

Snoflyer

*The official publication of the
Washington State Snowmobile Association*

February 2021

Volume 43

Season great for some... Not so great for others...

High elevation snow with lower levels plagued with rain... Hang in there, it will get better!

Inside:

***Highway 20 Closure near
Washington Pass rescinded!***

WSSA Associate offers membership discount

Avalanche education modules offered by NWAC

Cover photo: Boondocking on Chinook Pass in January. Pic by Matt Mead



Click here for up-to-date grooming reports!

CLIMB TO NEW HEIGHTS

Photo Credit - Craig Hill

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WSSA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership valid until August 31, 2021

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

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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 February 8th, 2021 Online

WSSA election results will be announced. E-mail dean.meakin@wssa.us for details.

WSSA Winter Rendezvous February 12th-15th, 2021 CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19.

WSSA Budget Meeting March 15th, 2021 Online

Season wrap up and setting the budget for the 2021/2022 season.
E-mail dean.meakin@wssa.us for details.

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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See rate sheet pg 21

E-mail or call for details
Matt Mead, Publicity Secretary

(509) 424-1575
snoflyer@wssa.us

Leadership

Dean Meakin, President

dean.meakin@wssa.us • (509) 220-1001



I love the old proverb: "It is better to endure the moguls on the trails than to mow your lawn with your \$16,000.00 snowmobile." Yes, I understand we have bumps on our trails. We also have bumps in our lives. How we handle them is key. Patience, Understanding, Cooperation and Kindness (PUCK) is needed to have success! Anything else is just not helping. Many variables have contributed to the condition of our trails this year. Low snow, broken groomers, over capacity and trail closures. We have no control of things that just happen. What we do control is our attitude towards the situations set before us. What should we do right now? I am glad you asked. First and foremost, as a club or individual, call your groomer and THANK him for doing what he does to the best of his ability given the conditions. Ask him if there is anything you or your club can do to help. Now call Pamela McConkey at Washington State Parks and THANK her for doing what she does for our cause. It is her passion that drives her to move forward for the snowmobiler, not her check. Ask her if there is anything you or your club could do to help. This is

just the beginning. So, are you going to be the 'PUCK' or the 'STICK'?

Elections for WSSA Board members are under way. Please login to the WSSA website (www.wssa.us) and vote. Even if there is no competition for an office, please vote to show your support for the candidates (all volunteer). Thank you to Wayne and Florence Mohler for managing this task. Please call Wayne or Florence if you have login problems; check the Membership article for contact info.

As I write this, it is too early to report what is going on with the trail closures off of Highway 20, however know WSSA is doing their best to resolve this. Hopefully in March we will have more answers to share. Please be patient as we pursue the closures with U.S. Forest Service.

Western Chapter and American Council of Snowmobile Association's Mountain Riding Areas are still planning to have their half-day for each meeting in West Yellowstone on February 19th. Some of us will be going earlier to enjoy sledding before and after the meetings on Friday. Additional information will be posted on www.sledwest.org as soon as the final touches are complete. Contact Bert Miller for more info at (307) 899-3419.

International Snowmobile Congress (ISC) 2021 is still a "go until it is not" in Omaha Nebraska in June. Please consider attending this as it is very informational and educational.

WSSA will not be hosting ISC 2023 as we could not find the volunteers willing to put this together. Maybe another opportunity in the future will arise.

In closing, please continue to keep safe and practice social distancing until it is safe not to. Keep building bridges and not walls!



Delia Alred, Vice President

delia.alred@wssa.us • (509) 965-8305



I hope everyone has had an opportunity to get out on the snow this year! We have been lucky so far as we have snow on our local trails. If this warm weather keeps up, it will quickly be gone. Everyone needs to do their snow dance! The clubs in the Yakima area are all out riding. The groomers are out there doing an excellent job!

The Yakima Ski-Benders had their trailer up at Cold Creek on a recent Saturday. Ron Lind and Ron Alred hosted this chili feed event. Great granddaughter Rubee and I also helped out! Although she mostly threw snow on anyone slow enough to not get out of her way! There were approximately 75 riders who came through. Everyone seemed to be having a great day riding and seeing people again (six feet away of course)! People rode from the Ahtanum, the 1000 road and Cold Creek. We had people from the Drift-A-Ways, Puyallup Sno-Jammers, Chinook Pass Snowmobile Club, Ski-Benders, and some riders that were just in the sno-park.

Our elections are going to be online again this year; be sure to cast your vote! The slate of officers running are:

- President - Dean Meakin
- Vice President - Dee Alred
- Recording Secretary - Christina Markovits
- Treasurer - Fred Pitzer

I'm hoping everyone will turn out and vote. If you have any problems voting, Wayne and Florence Mohler are more than willing to help you! You can reach Florence at (206) 406-1929; Wayne at (206) 713-0928. Our elections determine the leadership of WSSA. By having them online, every member has a voice. Before, only people attending the annual meeting were able to cast a vote.

Our meetings are going to be online through March. Hopefully by August we can have a real face to face meeting. Our meetings are open to all WSSA members. If you would like to attend, let Dean Meakin know so he can send you the registration information.

Our 'All Trails to Olympia' event has been canceled due to COVID. However, I would encourage everyone to contact their State Senators and Representatives and ask them to not steal our dedicated grooming funds during this legislative cycle; those funds are paid by the snowmobilers for the snowmobiler. The money did not come out of the general budget! Hopefully we can keep our fund intact, although it is a fight every year as they see money and want to take it. So, contact your Reps in Olympia!

I hope to see you out on the snow!

Notes

WSSA Launches New Partnership Program with our Associate Members

With all the challenges facing everyone during this past year, we're starting a trial program with our Associate members to try to bring our snowmobile members together with our Associate members through an affinity or loyalty program. It's very simple and straightforward – As an Associate, just let us know how you would like to participate. WSSA will publicize the Associate members and what they are offering in the Snoflyer and on social media. Just contact membership@wssa.us to get signed up!

And announcing our first Associate member to sign up:

Luft Trailer Sales, 907 Hibbs Rd in Ellensburg, phone (509) 962-5445 or www.lufttrailers.com.

They are offering a 10% discount on parts. Luft Trailers has been a supporting member of WSSA for over 20 years and we sincerely appreciate their support! They've supported us and we, as snowmobilers, need to support them.



Are you next? Add your business name here!



COVID-19 Message from WSSA

The Washington State Snowmobile Association encourages snowmobile clubs and individual snowmobilers to take precautions to avoid being infected by COVID and aiding in the spread of the disease. WSSA as an organization is doing our part; we have cancelled all in-person activities and moved our business online until further notice.

Please follow the guidelines set out by the state and take note of the current 'stage' your county or the area you ride is in. As we move through the snowmobile season, it is likely the guidelines will be changing, and we are hopeful it will mean an easing of restrictions. You can find the latest information and guidelines at <https://coronavirus.wa.gov>.

We believe snowmobiling is a legitimate activity to pursue during this crisis due to the nature of our sport which allows us to social distance and recreate isolated from large gatherings. With only minor changes to our usual habits, we can easily satisfy the safety guidelines in place.

We hope you have a fun and safe winter out on the snow in Washington this winter!

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Safety with Jon

Are you ready for anything?

By Jon Ferrian — wssasafety101@gmail.com

Are you ready for anything?

Many of us feel like we are ready for anything that life and the mountains throw at us... But how do we really know if we are ready for a situation until that situation happens? What are some of the things we need to be prepared for in the backcountry while snowmobiling?

What could go wrong?

- Mechanical issues?
- Run out of fuel?
- Avalanches?
- Snowmobile damage from hitting a tree or rock?
- Other?

Sometimes a true freak accident just happens, and you can never know if you are prepared for what life throws at you until you're in the middle of that moment.

On Saturday, January 16th, I was attending the Junco Snowmobile Club's 'Charity on the Snow' ride with my wife and many other friends when we had one of these freak accidents that you could not have ever predicted.

