoyed riding all over the state. We were honored to be recognized as WSSA's Snowmobile Couple of the Year in 2008/2009 and again in 2018/19.

I have previously served as president and vice president of WSSA and understand how important our association is to the average snowmobiler. During my tenure as President, I led the effort to institute the WSSA Trail Grant program, an easy way for clubs to earn grants to build warming huts, conduct large trail brushing ventures, and other projects directly benefiting Washington snowmobilers. I also served on the Sustainable Recreation Work Group in 2008-09. The workgroup was established by the legislature in 2008 (SHB 2472) and was charged with examining current laws and make recommendations on policy changes and opportunities to develop sustainable funding sources. The final report was issued in December 2009.

In addition to being WSSA's current Vice President, my roles in the association include:

- **Chairman of 'All Trails to Olympia Day'** – Annually I organize a legislative day for snowmobilers to meet one-on-one with their legislators and discuss issues important to snowmobilers. Our presence there is key to keeping our trails open for future riders and ensuring our dedicated funding isn't misappropriated; legislators remember us when we bring them a pack of Hostess Snowballs, our way of branding this event.
- **By-Laws Chair** – I ensure WSSA meetings are run properly following 'Roberts Rules of Order', answer questions regarding by-laws and SOPs, and lead a committee when by-law changes are required.
- With Ron, I have managed the WSSA booth at the WSSA Snow Show since 1994 - We answer questions, renew memberships and sell merchandise, all in an effort to promote WSSA! We also manage the booth at the Spokane Snowmobile and ATV Show and Snowfest in Leavenworth.
- I have led the annual Legal Action Fund raffle (currently for a new sled deck) since 2007, helping to raise thousands of dollars to defend our riding areas and access to our public lands.

On the national stage my involvement has included:

- A board member on the American Council of Snowmobile Associations representing Washington, (which also provides voice for Washington with the International Snowmobile Council).
- A delegate representing Washington in the Western Chapter of Snowmobile Associations.

Closer to home, I am involved with two local clubs, the Yakima Ski-Benders and Drift-A-Way Snowmobile Club. For the past three years, I have had the responsibility of managing the Ski-Bender's annual Crab Feed with Ron, and I routinely volunteer and work other club events in whatever capacity the club needs.

My primary goals for WSSA are to increase our membership; to see our organization expand into every snowmobiling household in the state; and to improve our involvement with all the clubs in the state.

If re-elected, I will continue to do my very best to visit every club in the state on a regular basis. I think by being personally involved, I can convey WSSA's accomplishments and goals directly to the people who can benefit most. Our organization is extremely important to snowmobiling families and as Vice President I will continue to work hard to convey the importance of snowmobiling to snowmobilers and non-snowmobilers alike. On a personal level, I have recently retired and I have the energy, time, and commitment to promote snowmobiling. Part of that time will be spent bringing my 16 month old great-granddaughter (4th generation) into the wonderful wonderland of winter. I want her to have the opportunity I have had to enjoy snowmobiling.

So, I am asking for your support and your vote.

Safe sledding,

Dee Alred

News

WSSA Vice President candidate profile

Information provided by the candidate

Hello Washington State Snowmobile Association Members!

I wanted to share with you all some exciting news! I have accepted the nomination for the WSSA Vice Presidency for next year. With the upcoming elections for the board positions happening now and being announced this next month, I wanted to take a few minutes of your time and share with all of you a little bit about my qualifications and my goals for the VP position.

Jon Ferrian

- From Minnesota
- 45 years old
- Married to Edythe Ferrian for over 23 years
- Two sons: Jon J Ferrian and Maxx Ferrian
- Live in Washington since 2012

Qualifications and Relevant Experience

- WSSA Safety Chair Since 2017
- WSSA Member since 2012
- Northwest Avalanche Center Board of Directors Member since 2016
 - o Fundraising Committee - Member
 - o Diversity Committee - Member
 - o Snowmobile Advisor to NWAC
- Member and Ride Coordinator of Cascade Drift Skippers - Issaquah, WA
 - o International Snowmobile Club of the Year 2017 - ACSA
- Member of Bavarian Boondockers - Leavenworth, WA
- Member of Northwest Glacier Cruisers - Burlington, WA
- Member of Sno-Jammers - Puyallup, WA
- Past Secretary of Cascade Drift Skippers
- Past Member of Minnesota United Snowmobile Association - MN
- Past President of Crow Wing County Snowmobile Trail Association - MN
- Past Vice President of Gull Lake Drifters - Minnesota

Goals for WSSA as the Vice President

EVOLUTION!!! Snowmobiling across the country is in critical need for new energetic people with an understanding of how important our past history and experience is but will push our organizations and sport back into a growth mode. I believe that I am in a very unique position to be able to understand and respect where organizations like WSSA have been while at the same time being very well connected to sledders of all ages and skill levels. I have been involved in organized snowmobiling since 1999 and for over 20 years now I have seen what the history of snowmobile clubs across the USA has been and what they are today. It is very clear to me that WSSA is prime for a new growth vision and get out of the mindset that the status quo is acceptable from a stance of membership and from a stance of how we communicate and interact with the snowmobile community. I have been involved with WSSA and have been attending meeting for 4 years now. While attending these meetings every month I have already seen first hand what a strong foundation that WSSA has today and I also have a clear vision of what WSSA needs to be in the future to thrive in this new era of sledding.

