

Snoflyer

*The official publication of the
Washington State Snowmobile Association*

November 2020

Volume 43

We'll be Riding by Thanksgiving!...

If the La Niña Winter Materializes as Forecast...



Inside: ***Snowmobile WA app update***
 News from ACSA & ISMA
 Western Chapter Scholarship winning essay

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CLIMB TO NEW HEIGHTS

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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: _____

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

Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____

of Registered Sleds: _____ Number of Riders: _____

Legislative District _____ Congressional District _____

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

Name of Business or Club: _____

Owner/Business Contact or Club Contact: _____

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

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

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

Phone: _____ Email: _____ Website: _____

PAYMENT: Cash: _____ Check #: _____

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

Membership Dues: \$ _____

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

TOTAL: \$ _____

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

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

Questions about WSSA? Contact: 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 Meeting November 9th, 2021 Online

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

WSSA Meeting January 11th, 2021 Online

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.

WSSA Snowmobile & Power Sports Expo & Swap Meet Puyallup Fairgrounds October 16th-17th, 2021

The kick-off to the 21/22 snowmobile season! Don't miss out on great deals on snowmobiles, snowbikes, side-by-sides, ATVs, related parts, accessories, trailers, sled decks vacation destinations much more!

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Matt Mead, Publicity Secretary

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Leadership

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



With so many things cancelling, it is difficult to conduct business and make decisions that impact our organization, only to be put on the back burner. I ask that all of you have patience with WSSA as we continue to go forward for the snowmobiler during these trying times. United we stand.

The WSSA Board convened electronically on the evening of October 5th. Thank you again to Christine Jourdain of the American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA) for managing the meeting. As promised in September, the Board discussed the financial state of WSSA and how to move forward with the loss of the Snowmobile Expo income. An emergency budget was put together to help minimize the impact. It was determined to pay all of our bills and memberships to other organizations and to hold back on all the other budgeted items save a few. This will minimize the amount of monies we will take out of savings to survive this pandemic.

The Board also decided to go ahead with an electronic meeting on the evening of November 9th. We will be discussing what is happening with Forest Service Rangers, Over-the-Snow Travel Management Plans, WSSA board member elections for 2021-22, and the ISC (International Snowmobile Congress) 2023 request for bid.

As it stands, the January meeting will still be electronic at 6pm on the 11th.

We are still planning to have our 'Olympia Day' on January 26th. It is not certain what that will look like. More to follow from Vice President Dee Alred.

ISC 2021 is still a go in Omaha, Nebraska. WSSA was asked by the ISC Planning Committee if they would be interested in hosting ISC 2023. We will discuss this in more detail at the November and January meeting. Deadline to submit a bid is January 15th, 2021.

I am still patiently waiting for the election to be finished so we can try to make plans for the 2021 DC Fly-in. Regardless of what happens, we still need to get the snowmobile message out both locally and nationally!

A special thanks to the Mohlers and the Alreds for running a booth at The Last Resort for the purpose of getting new members for WSSA. Great job, thanks!

Another special thanks to Matt Mead for his participation in the Zoom meeting with Representative Fey, Chairman of the House Transportation Committee. I am sure he will share with everyone the outcome of that meeting. Thanks Matt!

In closing, more than ever our dealers and snowmobile-related businesses need our full support both financially and mentally!

We are still building bridges and not walls!

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



Snow is on the way! It really is! Coming over the pass this week we saw snow covering all the tops of the trees! It is predicted for the Cascades to have plenty this year! I hope everyone is getting their sleds ready and registered to ride. We should encourage everyone we know to register their sleds as it helps with the grooming. We need a lot of help with the cuts to the program this past year. The groomers are our heroes as they are out in all kinds of weather making our days out on the snow better!

All the clubs seem to be busy getting wood to warming huts and clearing the trails. They also are busy picking up trash in the forest. They are busy getting ride schedules in place for their members, and planning their events. **If you aren't a member of a club and are looking for someone to ride with, check out some of the club articles.** Contact information is listed under the club listings here in the Snoflyer.

Our November meeting will be online Monday, November 9th, at 6pm. Our board and committees will receive an e-mail to register. If anyone would like to attend, contact Dean Meakin and he can send you a link. We should have a slate of officers running for election this coming February. The positions up for election are: President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Recording Secretary. Anyone interested in one of these positions should contact Jim Kingman at jim.kingman@wssa.us or (509) 698-3658. I am running for re-election for Vice President and would appreciate your support.

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District Reports



District 1 South

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

Hello snowmobilers!

I hope everyone is getting their snowmobiles and equipment ready for an awesome upcoming season. Snow has been falling in some higher elevations and the temps have been dropping.

The Cascade Drift Skippers (CDS) had their first meeting of the season on Wednesday, October 14th, via Facebook Live. The meeting went very well considering it was the first virtual meeting of the year. Tony Keys (club president) and the board are doing a great job leading this club and are off to a great start for the season. CDS had several new members join the club recently and that speaks volumes as to how many new snowmobilers are joining in on our sport. CDS will continue to have club meetings every second Wednesday of the month at 7pm via Facebook Live until COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

The Cascade Drift Skippers have scheduled club rides every weekend throughout the season. CDS will have family rides, advanced technical rides, and thanks to Bill Yager, we are planning on having some educational/training rides such as how to retrieve a broken down sled or stuck sled over an embankment. (Thank you Bill, we are looking forward to it.) If you would like to join any CDS ride throughout the season, pay close attention to the CDS club Facebook page and the CDS club website.

Lots of other snowmobile clubs around Washington state plan on hosting rides and events on the snow this season and I encourage you to go to other areas of the state and support other local clubs and their events. I know the Northwest Glacier Cruisers up north are planning a big North Cascade Highway ride, the Yakima Ski-Benders are planning on hosting their Chinook Snowfest and great annual Kids' Ride, the Sno-Jammers in Pierce County (Greenwater area) plan on hosting their great annual Fun Run, and the Junco Snowmobile club down south will host their annual Make-A-Wish Charity on the Snow event out of the Orr Creek Sno-Park in the Mt Adams area. Lots of planned club events still scheduled, although please keep a close watch on the COVID restrictions for any mandated changes. Nevertheless,

get out there and share the love of the sport as much as you can.

A lot of our local snowmobile dealers have had sales events and they had, and still have, some great deals. Clem's Enumclaw Power Sports had a great week-long sales event in October, as so did I-90 Motorsports. The Last Resort in Ronald WA had a great open house and swap meet event in mid-October and Pierre's Polaris was there offering some great deals too. Dan Johnson with

Jet Chevrolet is also always giving great deals on trucks, snowmobile trailers, jeeps and cars, so go see Dan because "nobody beats a Jet Deal". I know we all can go online and order parts and accessories to save a few bucks, but I encourage you to support our local businesses and dealers for all your snowmobile, truck and trailer needs.

Safety: Please try and at least take an avalanche awareness class online; it may save your life or your

(Continued on page 7)

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District Reports

(Continued from page 6)

friend's life! And get all your safety gear in order and check it over for damage and functionality. Check the pressure in your avy-pack air bottle, make sure your probes work and are functioning and hopefully you pulled the batteries out of your beacon from last season and put fresh batteries in.

Please register your snowmobiles to support our statewide trail grooming program managed by Washington State Parks. Snowmobile registrations and associated fuel tax refunds are the only source of trail grooming funding and the funds are dedicated to our trail grooming program. Also, WSSA plans on hosting our annual 'All Trails to Olympia' day on January 26th, as long as we are allowed to without any COVID-related restrictions.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving and hopefully everyone gets to spend some quality time without politics with family and friends for a day of thanks.



District 3

By Greg Figg

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

It is nearing the end of October as I write this column and snow is in the forecast. This is definitely a different year to remember; no snow shows to attend or work at, no in-person club meetings, and the list goes on. Who would have thought it would be the year to stock up on toilet paper, hand sanitizer and face masks?

Some things are still moving forward such as the Forest Service with planning activities for the forest that will eliminate some roads while enhancing others. It appears the Colville National Forest has done a pretty good job at balancing interests that are not always aligned. I will stay engaged with this activity and report as details become available.

The Winter Knights and other clubs are hard at work, like the squirrels, getting the provisions in for a good winter ahead. The forecast for Northeast Washington is colder and wetter than normal so the snow pack may be quite deep leading to some very good sledding.



District 5 South

By Jim Kingman

jim.kingman@wssa.us
(509) 698-3658

We here in District 5 South are ready for snow play time! I for one am happy to just get out of town and breath different air when I get a chance.

All the clubs here have been struggling with finding places for meetings as many of you are too. The Yakima Ski-Benders as of last report were going to try and meet at Gold Creek Station. Maybe now that we have moved into Phase 2 in Yakima County things might get a little easier to meet. I am still not holding my breath though with where we are now, the uncertainty of our lives, and restrictions put on us. My hope is everyone of you are trying to keep yourself and others around you as safe as possible.

As of now I only have one issue I know of in District 5 South. That is the new gate across the entrance to the Tieton Airstrip

Tieton Airstrip is currently off-limits due to people trashing the area up.



area on White Pass. A special thank you goes out the summer people up there who like to dump their garbage. This has caused major tension between the Yakima Sheriff's Office, Washington Department of Transportation (DOT) Aviation, and the Forest Service. Thus we ended up with a gate and the whole area closed. The Drift-A-Way Snowmobile Club was to do their fall cleanup in October but the Ranger made them cancel it due to the area being a bio-hazard. If you have never been there before during snowmobile season, this is probably by far the most used area by families with children due to the wide-open airstrip for them to ride. I have been riding there since I bought my first snowmobile in 1972. I have discussed this with the Forest Service and the gate is planned to be open when there is enough snow on the road to open the sno-park. As

for the actual airstrip, I can't say for certain as I have not talked to the DOT yet. There are a lot of new signs in the area including large 'No Trespassing' signs. I will do my best to stay on top of this and keep you informed.