Our group had just left the sno-park and were about 20-30

minutes into our ride when I heard chatter on my radio. This caused me and the person leading the ride to stop and call back on the radio to inquire what was happening. We were told someone had an accident and was injured and we needed to come back and help. As we turned around, we came upon the group of riders helping Tanner Hamlyn who had been injured and when they described the accident where he had fallen on his



Craig Miller tending to Tanner Hamlyn after a mishap.

#LiveLARGE

Jon Ferrian LIVE



shoulder/arm, we suspected one of the following injuries. Broken collar bone, AC joint separation in the shoulder, dislocated shoulder and/or a broken arm.

Our ride leader, Jim, had just days before had a conversation with a Craig Miller who was a retired firefighter/paramedic about how to identify a dislocated shoulder, so this was fresh on his mind. Jim did a quick assessment and was confident that it was indeed a separated shoulder. We sent one of the riders in the group down to the sno-park where Craig was helping prepare for the charity event that day to bring him back up to help Tanner out!

In the meantime, the group did our best to comfort Tanner, and others helped by gathering sticks and moss to start building a fire to help keep him warm. We didn't know for sure if we would need the fire but there was no harm in starting it and it would give us an opportunity to see if we could start a fire in the backcountry if we truly needed to! Keep in mind everything in the Pacific Northwest is constantly wet all the time and this can be much

(Continued on page 7)

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Safety with Jon

(Continued from page 6) more difficult than you think. From our first aid kit we provided some mild over-the-counter pain killers to comfort Tanner and also used some lifting straps we had to help stabilize the victim's arm and shoulder from any unnecessary movement.

As we waited for Craig the Paramedic to arrive, we spent almost 45 minutes trying to get the fire started and we finally resorted to using some gasoline to help get the flames hot enough to get the wood to dry out and start to burn. During that time Craig had arrived and started to treat Tanner. It was amazing how calming a trained professional can help make the situation with the right training, tone and attitude. With the help, Craig spent about five minutes or so getting Tanner down on to the trail and prepped to reset his arm. It was amazing to watch all of this in action.

In hindsight, this was simply a freak accident and we are thankful everything turned out extremely well and Tanner was able to get a ride back to the sno-park safely. Collectively we had absolutely everything we needed for this situation because many of us do ride with survival kits and first aid kits on our sleds and in our back packs. Below is a quick list of some of the items we ended up using in this situation that made the day go so smoothly. The good news is we had much more equipment still ready to use that thankfully

we didn't need. But it felt great to know that we had it if we needed it!

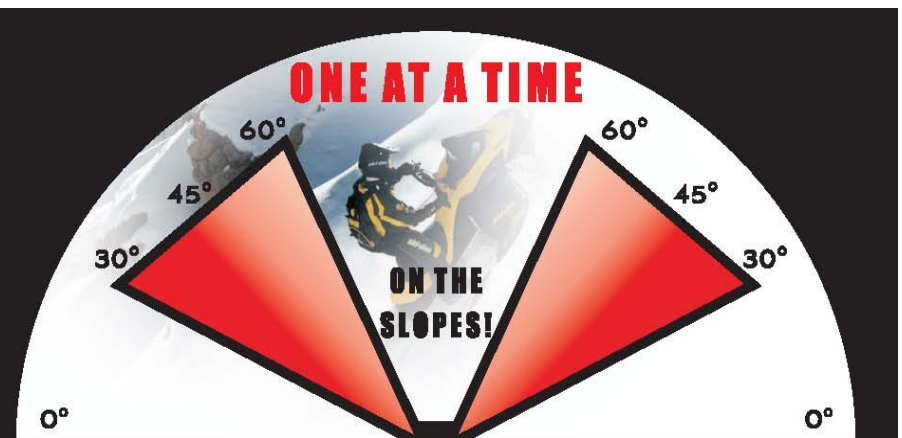
- Radio
- Training
- Aspirin/pain killer
- Fire starter
- Saws
- Water bottle
- Gasoline
- Straps/tow straps
- Cloth to make a sling
- Satellite communicator (Didn't need it but was ready to hit the 'SOS' button if we needed it)

I want to give a big shout out to everyone who was involved and helped with the accident and tending to Tanner during this time, and a special thank you to Craig Miller for his heroic work in helping tend to and reset Tanner's arm out on the trail!

What are you ready for if you have an issue that you need to take care of out in the backcountry?



Tanner in much better spirits after attended to by retired firefighter/paramedic, Craig Miller.



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO! - Avalanche Forecasts



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

Idaho Panhandle - www.idahopanhandleavalanche.org

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

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District Reports



District 1 South

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

Greetings snowmobile friends! I hope everyone has been out snowmobiling with friends and family as much as you can.

The Cascade Drift Skippers (CDS) have been busy hosting club rides weekly throughout the season while taking advantage of every opportunity to gather on the snow and share memories snowmobiling. Along with weekly snowmobile rides, CDS has been having their monthly virtual club meetings via Facebook Live every second Wednesday of the month. The Facebook Live meetings have been going very well with several live viewers and lots of viewer feedback. Tony Keys (Club President) and the board have been doing a great job leading the club this year considering the pandemic restrictions placed upon all of us. CDS has several new members who have joined the club recently and that speaks volumes as to how many new snowmobilers are joining 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.

Bill Yager with his exceptional sled recovery expertise hosted a sled recovery training ride out of Crystal Springs Sno-Park on Sunday January 17th. Bill had a great turnout and he educated many of us on how to recover a snowmobile that has gone over an embankment or gets stuck in a complicated situation. Thank you Bill Yager for taking the time to educate all of us on how to recover and tow a sled back to the sno-park. Please check back with the CDS website calendar and CDS Facebook event page for updated ride information as the season progresses. CDS is having rides every weekend and everyone is welcomed and encouraged to join in on a ride and hopefully join the club.

I would like to remind everyone there are many different snowmobile clubs throughout Washington state and I want to encourage you to visit some of the other areas and other club events happening in Washington. Spend some time driving just a little bit farther than your normal riding area and you will be pleasantly surprised of the great people and clubs who oversee some of the other sno-parks and warming shelters. Plus you

will get to experience some great views and riding areas you may have never seen before. There are approximately 80 motorized sno-parks in Washington and many have much less snowmobile traffic usage than some of the more popular areas.

Something very important has been brought to my attention by other snowmobilers. Please be aware that though cannabis has been legalized in Washington state for use (in your private home), several snowmo-

bilers have witnessed the use of cannabis in public areas on federal land and they would like to remind those who choose to use cannabis that it is still illegal on all Federal land, including warming structures, parking lots, trails, sno-parks etc, etc, etc. There recently was a public event hosted by a club in Washington and sadly there was an individual using cannabis while children and others were present next to the warming shelter in the sno-park on Federal land. The experience

(Continued on page 10)

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District Reports

(Continued from page 9)

was very disturbing to many, and those innocent bystanders are asking we respect the federal laws and to please reframe from exposing others to illegal substances while on Federal land in order to make the outdoors pleasurable for all.

Snowmobile registrations are up substantially from last year and that is fantastic! But please remember there are many more sleds on the trails this year and that has added to parking lot congestion. Therefore, please have patients while parking, loading and unloading your sleds. Please register your snowmobiles ASAP to support our statewide trail grooming program managed by Washington State Parks. Snowmobile registrations and the resulting fuel tax refund are the only source of revenue for our trail grooming program and whatever snowmobile registrations that are collected this year, will pay for next year's grooming. So please, if you have not already done so, please register your snowmobiles and you will receive a free vehicle sno-park parking permit for your truck.

WA State Parks Winter Recreation has developed a new trail grooming update map that displays recent trail grooming informa-

tion. This map is a great resource for the public to see what has recently been groomed. They are still working out some technical issues, but they welcome everyone to take advantage of the new mapping resource.

I hope everyone has voted for the new WSSA board members as I know it's not always an easy job. I want to thank those WSSA board members for stepping up and working very hard on our behalf and for helping us to keep snowmobiling alive in Washington State. Voting ends on February 7th and congratulations to the new WSSA board and thank you to all of the previous board members who volunteered their valuable time and dedication to WSSA.

