

Snoflyer

*The official publication of the
Washington State Snowmobile Association*

October 2020

Volume 43

ARGH! COVID-19 Leads to Cancellation of Snow Shows Across the Nation... ***Puyallup, Spokane & Leavenworth Included***



This is a fictitious group of family and friends enjoying a hot dog lunch on a weekend snowmobile adventure. Be this group for real this winter!

WSSA Scholarship Essay Winner
Inside: State Parks Winter Rec Update
Safety with Jon

*Cover photo courtesy of the
International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association*



CLIMB TO NEW HEIGHTS

Photo Credit - Craig Hill

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WSSA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership valid until August 31, 2021

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

FAMILY/INDIVIDUAL: (\$25)

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Mailing Address: _____

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of Registered Sleds: _____ Number of Riders: _____

Legislative District _____ Congressional District _____

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

Name of Business or Club: _____

Owner/Business Contact or Club Contact: _____

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

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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 2020/2021

WSSA October Meeting

Online on October 5th, 2020

E-mail dean.meakin@wssa.us for details.

WSSA Snowmobile & Power Sports Expo & Swap Meet

CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19

WSSA Leadership Meeting

Details to be determined...

Decision will be made as we get closer and be dependent on COVID-19 restrictions.

WSSA Meeting

Will be conducted electronically; more info to follow

January 11th, 2021

E-mail dean.meakin@wssa.us for details.

All Trails to Olympia Day

Capitol in Olympia

January 26th, 2021 (depending on COVID-19 restrictions)

Visit with your State Legislators and educate them on snowmobiling.

Appointments will be pre-arranged and if you would like a seasoned Olympia Day veteran to join you, that is not a problem! Details to follow; watch upcoming Snoflyers and the WSSA website.

WSSA Winter Rendezvous

February 12th-15th, 2021

CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19. We will have some type of meeting around this time.

WSSA Budget Meeting

March 6th, 2021

Location TBD in District 5 South (and depending on any COVID-19 restrictions)

Season wrap up and setting the budget for the 2021/2022 season. Location will be in District 5 South, either at the Naches Forest Service building in Naches or at Gold Creek Station on Chinook Pass. Meeting starts at 9am.

DC Fly-In

April - Date TBD

A trip to Washington D.C. to educate our Federal Legislators. Contact the WSSA President for details.

International Snowmobile Congress

Omaha, Nebraska

June 9th-12th, 2021

Visit with snowmobilers from across the U.S. and Canada. Find out what goes on at the state, national and international level of organized snowmobiling. Details at <http://www.snowmobilers.org/isc>

WSSA Summer Meeting & Campout

Blu-Shastin RV Park, Peshastin (Blewett Pass)

August 20th-22nd, 2021

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 think COVID-19 and the Energizer Bunny are related, well at least they both have the same goal: Keep on keeping on. We are still sitting on phase two 'stuck at home' here in Spokane. More people are wearing masks at the stores now than ever. If you want to go out for dinner, Idaho is probably the best option if your family is over five. Ok, on with all the news that has been happening while we are doing nothing.

The WSSA Board conducted the Summer Meeting electronically with the Committee Chairs included this time. Thanks goes to Christine Jourdain of the American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA) for managing the meeting. Thank you Christine! One of our topics was trying to figure out how to minimize our expenses this year because of the shortfall of income faithfully provided from the Snowmobile and Power Sports Expo and Swap Meet for many years. More will be discussed at the October electronic board meeting.

Everything that was a GO in my last report ended up to be a NO GO. Our \$12K deposit for the 2020 WSSA Expo has been moved to the 2021 event. Thank you goes to the Washington State Fair & Expo for doing this for us! Hopefully our exhibitors will survive the income loss and be back for 2021.

As it stands, the October board meeting will be electronic at 6pm on the 5th. Also, the January meeting will be electronic at 6pm on the 11th. More to follow as we get closer to the November meeting. Rendezvous 2021 has also been cancelled and that means we need to figure out what to do with the board meeting that is part of the event.

We are still hoping to have our 'Olympia Day' on January 26th. More to follow from Dee.



President Meakin has been busy during COVID; house repainted inside and out, rear decks squared away, and he even hopped the fence and repainted his neighbor's garage!

International Snowmobile Congress (ISC) 2021 is still a go in Omaha, Nebraska. Saskatchewan took a pass on hosting ISC 2023. More to follow.

I will also get an update on the 2021 DC Fly-In as soon as there is something concrete. November elections are putting the brakes on everything! We still need to get the message out both, locally and nationally.

As I write this, State Parks was excited today as their proposed fee increase for the sno-park permit is going to happen. To be clear, this does not affect Washington snowmobilers as their sno-park permit is included with their registration fee paid.

In closing, please support your local dealers and businesses so they will be here when it is time to go shopping!

We are still building bridges and not walls!

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



I hope everyone is staying safe and social distancing. This is an unprecedented time in history between COVID-19 and all the civil unrest across the nation. I hope after the November elections things will return to normal, but I am also afraid things will get worse. I hope our elected officials can lead our nation towards better things.

Our August meeting was online. Our October meeting will also be online. WSSA has decided to cancel our February Rendezvous. It appears our November meeting will be online as well. I do not know at this time if we will still be able to hold our 'Olympia Day' in January or not; time will tell.

The clubs in Yakima have not been able to hold their meetings either. Instead of actual clean-up days, our people have just been out on the weekends picking up trash while they are out recreating on the trails. If you are doing this, please report your time and mileages to Ron Alred as we can get credit when we apply for federal dollars in grants.

Hopefully we will still be to go out to the sno-parks this winter as our sport is already a 'social distant' kind of recreation. People are spending more time in the outdoors, so that is good for us. Hopefully I will see you out on the snow. Take care and stay safe.

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District Reports



District 1 South

By Glenn Markovits
 glenn.markovits@wssa.us
 (253) 297-1774

Hello snowmobile fans! I hope everyone is enjoying the final count-down of summer and getting ready to welcome in the fall and winter.

We all know what's been going on in our country and state over these last several months of 2020, therefore I am not going to dwell on politics or the pandemic, however I do want to express my sorrow for those who lost homes, lives and property to the ongoing wildfires in Washington and the entire West Coast. I also want to thank the brave men and women firefighters who were on the front lines day and night to protect our lives from these devastating wildfires.

In District 1 South, the Cascade Drift Skippers did not have a September club meeting, however they will be having monthly digital virtual meetings via Facebook Live beginning in October. In addition, the Drift Skippers will be having many club rides throughout the season, so stay tuned to the Drift Skippers Facebook page and club website for upcoming rides and meetings.

Due to the current COVID-19 restrictions, the WSSA summer campout/meeting was reduced to a virtual online meeting only. The meeting was productive, however it was not the same as spending time with friends and other WSSA members. In addition, at this time all WSSA in-person events have pretty much been cancelled for this season. No WSSA Snowmobile and Power Sports Expo and Swap Meet, and no Winter Rendezvous next February; and that really is sad! We will continue with online digital meetings so we can conduct necessary WSSA business.

A big 'thank you' to Wayne Mohler who is the chairman of our WSSA Trail Grooming Committee. Wayne hosted several virtual Zoom meetings with the committee to address some issues with the roles and responsibilities for grooming coordinators and other State Park policies relating to trail grooming matters. I am happy to announce State Parks adopted our recommendations which will ultimately help make our trail grooming program better.

The Snowmobile Advisory Committee and State Parks held their summer budget meeting online to fund our grooming program.

I'm sorry to announce the grooming revenue is down this year because of the reduced snowmobile registrations from last season. Therefore it was reported there will be a 10% reduction in grooming and a cut to snow-park snow removal, along with several other things. Please register your sleds so we can continue to provide grooming to our trails throughout Washington. Please remember that even though your sled registration is \$50.00, we actually get \$94.20 toward our

trail grooming for every sled registered. That is because we also receive a portion of the gas tax from the fuel used in our sleds. You also get a free sno-park parking pass with every snowmobile registered. Your money pays for trail grooming, sno-park snow removal, sanitation, law enforcement, education and administration, so please register your snowmobiles and snowbikes.