- Maintain the strong history and foundation of WSSA
- Leverage the experience and knowledge of current leadership and membership for the long term success of WSSA
- Evolve the WSSA website to a new user friendly format that adds value to our members and partners
- Evolve the WSSA Board Meetings to add more value to all current and future participants and better serve the clubs that we represent
- Improve the WSSA Snow Show to make it better for Washington Sledders
- Continue great partnerships with State Parks Winter Rec Program
- Continue to grow "All Trails Day" at Olympia by showing the membership the value of their participation
- Grow partnerships with the private sector to help drive the impact and the revenue of WSSA for long term sustainability of the Association
- Build a better communication strategy for WSSA to be able to speak with the snowmobile public
- Build a strong partnerships with dealers, manufacturers, and others (we win together)
- Grow Membership of WSSA in a meaningful way to drive revenue and engagement with the snowmobile public
- Leverage Social Media to better engage the snowmobile public by finding people who are effective and passionate about online social Media interaction and WSSA

I have and will continue to invest countless hours of my life to improve our sport and community and would like to ask for your vote. If you are not already a member please sign up for a WSSA membership and support the organization who is fighting for your rights to ride here in Washington and then click on this link to vote for me as your new WSSA VP.

Membership Link: https://www.wssa.us/content.aspx?page_id=60&club_id=431529

Voting Link: https://www.wssa.us/content.aspx?page_id=330&club_id=431529

Thank you all for your time and thank you for your support.

Jon Ferrian



Notes

White Paper on Registering Tracked ATVs/UTVs as Snowmobiles

Prepared by Matt Mead,
WSSA Tracked ATV/UTV Committee Chair

(We've had a few members ask for background on the tracked ATV/UTV issue and why WSSA supports legalizing them on the snowmobile trail system. To that end, WSSA created this white paper in hopes of answer those questions.)

The issue of tracked ATVs/UTVs has been around for several years and WSSA has been looking at it for more than five years. During this time we have gathered data from various sources including Washington snowmobilers, local clubs, Washington State Parks, the Snowmobile Advisory Committee, the American Council of Snowmobile Associations, many local USFS recreation managers, a recreation representative from the DNR, local area groomers, local dealers, and owners of ATVs/UTVs (both tracked and un-tracked).

When the discussion first started several years ago, the two driving issues of opposition concerned safety and the impact on trail conditions.

- Trail conditions - The American Council of Snowmobile Associations had a motorsports-related consulting firm prepare a report on the impact of ATVs/UTVs (tracked and un-tracked) on groomed snowmobile trails. While the wheeled ATVs/UTVs didn't fare well (as suspected), the impact of tracked ATVs/UTVs was determined to be insignificant; the realization was rider/driver input was the driving factor and a snowmobiler hammering on the throttle caused more damage to a trail than the similar action from a tracked ATV/UTV. Obviously other factors can have some effect, but at the end of the day, it is track pressure on the snow that is important and while tracked ATVs/UTVs are heavier than snowmobiles, their footprint comes in at under 1 lb per square inch, a ratio deemed more than satisfactory. You can view the study here: <http://www.snowmobileinfo.org/snowmobile-access-docs/Assessment-of-Tracked-OHV-Use-on-Groomed-Snowmobile-Trails.pdf> (Note: The legislation was written using Washington's definitions of 'wheeled all-terrain vehicles' as outlined in RCW 46.09.310 [<https://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=46.09.310>]. By doing this, we are restricting dimensions/weights to be more in line with the ATVs/UTVs currently on the market and close the door on someone trying to register their tracked Jeep or Super Duty. [Max weight before tracks are installed is 2,000 lbs.]])
- Safety - We are largely looking at two issues; size and rider/driver responsibility.
 - Size is the obvious one. The State has a minimum grooming standard for trail width of 10', most are groomed much wider, typically to 16'. While two tracked UTVs meeting on a 10' trail is going to require some give and take, it isn't a problem at 16', and a sled and UTV meeting on most trails will not result in a problem. What happens on the 10' trail where there isn't room for two UTVs to pass? The same thing that happens when two dirt bikes meet on a single-track or two 4x4 pickups on a Forest Service road or trail; users pull over and make it happen. This leads right in to 'Rider Responsibility'.
 - Rider responsibility/rider safety is key to our sport ALWAYS. Whether there are tracked ATVs/UTVs on our trails or not, it is imperative for riders/drivers to act in a safe manner. The real issue here is riding under control, meaning at speeds where you can stop in the distance you can see down the trail, and always keeping to the right side of the trail. **While many snowmobilers run at high speed, you won't typically find tracked ATVs/UTVs running as fast as they aren't geared for it when equipped with tracks, and fuel consumption is largely impacted with speed as well.**
 - The solution for safety, both today and in the future if tracked ATVs/UTVs are allowed, is the same. Education. Enforcement. PEER PRESSURE. We shouldn't tolerate bad behavior today and we won't tolerate it in the future.

What other things were considered as we moved towards introducing this legislation?

- The International Association of Snowmobile Administrators conducted a survey of all the states and provinces and asked them if ATVs/UTVs were legal on their trail systems. We weren't aware of it, but there are a surprising amount of states/provinces that already allow it. (Interestingly, many don't require tracks; wheeled ATVs/UTVs are acceptable.) Of interest to us is what is allowed in Idaho and Oregon; both allow use of tracked ATVs/UTVs on their trail systems.
- The Tollgate Trail Finders in Northeast Oregon, (they are a WSSA-member club due to their close proximity to Washington),

(Continued on page 29)



(Continued from page 28)

welcomed tracked ATVs/UTVs into their mix a couple of years back. They now host club events catering to both snowmobilers/snowbikes and tracked ATVs/UTVs. Last year they even did an out-of-state trip to McCall for both groups. The president of the **Tollgate Trail Finders is a member of WSSA's Tracked ATV/UTV Committee** and has not reported any negative safety issues in regards to the use of tracked ATVs/UTVs in their area.)