Think snow and please stay safe out there and I hope to see everyone out on the trail.

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!



District 2 South

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

Hello everyone; hope you are getting out and riding!

Things are happening in the district; the Chelan club is hard at work trying to keep their trail system cleared of down trees; with all of the fire-damaged timber in our area, it became quite a chore.

Wenatchee's Apple Country is struggling with low snow at there approach to their trail system. Meeting are on the Zoom; go to there Facebook page or website.

The Bavarian Boondockers had their first club ride. It was a beautiful day for a ride and approximately 75 sledders and snowbikers came!

The Lake Wenatchee Rec Club is doing most of their business via Zoom or the internet; I haven't had much contact with them except for their wonderful grooming report! Thanks Marilyn!

I just want to end my report with some

(Continued on page 11)

info@3fingeredjacks.com
(509) 996-2411

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District Reports

(Continued from page 10)

info; we are seeing a lot of new riders, first timers, and beginners out there enjoying snowmobiling! Make sure you welcome them to our sport help them out with snowmobile etiquette, maybe a couple sledding tricks, info, safety, parking, hand signals, and etc.

God bless and see you on the mountain!



District 3

By Greg Figg

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(509) 534-3417

Well, the snow and rain have both been falling in Northeast Washington and our riding season is well underway. Grooming is occurring in the Mt. Spokane, Chewelah, Colville, Lone, and Usk areas. We definitely need more snow in NE Washington to make the off-trail areas rideable!

Given the COVID-19 rules, a lot of the club events have been cancelled, making this a very tough year for group rides.

I found a picture of this sweatshirt that sums up our 2020 year quite well!



District 4 North

By Jim Bauer
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(360) 508-9855

Howdy fellow snowmobilers and happy 2021! We had some early good snow here in District 4 North - one of the few opportunities to get out and enjoy snowmobiling during the Thanksgiving holiday. Here's a few updates on the Sno-Jammer and Junco clubs.

The Sno-Jammers have been meeting via Zoom on the first Wednesday of every month and conducting board meetings at Clem's Enumclaw Powersports.

Glenn Markovits is the grooming coordinator for the Pyramid Creek Sno-Park and has

been posting periodic updates to the Sno-Jammers' Facebook page.

Christina Markovits and Tanner Hamlyn are scheduling a ride to Yellowstone in February. Anyone interested is invited to join!

The Fun Run is scheduled for March 6th and is always a great event. The club donated a cord of wood to the Junco 'Charity on the Snow' event benefiting Make-A-Wish. Thank you Sno-Jammers! For information on Sno-Jammers' meetings or rides, jump on the Sno-Jammers' web or Facebook page.

Junco meets on the first Monday of every month and has been meeting via Google video. Junco just finished up its 'Charity on the Snow' event at the Orr Creek Sno-Park. The event had record turnout and included both a live and silent auction, culminating in a dual sled blow-up pitting Polaris against Ski-Doo. The Ski-Doo outlasted the Polaris by three minutes and gasped its last breath with a massive plume of smoke. In total, Junco raised over \$7,000 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation this year. Out on the trail, we ran into three Forest Rangers and two State Fish and Wildlife officers doing their part to keep the Jeepers off the trails. Thank you!



The club is tentatively planning a joint ride with the Sno-Jammers on the weekend of February 28th. For club business and announcements, see the Junco Facebook page.

In final business, I have decided to end my term as the District 4 North Rep. I have enjoyed my stint and have met many good folks from all over the state. Tanner Hamlyn has stepped up and received a nomination from both the Sno-Jammer and Junco clubs. Join me in welcoming Tanner to WSSA!



Follow the State Parks Winter Recreation Program on Twitter
@WaStatePks_WNTR



District 4 South

By Mike Ainslie
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(360) 430-1494

Greeting to District 4 South! Well, the snow keeps coming later and later for us down here in Southwestern Washington. About the time we start to get enough snow to really start our grooming program, the rains come and wash it all away.

There's really not a lot to report from this end; like everyone, we all would just love to go enjoy a day of fresh powder.

I do have a few upcoming dates for the Mt. Adams Snowmobile Club. On February 13th they will be having their Fun Run out of the Flattop Sno-Park. It starts at 10am and they will be holding a raffle back at the snowpark at 3pm and you must be there to win. This is always the club's biggest money-maker so please put it on your calendar so you don't miss out.

Then in March, the Mt. Adams Snowmobile Club will be doing their yearly Chili Feed over at the Island Camp Cabins and it will also start at 10am and the raffle will be at 3pm. Please make sure to save these dates on your calendar and please attend.

The Fun Run and Chili Feed is where the club makes some money so they can give out scholarships to deserving kids. It means a ton to this club to be able to award these scholarships.

I hope everyone got something special for Christmas to use on their snowmobile and you've had a chance to get out on the snow and try it out. Let's all keep thinking fresh, fresh, fresh snow for the rest of our snowmobile season.



District 5 South

By Jim Kingman
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(509) 698-3658

Well, here we go again. Early snow then another month with very little. Right now we have a few snowparks with little to no snow at all but fairly good snow up high. I'm sure if the weather follows suit, we will get loads of snow in February and March. I rode recently and the lower snow was like cement and it was hard for a couple sleds to stay cool. (Continued on page 12)

District Reports News

(Continued from page 11)

Our ride took us to Cold Creek Sno-Park for hot dogs and chili served up by the Yakima Ski-Benders. Thank you for the lunch and the social time we had with you guys. It's nice to see a few of us are not just sitting at home wishing we could go riding.

We recently had a snowmobile accident in the Darland Mountain area that required the victim to be air-lifted out. It was posted on someone's Facebook page of the jump he made so I did get to see what happened. Sounds like he had a hip and leg injury that required surgery. Last I heard he was doing well. Please be careful out there!

As for clubs in the area, the Ski-Benders are having their meetings I believe via Zoom. Check their Facebook page for club functions.

The local Grooming Committee is also using Zoom. This seems to work fairly well to get any business attended to without contact.

The Drift-A-Way club just held their first meeting and it was face to face with social distancing and masks required. The retired crew is still riding during the week when I am at work, so if you want to get in a mid-week ride, contact Matt Mead for information.

This will probably be my last district report as my job normally would slow down during the winter but we are still trying to get caught up from last summer and fall and I'm still putting in some overtime. I will still be WSSA Past President and a committee chairperson for another year so you will still see me doing what my free time will allow me to do to help WSSA and my fellow snowmobile family.

Keep the track on the down side!



Updates from the ISHOF

You are invited to nominate a candidate for possible future induction into the International Snowmobile Hall of Fame (ISHOF) in Eagle River, Wisconsin. We are also now seeking nominees for International Groomer of the Year. All inductees and award recipients will be recognized in September at our annual induction ceremonies.

In addition to permanent online recognition on our website, www.ishof.com, a photo and honor plaque is also placed on public display at the World Snowmobile Headquarters in Eagle River, WI, where recipients join all prior inductees and other special award recipients in permanent remembrance of their achievements. See links below for past recipients and information to make a nomination. Deadline for all nominations is April 1st.

Hall of Fame Induction

This prestigious honor is bestowed upon the incoming class of annual recipients in recognition for their achievements for the sport of snowmobiling.

We encourage your nomination(s) from various facets of snowmobiling and have established these categories:

- Inventors, Designers & Manufacturers
- Explorers & Adventurers
- Trail & Program Developers
- Volunteers & Club Organizers
- Publishers & Journalists

If you know an individual worthy of future recognition, we invite you to make a nomination to the ISHOF now for current year consideration.

See past recipients here: <https://www.ishof.com/inductees.html>

Make a nomination here: <https://www.ishof.com/nominate.html>



International Groomer of the Year award

The International Groomer of the Year award was developed by the ISHOF in cooperation with our sponsors - Arrowhead Groomers, Pisten Bully, Track Inc. and Sno-Boss Groomers - to give credit to a groomer operator who has put so much time, energy and devotion in to providing smooth snowmobile trails for the rest of us enjoy. Special thank you to our sponsors for recognizing the importance of this award.