Start thinking about getting ready for the snowmobile season. Start (Continued on page 7)

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District Reports

(Continued from page 6)

ordering any of those parts and accessories you need, along with checking your overall sled for repairs or adjustments. Check your safety equipment such as avalanche backpacks, beacons, probes, shovels, radios, and start getting educated by taking an avalanche awareness class and even go further and take a Level 1 avalanche safety class; it may save your life or your riding partners life!

Also think about your snowmobile trailer repairs and maintenance. Wheel bearings, door hinges, tire pressures, tire wear, license, and lights.

Now is also a great time to start looking at purchasing a new snowmobile from a local dealer, along with all your riding gear and accessories. Dealers are probably not going to have their traditional big open house sales events this year, however I know they are still offering great deals!

Great news! The weather forecasters have predicted a La Nina winter pattern in the Northwest this coming winter. That means below average temperatures and above average snowfall. That is exactly what we need to finish 2020 on a good note. So get ready for a fantastic snowmobile season and I hope to see you out on the mountain soon.



District 2 South

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

Not much happening in the district yet and with no snow shows this year my report is going to be short.

The Bavarian Boondockers will not be holding their annual SnowFest this year.

As for the other clubs in the district, I'm waiting to hear how they're going to meet and such.

Hopefully next report will be better.



District 3

By Greg Figg

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

Well it is the middle of September as I write this and fall is right around the corner in Northeast Washington. Right now we are

waiting to see what lies ahead with the grooming program and what access restrictions we might have come winter. We will know more as we move into October and we meet with the Forest Service and the timber companies. We are praying the fire season does not get any worse in our area with the drought we have had this summer.



District 4 North

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

Happy fall everyone!

Fingers crossed we will get some great snow this winter to top off what has been a frustrating year for everyone!

A quick update on the Sno-Jammers and Junco Snowmobile Clubs...

The Sno-Jammers held their first meeting via Zoom on the first Wednesday of September. New president Chris Sutton did a great job pushing the meeting forward with the new format and keeping the group on task. The club scheduled a cleanup for Forest Road 70 heading to the Pyramid Sno-Park. That event will have been completed by the time of this Snoflyer's publication.

Junco cancelled its September meeting. The club is considering options for October and hopes to hold its meeting on October 4th or 5th. Stay tuned on the club's Facebook page for further developments. The club will be discussing repairs to the Midway Cabin in the Orr Creek riding area. Junco received a grant from WSSA to make repairs and hopes to have a work party later in October.

Just a friendly reminder from Tom Imm, our resident safety expert, to get your safety gear together and make sure your batteries are charged and everything works. Clem's Enumclaw Powersports reports they have sold more sleds than they have ever sold in August, so I am looking forward to seeing those bright shiny machines out on the trail!



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Jay's Snowmobile Service	1325 Hanson Loop	Burbank	WA	99323		509-845-2089
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High Country Outfitters & Camp Wahoo!	1780 Nelson Siding Rd	Cle Elum	WA	98922	www.campwahoo.com	509-674-8331
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Jet Chevrolet - RV Inc.	35700 Enchanted Pkwy S	Federal Way	WA	98063	www.jetchevrolet.com	877-538-2438
Soundview Consultants LLC	2907 Harborview Dr	Gig Harbor	WA	98335	www.soundviewconsultants.com	253-514-8952
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Pierre's Polaris	7504 NE 175th St Ste 8	Kenmore	WA	98028	www.pierrespolaris.com	425-488-8600
Ridenow Powersports Tri-Cities	3305 W 19th Ave	Kennewick	WA	99338	www.ridenowtricity.com	509-735-1117
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Leavenworth Snowmobile Rentals	15361 US Hwy 2	Leavenworth	WA	98826	www.leavenworthsnowmobilerentals.com	509-763-0333
Mountain Springs Lodge	19115 Chiwawa Loop Rd	Leavenworth	WA	98826	www.mtsprings.com	509-763-2713
Pacific Mountain Services	22745 Brown Rd	Leavenworth	WA	98826		509-670-6665
Loon Lake Marina	41080 Marina Rd	Loon Lake	WA	99148		509-233-2303
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Gold Creek Station	18431 SR 410	Naches	WA	98937		509-658-2583
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Xtreme Powersports	1930 2 nd Ave N	Okanogan	WA	98840	www.shopxtremepowersports.net	509-826-5771
WA State Parks Winter Rec Program	1111 Israel Rd SW	Olympia	WA	98504	www.state.parks.wa.us	360-902-8595
Backcountry Plowing & Grooming	23616 154 th St E	Orting	WA	98360		253-722-4123
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
Chet's Honda/Polaris	17 H Street SW	Quincy	WA	98848	www.chetshonda.com	509-787-3617
Sundance Landscaping	11609 172nd Ave NE	Redmond	WA	98052		425-533-6008
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Earthworks, Inc	PO Box 111	Ronald	WA	98940		
Roadhouse @ The Last Resort	14254 Salmon LaSac Rd	Ronald	WA	98940		509-649-3125
J & B Enterprises	PO Box 440	Roslyn	WA	98941		206-484-0204
Repin Construction LLC	PO Box 541	Roslyn	WA	98941		509-649-3323
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.completeterepairservicesllc.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
Cowlitz Motorsports	196 Dunivan Rd	Vader	WA	98593		360-520-3911
Procaliber Motorsports	PO 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
Three Fingered Jacks	176 Riverside Ave	Winthrop	WA	98862	www.3fingeredjacks.com	509-996-2411
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

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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

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Club News



Tollgate Trail Finders

By Brandon Christensen,
President

Hi snowmobile friends!
What a crazy summer it has been. The cancelling of some of our favorite events

such as sports, reunions, festivals, county fairs, rodeos, weddings, in-class learning at school... well we could go on and on. The best part about all this is the fact most of us have been able to spend some quality time with our immediate family members and other loved ones. We've also been able to learn about technology like how to log into Zoom, Skype or Teams to meet at work, school or even church. It's amazing to think of how much we have accomplished the past few months. It's also disheartening to hear about so many small businesses that have struggled to keep the doors open. Ok, time to hop off the soap box.

Firewood work party – July 18th.

What an amazing turnout we had stocking firewood at both shelters. We had enough folks RSVP so we could staff groups at the Chapman Bone Springs Shelter as well as the Ruckel Shelter. We even had lunch for all

Plenty of members to stock wood; groups were dispatched to both Chapman Bone Springs and the Ruckel shelters!



who helped out. Sub Shop #38 in Milton-Freewater did a great job putting lunch together for everyone. We managed to keep numerous chainsaws, log splitters and side-by-sides busy all morning. In the end, everything was stacked deep to provide enough firewood for the season. We are so thankful for everyone who came out to help. It was fun even while practicing social distancing!

Chapman Bone Springs shelter updating. Huge thanks to Past President Bob Carrell and current President Brandon Christensen for their work making sure the Bone Springs shelter received a fresh coat of stain.



Fresh coat of stain on the Chapman Bone Springs Shelter!

This will ensure it is sealed to preserve the logs. It's small gestures like this that really make us thankful for the great members we have in our club. Next up is a service project to replace two 14-foot metal roof sections that came off during a recent windstorm. This needs to be completed before the snow flies. Let us know if you would like to help out!

September grooming update from Jess Thompson, Grooming Chairman.

"We have been working on the groomers off and on the past two months as we have been busy with harvest, and farming.

"Thanks to Allen for getting the new cat serviced and ready to go. The new cell phone antenna is here to be installed.

"Larry installed skag bars on the Idaho pan we pull behind the new cat. You might have noticed it sliding sideways in places this past winter; these bars are like the skag bars on your snowmobile skis and should keep it from sliding sideways on hillsides. The '08 Idaho already has these bars on it, but this is a newer model.

"I have been working on the '08, finishing working on hydraulic fittings and pulled oil samples earlier this summer to be tested on the cats. Those tests came back positive; no issues in our gear boxes, transmissions and engines.

"I have been hauling supplies up to the groomer shed to restock things we have been using such as welding rod, oil, and a few new tools. The last big

project we have to do is install the new push frame on the '08 and it will be ready for snow. We will also get our diesel in the next month before snow flies.