District 6

By Chris Shires

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

The Pomeroy Club re-chinked the interior, installed a new wood stove, and mounted a new sign on the Mt. Misery warming hut.



Mt. Misery warming hut; interior freshly re-chinked.

New wood stove. Looks warm and inviting.



New sign at Mt. Misery warming hut!

The Blue Mountain Snowmobile Club of Dayton had their October meeting last Thursday. They met with the Blue Wood Ski Resort regarding grooming and funding; a new wood stove is in the process of being built for Godman; the Forest Service is in the process of removing trees from the 700 trail; and LaRhonda McCauley has volunteered to be next club Vice President.

Want to Volunteer?

WSSA can use your help on land use, legislative, not to mention other committees. Contact President Dean Meakin and share your expertise!

Supporting Businesses

Washington State Supporting Businesses

Power Sports Repair	2001 2ndSt SE	Auburn	WA	98002	www.powersportsrepair.com	253-334-8402
Washington Cedar & Supply	1400 W Main St	Auburn	WA	98071	www.washingtoncedar.com	253-833-6149
Mt Baker Moto-Sports LLC	2111 Iowa St	Bellingham	WA	98229	www.mtbakermoto.com	360-676-4096
LLUMIN8 Lighting	18715 95 th St E	Bonney Lake	WA	98391	www.llumin8.com	253-233-7547
Jay's Snowmobile Service	1325 Hanson Loop	Burbank	WA	99323		509-845-2089
Evans Marine	1058 E Woodin Ave	Chelan	WA	98816	www.evansmarine.com	509-682-4402
Mountain Addiction	362 Porcupine Ln	Chelan	WA	98816	www.mountainaddiction.com	509-881-8016
High Country Outfitters & Camp Wahoo!	1780 Nelson Siding Rd	Cle Elum	WA	98922	www.campwahoo.com	509-674-8331
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Twisted Tunnel	82 Osprey Dr	Cle Elum	WA	98922	www.twistedtunnelparts.com	425-652-9622
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Gibsons North Fork Lodge	100 West Boone	Conconully	WA	98819	www.gibsonsnorthforklodge	509-826-1475
Kozy Kabins & RV Park	111 East Broadway	Conconully	WA	98819		509-826-6780
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Silver Ridge Ranch	182 Silver Ridge Ranch Rd	Easton	WA	98925	www.silverridgeranch.com	509-656-0275
The Fab Shop	10315 16th St E	Edgewood	WA	98372	www.thefabshop.com	253-568-9124
Ellensburg Powersports	309 S. Main St	Ellensburg	WA	98926		509-925-9330
Ellensburg Tire Center	400 W. University Way	Ellensburg	WA	98926		509-925-1044
Luft Trailer Sales	907 N Hibbs Rd	Ellensburg	WA	98926	www.lufttrailers.com	509-962-5445
Webb Power Sports	2310 W. Dolarway Rd	Ellensburg	WA	98926	www.webbpowersports.com	509-933-1737
Clem's Enumclaw Powersports	408 Roosevelt Ave	Enumclaw	WA	98022	www.enumclawsuzuki.com	360-825-4502
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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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
North Cascade Sled Decks, LLC	3923 88 th St NE, Unit P	Marysville	WA	98270	www.northcascadesleddecks.com	425-280-6017
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Elk Ridge Campground	13880 SR 410	Naches	WA	98397	www.elkridgecampground.com	509-658-2093
Gold Creek Station	18431 SR 410	Naches	WA	98937		509-658-2583
Washington Tractor	PO BOX 1098	Okanogan	WA	98840		877-422-3030
Xtreme Powersports	1930 2 nd Ave N	Okanogan	WA	98840	www.shopxtremepowersports.net	509-826-5771
WA State Parks Winter Rec Program	1111 Israel Rd SW	Olympia	WA	98504	www.state.parks.wa.us	360-902-8595
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
Anderson's Grocery	711 S Clark Ave	Republic	WA	99166		509-775-3378
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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
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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
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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
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 businesses for advertising in our Snoflyer!

Club News



Tollgate Trail Finders

By Brandon Christensen,
President

Hi snowmobile friends!
As temps cool down and leaves start to change colors it means winter is

quickly approaching. Many dread the impending whiteness. Many of us are just itching to carve the powder and blast through the beautiful country we call Tollgate. While writing this newsletter, NOAA predicts the snow level to be only 6,000 ft. It won't be long now.

The work continues. A tremendous amount of work has happened throughout the year thanks to so many folks who have been generous with their time. Filling the warming shelters with firewood, staining the logs at the Bone Springs Shelter, performing maintenance on both Tucker Sno-Cats, clearing brush on the trails, removing the ropes



and poles along private property at Mud Flats, sending out the membership renewal notices, and so much more. We are very blessed to have so many volunteers willing to help. We still have a couple work parties that will happen before the season starts in December. The roof needs to be fixed on the Bone Springs Shelter and the ropes and poles will need to be set up at Mud Flats. The work at Bone Springs will likely happen during October and the work at Mud Flats will happen towards the end of November. If you would like to help out, watch our Facebook page for updates or you can e-mail us at brandon@christensenusa.com.

OSSA and TTF membership renewal.

It is that time of year to renew your membership in both the Oregon State Snowmobile Association (OSSA) and the Tollgate Trail

Finders (TTF) Snowmobile Club. OSSA ensures we have a voice in the state and federal legislatures. Without OSSA we would not be able to afford and operate both of our Tucker Sno-Cats. Our all-volunteer groomer team is staffed by TTF members who make sure the trails are smooth as possible. They have worked on and off all summer making sure both Tuckers are ready for snow. We have also scheduled to fill the diesel tank to ensure we have enough diesel to operate both Cats all winter long.

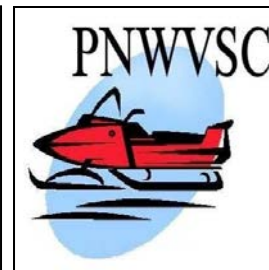
Avalanche courses this season. For you powder hounds, avalanche danger is real, and getting education and awareness is



important and could save your life or the life of someone you know. The Wallowa Avalanche Center is having an AIARE Motorized Companion Rescue Course on March 12th and Motorized Level 1 Avalanche Course on March 13th-14th. For more info, go to www.wallowaavalanchecenter.org/courses.

JMC Motorsports at Tollgate. Recently, JMC Motorsports has opened a new location at Tollgate. They are located at 62388 Hwy 204, across from the Alpine Outpost, and their phone number is (541) 248-1783. According to their website they will be open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Excited to see what they will be offering on the mountain!

We want to hear from you! In planning for the upcoming season, the TTF leadership would like to hear from you. We would like to know what you would like to see in events, rides, fundraisers, etc. Maybe you would like to see more educational opportunities, or maybe you would like to see the club organize a ride somewhere other than Tollgate (such as Halfway, McCall, or Priest Lake). Reach out to us on Facebook, reach out directly to a TTF board member, or simply show up to a meeting. Our meetings are normally the first Saturday of the month at 5pm, December through March, at the Tollgate Trail Finders clubhouse.



Pacific Northwest Vintage Snowmobile Club

By Kevin Hancock,
Webmaster

Having our events here on the West Coast canceled did not stop us from enjoying getting together. Our members had to do a bit of traveling to join other antique and vintage snowmobile enthusiasts so they could display their sleds. On September 26th they participated in the Rocky Mountain Antique Snowmobile Association's 7th Annual Lonny Custer Memorial Show in Casper, WY. (Continued on page 11)



Lonny Custer Memorial Show in Casper, WY.



Club News

(Continued from page 10) Our members did quite well! Dick Feil won 1st Place in the Antique class with his 1965 Arctic Cat 480D; 2nd Place in the Survivors' class with his 1963 Arctic Cat 250 he's named his 'Miners Sled'. Ray Bergstresser won 2nd Place in the Mini Sled Class with his 1971 Chimo, and 1st Place in the 1974-1980 Trail Sled Class with his 1974 Skiroule RTW, and 2nd place with the 1975 Scorpion Whip.

Congratulations you guys!

You can see more pictures and information visiting their facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/rmasaofficial>.

There are other happenings with this club. In late October or early November, we will place the directional signs marking the route from Taneum Sno-Park to Whistlin' Jack Lodge.

Sled restorations and repairs are being completed for this year's riding season which is predicted by the National Weather Service to be cold with above average precipitation. YES!



Methow Valley Snowmobile Association

By Dan Stanley,
Vice President

Snow has hit the upper elevations of the Methow Valley and those of you that have the itch could find a little to play in if you stay on roads.

The Silver Star Sno-Park is being completed on Hwy 20 outside of Winthrop which will allow more parking that in years past has seen congestion with skiers and snowmobilers sharing the area.

Adam Osin, the operator and mechanic for Mountain Trails Grooming Association, has been busy replacing worn parts on the groomer, assuring it will be ready to go for the season.

Some club members are gearing up to clean a section of the groomer route that over the years has made it tough for Adam to maintain.

Our newest mobile warming hut is being completed as members from Tri-River and Butte Busters help to ensure it will be ready to be towed to the Starvation Mountain location.

Like everywhere, COVID has caused our club to postpone our meetings which makes our general business and election of officers

tough. The board of directors is planning to meet to decide about ride schedules, the Annual Christmas Dinner, and this years Bucket Run. I will keep you posted with the results.