We congratulate all past award recipients & welcome your nomination now for current year consideration.



See Past Recipients here: https://www.ishof.com/award_groomer.html

Make a nomination here: https://www.ishof.com/nominate_groomer.html

Thank you donors!

Thank you to all our donors over the past year. We have received many donations from individuals and businesses over the past year and we want you all to know how much we appreciate your donations. Donations of any amount are welcome and used to keep us operating and adding new inductees, clubs, dealers and groomers to the International Snowmobile Hall of Fame.

Donations can be made securely using a credit card on our website at www.ishof.com. No special login or PayPal account is ever required.

If you prefer, you can send a check to our office at the address listed below. Thank you.

International Snowmobile Hall of Fame (ISHOF)
1521 N Railroad St.
Eagle River, WI 54521



Supporting Businesses

Washington State Supporting Businesses

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| 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 |
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| The Cottage Cafe | 911 East First St | Cle Elum | WA | 98922 | www.cottagecafecleelum.com | 509-674-2922 |
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| Bennys Colville Inn | 915 S Main St | Colville | WA | 99114 | www.colvilleinn.com | 509-684-2517 |
| Clark's Marine & Powersports | 192 DeGrief Rd | Colville | WA | 99114 | www.clarkspowersports.com | 509-684-4581 |
| Colville Motor Sports | 165 W Birch Ave | Colville | WA | 99114 | www.colvillemotorsports.com | 509-684-5540 |
| Gibsons North Fork Lodge | 100 West Boone | Conconully | WA | 98819 | www.gibsonsnorthforklodge | 509-826-1475 |
| Kozy Kabins & RV Park | 111 East Broadway | Conconully | WA | 98819 | | 509-826-6780 |
| Shady Pines Resort | 125 West Fork Rd | Conconully | WA | 98819 | www.shadypinesresort.com | 509-826-2287 |
| Sit'N'Bull Bar & Grill | PO Box 322 | Conconully | WA | 98819 | | 509-826-2947 |
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| Luft Trailer Sales | 907 N Hibbs Rd | Ellensburg | WA | 98926 | www.lufttrailers.com | 509-962-5445 |
| Clem's Enumclaw Powersports | 408 Roosevelt Ave | Enumclaw | WA | 98022 | www.enumclawsuzuki.com | 360-825-4502 |
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| Tracy's Quality Painting Inc. | 3008 14th Ave NW | Gig Harbor | WA | 98335 | | 253-858-8242 |
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| I-90 Motorsports | 200 NE Gilman Blvd | Issaquah | WA | 98027 | www.I-90motorsports.com | 425-391-4490 |
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| Ridenow Powersports Tri-Cities | 3305 W 19th Ave | Kennewick | WA | 99338 | www.ridenowtricity.com | 509-735-1117 |
| Bob's Lift Trucks & Equipment | 426 Naden Ave S | Kent | WA | 98032 | | 253-872-0401 |
| Greg's Motorsports | 5817 184 th Ave Ct E | Lake Tapps | WA | 98391 | | 253-380-0558 |
| 59er Diner and Cabins | 15361 US Hwy 2 | Leavenworth | WA | 98826 | www.59erdiner.com | 509-763-2267 |
| Dan's Food Market | 1329 US Hwy 2 | Leavenworth | WA | 98826 | www.dansfoodmarket.com | 509-548-5611 |
| Leavenworth Snowmobile Rentals | 15361 US Hwy 2 | Leavenworth | WA | 98826 | www.leavenworthsnowmobilerentals.com | 509-763-0333 |
| Mountain Springs Lodge | 19115 Chiwawa Loop Rd | Leavenworth | WA | 98826 | www.mtsprings.com | 509-763-2713 |
| Pacific Mountain Services | 22745 Brown Rd | Leavenworth | WA | 98826 | | 509-670-6665 |
| Loon Lake Marina | 41080 Marina Rd | Loon Lake | WA | 99148 | | 509-233-2303 |
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| WA State Parks Winter Rec Program | 1111 Israel Rd SW | Olympia | WA | 98504 | www.state.parks.wa.us | 360-902-8595 |
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| Roadhouse @ The Last Resort | 14254 Salmon LaSac Rd | Ronald | WA | 98940 | | 509-649-3125 |
| The Last Resort Operations | 14254 Salmon LaSac Rd | Ronald | WA | 98940 | www.thelastresort.us | 509-649-2222 |
| J & B Enterprises | PO Box 440 | Roslyn | WA | 98941 | | 206-484-0204 |
| Repin Construction LLC | PO Box 541 | Roslyn | WA | 98941 | | 509-649-3323 |
| Life Support | 808 Lincoln St | S. Cle Elum | WA | 98943 | www.lifesupport.com | 509-674-2968 |
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Club News



Tollgate Trail Finders

By Brandon Christensen, President

Hi snowmobile friends! Happy New Year! The past few weeks Mother Nature has certainly blessed Tollgate with significant snowfall. Enough snow to cover most of the hidden hazards that can wreak havoc to A-arms and skis. Our friends in other parts of the country have not been so fortunate. We are not totally out of the woods yet as recent rain has put a damper on our spirits and excitement. Pray for snow!!

Cross-country skiers

There are more folks enjoying Tollgate than ever. Recently, on a group ride to the Ruckel warming shelter we noticed more cross-country skiers than we have ever seen. Be aware some of the trails between Andies Prairie and High Ridge Lookout are popular for cross-country skiers. Horseshoe Prairie is nearby and is a designated area for skiers. When approaching skiers, slow down and wave or stop and say hello. There is plenty of great snow for all of us to enjoy.

Bernie 'Chappy' Chapman (Dec. 23, 1924 – Dec 17, 2020)

The Tollgate Trail Finders (TTF) has lost one of its longtime members and volunteers. Bernie 'Chappy' Chapman went to his heavenly home on Dec 17th. He was instrumental in the construction of the Chapman Bone Springs warming shelter which was named after him. His work also helped build the Ruckel warming shelter, the groomer shed and the TTF clubhouse. He and his wife Mary Louise enjoyed the last 34 years living at their cabin at Tollgate.



Chappy at Bone Springs Stocking Firewood in 2019.



They celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary in August. Chappy served in the Navy during WWII on the USS Hornet CV-12 Aircraft Carrier. Duane Miles from Halfway, Oregon recalls, "Back in

the 80's, the Tollgate Trail Finders Club was coming to Halfway. We had a big dump of snow that day. Our local club went to meet them, me included. We could not make it to the top of the hill. We went back to the local watering hole to lick our wounds. A little after dark, I headed home and looked up on the hill to see a line of snowmobile lights coming toward Halfway. I turned around and went back and told our club members, they're coming off the hill. They had to go outside to prove me wrong. Lo and behold, they came riding into town. Who was leading the group? Yep, it was Bernie! He had broke trail from Catherine Creek on his sled. It had been Bernie-modified. He had that big old grin on his face. I'll never forget that day." Bernie attended our work party at Bone Springs in 2019 to fill the shelter with firewood. When he was asked if he would like to sit down, he said "no, I'm here to work". His eagerness to lead and help should be an example for all of us. Bernie will truly be missed.

Search and Rescue – by Dottie and Bob Carrell

"From time-to-time Search and Rescue will call on the snowmobile clubs to assist in a rescue. The first time that happened to us was when Bob was President of the Tollgate Trail Finders. Umatilla County Sheriff's



Carrell's Polaris Ranger UTV and Life Flight helicopter on Jan 10th, 2021.