- WSSA conducted a teleconference with a group of Forest Service recreation managers from around the state. (It should be noted not all areas participated on the call, but all of them have been included in all the e-mail correspondence from the start.) We learned all of them on the call were supportive of this effort. We were a bit surprised by this but the reason quickly became clear; the Forest Service regulates 'over-snow vehicles' which is a broader definition which includes snowmobiles, snowbikes, tracked ATVs/UTVs and even tracked pickups and snowcats. We learned enforcement of tracked ATVs/UTVs on snowmobile trails was limited (some areas) or non-existent (other areas) by the Forest Service. One recreation manager noted it was pretty hard to turn away a young family unloading in the sno-park who just wanted to go up the hill to take their kids sledding.
- The Snowmobile Advisory Committee (SMAC) under State Parks, as well as the staff of the State Parks Winter Recreation Program, have a vested interest in this project as well due to impacts on funding. Any tracked ATVs/UTVs currently running around today aren't putting any money into our program. They can't be registered as a snowmobile so our program doesn't see the \$50 registration fee, or the additional \$45 of fuel tax revenue. (And if a sheriff happened to write them a ticket, that money wouldn't go in our program either.) Many of these SMAC members also have first-hand knowledge/experience with tracked ATVs/UTVs due to their involvement with their local clubs, the Forest Service and/or SAR. (If I-976 [\$30 car tabs] holds up in court, our nearly \$100 per sled drops to less than \$80. Our program is hardly on firm ground today.)
- Snowmobile sales in the U.S. (and Canada) are stagnant; we haven't been able to reverse our sales trend in more than a decade.** On the other hand, UTV sales are growing around 6% a year nationwide. MSRPs are over \$14k for current 800cc/850cc snowmobiles; pretty steep to outfit a family of four with new machines. Snowmobiles can only be used for about four months a year. A 4-place UTV and set of tracks can be purchased for under \$30K and the family has a machine they can use all year. And going back to the funding situation, every new registration adds nearly \$100 to our grooming and plowing program.
- Resource damage. We are all aware of resource damage caused by inconsiderate and uneducated OHV users. We know not all ATV/UTV owners are irresponsible though as many of us own ATVs/UTVs too. Usually the issue is going to be one of not **enough snow, but if a tracked ATV/UTV is causing damage, it is likely a snowmobile shouldn't be used in that area either.** Snow is the cure and as always, the more we have, the less likely any damage can occur. As we do today with snowmobilers, **we'll need Education, Enforcement and PEER PRESSURE.**
- Any legislation legalizing tracked ATV/UTVs on our trails doesn't restrict or compel land managers to act. Land managers should continue to manage in the best interest of the lands and land users. This means land managers can allow or restrict the use of tracked ATVs/UTVs based on local needs.
- Sno-Park parking. This is a relevant issue and bears watching. We don't think this is a drastic concern today as the tracked ATV/UTV community is small.** In theory though, numbers will rise. Snowmobilers know 'the early bird gets the worm' any-time visiting a popular sno-park. Many sno-parks are **underutilized and parking won't be an issue in those places.** As the user base increases, it will be incumbent on all of us to lobby for additional or expanded facilities and we've successfully done this for years already.
- Inclusivity. We are striving for a larger motorized winter recreation community. We hope to see the return of elderly snowmobilers who aren't comfortable or capable of handling a snowmobile any longer but would enjoy the (maybe heated) comfort of a tracked UTV. We'd like to see an increase of younger families with kids too young/small to ride safely or comfortably on a snowmobile. These might be families who never considered motorized winter recreation, but can see how fun it would be to take the kids out sledding and enjoy hot dogs around a fire. We have several clubs who are moving (or have moved) to dual-activity organizations where snowmobiling and ATV/UTV riding make them viable all year; it isn't a stretch to believe more of them will follow the Tollgate Trail Finders lead with on-snow event for tracked ATVs/UTVs. From the perspective of a motorized recreation community, we need to stay relevant and strong. We need to educate motorized recreationists on the importance of being engaged in land-use planning. The larger our user base, the better we can accomplish this.

ISMA Update

Go Snowmobiling Campaign 2020

Contact: Ed Klim, President, ISMA,

The Go Snowmobiling campaign has been a great success. Clubs, Groups, and Associations across North America have held Military Rides, Political Rides, and often just have fun holding snowmobile rides with friends and family alike. There is still a good bit of winter to come this year and trails and riding areas in many parts of North America are in great shape.

During this time of year, we are seeing a little bit more daylight and the temperatures may be a little warmer. The additional daylight improves our opportunity for a great ride and enjoying the scenery.

The Go Snowmobiling rides I have participated in highlighted for me the 'wow-factor' and the pure enjoyment people have when they first ride a snowmobile. I have ridden a number of times with first-time snowmobilers and they couldn't quit talking about how much fun it was and how they couldn't wait to do it again. Thankfully I was well prepared for the ride and made sure my guests were well dressed and comfortable. I have been fortunate enough to snowmobile with many individuals who have much more experience than myself. I have learned with a little prior planning and thought, we can shape our friends' experience in snowmobiling with us which helps determine if snowmobiling wins over another convert. When you take a friend snowmobiling, remember your friend may not be experienced. Keep the ride slow, short, and simple. Chances are your normal ride would seem like a marathon to an uninitiated friend. Don't show off or push the envelope or challenge your friends to ride beyond their capabilities or their comfort zone. Remember, you are the one who snowmobiles a lot and understands your machine. Let your friend enjoy that first day of snowmobiling. We create 'miles of smiles' and it is so easy to do. People love getting out in the winter and snowmobiling. If they have never been snowmobiling or if it has been a while since they have ridden, we provide safety training first and bring them warm clothing and gear to use. The cute jackets, as we know, do not work. They may look better for a photo op, but out on the trail, where it really matters, warmth is the key to an enjoyable ride. Again, go slow, make it short, make it simple, and remember it is always a good idea to feed them well.