Tri-Rivers Snowmobile Club

By Kurt Hensley,
President

The Tri-Rivers Snowmobile Club has been busy this fall working on the Shrew Creek Warming Hut. We have had two work parties headed up by Methow Snowmobile Club president Craig Stahl. Through our WSSA Trail Grants, we have been able to secure an office from Century Link and put it on a trailer and put in new floors, stove, benches, windows and etc. We have a bit of work to finish it up and get it up on the mountain. Hopefully this fall, depending on weather. Craig has spent many hours working on the

(Continued on page 12)



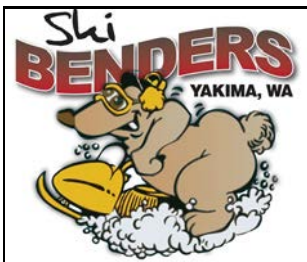
Tri-Rivers club members working with the Methow Valley Snowmobile Association, prepping a new warming hut for Shrew Creek.



Club News

(Continued from page 11)

hut and our club has had several work parties. Julie Johnson has painted the hut, and Gary and Robin Whiteley along with my wife Julie and I, have helped get the trailer ready, working many hours with Craig.



Yakima Ski-Benders

By Liz Van Amburg, President

Hi from Yakima!

The Ski-Benders held our first COVID club meeting. We had 30 members in attendance and two members via Zoom; I think we all missed each other. (Yes, we followed the proper guidelines.) Huge thank you to Amie at Gold Creek Station; she made some awesome lasagna as well as offering us her full menu! We really appreciated it! The Ski Benders had a lot to catch up on.

We are moving forward on getting a structure started for Chinook Pass to use as a warming hut, and where a helicopter could land in an emergency. The members had some great ideas. We will keep you posted as we move forward on this project.

We have to cancel our annual crab feed, but if you want to donate something, we will be holding a raffle. Please call and I will be happy to give you the details (509) 225-6681.

Ron Lind and Ron Alred stepped up and will chair our Chili Ride scheduled for January 16th. Look for more details to come!

We are moving forward to have the Poker Ride and Kids Ride as well.

I can't stress enough for all the clubs out there to get

members to pay their dues as this will be the only money coming in for a while! Thank you to all who have already paid!

I would like to give a huge shout out to Chad Atkins, Mike Van Am- (Continued on page 13)



Snowmobilers and off-road guys rebuilding bridges on Chinook Pass trails.



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- Tie Down Rail System
- 110 Electric Converter & Outlets
- Fold Down Work Bench
- LED Load Lights
- Ribbon Graphic



Club News

(Continued from page 12)



burg, Chad, Jolene, Adison and Regan Vesey, Sam, Amber and Allie Ross, Ron Rutherford and Skip Frans; they built two new bridges up Little Naches over the past two weekends. This is a huge task and they did it in less than four days! They even had some white

stuff fall on them! As I write this, Mike Van Amburg, Sam Ross, Chad Atkins and a few others will be widening the Gold Creek bridge tomorrow. Skip Frans has a group doing the one on top of Kaner flats. It takes all of us coming together to keep all (Continued on page 14)

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Club News

our trails open.

(Continued from page 13)

The next Ski-Bender meeting is November 3rd at Gold Creek Station. I guess that is it for now; pray for snow!



Sno-Jammers Snowmobile Club

By Chris Sutton,
President

We can tell you all have been doing your snow dances because the weather predictions are looking good for this winter! We are hopeful for a long snowmobile season and we are also looking forward to doing something 'normal' again for a change! If you have not already dusted off your sleds and started going down your pre-season checklists, now is the time...

We have been reluctantly, but successfully, hosting our general club meetings via Zoom for the past few months. We really appreciate everyone who has attended them, helping the club move forward through these difficult times! These meetings are always held on the first Wednesday of each month from 6pm to 8pm during the season. We are working with local businesses to figure out a safe and legal way to meet in-person again and any updates will be announced on our website and Facebook once reservations can be made!

The Sno-Jammers have launched a 'public' version of our 50/50 raffle for everyone to play! Raffle tickets can be purchased for \$1 each at Clem's Enumclaw Powersports or from any participating member until the night before our jackpot drawing on December 19th. Some lucky person is going to walk away with 50% of the proceeds from the raffle and now everyone gets a chance to be that winner! More details are available on our Facebook page and website!

A HUGE thank you from the Sno-Jammers goes out to Austin Miller and Kris Gutto at American Tree and Excavation Service LLC in Puyallup for donating two-plus years of firewood for the cabin and keeping us warm through the winter! Their generous donation allowed us to

have a successful 1st annual 'End of Summer Barbecue and Wood Splitting Party' in Enumclaw on October 3rd. This was a fun 'family friendly' event with almost 30 volunteers, both BIG and small, who braved the outdoors to spend a Saturday social distancing with us to work for amazing food provided by a generous member, Kurt Knutz!

On October 11th, Glenn Markovits, Renée Miner, Christina Markovits, and Tanner Hamlyn, spent the day putting up the trail signs on the Greenwater side. We appreciate their effort in making sure everyone knows where to go this winter! Theft and vandalism of these signs is an ongoing problem, and they are expensive to replace. We would appreciate it if you see anything that you report it to us. Thank you!

Most of our local dealers and sponsors have successfully had their 'Open Houses', including Clem's Enumclaw Powersports, I-90 Motorsports, and The Last Resort in Roslyn. There was even an 'underground' sleds swap meet held up north that made up for the cancelation of the WSSA Snow Show. All of them were fun to attend and we enjoyed being able to interact with everyone in

person again!

We will have the cabin stocked with the firewood and ready for the season by the time you read this after our planned cabin work party, weather permitting!

Our Road Clean-Up was unfortunately postponed until next spring due to the Highway 410 closure from the summer fires.

We are filling our 'Events Calendar' this season with rides for 'all levels' of experience! 'Family friendly' rides and 'kids rides' are also going to be a MAJOR focus of the Club as we attempt to get back to some roots! We want to bring back more incentives and events for members and we are working to organize clinics and classes for people who want to learn different riding techniques or get safety training. We ALL want to live to ride another day and learn new things to make ourselves better riders! The Sno-Jammers want to help you reach your goals of getting out to ride more often and meeting new people to ride safely with! Consider joining us this winter for a ride and let us know what you think!

We will also be having our 31st Annual Fun Run (tentatively) on (Continued on page 15)



JJ and Addy helping Brian load the trailer while Jeff Rinck keeps splitting wood. Chad Hansen is operating the excavator.



Christina, Tanner and the Hamlyns on their own log splitter.



Kurt Knutz kept the group happy and well fed with amazing lunch and dinner from his smoker.



Don McCallum using his chainsaw to cut logs into rounds.

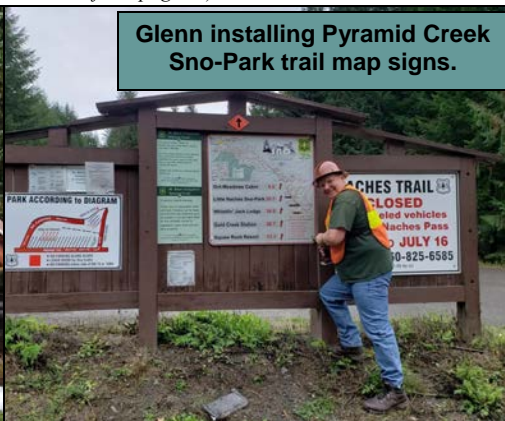
Club News

(Continued from page 14)



Tanner & Christina checking out the Government Meadows cabin.

would like to attend! Please watch for more details to come and don't forget to follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1302044879815501> or on our website at <http://www.snojammers.org> for announcements and updates on upcoming events!



Glenn installing Pyramid Creek Sno-Park trail map signs.

February 27th at Government Meadows if you



Winter Knights

By Greg Figg, President

The Winter Knights have had a busy fall with woodcutting for our two warming huts and running the trails to make sure we are all set for winter. We have been having our board meetings and club meetings virtually with Zoom. We are getting better at that as we have a few meetings behind us now. We are also staying abreast with changes the Forest Service is working on for the Colville National Forest.

The forecast for our area is wetter and colder so we are planning on a great year of sledding. In fact they are predicting snow as I write this article. We are working on putting together a great ride schedule and will be working to ensure that we comply the guidelines for group sizes.



Winter Knights stocking the warming huts!

The club recently lost one of our respected members, Wayne Smith. Below is a write up from a 2009 booklet called 'We Honor Our Magnolia Veterans' shared by Wayne's wife Peggy:

Wayne was born October 31st, 1946, in Evansville Indiana. He graduated from Magnolia High School in 1965 and married Peggy Swiney in January 1966.

In December, he received a Christmas Card from the President of the United States instructing him to report on January 10th, 1967, to Fort Polk, Louisiana, for eight weeks of basic training. Then, he went on to Advanced Infantry Training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Then on to Artillery Officer Candidate School graduating November 7th, 1967. Wayne volunteered for Rotary Wing (helicopter) Flight School. He and Peggy then went to Fort Wolters, Texas, for primary helicopter training and the birth of their first son, Christopher. Wayne finished his final phase of Flight School at Hunter Army Airfield, Georgia, in December 1968.

Wayne went to Vinh Long, Viet Nam, in January 1969, while Peggy moved back to Magnolia. Wayne was assigned to the 7th Squadron 1st Air Cavalry and volunteered to fly in the Scout Platoon.