Search and Rescue had done a presentation at a snowmobile club meeting, so Sergeant Johnson had our number. One frightfully cold evening we got the call to find and rescue a couple who had gotten stuck in very deep snow. Bob made phone calls after he was contacted by Sergeant Johnson and within 15 minutes, he had six club riders willing to meet up on Baldy. The

team then had to use radio and texting communications to get the stuck couple's location. With the slimmest of clues, such as, maybe Mottet Creek, and there is an outhouse where they are, the Trail Finders proceeded in freezing fog. The outhouse was the clue that worked for our club and they were off to Mottet Campground northwest of Jubilee Lake. When they found them, one of our expert riders was able to get the sleds unstuck and back to the trail. Then the rescued people were able to ride with our club's group down to the Morning Creek Sno-Park. Since the first rescue my husband and I were hooked. Shortly after that we bought our Polaris Ranger side-by-side and joined Umatilla County Sheriff's Search and Rescue and began training. Side-by-sides have really come in handy lately because of the ability to carry a person on a stretcher across the bed, or an injured victim in the warm cab. Snowmobilers who ride in a group have the opportunity of being rescued by their fellow riders. We have been on rescues that were made easier and quicker by the injured person's family and fellow riders."

Balloon Tree Club Ride

On January 9th, 14 riders joined our club ride. The ride was guided by Vice President Dewayne Harvill, Board Member Kolby Christensen, longtime TTF Member Jay Petty, and myself. Thanks to the hard work from the TTF grooming team, the ride to Balloon Tree Road was remarkably smooth. The group took a scenic route through the trees and fresh deep snow out to BFH, infamously named due to its steepness, but now is inundated by large trees. Many recall the good old days when this hill was nearly bare when covered with snow. One could try to shoot up to the top with many options and lines. Not the case nowadays. The ride went down the ridge toward Elgin into the trees for a lunch break. Then down the ridge even further to a road nobody in the group knew existed. This road meandered along the ridge-line with amazing views of Elgin, the Grande Ronde and the Wallawas. There was great snow, time to play, and

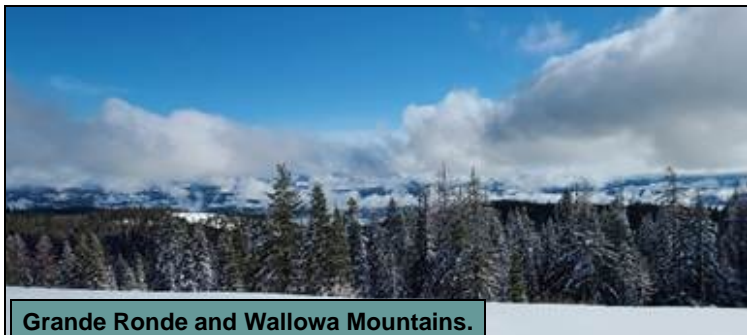
(Continued on page 16)

Enjoying bluebird skies.



Club News

(Continued from page 15) areas that pushed the limits for some of the less experienced moun-



Grande Ronde and Wallowa Mountains.

tain riders in the group. Overall, it was a fun day.

Kids' Ride – Feb 6th, 9am led by Kolby Christensen, sponsored by JMC Motorsports

Make plans to join us for our annual Kids' Ride led by Kolby Christensen. This event is promising to be fun for all ages. Be aware all riders must have a valid license to operate a snowmobile. This could be a driver's license, OSSA/DMV issued operators permit or equivalent from another state (Utah and Idaho are options). All kids under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. This year, we are excited to have the event sponsored by JMC Motorsports. JMC has locations in Pasco and at Tollgate to serve you. JMC markets Arctic Cat, Honda, Husqvarna, Gas Gas as well as Yeti Snowbike kits. Look for the event link on Facebook to RSVP; space and prizes will be limited.



Upcoming vents

- February 6th – Kids' Ride led by Kolby Christensen, Sponsorships Available.
- February 6th - TTF Membership Mtg, Microsoft Teams link available soon.
- February 26th-27th – Wallowa Avalanche Center Training – Tollgate, Oregon.
- March 6th – TTF Elections and Membership Mtg.
- TBD – Skills Day

Get involved!

We've recently heard from folks that love how the TTF is doing with meetings, events, grooming, etc. We have also heard from a few folks that they see opportunities for improvement. We love this feedback since it helps guide how we make decisions and strategize for the future. We would like to encourage you to get involved so you have a direct voice in how things go in the future. We have several club leadership positions opening up at the end of this season. I'm at

the end of my second term as President and Tammy Christensen's term as Treasurer

ends this season after many years of service. We also have Board Member positions opening. Getting involved means you will get the chance to work with some amazing people and be able to make a difference. On March 6th we will hold elections for the 2021-2022 season. Contact a member of the TTF leadership to submit your name or the name of someone you would

like to serve. You can also attend the membership meeting on February 6th at 5pm to nominate someone for the upcoming election. Hope to see you at a future meeting! Thank You!



Methow Valley Snowmobile Association

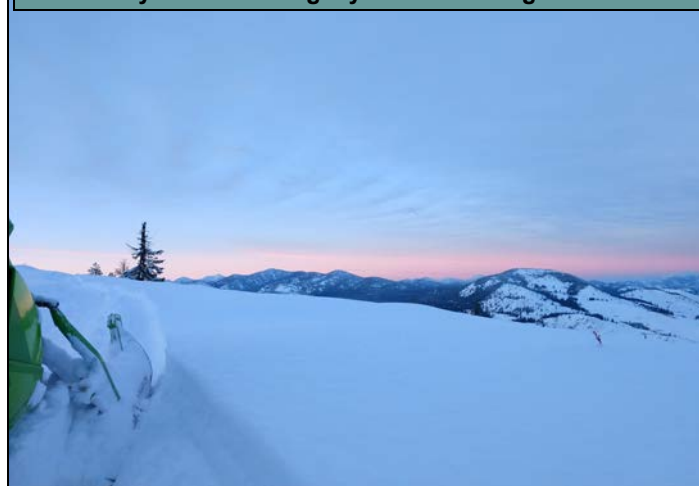
By Craig Stahl, President

Greetings snowmobilers!

Special thank you to WSSA for the support on our local Highway 20 closure. It is still a work in progress to get the issue resolved. We would also like to thank all of the individuals who voiced their opinion to the Forest Service as well.

The local hills here in the Methow have

See what you are missing if you aren't riding the Methow?



received a lot of fresh snow. The frequency of the storms have been nice to refresh our special riding spots. The Methow Valley Snowmobile Association (MVSA) has been riding in full force. Our three huts have been really popular by all trail users this season. We are not providing hotdogs on

our weekly rides this season due to the Coronavirus. Check out our blog site and ride schedule to join us out on the trails. We are always excited to see new faces and meet new friends of MVSA.



Tri-Rivers Snowmobile Club

By Kurt Hensley, President

Happy New Year and happy sledding! Wishing you all the best and hoping things get back to normal soon and so glad snowmobiling is considered



A sunny December day marked the grand opening of the new Shrew Creek warming hut. Stocked with firewood and ready for your visit!

self-distancing!

The Tri-Rivers Snowmobile Club has been enjoying some great snow in the mountains. We got our hut finished and a great banner put up highlighting the Okanogan County Snowmobile Clubs. Thanks to the WSSA Grant Program, many are enjoying the hut and are able to dry out and warm up!

Some of our members are headed to McCall for their annual vacation and the rest of us are having fun in our local mountains.

Give us a call and we will show you our hut and some beautiful mountains!

(Continued on page 17)

HAVE FUN
ON YOUR
RUN
BUT DON'T DRINK
'TIL YOU'RE DONE



Club News

(Continued from page 16)



Lake Wenatchee Rec Club

**By Marilyn Mylius,
Vice President**

Hello snowmobilers! The Lake Wenatchee Rec Club is putting together a snowmobile event for you all to participate in! It is the "COVID-19 'Beat the Boredom' Snowmobile Geocaching For Dollars Challenge"! I know, right, tongue twister! We don't have the flyer or registration form finalized yet but check out our Facebook page soon. The event will run from February 1st through March 15th. There will be 12 or so 'geocaches' on our trail system with stickers to adhere to a game form for a chance to win cash and prizes. There will be an entry fee and registration form to fill out before joining the game. This event will most likely be in lieu of our annual Poker Ride due to indoor/outdoor gathering challenges. Again, follow us on Facebook for more info. (Our website is currently under repair and not available for info on events.) You may also contact lakewenatcheerec-club@gmail.com or (509) 679-5517 for more info.