"If anyone has a waste oil furnace on the mountain, I have a barrel full of oil at the grooming shed you can have. Otherwise I will haul it to town to Humbert's to recycle.

"Congratulations to Peggy Spieger for being inducted into the International Snowmobile Hall of Fame! It is well deserved. I have known her for a very long time and she has been a pleasure to work with at OSSA."

Get those machines ready.

Its time to dig the snow machines out of the corner and make sure they are ready to go. The snow will be flying soon. It's a great idea to check the skags, check the drive chain, change the chaincase oil, check the hyfax and change the spark plugs. Or, schedule an appointment with your local snowmobile mechanic to get them ready to go before it is too late. Maybe you want to do some upgrades like a new wrap, new shocks or a turbo! Remember that parts deliveries and availability is a little different these days. Plan ahead and get ready.



**Pacific Northwest
Vintage
Snowmobile
Club**

By Kevin Hancock,
Webmaster

Despite all of our antique and vintage snowmobile events being cancelled, that did not stop us from enjoying time together. A group of club members met to enjoy a week-end of camping along the Entiat River in Central Washington. It was a great time, with wonderful weather,

(Continued on page 11)



Several club members social-distanced together camping along the Entiat River this summer.

Club News



Kevin's Boatel Ski-Bird restoration project. Almost complete; needs to re-dye the wind-shield the correct color as the first try ended up being violet instead of blue.

(Continued from page 10)
great company, and fantastic scenery. We wish all our members could have made it. Soon enough we will be together riding our old sleds during the 2020-2021 season. **We've not made plans yet for vintage rides.** We have to wait to see what conditions are like later in the season.

For some of the rest of us it was working on our home projects even though it is like 'getting all fixed up with nowhere to go'.

But for now we've made tentative plans to meet for placing the signs marking the trail from the Taneum Sno-Park to Whistlin' Jack Lodge.



Kevin's next project: '70 Moto-Ski Capri with a Hirth 340cc single cylinder.



Methow Valley Snowmobile Association

By Dan Stanley,
Vice President

As our snowmobile season inches closer, (still 90 degrees here at this writing), we are planning to get into the woods to check out and work on our trails. COVID 19 has thrown us all a curve-ball so meeting and riding schedules will be on hold for the time being.

We hope to have an additional warming hut up on Starvation Mountain for this season. These huts all have wood stoves and provide riders a place to gather and shelter in an emergency.

Last year I started writing a weekly e-mail to our members reporting on snow conditions, upcoming rides, grooming schedule and other important information. If you plan on riding in the Methow and would like to get these e-mails, join our club; \$15 single or

\$20 for a family yearly membership and you will get these updates.

Our blog (mvsnowmobile.blogspot.com) offers items for sale, membership applications and other information.

So come join us!



Lake Wenatchee Rec Club

By Marilyn Mylius,
Vice President

Hello all! Well, no need to mention what kind of summer it's been and that we are all looking forward to Winter 2020-2021.

Please make sure to register your sleds early to be ready to ride! And tell all your 'ride buddies' to do the same; we need the funds in the account to ensure our trails system will be groomed for the upcoming seasons!

Thanks and hope to see you soon on the trails!



Yakima Ski-Benders

By Liz Van Amburg,
President

Hi from smoky Yakima!

I just traveled to Las Vegas on a recent weekend and it is mind blowing how many fires there were between Yakima and Las Vegas. So many we lost count and they are huge! With that and the weather forecast for this winter, it could be some awesome riding this season! I miss all the snow peeps and I am sad there is no Snow Show to catch up with everyone.

The Ski-Benders are trying to move forward in this crazy COVID 2020 twilight zone we are all living in. I just scheduled our first meeting at Gold Creek Station for October 6th at 6pm for the social and the 7pm meeting start. They can have up to 30 people, social distancing of course, in the bar. They are only open in the bar for Sea Hawks games, so we appreciate them opening for our meetings! Thank you Gold Creek crew, you truly are a great bunch of people and we appreciate the support you have given our club over the years!

(Continued on page 12)

Club News

(Continued from page 11)

We are currently planning on having the annual Ski-Bender Crab Feed December 12th. If Yakima County ever moves out of phase 1.5-ish. My fingers are crossed.

We added a Chili Feed on January 16th; we will have more details soon.

The Chinook Snowfest (poker ride) will be on January 31st, and the Kids Ride 2021 will be February 27th. We will have more details for each event as they get closer.

Remember, Ski-Benders meetings are the first Tuesday of the month.

The 2020-2021 Board consist of myself - President; Heather Rockwell - Vice President; Charlie Hiatt - Treasurer; Seth Ahlbrecht - Secretary; Sid Hagemeyer - At Large; Shannon Lawler-Lind - At Large; and Ron Lind - At Large. Please contact any one of us for more information on our upcoming events.



Tri-Rivers Snowmobile Club

By Robin Whiteley,
Secretary

Like numerous areas across the state of Washington, several areas in North Central have been devastated with wildfires. Several families have lost everything and numerous cattle and livestock have been lost. We have a great community which is rallying to help, including donating feed for livestock, places for animals, clothing and items for families.

At this point everything seems to be on hold for placing a shelter at the Shrew Creek Trailhead on Starvation Mountain. We are

hopeful to be able to place it either later this fall or next year.

We are ALL ready for snow to come and move into our snowmobile season!



Bavarian Boondockers

By Matt Kensrud,
President

Hello fellow sled-
ders and club members!

The Bavarian Boondockers are getting ready to start board meetings soon. We will also be posting club rides on the website.

Trying to figure out everything without having Snowfest is going to be a struggle!

This season our membership will be

(Continued on page 13)

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- Snow Bike Package
- Premium Bluetooth Stereo w/ Amp and Subwoofer
- Tie Down Rail System
- 110 Electric Converter & Outlets
- Fold Down Work Bench
- LED Load Lights
- Ribbon Graphic



Club News

(Continued from page 12)

online, the warming hut will be having some updates done to it before it return to the mountain, and we are looking at updating our gear and swag.

Our new e-mail is bavarianboondockers@gmail.com.

I hope everyone is well. Pray for snow!



Winter Knights

By Greg Figg,
President

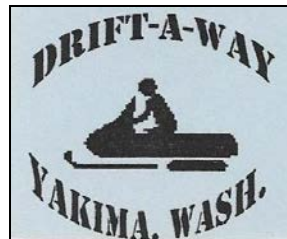
The Winter Knights just had their first ever virtual board meeting via Zoom. Our first general meeting will be in October via Zoom. We are planning, at least through the end of the year, our meetings will be via Zoom. We are also working on revising our budget as our snow show is cancelled this just like the WSSA show.

We will still be cutting wood for two warming huts, cutting brush at Kings Lake, and getting ready for the season of riding. Our

wood cutting is being pushed back into October with the high fire danger and the inability to operate chainsaws until it rains.

We are figuring things out as we go this year with COVID-19 and the rules that we need to play by. I think I speak for a lot of us when I say we are ready for this year to be over and a fresh start to another year!

Please be safe and enjoy your fall!



Drift-A-Way Snowmobile Club

By Matt Mead

Wow, what a weird summer! Back in the spring, I think most of us figured we'd be back to normal by now. I see where things are mostly normal in states in the Midwest, but we seem to still have a ways to go...

And because of the current situation, the Drift-A-Way club, as a club, has been on

hold. But that hasn't stopped our members from getting out and recreating.

While not a sanctioned club event, four Drift-A-Way families enjoyed a camping weekend at the Blu-Shastin RV Park in August. Basically a few of us held our reservations for the weekend of the cancelled WSSA Summer Meeting. It was a fun time!

I personally have been spending time up on Chinook and White Pass, hiking, e-biking and side-by-siding, all in an effort to find new places and 'trails' to ride this winter. Anything to enjoy time in the hills, any season!

Upcoming meetings? Who knows! Typically they are the first Monday of the month at Round Table Pizza in Yakima. I wouldn't bet on one for October.