Air Cavalry was a relatively new concept at the time, designed to 'seek out and destroy' an elusive enemy. It involved missions consisting of one or two Scout OH-6 Observation Helicopters commonly referred to as 'Lochs' and two AH-1G 'Cobra' gunships with a UH-1H 'Huey' Command and Control Ship (C&C). Scouts would fly at tree top level, while gunships orbited at altitude above. Upon contact with the enemy, Scouts would mark enemy positions with smoke and the gunships would roll in with rocket and mini-gun fire. C&C would then radio back to the staging area for the Lift Platoon to bring in ground troops.

With almost 1,000 combat hours and his Viet Nam service, Wayne was awarded two Distinguished Flying Crosses, The Bronze Star, three Purple Hearts, Air Medal with 37th Award and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry.

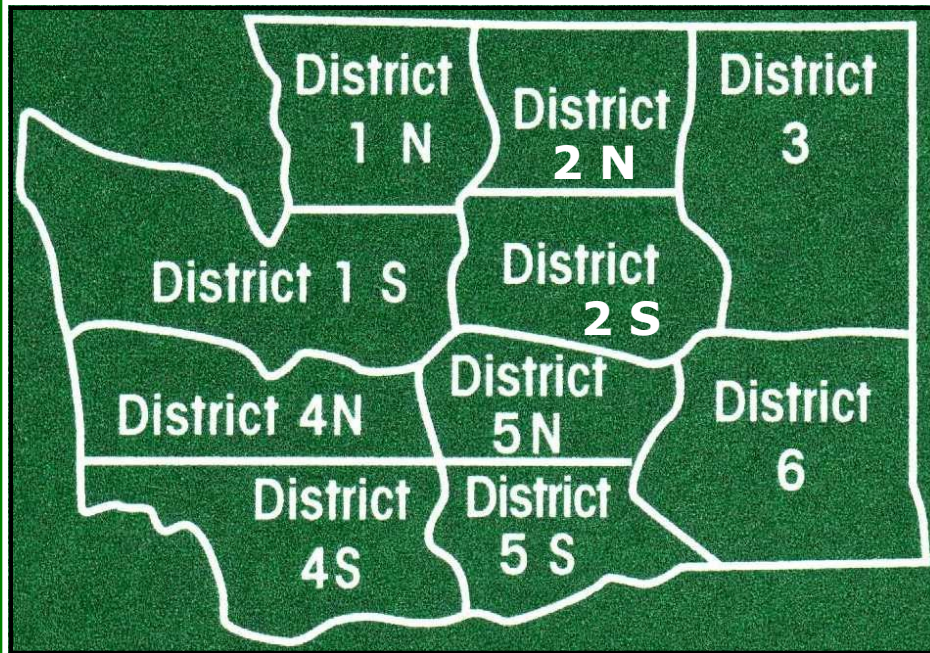
After Viet Nam, Wayne returned to Fort Wolters, Texas, where he served as a helicopter instructor. Following that, he served in numerous aviation and armor unit assignments at Fort Hood, Texas, where his second son Brent was born. Wayne decided to make a career of the U.S. Army. He attended Infantry Officers Advanced Course, Jump School, and Command General and Staff College. Key assignments included Command of a Tank Company at Fort Hood, command of an Attack Troop, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Germany and Professor of Military Science at Lamar University, Beaumont, Texas, as a Lieutenant Colonel. He retired after twenty years of service and was awarded the Legion of Merit.

After retirement, Wayne became a financial planner for the military for 10 years. Then he worked as the Assistant Director for Bell City Probation Department, retiring March 2007.

Wayne moved to Washington and joined the Winter Knights Snowmobile Club in 2012. Here he became the Director of the Search and Rescue Unit. He became very involved within the club. He and Peggy became avid snowmobilers and ATV riders.



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
(509) 486-2284
whistlerman_2000@yahoo.com
[Butte Busters Snowmobile Club](#)

Crawfish Lake Snowmobile Club

James Peterson
(425) 277-0141
jhenryp1@aol.com

Methow Valley Snowmobile Assoc.

Craig Stahl
(509) 996-2378
methowsnowmobilers@gmail.com
www.mvsnwmobile.blogspot.com
[Methow Valley Snowmobile Association](#)

Mountain Trails Grooming Assoc.

Chuck Ultican
(509) 996-4309
mountaintrailsgrooming@gmail.com

North Central ATV Club of WA

Tim Weller
(509) 826-6780
ncatvclub@live.com
[North Central ATV Club of Washington](#)

Republic Tree Benders

Brian McKay
(509) 775-3511
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
applecountrysnowmobileclub@yahoo.com
www.applecountrysnowmobileclub.com
[Apple Country Snowmobile Club](#)

Bavarian Boondockers

Matt Kensrud
(509) 433-2100
info@bavarianboondockers.com
www.bavarianboondockers.com
[Bavarian Boondockers](#)

Lake Chelan Snowmobile Club

Devon Griffith
(509) 679-9704
devongriffith64@gmail.com
www.lkchelansnowmobileclub.com
[Lake Chelan Snowmobile Club](#)

Lake Wenatchee Recreation Club

Michelle Kocher
(509) 763-3858
www.lakewenatcheerecclub.com
[Lake Wenatchee Rec Club \(LWRC\)](#)

District 3

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

Chewelah Sno Posse

Howard Justice
(509) 233-8027
chewelahnposse@gmail.com

Colville Driftriders

Steve Fogle
(509) 684-3601

Spokane Winter Knights

Greg Figg
(509) 534-3417
greg.f@msn.com
www.winterknights.com
[Spokane Winter Knights Snowmobile Club](#)

District 4 North (Grays Harbor/Lewis/Mason/Pacific/Pierce/Thurston Counties)

Junco Snowmobile Club

Tom Imm
(253) 370-6145
tombimm@gmail.com
[Junco Snowmobile Club](#)

Lewis County Drift Skippers

Jim Beslow
(360) 494-6690
beslowsap@gmail.com

Northwest Boondockers

Mike Eveler
(360) 893-3035
mike.eveler@cpfd.com

Sno-Jammers Snowmobile Club

Chris Sutton
253-224-8806
snowkingsutton79@gmail.com
www.snojammers.org
[SnoJammers](#)

District 4 South

(Clark/Cowlitz/Skamania/Wahkiakum Counties)

Mt Adams Snowmobile Club

Shay Smith
(541) 490-0891
mtadamssnowmobileclub@gmail.com
[Mt Adams Snowmobile Club](#)

Mt St Helens Trac Riders

Doug Wick
(360) 751-8250
dwick@entekhrvac.com
[Mt. St. Helens Trac Riders](#)

District 5 North

(Kittitas County)

Barnyard Racing

Erik Clark
fj55@comcast.net

Hi Country Beelers

Dan Johnson
(253) 838-7600
jetjohnso@aol.com

Reecer Creek Riders

Bill Miller
(509) 899-0243
reecercreekriders@gmail.com
www.reecercreekriders.org
[Reecer Creek Riders](#)

Snomads

BJ Oswald
(206) 227-2912
bjoswald21@gmail.com
[Snomads of Easton](#)

Stampede Summit Seekers

Jim Sternod
(206) 948-2946
stampedesummitseekers@gmail.com
[Stampede Summit Seekers](#)

Teanaway Snowmobile Club

Charles Johnson
(509) 674-6803 • ochasjohn1@mac.com

District 5 South

(Benton/Klickitat/Yakima Counties)

Cascade Snow Drifters

Nina Gottschalk
(509) 697-6586 • maxx321@q.com

Chinook Pass Snowmobile Club

Bob Jump
(509) 966-5074

Drift-A-Way Snowmobile Club

Jim Kingman
(509) 698-3658 •
mtnmax777@yahoo.com

Yakima Ski-Benders

Liz Van Amburg
(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/VSTOTINW.html

Safety with Jon

Prepping for a new season!

By Jon Ferrian — wssasafety101@gmail.com

Safety is a mindset and a lifestyle that can help you enjoy life to the fullest!

Many people view safety, safety gear, and preparing and planning for safety as a burden but today I want to share with you how having a mindset and lifestyle of safety actually saves you time and allows you to have even more fun vs. just winging it or not considering safety.

Here is a simple example of what I mean and how making a simple plan to be prepared could save you time, energy and make more time for fun!

My friend Frank was going out riding with his family last winter and on his ride, he was riding with his wife and teenage son Jason. Frank is a 'wing it' kind of guy and believed he was living life to the fullest by living a full throttle life and did not have time to make good plans or pack safety gear and supplies.