See you on the trail!



Yakima Ski-Benders

**By Liz Van Amburg,
President**

I am sitting here writing this on January 18th and it is supposed to be 50 degrees today. I think Old Man Winter is confused! Looking ahead, there just might be some snow in the forecast; fingers are crossed!

The Yakima Ski-Benders held their first ever Chilly Ride in mid-January! Ron and Dee Alred and Ron Lind did an amazing job chairing this event! They figure they had 65 to 75 riders, representing at least three different clubs, stop and grab a free hot dog and some chili! I believe there were two different groups that came from the Ahtanum Sno park lead by Don Wagoner and Mike Kendrick. Matt Mead led a ride out of the 1000 Road and Seth Ahlbrecht and Mike Van Amburg led rides out of the Cold Creek Sno-Park. The weather was absolutely



A few pics from the Ski-Benders Chilly Ride on January 16th.



beautiful and we watched Cash Burton, (Paul and Ronna Younie's grandson), and Maddy Gill, (Heather Rockwell's daughter), rip up the meadow on their sleds while the adults practiced beacon searches and caught up with each other! It was a lot of fun! Next year if you get a chance, please come join us!

Next on the schedule for the Ski-Benders is the 40th annual SnoFest (Poker Ride) chaired by Paul and Ronna Younie at Little Naches. It will be over when you read this Snoflyer.

February 27th is the 9th annual Kids Ride chaired by my husband Mike and I, Leesha Fuller, Donny Wolfe and Audeena and Jeff Smith. Look on the Yakima Ski-Benders Facebook page to pre-register or volunteer. This will help get your child a shirt that fits and keep you in the loop with updates! I just received a huge donation from Western Power Sports for the Kids Ride!

I have to give a huge shout out to all the businesses, family and friends who helped raise \$ 14,000 in a pandemic year so we could continue to have these awesome events. I am very grateful to all of you!

For now, keep doing the snow dance and we will see you out on the trails!



Bavarian Boondockers

**By Matt Kensrud,
President**

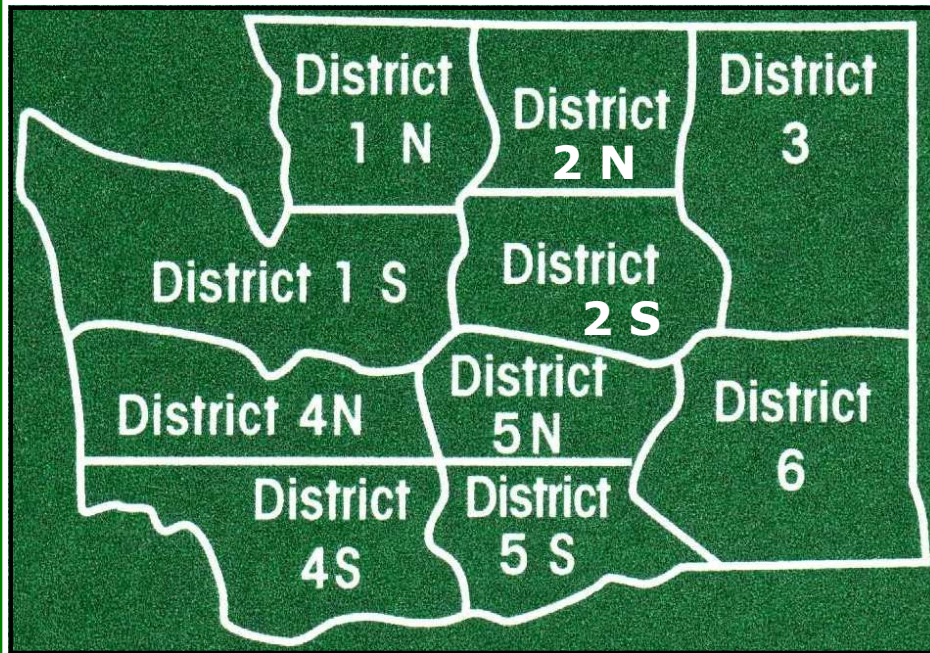
Finally getting some snow! Lots of folks out there enjoying it.

The first club ride was a success; we had a handful of new members and first time riders join us. Former club president Ian Adams led a tour of our area for the new riders and club members; fun was had by all.

The club hosted a 'club members only' drawing which consisted of Bavarian Boondocker swag, gloves donated by Doghouse Motorsports, goggles, avi shovels, and T-shirts from Wenatchee Powersports; I can't thank our local dealers enough! Please, if your not a member, go to our website www.bavarianboondockers.com and get signed up. For club ride dates, go to the 'Events & Rides' page on webpage!

(Continued on page 19)

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

Kassi Leeper
(360) 927-5825
whatcomcountysnowmobileclub@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

Kurt Hensley
(509) 689-2843
wakefield63@gmail.com
[Tri-Rivers Snowmobile Club](#)



District 2 South

[\(Chelan/Douglas Counties\)](#)

Apple Country Snowmobile Club

Jim Burts
(509) 860-3980
applecountysnowmobileclub@yahoo.com
www.applecountysnowmobileclub.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

Colville Driftriders

Steve Fogle
(509) 684-3601

Selkirk Trailblazers

Brian Ford
(509) 964-7665 • selkirktailblazers@gmail.com
[Selkirk Trailblazers Club](#)

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@entekvac.com
[Mt. St. Helens Trac Riders](#)

District 5 North

[\(Kittitas County\)](#)

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) 945-2511 • 98shay@gmail.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) 386-4688
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
tollgatetraifinders@gmail.com
www.tollgatetraifinders.org
[Tollgate Trail Finders Snowmobile Club](#)



Pacific Northwest

Pacific Northwest Vintage Snowmobile Club

Stephen Phillips
(603) 203-5344 • 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

Club News



(Continued from page 17)

Winter Knights

By Greg Figg,
President

The Winter Knights Club has cancelled our rides for this year with the COVID-19 out-

break. Club meetings have moved online as well to the Zoom platform to ensure our compliance with the COVID-19 rules. We are looking for a much more normal fall and riding season for 2021-2022.

We are also waiting for more snow in Northeast Washington to cover those stumps and rocks in the off trail areas.



Northwest Glacier Cruisers

By Tina Shields,
Secretary

Well, this year has started off with not the best snow conditions. We had to cancel the TNT Highway 20 Ride due to lack of snow.

We had such a windstorm that it blew hundreds of trees down in both the Baker NRA and the Anderson Watson area. Our groomer crew and volunteer club members spent two days up there clearing trees off the road to get the area open for the groomer and riders.

It has rained up to 6,000 feet in elevation making Baker a slippery slope everywhere

(Continued on page 20)

Winter Knights had to cancel their official club rides, but members are still out enjoying the snow!