Upcoming events? I sure hope so! We are planning a fall Airstrip Clean Up event up at Rimrock Lake on White Pass. Should be doable and maintain our 'social distancing'. Members will be e-mailed when a date is set.

Club members are ready to ride as soon as we have enough snow and are planning on mid-week and weekend

(Continued on page 14)

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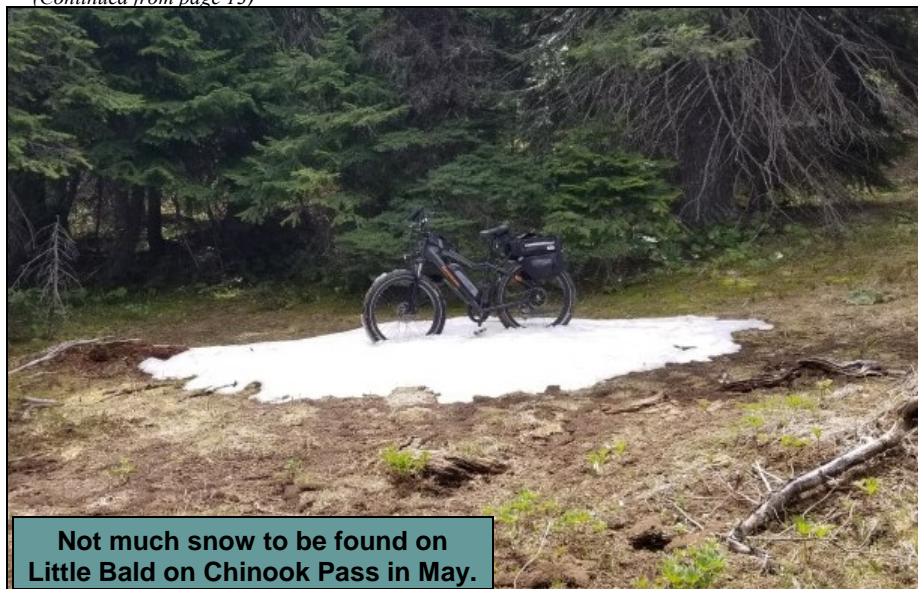
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Club News

(Continued from page 13)



Not much snow to be found on Little Bald on Chinook Pass in May.



The author with Drift-A-Way member Rudy Classen near Clover Springs on Chinook Pass in June.

rides all during the season. We are a family-friendly, ego-free club, and if you'd like to join us, please contact President Jim Kingman or myself. (Our contact info is listed in the WSSA Board section on this page.) Here's hoping for a long and deep season of powder!



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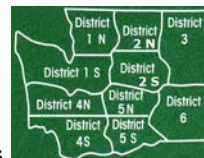
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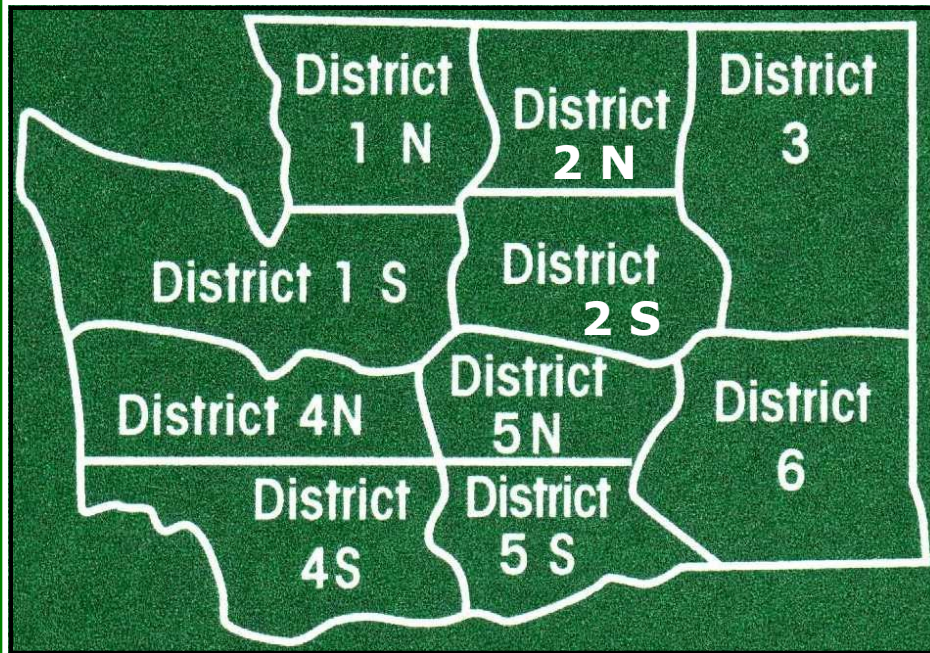
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Whatcom County Snowmobile Club

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District 1 South

(King County)

Cascade Drift Skippers

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District 2 North

(Okanogan/Ferry Counties)

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Tri-River Snowmobile Club

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Pacific Northwest

Pacific Northwest Vintage Snowmobile Club

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Vintage Snowmobiles of the Inland N.W.

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Safety with Jon

Prepping for a new season!

By Jon Ferrian — wssasafety101@gmail.com

Hello Washington sledders!

We are getting close now to riding season and as I was talking with my wife Edythe about what might be good topics to discuss during this month's article. We came up with a few ideas we thought might be helpful for all of you.

Sled season is not canceled!

Clubs can still host rides during COVID-19 and should continue to monitor what phase their county is in as they make plans to confirm they are staying within the recommended guidelines for official club or organized events.

- What phase is my county in resource: <https://coronavirus.wa.gov/what-you-need-know/county-status-and-safe-start-application-process>.
- I encourage everyone to not give up on holding club and community rides but to just understand the guidelines and do your best to keep everyone safe while providing an opportunity to help everyone enjoy the great outdoors.

#LiveLARGE

Jon Ferrian LIVE



Register your sleds!

This will ensure ongoing funding for our sno-parks and trail systems. Each year when we register our sleds we are funding the following year's budget for sno-parks, plowing and trail maintenance. Last season we had a drop in sled registration due to COVID-19 and we now will feel a pinch in the budget this season while we are expecting a significant uptick in backcountry users as people are all trying to escape the city and get outside!

Be an ambassador to your sport!

Many people will be flocking to the backcountry – especially non-motorized users who are now looking to use snowmobiles to access backcountry skiing and snowboarding areas. YOU have an opportunity to create an inviting environment for all backcountry users to get out and enjoy our natural resources just like you do! We should embrace this season to represent the sled community when we know many new people will be joining the sport. More users and more registered sleds will help grow our sport again in a meaningful way to help support our infrastructure and dealer network across the state.

(Continued on page 17)

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Safety with Jon

(Continued from page 16)

Get trained!

Avalanche education is an absolute necessary piece of your snowmobiling experience here in Washington State. Even if you only consider yourself a trail rider, here in Washington State there are many trails that cross avalanche terrain. You also may come across others on your ride who may need your help and without the proper equipment and training you are not going to be much help to save someone's life.

- Critical Safety Equipment
 - Avalanche Transceiver (Beacon)
 - Avalanche Probe
 - Avalanche Shovel
 - First Aid Kit
 - Two-Way Radio
 - GPS Device
 - Satellite Communication Device
 - Small Handsaw
 - Back Pack to store your safety equipment with you
- Critical Training
 - Avalanche Awareness Training
 - Online or in person classroom style training designed to give you the very basics of avalanche awareness info that is designed to inspire you to start your avalanche education journey into the next classes below.
 - Avalanche Companion Rescue
 - On-Snow Avalanche Training of equipment use and rescue scenarios to help you get hands on training in the snow.



• Level 1 Training Class

• This course addresses more than rescue and awareness; it is for those who intentionally want to travel in or through avalanche terrain and want to learn how to work with a group to manage their avalanche risk. Throughout a Level 1 Motorized course, instructors identify and focus on unique elements of motorized backcountry travel, focusing on snowmobilers' unique use of terrain, speed of travel, and group communication.