ISMA

International
Snowmobile
Manufacturers
Association

The Go Snowmobiling campaign is also joined with the Safe Riders! Campaign. Remember we have safety video chapters that can be found on our website at: <http://www.snowmobile.org/snowmobile-videos.html> or <http://www.gosnowmobiling.org/snowmobiling-resources.html>

The videos are a great tool when introducing a friend to snowmobiling and will help make the ride more enjoyable for everyone.

You should also visit and 'Like' our Facebook page before participating in a Go Snowmobiling ride. Our Facebook page is www.Facebook.com/GoSnowmobiling. When looking at the page you will notice many snowmobilers are posting pictures and their experiences on the page. We now have many Friends who visit regularly and it is common for snowmobilers to send out informative posts that are forwarded snowmobile enthusiasts worldwide. There is also a short general survey on our Facebook page, so when you visit the page, consider answering a few simple survey questions. We are constantly surveying snowmobile customers to see how we can better serve you and how we can help you enjoy your snowmobiling activity. Rest assured, we do not use or forward your information to anyone!

When you consider putting together a Go Snowmobiling ride, just remember individuals who don't own a snowmobile – WANT to go snowmobiling! Research shows on a scale of 1 to 10, they rate their level of interest as a 9. People you know, who don't snowmobile, want to snowmobile. Remember they also want to enjoy snowmobiling for the same reasons you do:

- To enjoy the scenery.
- To get outdoors to have fun with family and friends.
- To go to unique places they can't reach any other way to see amazing sights.
- To have fun in the winter outdoors and be able to go home tired and be ready for a good night's sleep.

This year the week of February 8th-17th, 2020, has been designated Take a Friend Snowmobiling Week. So please, go out and have fun, take a friend snowmobiling, and enjoy this wonderful winter.

SNOWMOBILE RENTALS IN WASHINGTON

Adventure Powersports Rentals

(Ronald/Roslyn)

(509) 933-1737

www.adventurepowersportsrentals.com

Cascade on Site Rentals LLC

(Leavenworth/Wenatchee)

(509) 423-3828

www.cascadeonsiterentals.com

Chewack River Guest Ranch

(Methow Valley/Winthrop)

(509) 996-2497

www.chewackranch.com

CJ Marine

(Lake Wenatchee Area)

(Lake Wenatchee Area)

(206) 878-8668

www.cj-rentals.net

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

Redline Recreational Toys

(Seattle Area)

(206) 424-4FUN

www.seattle.redlinerecretoys.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.

WSSA Rendezvous 2020

February 14th-17th

Guided Rides

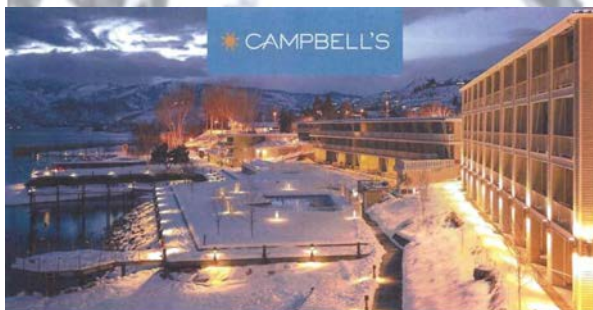
Friday-Sunday

Information / Sign up @ Check-in

Rendezvous Pricing

Rooms From \$98

**Use Code # 554541
for Reservations**



WSSA WINTER RENDEZVOUS 2020

FEBRUARY 14 - 16

CAMPBELL'S RESORT ON LAKE CHELAN



TO MAKE A RESERVATION :
CALL CAMPBELL'S RESORT AT 800-553-8225 AND MENTION GROUP RESERVATION #554541

Campbell's Resort

Lake Chelan, WA

(800) 553-8225

www.campbellsresort.com

Great Fun for the entire Family

Photo Contest

Sled Deck Raffle

Silent & Live Auctions (proceeds go to Legal Action Fund)

Awards Ceremony & Dinner (Fri & Sat Night)

Entertainment & Prizes

WSSA Rendezvous 2020

February 14th-17th

We are getting ready for Winter Rendezvous this year at Campbell's Resort in Lake Chelan on February 14th-17th. We are planning to have trail/off trail rides and mountain rides all days. We are working on finalizing a movie premiere for Friday night as well. Campbell's is great place and we are looking forward to having a good time.

Please register online at www.wssa.us or complete and mail the registration form below. Book your room at Campbell's before they are gone; contact info and special rate code can be found at left.

Registration Form

Last Name _____ First _____ Spouse _____

Children Names/Ages _____

Mailing Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # (____) _____ E-Mail? _____

Friday Night Dinner (Adults & Children 13+ @ \$40/each) (Children 7-12 @ \$15/each) Under 7 free

Adults _____ x \$40 = \$ _____ + # Children _____ x \$15 = _____ Sub Total \$ _____

Saturday Night Banquet (Adults & Children 13+ @ \$40/ea) (Children 7-12 @ \$15/ea) Under 7 free

#Adults _____ x \$40 = \$ _____ + # Children _____ x \$15 = _____ Sub Total \$ _____

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

Make payment out to WSSA and mail form to:

Fred Pitzer

P.O. Box 668

Yakima, WA 98907

(509) 534-3417

Credit Card # _____

Expiration Date _____ CVV(3 or 4 digits) _____

Name on Card _____

Signature _____

RENDEZVOUS PHOTO CONTEST

BRING YOUR BEST PHOTOS TO ENTER IN OUR ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST!