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Club News

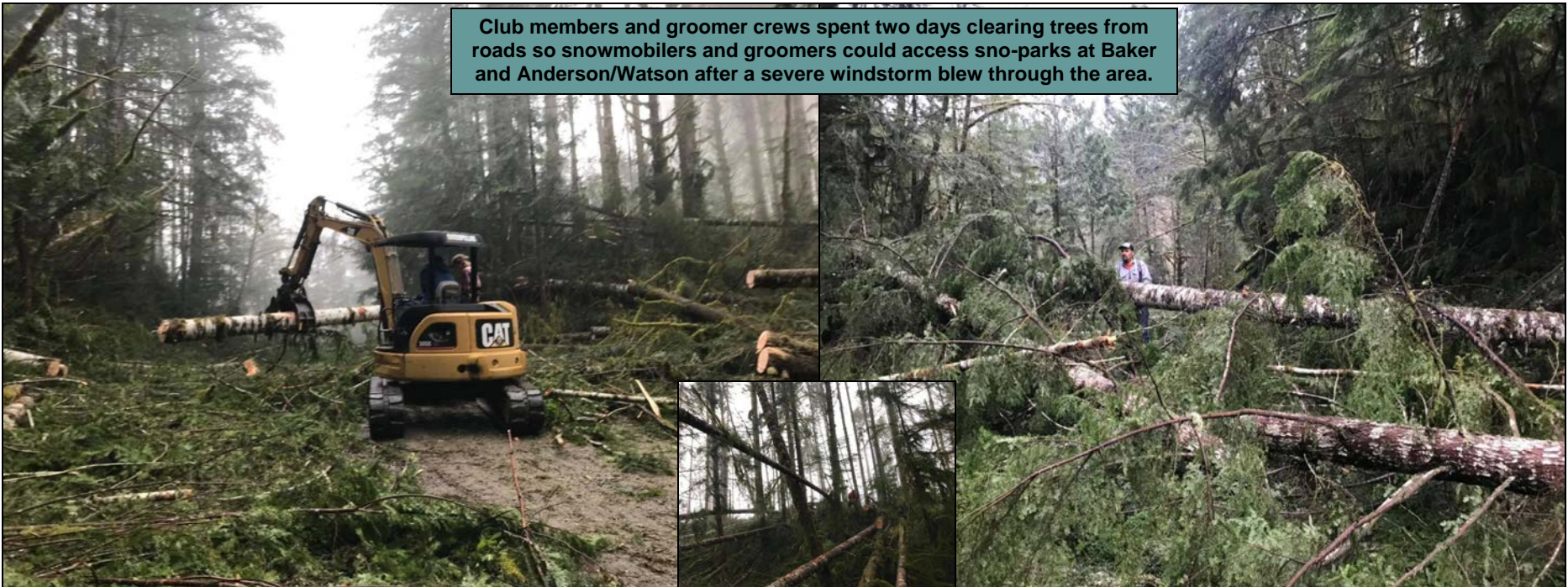
(Continued from page 19) you go. Some creeks have opened. Always be prepared and cautious when riding this extreme mountain volcano.

We still have raffle tickets and calendars for sale on our website. Visit www.northwestglaciercruisers.com. You can

get your annual membership for \$21 there too...

(Continued on page 21)

Club members and groomer crews spent two days clearing trees from roads so snowmobilers and groomers could access sno-parks at Baker and Anderson/Watson after a severe windstorm blew through the area.



POLARIS

RIDE COMMAND

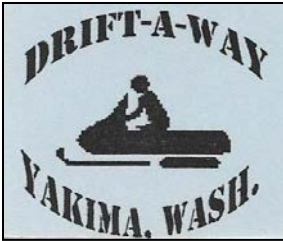
Enjoy the confidence to plan your best rides, track your unforgettable journeys, and share your epic adventures with Polaris Ride Command. Available in the 7S Display and the Ride Command App, plan your adventures with updated trail maps and points of interest information, and share your rides with your friends

polaris.com/snowmobiles



Club News

(Continued from page 20)



Drift-A-Way Snowmobile Club

By Matt Mead,
Secretary

It's kind of funny how riding was better in mid November than it is at the end of January! Not really. Conditions are improving again now though.

The lack of low-level snow hasn't slowed Drift-A-Way members from getting out and riding. Riders were out mid-week at Little Naches, Boulder Cave and Section 3 south of Rimrock Lake. Same for

the weekends.

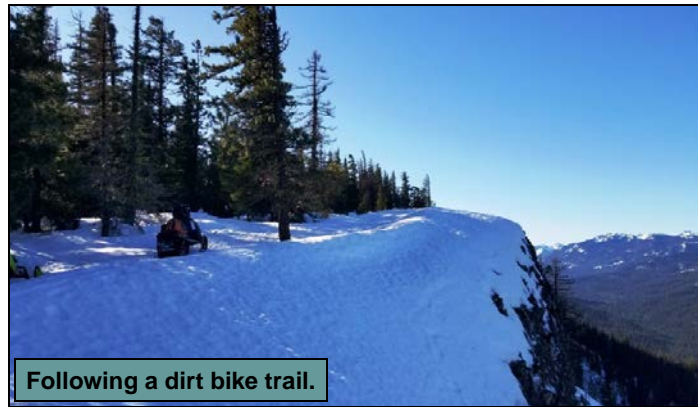
While not an official club ride, numerous members did participate in the Ski-Benders' Chilly Feed, riding from the South Tieton Sno-Park over to Cold Creek for hot dogs and chili. Great event Ski-Benders! After eating, the riders did a bit of boondocking and found several areas of untracked snow to play in.

One recent Monday morning a couple of members took a last-minute trip to Boulder Cave to cut a tree out of the trail at the request of the local area groomer. A bit of off-trail play followed for the rest of the day. We will use any excuse to ride!

The club held their first meeting of the season toward the end of January and elections were held for our slate of officers. Jim Kingman remains President, Jim Senger remains Vice President, Fred Pitzer remains Treasurer, and I've picked up the role as Secretary. It was in person, but the invitation noted the state's social distancing guidelines and mask requirements would be followed.

As we move into February the snow seems to be returning and the weekly rides will continue. Members are hoping to ride some of our other favorite local areas... as soon as there is enough snow to launch from the lower elevation sno-parks.

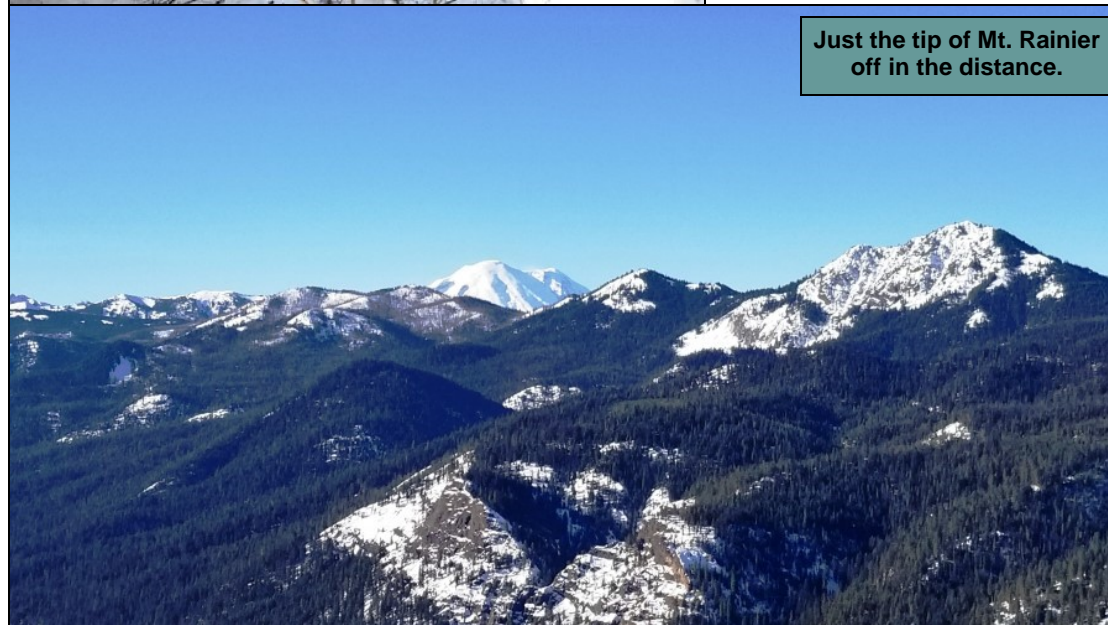
Join us for an ego-free mid-week ride (usually boondocking) ride, or a family-friendly trail-type weekend ride.