Frank and his family were riding the trails up at Stampede Pass and while he and his family were enjoying the ride they came to an open meadow where the trail crossed and near some trees and he

#LiveLARGE

Jon Ferrian LIVE



stopped his wife and son for a brief moment and told them "the snow is awesome! Let's ride here for a while and shred this deep pow!" Frank took off like a bat out of hell and left his wife and son alone and started to tear up the deep untouched snow! Frank was having an amazing time on his new sled he had just picked up that fall and he was having so much fun! About 45 minutes later, Frank started to go back to where he had left his son and his wife, and they were not there. It has been snowing the whole time and all the sled tracks had been covered up. Frank was concerned but didn't have any way to get in touch with his family as they did not have radios and their cell phones didn't work in the location they were in. Frank sat around for about 10 minutes before he decided to go and look for his wife and son down the trail to see where they had gone. He spent approximately 15 more minutes riding around before he went back to their original location where he left them. As he sat their waiting and worrying about his family he started to wonder if they had gone back to the truck at the snowpark or if they were stuck, or even worse, maybe hurt and needing help. Frank was getting very worried about his

(Continued on page 18)

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Safety with Jon

(Continued from page 17)

family and started to think about how easy it would be to reach them if they all were riding with radios, and he also considered that maybe he should have created a plan to all stick together and how he should not have ridden off to go shred alone.... Ugh, what was going on... Frank was REALLY getting concerned now. After waiting a little longer, he decided he better go back to the truck and see if his son and wife may have ridden back to the truck without him for some reason. This trip to the truck lasted another 30 minutes and when he arrived there was again no sign of his family. He did have a cell signal in the sno-park so he tried to call his wife and son on their cell phones just in case he could get through. NOTHING.... Oh man, this is getting crazy now since Frank had not seen his family for over two hours now. Frank got back on his sled and decided to go back up again to where he had seen his wife and son last. By the time he had arrived it had burned up almost three hours of his day and most of that was not shredding pow, it was conducting his search for his family. Still nothing... Frank decided to go and see if his family was at the power lines and maybe had dropped off the large climbing hill just over the next ridge; he remembered that being his son's favorite riding area. After another 15-minute ride, Frank saw his son Jason standing at the bottom of the hill next to his wife and his wife's sled, but Jason's sled was not anywhere in sight. When Frank rode down to talk to his wife and son, he was



greeted by his wife and son saying, "where the hell have you been?" Jason had tried to climb this hill and had fallen off his sled and it had traveled down the hill and into the trees where the sled hit a tree and tore the front right ski and A-arm off the sled. Frank's wife and son had been stranded in this spot for the last two hours and did not have any way to communicate with Frank or anyone else since they had no radios or satellite communicators. They also did not have any way to move or tow the sled out since they did not have any tow straps. This was a complete \$H!T SHOW!

Long story short... it took Frank and his family the rest of the afternoon on that Saturday to get the three of them out of the back-country on two sleds after getting the damaged sled pulled off of the tree and out to an open area where they could try to recover the sled with the help of friends the next day.

- Frank's wife was angry at him.
- Frank's son was angry at him.
- Frank's friends who he called to help with the sled recovery the following day were also not happy to spend their Sunday out recovering a sled instead of watching the football game.

Here are a few things that could have turned out extremely different had Frank not been so selfish and wanted to 'shred the POW'

by himself for that 45 minutes without any kind of plan or safety gear.

- Frank could have planned with his family to stick together and ride together so they never lost track of each other in the first place.
- Frank could have bought radios for his family so they could have been in contact regardless of getting separated.
- Frank could have helped talk his son through where they should and should not have been riding and in this case, Frank could have told his son to stay in the meadow for now and then Jason would likely not have had his accident and wrecked the sled.
- Frank could have had a tow strap with him to be able to recover the sled on his own if there was an accident.
- Had Frank talked to Jason that day about a safety plan and how to be more careful on the hill climb, then Jason also could have likely navigated a better route on the hill climb to have avoided the accident.

BOTTOM LINE: Had Frank spent some time preparing better for his day with a plan and equipment, he and his family ALL would have had a much more fun day on the mountain! Frank's selfish desire to go shred POW and not lay out a safety plan or have safety equipment for the day meant he only got to really enjoy about 45 minutes of his entire weekend of riding. Instead he ended up spending the entire weekend having to search for his family and digging his way back out of a very BAD situation. Luckily, nobody was hurt and only a series of life lessons were learned along the way.

Don't be Frank! Make a plan, consider safety and have the right safety and recovery equipment with you and this situation could almost certainly been avoided or at least minimized to allow everyone involved including Frank to have a much more epic weekend on the mountain!

P.S. The story is fiction and the picture was borrowed from Google.



Follow the State Parks Winter
Recreation Program on Twitter
@WaStatePks_WNTR

State Parks Update

By Pamela McConkey, Winter Recreation Program Manager

A Busy Fall!

Your Winter Recreation Program staff have been very busy this 'off' season! We have been working with our Contracts Office getting the service contracts out to all your wonderful contractors who provide the services you have all come to depend on. Snow removal, trail grooming, sanitation and of course education and enforcement. Your contractors put in countless hours in all sorts of weather conditions providing these services so when you arrive at the sno-park you will find plowed parking areas, clean and serviced sanitation and smooth groomed trails. Next time you are out and see one of these fine folks, give them a full hand wave and holler thanks. They appreciate you being there, and we know that you appreciate them too.

RTP Grants

Every two years we have the opportunity to apply for Recreational Trails Program grants. When successful, these grants help supplement the program and provide much needed dollars for trail maintenance services (snow removal and trail grooming). By the time this Snoflyer is published, we will have submitted four grants for different areas across the state.

SMAC

The Snowmobile Advisory Committee (SMAC) met virtually again in October to review By-Laws and Operating Procedures. The Committee is adjusting well to the new world of virtual meetings, however, have all

expressed their hopes we will soon be able to meet again in person. If you have any questions for the Committee or want to know who your area representative is, check out our website for their information.
www.parks.state.wa.us/winter

I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND!

I don't understand vandalism! I never have! I'm sure I never will! Do people really think others care they were 'here' on X date, or what their political views are, or that Joanie loves Chachi? It saddens me to see the warming huts/shelters snowmobile clubs have worked so hard to get permission to have, build, maintain and stock with firewood year after year only to return to more vandalism, or find their ax and firewood have been stolen. These club members devote countless hours and hard work to keep and maintain these structures so others have a destination to ride to, a safe haven to wait out a storm or a place to hunker down in that may save someone's life. I know that most, if not all, of the vandalism and theft happens by other users and not snowmobilers, so don't think I'm placing blame on the snowmobilers. I don't understand why anyone needs a sno-park sign in their garage or why they need to use the signs as a target for shooting at. Targets are easily purchased and don't cost near as much as the signs. Signs cost money, that money

(Continued on page 20)



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.



Connect with us on social media



www.twitter.com/WASatePks



www.facebook.com/WashingtonStateParks



www.youtube.com/WashingtonStateParks



www.instagram.com/WASatePks

Share your stories and photos: AdventureAwaits.com

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	3,220	246
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	3,620	258

State Parks Update

(Continued from page 19) comes out of your snowmobile dollars, not some 'bottomless government fund', and they are there to provide direction to sno-parks, where to park, information while on the trails and more. I don't expect anyone to be confrontational if they see someone doing this vandalism, but maybe if they were politely educated that these huts/shelters and



signs are paid for by snowmobilers for snowmobilers they would have more respect and appreciation. I just don't understand!

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



Membership

Membership Matters

By Wayne & Florence Mohler, Membership Co-Chairs

With the cancellation of the snow shows around the state, several of the dealers and others are hosting different kinds of events to help generate interest in the upcoming snow season. Several are being tied in with dealer Open Houses and other outdoor events. There's a lot of enthusiasm for these events and it's a good pick-me-up for what has been a less than exciting summer.

On to the membership items: Your membership will become inactive if you haven't renewed by December. Please renew right away. A big thank you to everyone who has already renewed.

Dues are \$25 for Individual/Families and for Clubs. Dues for Associate members (Dealers and Businesses) are \$50. For clubs that collect WSSA dues from your members, please forward the WSSA portion of the dues right away. If your club has a new President or contact person to list in the Snoflyer, please let us know who it is and provide the updated information.

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

Snowmobile WA App

2020/2021 Update

Download today for Android or Apple

Jennifer Hackett, from Washington Hometown, is continuing to seek input from users to make the Snowmobile WA app even better. Below are three things she is hoping you will help with:



Washingtonhometown.com
jennifer@washingtonhometown.com

1. One of the major changes is users can filter points to highlight places that meet their needs. For businesses, this is things like services (rents snowmobiles, parts, serves food) and days open. But we can also filter recreation facilities (once again, just points not trails). It would be helpful to have feedback from the snowmobile community to understand what filters you want to see. Some of these may be applied to existing data (like pass requirements or bathroom locations) but there may be some filters that would require research. If so, now is the time to let me know so I can get that data incorporated while I am doing my annual update.

2. A paid service, the onX hunting app, is subscribing to my data for the Snowmobile App. This is will provides additional funding to help cover development costs, and is good for the snowmobile community as it provides another avenue for the same quality data if people prefer this app (or subscribe because they want a larger region.) As part of this project, I am reaching out to snowmobilers to try to get pictures and descriptions of the trails that I have identified as being five miles or greater in length. I am hoping some of the local clubs will help me gather this data. In exchange, I will give any club that helps free club placement on the app (club name and link in the places they select), up to four printable GeoPDF maps, any size they can use, share or even sell, and acknowledgement on my webpage. Some of this data may need to be captured during this upcoming season, but people may have some of the data already.

3. I am also hoping to work with local clubs to identify landmarks, points of interest, viewpoints or trail side facilities that should be included on the maps. We already have huts (although we might be missing some) but I think the maps would be richer with more of this type of contact.

ACSA E-News

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



Gray Wolf No Longer 'Endangered'

Recently the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) announced the gray wolf has been removed from the Endangered Species List. It has been federally protected since 1967.

After reviewing the best available scientific data, the FWS determined the wolf population no longer meets the definition of a threatened or endangered species.

Bitterroot National Forest Travel Plan

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed a lower court's ruling that upheld most of the new restrictions on snowmobile and ATV use in Wilderness Study Areas contained in the updated Bitterroot National Forest Travel Plan.

Seven motorized groups filed a lawsuit challenging the update to the Bitterroot National Forest Travel Plan signed in 2016.

The travel plan update followed nine years of public involvement, a record 13,400 comments, and court decisions that altered the process midstream before the final plan was approved. It was the **first update to the Forest's Travel Plan in 40 years.**

The plan dictates how both summer and winter motorized use is managed on the 1.6 million-acre National Forest.

Dan Thompson from the Bitterroot Ridge Runners Snowmobile Club and Ravalli County Off-Road Users Association said the organizations that filed the appeal "knew it was a longshot, but we all felt so strongly about the Travel Plan that we decided we didn't have any other choice but to see it through to the end."