• Level 2 Training Class

• The Level 2 is a three-day course for those who have taken a Level 1 and Avalanche Rescue and have had at least a year of backcountry travel experience. The Level 2 provides backcountry leaders the opportunity to advance their avalanche knowledge and decision making skills by applying their skills to new terrain and situations. Avalanche Rescue is a prerequisite for the Level 2. It is highly recommended that participants gain at least one season worth of backcountry travel experience between taking the Level 1 and the Level 2.

• Training Resources

- <https://avtraining.org>
- <https://www.nwac.us>
- www.avalanche-alliance.org
- <https://backcountryrascender.com>

Thanks for taking the time to read through all of this information! I hope you have an amazing season and if there is anything I can ever do to help you get information on equipment or education you can always get in touch with me directly through Facebook, Instagram, or e-mail.

Until next time!

#LiveLARGE



Follow the State Parks Winter Recreation Program on Twitter
@WaStatePks_WNTR

State Parks Update

By Pamela McConkey, Winter Recreation Program Manager

What can you say about COVID?

Your Winter Recreation Program staff have, like all of you, experienced a busy and unusual 'off' season! We ended trail grooming and all other services six days early at the end of the 2020 winter season due to COVID and the Governor's orders. Like most folks, we thought we would be under a stay at home order for a couple of weeks and then jump back into our normal work routine. That was not to be, so, we set out to devise a work schedule and priorities and began working in a 'new normal'. As you know, we spend several weeks each summer preparing the snowmobile budget and working with the Snowmobile Advisory Committee to hash out the budgetary details. I'm proud to say our new normal is working out great and we are staying on top of all our responsibilities and preparing for Winter 2020/2021.

Snowmobile Budget for 2020/2021

The Snowmobile Advisory Committee (SMAC) met in August virtually using ZOOM and although this was a very new experience for all of us, the SMAC worked through and recommended a budget for the 2020/2021 winter season. Our thanks goes out to Norris Boyd, Area 3 SMAC representative, for hosting the ZOOM meeting for us. Unfortunately, the Snowmobile Program experienced a decrease in revenue due to fewer snowmobiles being registered last season, which resulted in a 10% reduction across the board for trail grooming, a 6% across the board reduction in snow removal

dollars and 6% reduction in Education and Enforcement. It is speculated the reduction in registrations is due to late snowfall, the lack of snowfall in central Washington, increasing prices of equipment and limited on-trail enforcement. Due to the nature of the program, projections are nearly impossible to make because the entire revenue stream for the following year is dependent on the previous year's snowfall and more importantly, snowmobile registrations.

2020/2021 winter forecast

Which forecast do you depend on? If you follow and plan on using NOAA's forecast, you will find this information interesting: NOAA is calling for below average temperatures and above average precipitation for the Pacific Northwest.

"Winter looks cold and snowy with some gray in-between", the Farmer's Almanac claims.

Snowmobile Registrations:

See the chart below. These are pretty grim numbers for the beginning of the season...

Sno-Park Permit fees will increase October 1st, 2021:

During the winter and spring of 2020, the Winter Recreation Advisory Committee (WRAC – non-motorized) appointed a Finance Sub-Committee to conduct research and explore

(Continued on page 19)

Snowmobile Registrations

	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY 20-21 Difference
July	166	149	145	134	148	166	151	(15)
August	1,142	531	676	782	2,307	222	249	27
September	3,546	2,968	3,145	2,946	1,682	2,974		
October	2,544	1,662	2,139	2,489	1,882	3,357		
November	2,870	3,129	3,362	4,360	2,960	2,372		
December	6,656	11,575	13,170	6,973	8,320	6,726		
January	2,741	3,528	3,196	3,358	3,433	4,514		
February	381	1,164	1,513	1,166	1,602	1,293		
March	68	298	686	674	958	355		
April	42	82	181	175	258	89		
May	22	32	93	93	90	135		
June	23	30	84	71	83	126		
Total:	20,201	25,148	28,390	23,221	23,723	22,329		12

24%

11%



Snowmobile Program Funding 101

Register your snowmobile and receive a **FREE** Sno-Park permit. Relax and enjoy this winter season without risk of a citation for not being registered or for not having a Sno-Park permit.

Your \$50 registration fee and money collected from a gas tax refund are put into a dedicated fund account for the Snowmobile Program.

The gas tax refund is computed using the following formula: 135 gallons (average yearly fuel usage per snowmobile) x .349 cents per gallon of gas x the annual number of registered snowmobiles and snowbikes.



The gas tax refund and registration fees collected each year add up to approximately \$94.20 per snowmobile or snowbike to fund the program. Fees collected this year are put towards next year's snowmobile season to pay for trail grooming, snow removal, sanitation, administration, education and enforcement.

For more information, visit www.parks.state.wa.us/winter, e-mail winter@parks.wa.gov or call (360) 902-8684.

This information brought to you in partnership with Washington State Parks and the Washington State Snowmobile Association.



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www.instagram.com/WASStatePks

Share your stories and photos: AdventureAwaits.com

State Parks Update

(Continued from page 18) the potential need to expand the current fee structure. The Sub-Committee found:

- The current program revenues are not keeping pace with the costs of delivering services, including fuel, maintenance, and replacement equipment costs.
- Sno-Park fees were last increased in 2009 beginning with the 2009-2010 season from \$10 daily/\$30 seasonal/\$30 special 'extra' grooming to \$20 daily/\$40 seasonal/\$40 special 'extra' grooming.
- Continued demand for expanded services, including more parking areas, snow removal, new and more frequent trail grooming, snow play areas, education and enforcement.
- The private Nordic areas typically impose per-person fees, and the Sub-Committee determined that this was not a viable or manageable option for a statewide program.
- WRAC recommended the Director support increases for the seasonal sno-park permit, the special groomed sticker, and the daily permit.
- The Committee also recommended these be implemented for the next winter season, October 1st, 2021, providing staff a full year to educate and inform the public of the fee increases.

What does this mean for the Snowmobile Program?

- The Snowmobile Advisory Committee (SMAC) and the Washington State Snowmobile Association (WSSA) both unanimously passed a motion supporting increasing the cost of the seasonal Snowmobile Sno-Park Permit from \$40 to \$50 to align with the proposed increase recommended by the WRAC for the Sno-Park Permit (non-motorized). It is understood the new rate will be effective October 1st, 2021, and the Sno-Park Permit included with a snowmobile registration would continue to be issued at no additional cost per current regulations.

Busy Winter Recreation Program mascots:

Matilda and Blake are being well represented in the rollout of the new Agency Junior Ranger Program. The Junior Ranger Program, developed and approved by the State Parks Ranger Association, was due for a 'refresh'. These two mascots have become part of the larger picture of the Junior Ranger Program, helping teach children how to be good stewards of the environment, learn about wildlife, state history, safety and the many types of outdoor recreation found in Washington and within our State Parks. A Blake costume has been received and has already been out at various RV Shows, Winter Sporting Shows and in sno-parks meeting folks and educating them about Winter Recreation. Although many of the 2020 Winter Sports shows have been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Blake is planning to visit sno-parks this winter and appear at the Seattle RV show in February 2021. We are excited to have Blake in attendance at these events to help educate children and their parents about the State Winter Recreation Program.



Washington State Parks and Recreation Commissions Winter Recreation Program is proud to partner with:



Membership

It's time to renew your WSSA membership!

By Wayne & Florence Mohler,
Membership Co-Chairs

Membership dues 2020-21 are now due. The WSSA membership year is September 1st through August 31st of the following year. We really appreciate the timely renewals as it saves the expense of sending multiple reminders. You should have received your renewal notice by now, either by e-mail or through USPS, but if not, please use the membership application in the Snoflyer, or go to our website www.wssa.us under the membership tab to join or renew your membership. Now, members will be able to print their membership cards from the WSSA website.

Dues are \$25 for Individual/Families and for Clubs. Associate (Dealers and Businesses) member dues are \$50. For clubs that collect WSSA dues from their members, please forward the WSSA dues as soon as possible. Also, let us know who your club contact is.

With the 2020 Washington Snowmobile and Power Sports Expo and Swap Meet having been cancelled, it will be quite different in not seeing many of you and handling your renewal at the show. We will miss this contact with our members.