FIVE CATEGORIES INCLUDING:

WORST STUCK/SNAFU

VINTAGE

FAMILY

ACTION

SCENERY

PRINT THEM OUT AHEAD OF TIME OR WE CAN PRINT ON-SITE

JUDGED BY YOUR PEERS - GIFT CERTIFICATES TO YOUR FAVORITE RESTAURANTS AS PRIZES

(MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN)



WSSA Rendezvous 2020

February 14th-17th

AGENDA

THURSDAY, February 13th

5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

FRIDAY, February 14th

8:00 am to 5:00 pm

8:00 am to 4:30 pm

5:30 pm to 6:00 pm

6:00 pm to 7:00 pm

7:00 pm to 7:30 pm

7:30 pm to 9:00 pm

SATURDAY, February 15th

8:00 am to 4:30 pm

4:30 pm

4:30 pm to 6:00 pm

6:00 pm

6:00 pm to 7:00pm

7:00 pm to 10:00 pm

10:00 pm to 11:00 pm

SUNDAY, February 16th

8:00 am to 5:00 pm

6:30 pm

MONDAY, February 17th

11:00 am

Early check-in. Welcome packet, Sign-up sheet for Friday guided rides. Info available for local attractions.

Meet & Greet: Campbell's Bar.

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

Guided rides. Open time for non-riders.

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

Welcome from WSSA and Dinner.

WSSA General Meeting. Treasurer's report, Minutes of last meeting, some old business, close.

Snowmobile Movie Night.

Guided rides. Open time for non-riders.

Photo Contest. Submit snowmobiling pictures for photo contest of action, vintage, worst stuck/other mishaps, scenery and family shots. Signup sheet for Sunday guided ride.

No host bar. Silent Auction opens. Pictures for photo contest displayed; voting begins. Sled Deck \$5 raffle tickets on sale supporting Legal Action Fund.

Photo contest voting ends; votes tabulated.

WSSA General Meeting. Unfinished business, new business, election results.

Dinner Buffet. Silent Auction Closes, Guest Speaker: TBD, Awards, Sled Deck raffle, short live auction, photo contest winners announced.

Pay for and pick up Auction items.

Guided rides.

Dinner (To Be Determined).

Hotel Checkout. Rides on your own if desired.

Menu for Friday & Saturday Night

Friday - Taco Bar

Cheese enchiladas, beef taco meat, chicken taco meat, taco shells, shredded lettuce, cheddar cheese, diced tomatoes, salsa, guacamole, sour cream, Spanish rice, refried beans, coffee, tea and decaf lemonade, and dessert (No Host Bar available!)

Saturday - Smokehouse Barbecue Buffet

Barbecued chicken, barbecued ribs, corn on the cob, brown sugar baked beans, coleslaw, fruit, salad, cornbread, whipphonebutter, cookie & brownie tray, coffee, tea, and decaf iced tea (No Host Bar available!)



RENDEZVOUS PHOTO CONTEST

BRING YOUR BEST PHOTOS TO ENTER IN OUR ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST!

FIVE CATEGORIES INCLUDING:

WORST STUCK/SNAFU

VINTAGE

FAMILY

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PRINT THEM OUT AHEAD OF TIME OR WE CAN PRINT ON-SITE

JUDGED BY YOUR PEERS - GIFT CERTIFICATES TO YOUR FAVORITE RESTAURANTS AS PRIZES

(MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN)

ACSA E-News

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



Groups Threaten to Sue for Wolverine Protection

Recently 10 conservation groups informed the Federal Government of their notice to file suit if the wolverines are not listed under the Endangered Species Act within 60 days.

Conservation groups have been trying to get wolverines listed as 'threatened' for 20 years. In 2016 the groups sued the Fish and Wildlife Service after the Federal Government withdrew a proposal to add the wolverines to the endangered species list.

It is estimated there are around 300 wolverines scattered in Washington, Oregon and Idaho.

A spokesperson for the conservation groups said wolverine habitat is threatened by climate change and winter recreation. "These areas are becoming fewer and fewer. And they may be places that people want to snowmobile or recreate in the winter, and that's a huge concern."

Ski-Doo CEO

The Financial Post has published a recent interview/podcast with Ski Doo CEO José Boisjoli, where he discusses the success at BRP.

The link to the podcast can be found here: <https://business.financialpost.com/transportation/autos/165-horsepower-of-therapy-inside-the-astonishing-success-of-canadian-snowmobile-maker-brp>

How Many Wolves in Idaho?

Recently Idaho's top wildlife official requested over \$400,000 to count wolves. In 2015 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lifted the protection of wolves under the Endangered Species Act.

His fear is the population has since decreased based on data collected from cameras scattered around. The population has decreased through hunting, trapping and killing of wolves that preyed on livestock.

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game is a self-funded agency where most of its money comes from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses and tags plus federal money.

In a related matter, the Senate Resources and Environment Committee recently approved a hearing on the creation of wolf-free zones and wolf-depredation zones in the state that are intended to protect the livelihood of ranchers.

Coyote Bites Skier in Yellowstone National Park

A cross-country skier had a coyote bite her in Yellowstone National Park in January.

"Encounters like these are rare, but they can happen. We suspect this coyote may have been starving due to having porcupine quills in its lower jaw and inside its mouth. Its young age likely led to its poor condition and irregular behavior," said wildlife biologist Doug Smith.

The 43-year-old was treated for punctures and lacerations on her head and arm, park officials said. Park officials killed the coyote and were having it tested for rabies.

Proposed Rule to Modernized NEPA Issued

You may recall commenting on the proposal last summer which would facilitate more efficient and effective environmental review

and update the permitting process. Over 12,000 comments were received on the proposal.

The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) has now released a notice of proposed rulemaking.

NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) was signed into law in 1970 and requires Federal agencies to assess the environmental impacts of proposed major Federal actions as part of their decision-making. The NEPA process can impact a wide variety of projects affecting Americans' everyday lives from the construction of roads, bridges, highways, and airports to water infrastructure, conventional and renewable energy projects, and land, forest, and fishery management activities. CEQ's NEPA regulations date back to 1978 and have not been comprehensively updated in over 40 years.