The groups that filed the appeal include the two Thompson belongs to and the Bitterroot Backcountry Cyclists, Backcountry Sled Patriots, Montana Snowmobile Association, Citizens for Balanced Use and the Montana Trail Vehicle Riders Association.

In Case You Missed This.....

Senator Mike Lee (R-UT) introduced the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Legal Reform Act; legislation that would make it harder for special interests to delay much-needed infrastructure projects with nuisance lawsuits.

"Environmental planning is absolutely essential to sustainable growth, but unfortunately NEPA has been turned into a weapon used by special interests to delay much-needed infrastructure and maintenance projects throughout our country," Sen. Lee said. "The NEPA Legal Reform Act is common sense policy that will reduce nuisance lawsuits, make infrastructure projects more efficient and affordable, all while preserving the necessary environmental planning process."

Recreation Industry Briefing

Recently the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable provided an industry update to members of Congress and their staff members. The focus was to promote the importance of recreation and to provide an update on the last few months as well as a forecast for the coming season.

The Zoom briefing included Outdoor Recreation Caucus members and representatives of the boating, snowmobiling, RV, and other sports sectors who outlined new data related to consumer behavior during the pandemic, future challenges and the importance of key outdoor recreation policy to reinvigorate the U.S. economy while

keeping up with the increasing interest in outdoor activities.

Lumber Prices

Meanwhile, lumber prices continue to trend downward from mid-September peak but are still high. For the week ending October 16th, prices stood above \$750 per thousand board feet, down nearly \$200 since their all-time high last month.

Since mid-April, lumber prices have soared nearly 120%, but are down roughly 20% since mid-September. This unprecedented lumber price spike over the last several months has added more than \$16,000 to the price of a typical new single-family home.

August Windstorm Damages in Midwest at \$7.5 Billion

Damage estimates from a rare windstorm that slammed Iowa and some other parts of the Midwest in August are growing, with the total now at \$7.5 billion, according to a new report.

The 14-hour storm hit Iowa hard but also caused damage in Illinois, Ohio, Minnesota and Indiana. The U.S. Agriculture Department estimated Iowa farmers would be unable to harvest at least 850,000 acres of crops this fall because of the damage.

NOAA said it's currently the second-costliest U.S. disaster so far in 2020, although cost estimates for widespread wildfires along the West Coast aren't yet available.

Michigan Looks to State Forests as an Offset for Carbon Emissions

Michigan's forests annually soak up millions of metric tons of carbon dioxide, converting car and power plant pollution into wood, soil and other biomass.

State officials are now embarking on a pilot program to quantify **and monetize that value as the state charts a path toward 'net-zero'** carbon emissions.

Under the plan, the 100,000-acre Pigeon River State Forest will be managed in a way that maximizes carbon storage. A Utah-based company will calculate how much carbon is stored in the Forest and help sell the value as carbon credits in a voluntary market.

The Forest would continue to be logged under the plan, but in a way that maximizes carbon storage.

Wanted: Snowmobile Clubs

For folks in snowmobile clubs, the worst-kept secret is this: Clubs are the very backbone of the sport. They not only make the trail system and land access possible but they also provide a vital social and networking aspect to participants.

Take a minute to boast and brag about your club! Visit <https://form.jotform.com/201886595285066> to fill out this very short form. Get your club and your members the recognition you deserve!

Improving California Air Quality?

California's climate-change agenda is among the most ambitious in the United States, but thanks to wildfires, forests are "part of the problem, not part of the solution," Edie Chang, a deputy executive director at the California Air Resources Board (CARB), told Reuters. California plans to be carbon-neutral by 2045, but any plan that relies on keeping forests healthy could be frustrating.

A record 4 million acres in California have burned, releasing dec-

(Continued on page 22)

ACSA E-News

(Continued from page 21)

ades of stored carbon into the atmosphere. That amounts to more than 200 million metric tons of carbon dioxide, assuming the scorched acres held similar amounts of carbon as acres burned in previous years, said Emily McGlynn, an environmental economist at the University of California, Davis.

That is equivalent to nearly half the state's annual human-caused emissions. And that is just for 2020.

Between 2001 and 2014, California's forests lost an amount of carbon equivalent to 511 million metric tons of CO2 emissions, roughly the same amount emitted by the state's transportation sector over three years, according to CARB.

Wildfires accounted for 75% of that carbon release from forests, while logging and tree pruning as part of forest management made up the rest.

California's record wildfires pose a problem for the state's plan to use its forests to help offset climate-warming emissions.

Just For FUN!

The Midwest had their first snow recently! Enthusiasm was obvious with the sleds that were able to get out for at least a short ride:

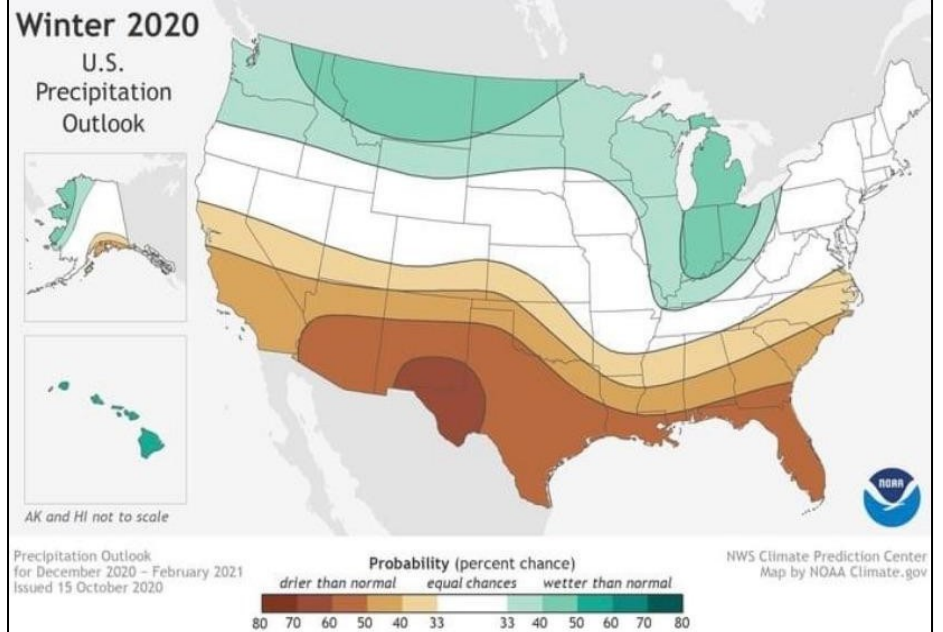


Secretary Perdue Statement on President Trump's Trillion Trees

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue issued the following statement after President Trump signed the Executive Order establishing the One Trillion Trees Interagency Council: "The Trillion Tree Executive Order signed today by President Trump further demonstrates the Administration's commitment and leadership in ensuring our National Forests are healthy and productive so they can continue to meet the needs of citizens and communities, both now and into the future. When I was growing up on my family farm, my father always taught me to appreciate that 'when it comes to the land, we want to leave it bet-

ter than we found it'. The President's Executive Order will do just that - leave it better than we found it - and help bolster the 193 million acres of National Forest System lands to promote recreation, enjoyment, and sustainable economic prosperity across broad sectors of the rural economy."

Just released from NOAA:

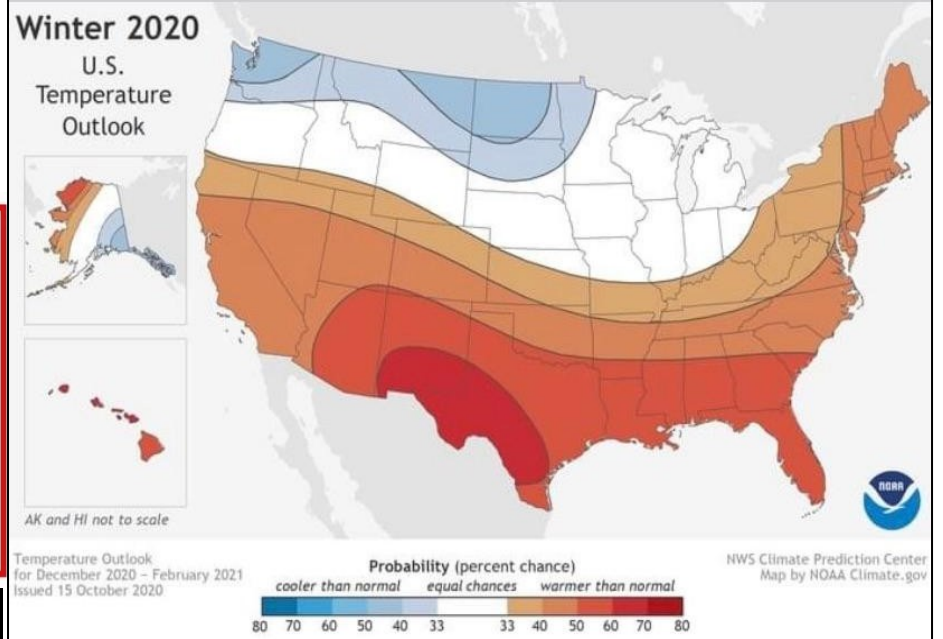


2

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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!





"No Trespassing" Poster Design Challenge

**#Know Where To Go
Or there will be NO where to go!!**

Trespassing = Lost Riding!

We need ideas from YOU!

Trespassing is the #1 reason for lost trails and riding areas on public and private lands.

We need to reach the trespassers -
They need to understand trespassing is not okay!

GIVE US YOUR BEST IDEAS!



2020 Poster Winner

The Poster Challenge is open to all original ideas and designs. No Copyrighted Information is allowed.