Your membership is what sustains our organization and helps provide the resources to represent the interests of snowmobilers here in Washington and nationally. It is an all-volunteer grassroots organization and volunteers are constantly needed. There are many committees in WSSA, so if your interests are in legislation or land issues, enjoy volunteering for events such as the Expo, like to do charity work, have skills as a webmaster, editing or publishing to mention a few, please let us know. There are also opportunities to volunteer to serve on state-wide advisory committees. Washington State Parks has opportunities to serve on the Snowmobile Advisory Committee (SMAC) and Winter Recreation Advisory Committee (WRAC), and the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) periodically has openings for snowmobilers on the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) advisory committee. Please consider getting involved in making a difference by assuring the future of snowmobiling.

If you have any questions about membership, please e-mail us at membership@wssa.us or call us at (509) 674-4401.

ACSA E-News

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



ACSA Snowmobile Club of the Year...

The Sno-Trails Snowmobile Club from Hayward, Wisconsin, is the 2020 ACSA Snowmobile Club of the Year!

In October of 2019, Sno-Trails celebrated their 50th year as a club. They currently maintain 175 miles of trails. In the early years, they maintained their trails with snowmobiles pulling old bed springs.



The membership is 200+ families - with 40% of those families living in the area and the remaining membership is comprised of families riding their trails and supporting the club's activities. They also have an active youth program.

Sno-Trails holds three annual fundraisers, a Vintage Ride, Poker Run and Spring Bash. They have a monthly newsletter in addition to using social media as well as the local newspaper and radio station to promote the club, trails and snowmobile safety.

For information on the Sno-Trails Snowmobile club, visit <https://www.sno-trailssnowmobileclub.com>. Congratulations Sno-Trails! Keep up the good work!

New 2021 Race Sleds Announced

Despite the cancellation of the unveiling ceremony at the annual Hay Days event, Arctic Cat and Polaris announced their race sleds for the upcoming season.

Arctic Cat announced three new sleds, one each aimed at snocross, cross-country and hillclimb racing. Released were a 6000 R-SX for bumps racing, a 6000 R-XC for terrain racing and an 8000 R-M for hillclimb racing.

These sleds are expected to be built in October or November.

Polaris also announced the 2021 600R which is designed specifically for snocross racing, and is combined with the mountain-focused 2021 850 RMK Khaos and cross-country-aimed 600 Indy XCR to collectively compete on racetracks and courses across North America throughout the 2021 snocross season.

Public Land Access

Recently the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining held a hearing. Two of the 15 bills discussed at the hearing impact snowmobiling.

S 1765, sponsored by Senator Tester from Montana is a Wilderness Bill, the Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Act. It would add 80,000 acres to the 3.5 million acres that have already been designated Wilderness - and are not accessible by motorized or mechanized means.

Forest Service Deputy Chief Chris French said the agency has concerns about access to two proposed recreation areas contained in Tester's bill because it may not be able to handle the analysis workload.

S 4431, sponsored by Senator Feinstein from California and co-sponsored by Steve Daines (Montana), along with Jim Risch and Mike Crapo from Idaho. This is the Emergency Wildfire and Safety Act which is timely given all of the forest fires in the West right now. Senator Daines testified "the West is burning, people are dying, and the smoke is literally starting to cover our country." Senator Feinstein pleaded, "we can't just sit here and do nothing."

S 4431 would give the U.S. Forest Service expanded categorical exclusion powers to cut fire breaks up to 3,000 acres large along roads, trails and power lines; accelerate post-fire restoration; and create a new prescribed fire research center to direct more forest fuels reduction burning.

The two-hour time frame allotted for the hearing was very short, given all of the legislators and agency leadership that addressed each bill, along with senators expressing concern over the wildfires in the West, it was difficult for some bills to get much time. There was no action taken.

Did You Know?...

Many environmental advocates feared even noncommercial forest management actions, such as clearing brush, thinning undergrowth and removing dead trees, could reopen the door to commercial logging.

So in the mid-1990s, conservation organizations began challenging routine forest management activities, and they often won.

Between 1989 and 2008, environmental groups filed 1,125 cases against the U.S. Forest Service seeking to limit logging or management activities, and won or settled 520 of those cases. As a result, the agency was unable to conduct management activities that might have lessened the danger of fire.

Avalanche Training

KLIM, Avalanche Alliance and AIARE have partnered to give away a custom-built 2021 Polaris 850 Pro RMK 165 to raise money for AIARE avalanche safety projects, including training more AIARE motorized avalanche safety instructors.

Link to sled giveaway: <https://avtraining.tapkat.org/klimbackcountrysled>

In Case You Missed It...

A U.S. Senate committee recently heard the importance of getting the federal courts out of the grizzly bear debate. Wyoming Republican Sen. Mike Enzi's S.B. 614 would turn management of more than 700 grizzly bears in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem over to the wildlife agencies of Montana, Idaho and Wyoming and block the move from any judicial review.

Avalanche Training

Ski-Doo is once again partnering with Backcountry Access (BCA) and Avalanche 1 to offer FREE avalanche education and awareness this fall for riders of all brands of snowmobiles.

Seminars will be held ONLINE in 16 separate short episodes. This

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ACSA E-News

(Continued from page 20)

format will allow riders to learn at a pace that fits within their schedule and makes it easy to re-watch sections or entire episodes ensuring they understand the material more thoroughly.

All online educational episodes will be hosted by Mike Duffy of Avalanche 1 due to COVID restrictions of the face to face sessions.

The online seminars will start in late September, with two per week released on the Ski-Doo website. Here is the website: <https://www.ski-doo.com/avalanche.html>

Grasscat

Did you know Arctic Cat made a line of riding mowers in the early 70's called Grasscat? This is an oldie but a goodie!

Calling ALL Snowmobile Clubs!

As you may know, Snow Goer includes a Snowmobile Club Spotlight in each issue. They understand the importance of snowmobile clubs. They want to put the spotlight on all of the time and effort the clubs put into the snowmobile trails and their communities.

Snow Goer is looking for clubs to highlight. Your club and your members deserve this recognition! It's free - and it's easy!

Visit here and fill out a short form: <https://snowgoer.com/news/great-clubs/28794>



Snowmobiling....

Snowmobilers wore Personal Protective Equipment before we knew it was required! We layer it on from the balaclava to the helmet and shield/goggles. And we social distance while riding!

BRP on 'Staycations'

Powersports Business recently had the opportunity to interview the CEO of BRP, Jose Boisjoli. In the interview, product demand and sales are discussed, as well as the 'staycation phenomenon'.

You can find the interview here: <https://finance.yahoo.com/video/brp-ceo-coronavirus-staycation-phenomenon-190533303.html>

It's Trail Clean Up Time!

Snowmobilers are great stewards of the land!

Thanks to all of the volunteers for hauling out trash that was obviously not brought in by snowmobilers!

BLM Move to the West is Complete

The U.S. Secretary of the Interior, David Bernhardt, completed the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) move by signing a secretarial order formally establishing Grand Junction as the bureau's headquarters.

The BLM still maintains an office in Washington, DC, however, the headquarters is now located in Grand Junction, Colorado, and BLM employees and seasoned decision-makers are now located in offices across the West and in Alaska.



International Snowmobile Congress 2021

It's time to start planning to attend the 53rd International Snowmobile Congress.

June 9th - 12th, 2021, Omaha, Nebraska

For registration information visit: <http://www.snowmobilers.org/isc>

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!