NEPA has become increasingly complex and time consuming for Federal agencies, project applicants, and Americans seeking permits or approvals from the Federal government. The average length of an environmental impact statement is over 600 pages, and the average time for Federal agencies to complete such NEPA reviews is 4 1/2 years.

The proposed rule would modernize and clarify the CEQ regulations to be more efficient, effective, and timely. The proposed rule seeks to reduce unnecessary paperwork and delays, and to promote better decision-making consistent with NEPA's statutory requirements.

The CEQ requests comments be submitted on or before March 10th, 2020.

Comments may be submitted via any of the following methods:

- Go to <https://www.regulations.gov/> and follow the online instructions for submitting comments to Docket ID No. CEQ-2019-0003
- By Fax: 202-456-6546
- By mail:
Council on Environmental Quality
730 Jackson Place NW
Washington, DC 20503
Attn: Docket No. CEQ-2019-0003

2021 Arctic Cats

Arctic Cat was at the Eagle River Derby offering demo rides on their 2021 models. People got a chance to try out the different machines, and put money down on a model of their choice.

Sales director Joe Klosterman said it's important for people to try before they buy. "We do it to give an experience to the consumer," said Klosterman. "You wouldn't buy a car without driving it. We've also got a new model this year that I think is going to bring a lot of new people into the industry."

Demo workers took guests out on a 10-mile loop to experience some of the best trails in the Northwoods. Those trails featured curbs, some fresh powder, and lots of bumps to test the machines' suspension.

Klosterman said Arctic Cat sold lots of sleds over the weekend thanks to the promotion.

Snowmobile Video PSAs

The following Video PSAs are available for you! These 30-second video PSAs are available to snowmobile clubs,

(Continued on page 35)

(Continued from page 34)

state associations and snowmobilers at no cost.

The topics hit the hot buttons for the challenges we see. Please use these on your websites, social media posts, etc.

- Avalanche: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LmnJROuh_YA&feature=youtu.be
- Impaired Operation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Yox3Xjh0Qk&feature=youtu.be>
- Excessive Speed: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QfRlRlHU1dXM&feature=youtu.be>

These and many others can be viewed and downloaded here: <http://www.snowmobileinfo.org/default.aspx>

Ski-Doo Summit 850 E-TEC Turbo

In case you missed it, the Ski-Doo 850 E-TEC Turbo was recently introduced and is available now.

It's the first-known factory turbo on a mass-produced two-stroke powerplant.

To see the article from Snow Goer on their first impression, visit <https://snowgoer.com/news/first-impressions-ski-doo-summit-850-e-tec-turbo/28334>

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Director Confirmed

Interior Secretary David Bernhardt extended the tenure of William Perry Pendley as effective head of the Bureau of Land Management last week. Pendley has been running the BLM since July 2019, when he was appointed.

Bernhardt delegated "all functions, duties, and responsibilities" to Pendley, who has been a stalwart supporter of selling or opening up federal lands to drilling, mining and other commercial use. The move will last until April 3rd, unless Bernhardt extends it or Trump nominates Pendley or someone else on a permanent basis.

During Pendley's term at the BLM so far, there has been an increase in leasing oil and gas prospects on federal lands.

Meet the ACSA Mountain Area Region Chair

Bert Miller from Wyoming started riding 30 years ago. As a young newlywed, he and his wife Brenda loved winter and motorsports, so they purchased two older used sleds.

As much as they liked riding, they hated the breakdown time with their older sleds. Although funds were tight, they managed to upgrade to better used sleds and gear before they were able to buy new sleds.

Living in the mountain states and riding high mountains and deep powder was the best fun!

The addition of children changed the dynamics - they made it a family sport! They joined a club and riding became even better. Bert loved the club activities so much that he became Vice President and moved from there up to President and then onto the Wyoming State Snowmobile Association where he served as Vice President and President and became involved with ACSA.

As the fun continued, the kids grew, the size of the sleds and trailers grew! Both of Bert's kids started riding before they could walk and are now motorheads - what more could a Dad ask? College -- and scholarships of course! Both received snowmobile scholarships and are now working as a nurse and in the motorsports industry.

What has snowmobiling meant to Bert? "Everything!"

Bert will be hosting the Annual Summit at West Yellowstone, Montana February 21st and 22nd. Both the Mountain Riding Area

and the Trails Riding Area will be holding a Planning Session, along with meetings and ride. For more information, contact the ACSA office.

Get Snow Smart!

ACSA is working to get the word out! We've just posted Audio PSAs at snowmobileinfo.org for your use.

These are posted on snowmobileinfo.org as well as on the ACSA You Tube.

Each of the PSAs are 30 seconds long. Here are links to the new PSAs:

- Groomers: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NI5p6GDq2Ow&feature=youtu.be>
- Crossing Roads: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TdziHzksWL8&feature=youtu.be>
- Loud Snowmobiles: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fj_vNCBn6ag&feature=youtu.be
- Night Riding: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q4oYa6Wh8Cw&feature=youtu.be>
- Stay on Snow: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_bR855LNUQQ&feature=youtu.be
- Youth Riding: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NeYCokxohKg&feature=youtu.be>

Please use these with your local radio stations, state association and club websites, Facebook posts, etc.

Polaris Ambassadors

Did you know Polaris has over 60 Snowmobile Ambassadors? To learn more about them, visit https://snowmobiles.polaris.com/en-us/team-polaris/ambassadors/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=selligent&utm_campaign=sno_1912_ambassadors_profiles&rmatt=tsid:1013763

Are You Following Us?

www.facebook.com/AmericanCouncilofSnowmobileAssociations

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

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



Matt's Misc.