Poster Challenge is open to ALL Ages. Submit your original poster design by **January 15, 2021**.

All submissions will be reviewed by the ACSA Trespass Committee after January 15th.

Prizes will be awarded to the top 3 ideas/submittals. Prize Winners will be notified by **February 5, 2021**.



**** Submit your Poster designs to: info@snowmobilers.org**

This Challenge is open to snowmobiles of all ages. Participation in the challenge constitutes entrant's full and unconditional agreement of acceptance of the Rules and the decisions of ACSA, which are final and binding. All entries become the property of ACSA and will not be returned.

ISMA Update

Snowmobile season about to begin

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

The weather forecasters are pointing towards a great, snowy, cold winter for 2020-2021 in most of North America. The Old Farmer's Almanac, in addition to other weather aficionados, are forecasting above average snowfall, cold weather, and generally a great snowmobiling season. (They didn't use those exact words, but I knew what they meant!)

Even though the big fall snowmobile shows have been cancelled, there have been many great events held throughout the snowbelt. The snowmobile events that have been held have reported excellent crowds (practicing safe distancing and wearing of masks), high enthusiasm, and strength in sales of snowmobiles as well as parts, accessories, and other service items.

Following the excellent sales season established by the ATV/UTV industry, the boating industry, and the recreational vehicle industry, we are optimistic sales and use of snowmobiles will be strong.

The snowmobile clubs and associations/federations are currently clearing and brushing trails, replacing signs and preparing for the upcoming season. In addition to the clubs and associations gathering momentum, the legislature in Washington D.C. has been reviewing the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) and is planning to possibly increase the amount of trail money that will be distributed through the RTP. This will hopefully come to a conclusion over the next six to nine months and you should know the American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA) and their members have been very helpful in promoting the expansion of the RTP throughout the United States. Through the hard work of many snowmobilers, the land managers and their teams are effectively using new monies that have been provided to them by the legislature and their efforts should result in better riding areas, better trailheads, and overall better conditions for all of us.

One can notice the explosive introduction of new high-quality trucks and large SUVs being sold as tow vehicles in the marketplace. There are many individuals

moving from an automobile to a truck and are prime potential customers for snowmobiling and other outdoor recreational activities – all the while maintaining social distancing. The new trucks feature additional safety features and are also more welcoming to drivers of all ages – both male and female.

The snowmobile manufacturers are working hard to introduce very high-quality snowmobiles with fun built into their products. Snowmobiles continue to improve in comfort and handling.

This winter looks and feels like it will be a great time for the snowmobile community, and we encourage everyone to participate with their local clubs and state/provincial associations/federations and plan to participate in some great fun events.

We encourage you to share your fun snowmobiling photos on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/GoSnowmobiling for all to see. Check our website www.snowmobile.org for dates and ideas to participate in International Snowmobile Safety Week in January 2021 and Take a Friend Snowmobiling Week in February 2021. We also have the Safe Riders video chapters for download too.

ISMA

International
Snowmobile
Manufacturers
Association



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.

Feature

Western Chapter Scholarship Winning Essay

Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association Partnerships

By Courtney Holt, Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association

(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.)

Snowmobiling is not just a hobby; for many Saskatchewan people, snowmobiling is a passion and a way of life and it provides an important connection to nature. The first ever snowmobile made in Saskatchewan was in 1950, today there are thousands of snowmobiles around. In Saskatchewan snowmobiling is one of the most popular winter activities along with surrounding provinces. The majority of people who own a snowmobile belong to a snowmobile association and are encouraged to help throughout the community to keep their snowmobile association up and running. Without an association snowmobiling would not be made possible today. Associations allow people to follow their passion of snowmobiling and make connections with nature. Associations are made possible because of partnerships and the surrounding community. This essay will give full knowledge of the reasons why partnerships are important and needed, some of Saskatchewan's partnerships in the snowmobile association and how these partnerships work with the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association, along with an idea of creating a new partnership and where that could be located.

The last few years Saskatchewan has not received as much snow as the people would



like, so not many have been out riding, with little to do at shacks and grooming trails Saskatchewan's partners stuck by the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association. The association receives grants and donations from various supporters. The money is used to groom trails, build new warm up shacks, throw a festival for Saskatchewan snowmobilers, organize training courses, promote and teach safe snowmobiling, care for the land snowmobilers ride on, etc. Without these actions there would be no new snowmobilers due to no training courses, intoxicated riders everywhere, spirit of snowmobiling would be lost, and loss of land for trails to be established. Many families of the snowmobile community would be devastated to realize they will not be able to ride with their kids and teach them the ropes on how to ride because without training courses. Children over the age of 12 that are eligible to receive their snowmobile license will not be able receive this training and not be able to ride. If no money is donated to organize these courses the snowmobile population in Saskatchewan will drop drastically. Promotions to not drink and ride will be lost in the snowmobile world and no one will remember that a sober ride is a safe ride, deaths due to intoxicated riders will spike and put a bad rep on snowmobiling. Snowmobiling will never be the same as it was if it lost its partnerships.

The Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association is partnered with Sasktel, Co-op, Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority, SaskPower Shand Greenhouse, and Snowriders. Since 1999 Sasktel has donated a grant to the Saskatchewan Snowmobile As-

sociation for their annual Provincial Snowmobile Festival. Co-op has also been supporting the annual Provincial Snowmobile Festival since 2004, they have donated awards towards the festival along with 1 litre of Sonic XL-S oil to every participant. This festival takes place throughout Saskatchewan every year and brings the snowmobile community together. Saskatchewan's Liquor and Gaming Authority donate thousands of dollars every year to the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association to go towards the **Don't Drink and Ride program**. This program helps educate riders, prevent drinking and riding and also raises awareness to the consequences of drinking and riding. Many posters are made and are posted in warm up shacks to remind riders not to drink and ride along with conservation officers patrolling trails and warm up shacks to prevent riders from drinking. SaskPower Shand Greenhouse is a newer partnership with the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association, they provide trees for clubs in Saskatchewan to plant in their community along with shelters. Without trees on a windy day with no shelter for miles riders will get cold fast, trees block the wind and are a good place for riders to rest on a windy day. No trees equal less riders on a cold day in Saskatchewan. Snowriders partnership has been giving the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association publicity and information for riders since 2000. It promotes riding in Saskatchewan for the surrounding areas and provinces. Clubs in Saskatchewan also have many partnerships. They are partnered with local land owners, without land there is no place to ride, they permit trails and warm up

(Continued on page 26)

Feature

(Continued from page 25)

shacks to be on their property. Local RM's permit trails and warm up shacks in their district. Club members, organizers and volunteers share a partnership with Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association, they are the ones who groom and sign trails, along with donating warm up shacks and their time in helping their club and community.

The Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association should partner with local snowmobile stores that sell winter outerwear because many riders do not have the proper clothing to be riding and it is a high expense to purchase these items. If a rider goes to purchase an item of outerwear in a store they should be able to provide their Snowmobile license/club license and receive a 15% discount on their purchase. They can only use this purchase once a year so the local store does not lose all its profit. If they do not use it one year that does not mean they are able to use it twice the next, it will reset each year and be kept on record in stores. This partnership could be with Agri-Sports Regina, Proline Motorsports & Marine Inc Saskatoon, FFUN Motor Sports Saskatoon/Yorkton, Redhead Powersports Northbattleford, Alsport Sales Ltd Regina, etc. Riders need to be warm with the right outerwear to be safe, snowmobiling is supposed to be for everyone not just rich people. A family that plans to go out for a ride only to realize that their 9 year old does not fit into their snow-

suit anymore, they then have to go out and buy a new one for them and spend hundreds of dollars towards keeping their child safe and warm. Snowmobiling is an expensive hobby. It would be nice to not have to spend so much on outerwear when a rider already has to pay for fuel and plates. Families are the future of snowmobiling, if there are no families snowmobiling, snowmobiling will come to an end.

Snowmobiling is a privilege and should not be taken for granted, there are many people in this world who have not yet received the honor of going for a snowmobile ride. Luckily the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association has made this possible for many people in Saskatchewan and it would not be without the partnerships they associate with. This essay gave full knowledge of the reasons why partnerships are important and needed, some of Saskatchewan's partnerships in the snowmobile association and how these partnerships work with the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association, along with an idea of creating a new partnership and where that could be located. The time will come when Saskatchewan is filled with snow again and the people will be out riding again like they used to and making memories with their friends and families, they will have the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association to thank for that, as they provide a safe ride for everyone.

PUT KIDS ON SLEDS THAT FIT

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

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



DRINKING AND RIDING PUTS YOUR FAMILY AT RISK

DON'T DO IT

This message brought to you by the American Council of Snowmobile Associations
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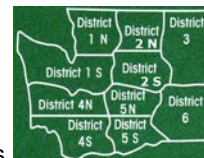
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Matt's Misc.

Legislative update. On October 16th, I participated in a conference call with our lobbyists and Representative Fey, Chair of the House Transportation Committee. The call was to cover two items, protecting our dedicated fund and our tracked ATV/UTV legislation.

On the plus side, Representative Fey agreed with us our dedicated fund should be preserved for the Snowmobile Program and sweeping it would contribute to distrust between legislators and constituents.

But regarding our tracked ATV/UTV legislation, the message wasn't positive. He made the point due to COVID precautions in place, not to mention a concerning budget situation (also due to COVID), the Committee's focus, not to mention the entire House's, would leave no room for non-critical legislation.

After the call was complete I talked privately with Mark Gjurasic, our lead lobbyist, and he confirmed we'd be wise to table this legislation a year. The one caveat was if another piece of legislation concerning ATVs/UTVs was moving through, to see about adding our change as an amendment. (Not a likely scenario.) Our legislation will be ready to go at a moment's notice if there is any change in the legislative climate. This news is disappointing, but this is the situation on the House side.