Feature

2020 WSSA Scholarship winning essay

By Hailey Gallatin



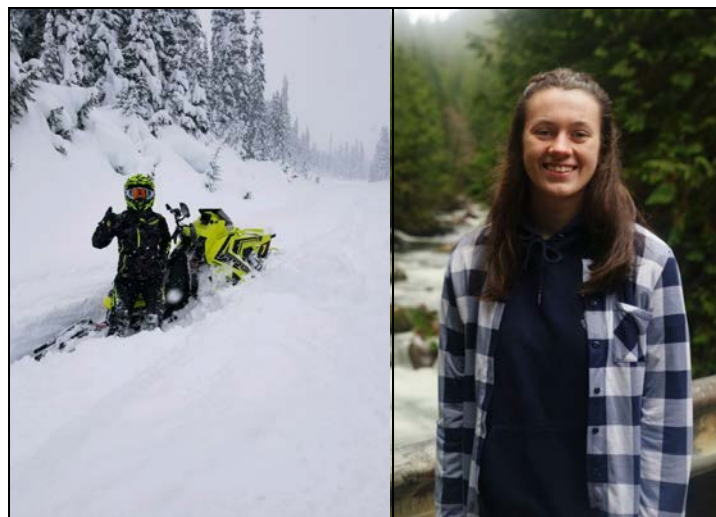
Partnerships are essential to the Washington State Snowmobile Association (WSSA) and smaller local organizations because these relationships make up the snowmobiling community. The State Association - and all snowmobilers across the nation - rely on partnerships to provide protected land to ride on. Partnerships play a role in ensuring there are sufficient grooming services to maintain trails on the protected lands. They help create and enforce guidelines to follow while on the mountains, not only to preserve the land but also to keep riders safe. Through funding and events, they help raise general support for the snowmobile community which is important to maintain a positive reputation about motorized winter recreational sports. Without partnerships, the snowmobile community would not exist and lose opportunities to ride every year.

The Washington State Snowmobile Association has several crucial partnerships. One important category of partnerships are those who provide the snowmobile community with protected land to ride on. These partners include, but are not limited to, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), United States Forest Service (USFS), and private landowners - individuals or businesses such as timber companies. Through a contract-like agreement known as a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which spells out the conditions of use for the land, those partners give us permission to ride on their protected land and organize trail grooming services. Private landowners can be equally as important as the State and Federal partners because there are sections of land where snowmobilers may need to cross private land conveniently to get to and from pieces of State or Federal land.

Next are partners who administer the Snowmobile Program; in Washington, the State Department of Parks and Recreation does this with recommendations from the Snowmobile Advisory Committee. The Snowmobile Program is funded by snowmobile registration fees and a percentage of fuel tax dollars based on the number of snowmobiles registered in the state. The collection of funding incorporates another category of partnerships including the Department of Revenue (DOR) which handles the fuel tax dollars and the Department of Licensing (DOL) which handles the snowmobile registration fees. The State Department of Parks and Recreation must work with the DOR and DOL to collect funding for the Snowmobile Program. Then those funds are used to preserve the protected land and promote safety by providing trail grooming services, sanitary facilities in sno-parks and warming huts out on the trails, snowmobile safety training, law enforcement and education, and more. These partnerships are extremely important as over 90% of registration fees and fuel tax dollars support snowmobiling in Washington State.

Another critical part of the snowmobile community is safety. The Washington State Snowmobile Association is partnered with the Northwest Avalanche Center (NWAC) which is a non-profit group with the **mission to "increase avalanche awareness, reduce avalanche impacts, and equip the community with mountain weather and avalanche forecasts, education, and data."** The NWAC team collects data about weather and terrain conditions during the snowmobiling season, then creates up-to-date reports and predictions about avalanche risk levels in riding areas across the state. The data they publish is all easily accessible to the public on their website. They also offer educational classes for all ages as well as on-the-mountain training for adult riders who want to dig deeper - literally and figuratively - in various snow conditions. The NWAC is a critical partner to WSSA because together they focus on educating the snowmobile community to be aware, safe, and prepared while on the mountain.

The NWAC is not the only partner concerned with the safety of snowmobilers. Local search and rescue teams through county sheriff departments are also very important team players in keeping the winter recreational sporting



communities safe. Not only snowmobilers, but also cross-country and downhill skiers, snowboarders, snow-shoers and hikers, and more. The local search and rescue teams are groups of on-call volunteers with the mission to help anyone on the mountain who is in need. Snowmobilers and non-motorized enthusiasts have their differences, but it's all about the community looking out for each other. Skiers often complain about snowmobilers until they get stuck or lost and a snowmobile comes to their rescue. Then, they can't get enough!

A fourth category of partnerships involves general support from various individuals and businesses. These partners may include restaurants, hotels, and lodges in towns where snowmobiling is popular. They may host big events or provide catering services to support the snowmobile community. For example, every year WSSA and snowmobilers across the state meet for the WSSA Rendezvous rides. In recent years, well-respected lodges have hosted the hundreds of snowmobilers at Priest Lake, Idaho and Lake Chelan, Washington. They provide ample support for housing, food catering services, and locations for post-ride meetings. **Without those lodges' support, the WSSA Rendezvous rides would be far more difficult to coordinate.** Sometimes, the towns themselves will organize events which encourage involvement in winter recreational sports. For example, the town of Conconully, Washington hosts annual outhouse races. Teams gather to build their award-winning handmade outhouses on a pair of skis with a toilet, toilet paper, and decorations. Then teams compete against each other in a man-powered race down the snow covered Main Street of Conconully. This is a fun way to bring a variety of people together and support the winter recreational community. Snowmobilers often participate!

Other examples of partners showing general support include local dealerships and big name manufacturers. Local dealerships support snowmobiling by carrying snowmobiles, parts, and gear for purchase, offering snowmobile maintenance services, and spreading the word about events. They go hand-in-hand with the big name manufacturers such as Polaris, Ski-Doo, Arctic Cat, and Yamaha who provide safety training, scholarships, sponsorships, and spread awareness around environmental issues within the snowmobile community. Last but not least, local snowmobile clubs are honorable partners with the Washington State Snowmobile Association. Clubs such as the Northwest Glacier Cruisers, Methow Valley Snowmobile Association, Spokane Winter Knights, and Yakima Ski-Benders are all active clubs in Washington State. Local clubs are essential to spark interest in people new to the snowmobile community, then encourage them to get

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Feature

(Continued from page 22)

more involved and connect with other riders across the state. They target their more condensed districts to share information promoting events through the Washington State Snowmobile Association and general involvement in the snowmobile community.

It is difficult to list every partnership within the Washington State snowmobiling community. The ones described in this essay are only a few. However, there can never be too many partnerships. A few ways to grow supporting communities and develop partnerships is by broadening the targeted audience. Working to partner with summer recreational sports - dirt biking and other off-road motorized sports, hiking, etc. - and bridging the gap between motorized and non-motorized sports, winter or summer, could open opportunities for partnerships. Everyone has their preferred activity. Some get selfish or protective of their activity and the land or resources necessary to enjoy it. Unfortunately, this creates conflict and competition between the various types of recreational activities or sports. Instead, the snowmobile community should partner with other communities to bring their various interests together, supporting each other by sharing land and resources. Thus creating more opportunities for all to enjoy their activities.

With the rise in popularity of snowbikes, it would be extremely beneficial to partner with groups of motorbike enthusiasts. Combining forces to push proper legislation concerning operation and registration between snow bikes and dirt bikes could create a strong bond between the snowmobile and motorbike communities, potentially bringing more summer motorized sport enthusiasts into the winter motorized sport communities.

A concern among many snowmobile clubs and associations is funding. The most impactful way to fund the Snowmobile Program, snowmobile clubs and associations, and the next generation of snowmobilers is encouraging more involvement. More publicity to encourage increased attendance for fundraiser events such as organized rides, the annual WSSA Expo and Swap Meet at the Washington State Fairgrounds, auctions or raffles, and community dinners are just a few ideas. Local clubs and the Washington State Snowmobile Association need to maintain strong connections with State senators and representatives to gain higher levels of support at the state level for snowmobiling. They can encourage individual snowmobilers to reach out and express their preferences about snowmobiling, or coordinate groups to interact with the state legislature about the need of support in specific areas or resources concerning snowmobiling.

The most powerful networking tool is word-of-mouth. Everyone in the snowmobile community needs to spread the word about snowmobiling to get more individuals involved. The greater the size of the community, the more resources the community will gather. A large group of individuals partnering with each other to advocate for their favorite sport has a far greater voice and ability to corral support in comparison to a small handful of individuals spread across the state. This is what it means to have partnerships; a collective group of various individuals and businesses gathering to achieve a cohesive goal. It is all about community, and partnerships are the backbone of success.