By Matt Mead, Publicity Secretary



Tracked ATVs/UTVs legislation - latest update. Our legislation has been sponsored in both the Senate and the House and hearings have been conducted in the Senate and House Transportation Committees. A special thanks to Jon Ferrian and Brian Rogers for testifying in the Senate Hearing and to Pamela McConkey, Shannon Lawler and Ron Lind for testifying with me in the House Hearing. Our legislation has been pulled out of the Transportation Committee in the Senate, (a good thing), and is now awaiting a hearing in the Rules Committee. While we still have a long way to go, the process is currently running smoothly. At the recent Snowmobile Advisory Committee, we picked up support from the Chelan County Sheriff's office and they are looking forward for a chance to testify in favor of.

Why this? Why now?

A few snowmobilers have asked, and I'm sure others wonder, why WSSA is supporting... proposing... legalizing tracked ATVs/UTVs. I've put together a white paper on this and you can find it on page 28 of this Snoflyer. Hopefully it answers the questions snowmobilers might have.


Hundreds of snowmobilers raise money for ALS. That was the headline. Recently in Proctor, MN, was the start of the 21st annual Blackwoods Blizzard Tour. Over 200 snowmobilers were off on an adventure to raise money for ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis), or more commonly called Lou Gehrig's disease. What is significant is this event is the largest fundraiser for ALS in the world! Last year this event raised over \$1M! Amazing! ALS hits closer to home with me than many afflictions; I've had two friends die from this in the past five years or so.

Somebody was watching out for them.

A family of five was stranded in rural Manitoba after last month after their phone's GPS led them astray. Phil Waldner was about 10 miles into a snowmobile ride near White-mouth Lake when he came across a car stuck on the icy trail. In the car he found an elderly gentleman and a couple of kids huddled in blankets. It was soon discovered the kid's parents had decided to walk out. Phil hopped back on his sled and went searching for them and luckily he did as he found them, freezing cold, with their bodies in shutdown mode. He loaded them up and took them to a nearby warming shelter and built a fire. He then went back to the car and brought grandpa and the kids to the warming hut where they all waited for help after he set off his SOS beacon. It was six hours before the rescuers arrived at the hut to get everyone back to safety.

SMAC meeting on January 25th. I was asked by State Parks to come to the Snowmobile Advisory Committee Meeting (SMAC) on a recent Saturday and give an update on the tracked ATV/UTV legislation, and a general WSSA update. If you have never been to a SMAC Meeting, I highly encourage it. I've only been to a couple myself, but I can tell you

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(Continued from page 36) they are important and a lot of decisions concerning your Snowmobile Program are made at these meetings. Have

you ever wondered who decides how our Snowmobile Fund money is spent? State Parks does, taking their direction from the SMAC. Every summer a budget is hammered

out which determines how much is spent on grooming, plowing, sanitation, education, enforcement and etc. Who are the SMAC members? Most are your fellow snowmobilers, broken down by districts so each part of the state is represented. The winter meeting usually provides a mid-season program update and they work through issues brought to the Committee's attention.

The biggest topic of discussion this time was the potential effects to grooming and plowing if I-976 is implemented. While raising the snowmobile registration fee to \$50 a few years back was controversial, taking it back to \$30 will have a huge impact on our funding. A \$400,000 to \$500,000 a year impact! The group was asked to brainstorm ideas on what to do if this comes to pass. Here are some of the ideas discussed:

- Implement a grooming sticker.
- Charge for the Motorized Sno-Park permit.
- Shorten the grooming season.
- Groom less miles.
- Close low-use sno-parks.
- Privatize the whole program and remove from State Parks.
- Have non-profits (clubs) take over grooming.

The most popular choice among the group was the grooming sticker option. The thought was this would be run through State Parks, not requiring an act of the legislature every time we wanted to change the fee. Another reason this is a pretty good option is because it would let us collect more income from out-of-state riders. No decisions have been made and if you have a great idea, please pass it to Pamela McConkey at State Parks. The summer SMAC Meeting is sched-

uled for July 31st and August 1st in Wenatchee; everyone is welcome!

Unfriendly legislation: HB 2723.

This bill if passed would end reciprocity with Oregon in regards to snowmobiles and off-road vehicles. Some might think this is a good thing on the snowmobile front since grooming costs money and

aren't contribut-

One big problem is one of fairness; this bill only targets Oregon residents; residents from any other state are unaffected if their state honors Washington's registration. The larger problem is Washington doesn't have an easy or fair way

out-of-state residents ing much if anything. lem is one of fairness; this gets Oregon residents; resi- any other state are unf- their state honors Washington's registration. The larger problem is ington doesn't have an easy or fair

for an out-of-state resident to purchase a non-resident registration. We've been dealing with this issue down in the Southeast corner of Washington where Idaho snowmobilers want to buy a non-resident registration but we don't really have anything to offer beyond a temporary tag, and DOL sub-agents believe they need to charge them sales tax on their snowmobiles to obtain one. It won't help out-of-state tourism either.

While in Olympia for 'All Trails' day, a couple of us had a chance to meet with the lobbyist working with the bill's sponsor, Representative Wylie. We told him why we weren't in favor of this legislation and he promised he would strike snowmobiles from it. I looked online before this issue was published and I don't see where that has happened yet. We'll see. Oh, why is this bill even in existence? It is in an attempt to punish Washington residents who buy and register these vehicles in Oregon, but use them in Washington. It is supported by dealers along the border who think they are losing millions of dollars in sales to Oregon. While this may be happening to some extent, this is a pretty heavy-handed approach to solving it.

Bigfoot is back! Well, we know bigfoot never really left. But now this creature is showing up on Washington Department of



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Transportation cameras! I read this on the internet, so it must be true! (It should go without saying if a bigfoot is hitchhiking, you shouldn't stop to pick them up...)