But what about the Senate? We'll find out soon enough and if we receive a more favorable response, we can introduce our legislation there and see where it takes us. (But any legislation passed in the Senate then has to be taken up in the House and there is no guarantee we'll get the needed hearing there due to the reasons already stated.) Our lobbyists are engaged and we'll see what happens and I'll report it all in a future Snoflyer.

WSSA/Washington to host 2023 ISC?

WSSA has been approached by the ISC Planning Committee to submit a bid for the 2023 International Snowmobile Congress (ISC). Will we do it? Couldn't even begin to speculate at this point. Would be cool to have ISC in Washington though. So let me ask this question... Do we have a member (or members) who has (have) planned large conventions? We'd need someone with expertise in this area and who would like to lead the effort. I read through the planning documents and there are a lot of details involved. It certainly is something WSSA could do, but the folks who are currently the main volunteers in our organization are fully tasked and can't lead a project of this size. So give it

some thought and STEP UP! We have until the middle of January to submit a bid. The sooner someone contacts

President Dean Meakin and says "I'll do it", the better.

I'm all about the raffle! (Even if it is for a Polaris Pro...) For a donation as small as \$25, you will have a chance to win the ultimate Klim backcountry sled, including a full compliment of Klim gear. Up for grabs is a 2021 850 Pro RMK 155 decked out with aftermarket parts and finished off with a distinctive wrap. And even if you don't snare the sled prize, there is a Marlon sled deck, Matt Entz Training Clinic, and Fly Racing gear up for grabs. Proceeds will go to the American Institute for Avalanche Research and Education (AIARE) non-profit for avalanche safety initiatives, including training more AIARE motorized avalanche safety instructors. The sweepstake runs until December 4th at 5pm Mountain Time and the drawing is that evening at 6pm. Enter at <https://avtraining.tapkat.org/klimbackcountrysled>. (If I win... it will make a great down payment for a 850 Turbo Summit!)

Hey clubs! Okay, I've got a question for all the clubs who belong to the Washington State Snowmobile Association. Well, this is directed at most of you... How come I never hear from you?! Every month from October to April, WSSA puts out an edition of the Snoflyer. It is available to all of our members and any snowmobiler who follows us on Facebook or sees the posts from the International Snowmobile Media Council. We offer you a way to reach out to local snowmobilers, and more importantly, for you to brag about your club's accomplishments.

Submitting to the Snoflyer is easy! Give me an e-mail address and I'll send a reminder of the upcoming submission deadline (which is typically the 15th of the month). Then type up a few words... or lots... and submit them to me. They can be written in an e-mail, a Word document, or with a crayon and mailed to me; I don't care! Don't worry about grammar, typos, formatting, or whatever; I'll fix it if I can figure out the intent. Want your submission to stand out a bit? Include a few relevant pictures to go along with. A couple of things that will help - if you include names of people and places, please use proper spelling and full names. If you have a specific caption you want used, include it, and same if you would like a photo

By Matt Mead, Publicity Secretary



credit listed. It's really easy and I'd

like to see more participation from all the clubs across the state. As far as I'm concerned, the most important thing WSSA and the Snoflyer can do is to highlight what our local clubs are doing!

P.S. Send me a copy of your club logo to use too!

COVID GOOD for business! At least in our world! It was recently reported Polaris expects annual sales to exceed targets set BEFORE the pandemic. This is just another clue outdoor recreation has boomed this year when people needed an escape and being out in nature was the answer. But it isn't just Polaris. Other makers of recreational vehicles from canoes to motor homes have fared well.

The rise and fall of Harley Davidson snowmobiles. I came across an online article at HotCars.com talking about Harley Davidson snowmobiles. It goes into a bit of detail about Harley's dark years when owned by AMF and that is when the snowmobiles came along. Machines were manufactured from 1971-1975. Interesting and quick read here: <https://www.hotcars.com/harley-davidson-snowmobile-division-story>.

Longer snowmobile season from East Gate at Yellowstone National Park proposed. A comment period just ended where



the goal is to increase the snowmobile season at the East Gate by three weeks. This would bring all Gates to the same snowmobile season, running from December 15th to March 15th. (It would open one week earlier, and close two weeks later, snow permitting of course.) The current dates were set in '08, due to avalanche safety concerns on Sylvan Pass, but now the National Park Service claims the ability to safely accommodate

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Matt's Misc.

(Continued from page 27) the additional weeks.

There is only one snowmobile rental operation at the East Gate, and this would help their bottom line as buying and maintaining emission-clean and quiet machines for Yellowstone is costly.

As a refresher, are you aware of the limitations placed on motorized winter recreation in the Park? The 2013 Winter Use Rule allows for up to 110 total 'transportation events' each day. A transportation event equals one commercial group of (guided) snowmobiles (maximum group size of 10, seasonal average of seven), a non-commercial group (up to five self-guided snowmobiles), or one snow coach. Of these transportation events, 50 events are reserved for snowmobiles (46 commercial, four non-commercial), and 60 are reserved for snow coaches. At the highest potential level of use, if all 50 snowmobile transportation events are used in a single day, there could be a maximum of 480 snowmobiles in the park. However, commercially guided snowmobile transportation events may not exceed an average of seven snowmobiles per event over the season, so the average number per day would be no higher than 342 snowmobiles. Whew!

Getting back to the East Gate, this entrance is currently allocated two of the 46 guided snowmobile tours, one non-commercial tour and one snow coach tour per day.

Electric Polaris snowmobiles coming soon! Well, that is the goal when Polaris recently announced a 10-year partnership with Zero Motorcycles, the maker of electric bikes. The partnership includes their snow and off-road vehicle divisions with plans to debut the first electric vehicles by the end of 2021. Polaris has the goal to offer an electric vehicle option within each of its core product segments by 2025. Zero Motorcycles, manufacturing electric bikes since '06, will provide powertrain technology, hardware and software to Polaris.

Snowmobiling by lottery pick coming to a forest near you? Let's hope not. But the future looks bleak if extreme environmentalists bring this 'solution' state-side.

The Telkwa Range snowmobiling permit lottery opened October 20th for snowmobilers and skiers to gain access to Starr Basin in British Columbia. Motorized access to the area is determined by lottery for the second year in a row following closure of Telkwa Range recreation areas to 'protect' the Telkwa caribou herd. Starr Basin will be

open for 21 days in seven three-day blocks for permitted snowmobilers and 21 days in three seven-day blocks for backcountry skiers, conditional on recent caribou activity. The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) developed the lottery as a 'compromise' after initially closely the area entirely to motorized access. Some compromise!

This is the reason snowmobilers, (all motorized users really), need to be engaged with all land-use planning. If not, these kind of restrictions could cross the border. Don't forget, Over Snow Vehicle Travel Plans are coming soon; these will dictate what trails we can ride, and more importantly, where we can ride off-trail. Be prepared to GET INVOLVED.

The future of powersports is female.

This was part of the title of a recent press release from Polaris as they announced the launch of their 'Empowersports Women's Riding Council'. Polaris claims "The council will unite 12 phenomenal female riders whose voices will drive increased participation, inclusion and representation in the world of powersports." I'm good with that!

For a long time, especially since I've been raising my daughter as a snowmobiler, I've felt there is too much testosterone in snowmobiling and I think it is working against us. Basically, we need some women to reign in the men. Snowmobiling started as a family activity, bringing mom, dad and the kids out. As mom and dad got older, it morphed to grandma, grandpa, the kids now as mom and dad, and the next generation of offspring. Rides were family-friendly because they were family organized. Demographics have changed and there are way more men riding without wives and without kids; it has turned into an extreme sport for many.

Women are every bit as capable riders as men if they want to be, and more ladies out there ultimately means more families out there. This will be a win for the sport.

So who do we have representing on the snow? Carrie Barton, a Klim and Timbersled Brand Ambassador; Julie-Ann Chapman, She Shreds Mountain Adventures Founder; and Amy David, Polaris Snowmobile Ambassador.

Polaris says the Empowersports Women's Riding Council will meet regularly with Polaris leaders to discuss breaking down barriers

including increasing diverse female representation, vehicle and gear considerations, safety practices, combating biases and demystifying the sport for more women.

Another goal of this program is increasing 'diversity'. Here is an interesting tidbit pulled from the press release: "With a 2018 MRI-Simmons survey showing nearly half of all off-road vehicle-owning households having women in them and black women outnumbering their male counterparts in snowmobiling by 61%..." Interesting to say the least!

Tupolev A-3 Aerosledge - Those sly Ruskies! While scanning my daily 'Google Alerts' for snowmobile-related content, I came across mention of the Russian Tupolev A-3. It's more than a snowmobile as it was designed to cross water, bogs, snow, ice or whatever. Powered by a radial airplane engine and pushed along via a rear mounted propeller, this enclosed cab vehicle entered development in '61 and hit the snow in '64. They were built up into the early '80s. The metal bottom used stainless steel runners for directional stability and included a layer



of low-friction plastic to reduce drag. At speed, there is enough aerodynamic lift to reduce pressure against the surface by 33%. While the machine has no brakes in the traditional sense, the rudders can both be turned 90-degrees to provide some air-braking. If you'd like to see a few videos of these machines in action, check out <https://www.thedrive.com/news/36785/winter-beaters-dont-get-better-than-the-tupolev-a-3-aerosledge-russias-aircraft-powered-snow-machine>.

Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!

Facebook followers are over 3,355! Find us on Twitter at @wssaus and on Instagram at WSSA.US.

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