(Publisher note: The essay is in response to this essay topic: Partnerships are a must in the snowmobile world! The more partners we have in our industry, the more successful we will be in every challenge we are faced with. Cooperative partnerships can be made at a Local, State, Provincial or even at a National level. It is better to have partners than opponents.

Essay Challenge: In your own words:

1. Why are partnerships so important to your Association/Federation?
2. Who are some of your current partners of your Association/Federation?
3. How are those partnerships working for your Association/Federation?
4. Can you share with us your thoughts of how and where we can go to find and develop new partnerships to further the cause of snowmobiling?

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

The essay is printed unedited and as received from the scholarship entrant.)

Matt's Misc.

By Matt Mead,
Publicity Secretary



Giving up my space! It's not often I find it necessary to give up part of my page in the Snoflyer, but Hailey Gallatin earned it. I've known Hailey and her family since she was just a wee one; I have pictures of several WSSA kids at a Winter Rendezvous held at Lake Chelan way back when and my daughter Ryan was also one of them. Hailey's knowledge of organized snowmobiling is pretty impressive, but given her folks have held board positions in WSSA it is no surprise. Ryan also entered the scholarship challenge this year and it is obvious the competition was tough! Way to go Hailey!

Avalanche beacon practice in the off season. An e-mail popped in my box from Backcountry Access (BCA) with a link to suggestions for beacon search practice during the non-snow months. Quick, easy and fun ideas. Check them out here: [https://backcountryaccess.com/en-us/blog/p/4-ways-practice-transceiver-offseason?utm_campaign=EM-09112020_Off_Season_Practice_US%20%28R9ngYh%29&utm_medium=email&utm_source=US%20Ski%20Re-](https://backcountryaccess.com/en-us/blog/p/4-ways-practice-transceiver-offseason?utm_campaign=EM-09112020_Off_Season_Practice_US%20%28R9ngYh%29&utm_medium=email&utm_source=US%20Ski%20Re-tail_&_ke=eyJrbF9lbWFpbCI6ICJtZG1lYWRYAY2hhcnRlci5uZXQlLCAia2xfY29tcGFueV9pZCI6ICJScUM5ZFYifQ%3D%3D)

And on the topic of avalanche training... For several years, Ski-Doo has teamed up with Mike Duffy of Avalanche 1 and held free basic avalanche awareness training at Doo dealers across the West. Due to COVID, this training has been shifted online for the new season. Now there is really no excuse to not take a basic class. The training videos will be short and you can watch them at your leisure. I guess I don't have an excuse to not take a refresher... First videos should be online as this Snoflyer goes live. Check them out here: <https://www.ski-doo.com/avalanche.html>

Tracked ATV/UTV legislation update. This summer I submitted minor changes to be incorporated into the legislation regarding max ATV/UTV weights. Originally we were fine with what the current RCW defining wheeled ATVs/UTVs (WATVs) used, which was a max weight of 2,000 lbs. Last season during one of the hearings, we were blindsided when we discovered legislation had been introduced to increase the max weight allowed for a WATV. Off-hand I don't recall the new value, but it was in the neighborhood of doubling the current weight allowed. (It appeared the legislative change was solely to allow Mahindra Roxors to be classified as a WATV and if you are familiar with them, they are basically an import version of an early CJ Jeep with a small diesel engine.) So the recommended change for our legislation caps the max weight at 2,000 lbs, which covers every currently available UTV I could find. The Code Revisers Office in Olympia will make the change and we will have the legislation pre-filed for the upcoming legislative session in January.

I know we have some members who are unsure of this legislation or flat out oppose it. WSSA is looking at it from a practical point of view. Tracked ATVs/UTVs are already out there and many jurisdictions are allowing them on the trails;

(Continued on page 24)

Matt's Misc.

(Continued from page 23) UTV sales are through the roof while snowmobile sales are stagnant; it is an opportunity to bring in more families and the elderly who may have parked their snow machines when they were no longer comfortable riding them; and our Snowmobile Program needs an influx of cash and these new registrations might add some relief.

Unfair labor practice complaint settled in West Yellowstone. I'm sure you are breathing a sigh of relief! I reported on this in a previous Snoflyer, where a handful of snowmobile guides were fired after protesting over poor pay and dangerous work conditions and allegedly trying to start a union. When I think of West Yellowstone, I think more of 'local mom and pop' operations, but in reality, some Back East resort firms have some pretty big stake holdings. And as you might expect, big business practices aren't always fair to employees. A settlement has been reached with Delaware North which owns Two Top Snowmobile Rentals and Tours and Yellowstone Vacation Tours and in the agreement, the guides will be given back pay and clear their employment records of anything in regard to the dispute. It also allows the employees to unionize without harassment or being fired. Delaware North isn't necessarily the big bad corporate bully; they have been working in the area since 2003 and invested millions into their businesses and the local economy. They claim \$60,000 donated to charitable causes in the area in the last year alone.

Charlie Daniels in the Snoflyer? I'm sure most of you were as bummed as I was when Charlie Daniels passed away recently at age 83 due to a stroke. When Daniels was performing at the Yakima Fair a few years back, my family was there to watch him. He must have been about 80 then and you would never know it from the energy he had on stage. I'm not a country music fan, but who doesn't like 'The devil went down to Georgia' and other song hits he had that crossed over? Anyway, as I was reading about his passing, I read he had suffered a mild stroke in January 2010... while snowmobiling in Colorado. Really?! Turns out he



owned a home in the Durango area and spent a couple months there each year after Christmas and enjoyed snowmobiling. Charlie just clicked up a couple of more notches in my book!

Ever hear of Coreen Paul? I hadn't. In 2012 she was the first woman to compete in Cain's Quest, a grueling snowmobile endurance event held in Labrador, Canada. In fact, in 2020, she was half of the first all-female team to compete. But the reason I'm mentioning her here is because of a



children's book she just wrote titled 'They did not Quit'. It is the story of her past race with teammate Rebecca Charles. Her goal was to inspire kids and let them know to fight for what they are passionate about. Apparently the sales have been strong and it was a number one best seller on Amazon in the children's books winter sports category. If you have young kids or grandkids, might be worth checking out!

Still a fan of Avenza! If you aren't using a GPS mapping program while you are out riding, you are missing out! Jason Goldstein at State Parks turned me on to Avenza a few years back and I use it year round while playing in the mountains. While State Parks is offering geo-referenced snowmobile trail maps, I'm a bigger fan of other maps available in the Avenza map store. The map

I use the most is 'Central Washington Cascades Recreation Map South', which is a Forest Service map. It extends from the Yakama Reservation, north to beyond Leavenworth and covers most of the places I recreate. It doesn't cover the Ahtanum real well, so I also have the 'Ahtanum Green Dot Road Map'. Neither of these maps show actual snowmobile trails, but since most of the trails are actually forest roads, I figure I'm covered. The reason I prefer these maps over the State Parks' offerings is that I discovered it was easy to ride off the edge of the trail maps since they focus on the trails and not so much the surrounding lands. A recent map offering I haven't checked out fully is from our partner Washington Hometown. I have downloaded their map titled 'Snowmobile WA Kittitas & Yakima County'

and will try it out this winter. Do you like to boondock? This is the best reason to use these maps. It's amazing the places we ride and how close we come to other roads and trails, yet we just don't know it. By watching the GPS tracks I've recorded, I've found on numerous occasions we have *almost* connected up with a place we have previously been. (The joke is "look, we are just a 1/8" away from there on the map!")

Now granted, there is no guarantee you can get there from here due to terrain and forestation, but when you are that close, you now have motivation! I've spent a good deal of my summer checking out some of these 'almost' connections to see if we can connect them up this winter.

Take a friend snowmobiling.

How many people have you introduced to the sport? Take a neighbor. Take a co-worker. Maybe a stranger off the street! Show a non-snowmobiler how much fun they can have in the snow! But do it right... Don't take them on your normal ride...



unless your normal ride is a trail ride to the local warming hut for lunch. Keep the ride short and easy. Make sure you provide them with a safe, comfortable, well-maintained machine. Make sure they have decent clothing including warm gloves and boots and a well-fitting helmet. Pick a nice day; avoid the coldest and snowiest.

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