RTP. Or Recreational Trails Program. These are your fuel tax dollars from fuel purchased for off-road use. It has been years since a study was done, and back then it was estimated \$270M in tax revenue was collected for fuel used off road. So a logical assumption would be that \$270M was all funneled to the RTP Program, right? Nope. We get \$85M a year. And that money is divided among nearly 50 states, with those distributions split between motorized, non-motorized and multi-use trail projects. Each state is free to come up with their own distribution program, with Washington State using grants approved through the Recreation and Conservation Office. So what is new on the RTP front? The recently passed House Resolution 1865 includes provisions for an updated fuel study to determine how much fuel is used by off-road vehicles today. It is suspected the number is much higher now partly due to the explosive growth of the side-by-side market. Data from a new study is supposed to be used to determine the level of funding for RTP in the future. I'm hopeful, but I'm not holding my breath.

No places worthy of riding in Washington according to SnoWest... I was perusing the digital version of

(Continued on page 38)

Matt's Misc.

(Continued from page 37) the latest SnoWest and in it was the 2019/2020 Ultimate Snowmobile Travel Guide. Not a single place spotlighted in Washington. Oh well, we are in good company. Apparently there is no good riding in Oregon or Wyoming either. Oh... wait a minute... I bet it was just one of those advertising specials... funny how I didn't notice it saying that anywhere. Hey, what's your favorite sled magazine? Ever check out SnowTech magazine?

Avalanches will kill you. Recently a father and son were out riding in Utah when the 18-year-old boy was killed in an avalanche. The report I read said he was buried under 12' of snow. What is significant (beyond the terrible tragedy of a destroyed family) is the fact this young man had all the proper gear. He was wearing a beacon and deployed his airbag. While the gear *might* help with your survival, it is FAR from a guarantee. Want to live? Avoid avalanche dangers whenever possible. The MOST IMPORTANT thing you can do is be aware of the current avalanche forecast. The second thing is to be able to accurately read the terrain and interpret the conditions you encounter. If you are depending on your airbag to save you... or your friends to zero in on your beacon's signal and dig you out... you have already screwed up. A buried victim has mere minutes to survive; those are terrible odds and the avalanche statistics bear that out. Please ride smart.

If you haven't ridden California's Mt. Shasta... but want to... you'd better do it soon! A recent article noted Mt. Shasta could be the next Mt. St. Helens, meaning the mountain could be rumbling to life. A series of earthquakes last September caught the attention of geologists, noting this could be a sign of the mountain waking up. The Cascade Range sits on a active fault zone and Shasta, the second most southern peak, is considered dormant but not extinct. It was previously believed the last eruption was in 1786, but the report is now believed to be false, and it was actually a forest fire causing the smoke seen by a French exploration team out at sea. Mt. Shasta is currently ranked fifth out of a list of 18 volcanoes in the country posing a very high threat. (Hawaii's Kilauea is ranked first.) On average, Shasta blows about every 600-800 years, but experts say volcanoes don't care about averages. Shasta is considered a young volcano; it has a molten magma plumbing system and is hot inside. Climbers note a strong sulfur smell near the 14,179-

foot summit and John Muir (naturalist, author, father of our National Parks) suffered bad scalding when he took shelter in a volcanic vent on the mountain back at the turn of the 20th century. So what's the bottom line? If you plan to ride Shasta, you should probably get it done in the next 100-500 years before it is too late!

Snowmobile WA app by Washington Hometown. I've mentioned this app before and WSSA is one of the sponsors. The app continues to be upgraded with input from snowmobilers. If you have a suggestion, go to the Washington Hometown page and send an e-mail to Jennifer Hackett; she'd love to hear from you. One new thing coming out is a line of maps for use on Avenza. Avenza is a GPS mapping/tracking app I've been using for several seasons and I'm excited to hear about these new maps from Washington Hometown. Right now you can find a map of Southwest Washington in the Avenza Map Store; search 'Washington Hometown'. I'll report back once I've had a chance to check out a version for Central Washington.

Arctic Cat is certainly taking a different path. I don't know if it is going to be a successful path, but give them credit for thinking outside the box. The latest revolution is the ability to put down deposits on the 2021 sleds via the internet. Starting this January, customers can place a deposit with their local Cat dealer using a credit card through the "Request a Quote" feature on the Arctic Cat website. After the customer's dealer accepts the order and validates the deposit, customers will receive updates from the about delivery and additional product information. If a dealer does not wish to accept an online order or fails to respond to the customer's request within a timely fashion, the customer can choose another dealer to take their deposit.

The Mounties always get their man! Last month I mentioned a bank robber in Alberta who had gotten away via snowmobile. Nope, the Mounties nabbed him; the streets of Alix are once again safe! Turns out this guy was picked up for outstanding warrants and was quickly tied to the crime.

Priyanka Chopra receives new snowmobile for Christmas. I guess I'm too old and out of touch to know who that is, but it made my news feed back in early January. Nick Jonas gave it to her. (Okay, I've heard of Nick Jonas.) Reports said she was super happy to get it and rode it like a pro. Seems pretty cool to me. Many people probably think 'who cares?!' My thought is when a



celebrity rides a snowmobile, it brings us a little positive press. Introducing non-snowmobilers to snowmobiling is always our goal, right?

Evaluate sno-parks and trails this winter! I'm still harping on this. Make it a goal to evaluate the areas you ride this season. I'm going to try! State Parks has on online evaluation form to rate the condition of sno-parks and the local trail system. We are all more inclined to comment when we find a problem, but it is just as important to comment when we find spectacular conditions. Check out the form before the season starts so you'll have an idea of what items to evaluate. You can find the form at www.parks.state.wa.us/FormCenter/Winter-Recreation-9/SnoPark-Onsite-Evaluation-Form-68.

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