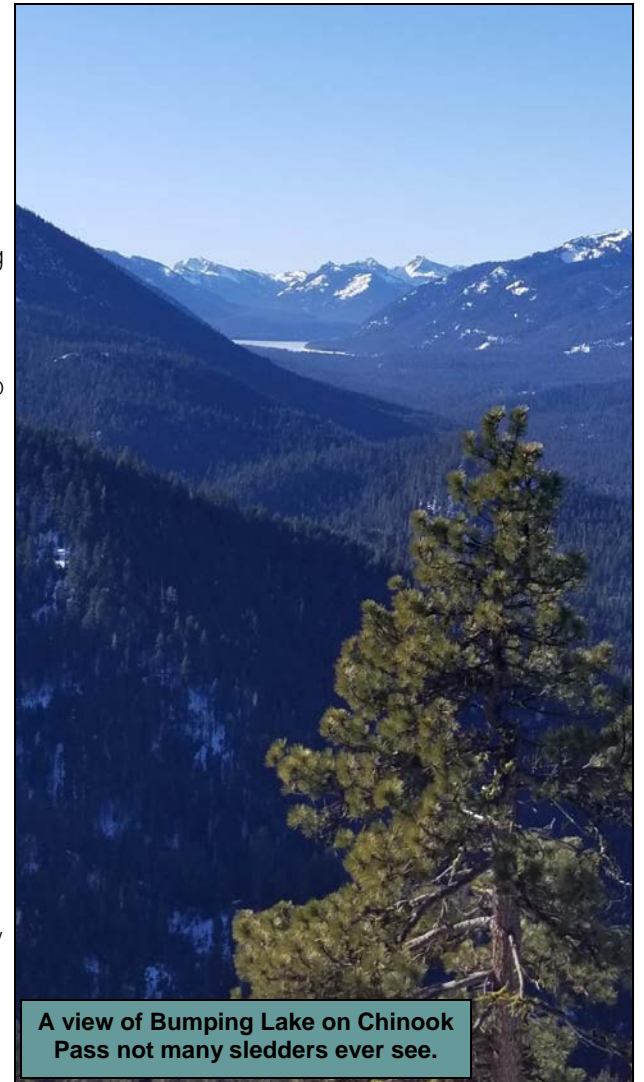
Following a dirt bike trail.



Don't all rides require the use of a chainsaw?



Just the tip of Mt. Rainier off in the distance.



A view of Bumping Lake on Chinook Pass not many sledders ever see.

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News

Highway 20 Area Emergency Closure Order Rescinded!

(Publisher Note: This was posted to the U.S. Forest Service - Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Facebook page on January 28th.)

****NOTICE - CLOSURE RESCINDED****

Starting January 1, the Forest temporarily closed approximately 5,900 acres near Washington Pass to snowmobiles and snow bikes. The temporary closure was done in response to unusually high levels of use seen over the past year during the pandemic and anticipated increase in use continuing through the winter. Forest Service employees have been keeping an eye on recreation use in the area throughout the winter season. Overall use in the area this winter has **been much higher than a typical year, but we haven't** seen the level of increase in mixed use that we expected at the time the decision was made and therefore the Forest Supervisor has rescinded the closure order, effective immediately.

The District is working with partners to continue and to improve education to new users. We will continue to monitor the area and evaluate the risks so that we can take appropriate action if the situation changes.

Several organizations reached out to the Forest in response to the closure to discuss ways that we can work together and find solutions for long-term management. There is a long history of user groups working together to resolve conflicts in the Methow Valley and we will be working with those groups to discuss their goals and to find solutions for long-term management of the area that help us avoid a future need for closure. The renewed commitment from local user groups and support from state and regional groups will be instrumental to our success and we are excited about the potential for finding user-driven, proactive approaches to management of the area.



Notes

HWY 20 Area Closure Order rescinded - How we got there

Info compiled by Matt Mead, Publicity Chair

Once WSSA was briefed on the initial closure situation, we were in contact with the American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA) who helped set up a conference call between snowmobilers and U.S. Forest Service personnel at upper management levels. The call was productive and a key component to the Closure reversal. The WSSA Board had voted our next step was to contact **our Federal legislators if this meeting hadn't been successful.**

WSSA member clubs were involved from the beginning as well, and Craig Stahl, President of the Methow Valley Snowmobile Association, was there to represent the snowmobilers with local Forest Service officials. WSSA appreciates all snowmobilers who contacted the Forest Service and/or their Federal legislators about this Closure.

WSSA was contacted by the Washington Off-Highway Vehicle Association and Northwest Motorcycle Association with offers of assistance as they were concerned with the precedent of an Emergency Closure being placed for a perceived user-conflict situation with no ability to rebut. The Pacific Northwest Four Wheel Drive Association was also offering assistance.

It should be noted local non-motorized user groups were also not in favor of **this closure. Like us, they didn't see this coming nor like the decision made** without user-input; they too prefer for the affected groups to come up with solutions through meetings and compromise.

WSSA's Land Use Chair, Wayne Mohler, sent the following message out to the WSSA Board on January 28th:

"To All: As a follow up to the WSSA meeting of January 11th regarding the snowmobile-snow bike closure on the Okanogan - Wenatchee NF (near Washington Pass), we will not be contacting congressional offices as authorized by the board. As per discussion at the meeting, we were first going to see if we could come to a satisfactory resolution working directly with the Forest Service. Fortunately, those discussions were quite productive and the Forest Supervisor has reconsidered and rescinded the closure - effective immediately.

The concerns expressed by snowmobilers and other recreation groups - both within and outside of Washington - regarding the closure was impressive and undoubtedly had an impact. Our appreciation is extended to all who took time to convey their concerns to the Forest Service. Also, to the Forest Service - who listened to those concerns."

It goes to show when snowmobilers and advocacy groups work together, we can bring positive results!



Check out these interactive online training modules on your schedule and at your pace!

Avalanche Prevention Information

Review facts that will keep you safe this winter.

<https://nwac.us/backcountry-basics/>

State Parks Update

By Pamela McConkey, Winter Recreation Program Manager

WOW THE CROWDS!

What a crazy season we are having so far! The sno-parks have never been so crowded. With COVID-19 restrictions, social distancing, wearing masks and the inability to visit their favorite restaurant, go to the movies, watch their children play winter sports, people are finding the mountains and snow play, ski, snowshoe and many are also picking up your favorite sport and trying snowmobiling. Although this is all great, it is causing a lot of anxiety and stress when arriving at the sno-park and finding that it is already full.

Tips:

- Get to the sno-park early.
- Have a plan B if that sno-park is already full.
- Try a mid-week trip if you have that kind of flexibility and can avoid the weekend crowds.
- If you are the first one there, remember, the way you park will set the tone for the day, please make sure you park responsibly.
- Take your patience, beacon, probe, shovel, dry gloves, water, snacks and know the avalanche danger before you leave the parking lot.
- Remember many of the people you will encounter in the sno-park have probably never been **there before and don't know the drill.**

I also want to THANK YOU! I have seen many photos and videos and heard firsthand testimony this season of people pulling their children on little plastic sleds right down the middle of the snowmobile trail, making any little hill an instant sledding hill and people snow shoeing and just standing and talking in the middle of the snowmobile trail. And with all these videos, testimonies, and photos, the snowmobilers in true snowmobiler fashion are riding slowing by, waving at the little children that are wide-eyed at seeing the cool snowmobiles and being their awesome selves. So truly... Thank you!

Stay safe, stay healthy!

Winter Recreation Grooming Map: Pilot Project Public Release

Reminder - Washington State Parks Winter Recreation Program has released a public Winter Grooming Map. It displays data

received from GPS receivers located on snowcats statewide. Every morning around 6am new data will display the last seven days of grooming in different colors. Colors depict: Groomed today, groomed yesterday, groomed day before yesterday, and groomed with # of days



since grooming. (Note: Legend colors have not been finalized and may have changed as you read this for better clarity). This winter is a pilot project, and we

(Continued on page 24)

#RecreateResponsibly *Winter Edition*

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Some areas can become dangerous with winter conditions. Research your destination, as roads and facilities may be closed in winter.

PRACTICE PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Be prepared to cover your nose and mouth. When possible, opt to eat and rest outside. If you feel sick, stay home.

PLAN AHEAD

Check local conditions and prepare for the elements, packing extra layers, waterproof clothing, and avalanche safety gear for the backcountry.

PLAY IT SAFE

Know your limits and your gear. Slow down and choose lower-risk activities to reduce your risk of injury.

EXPLORE LOCALLY

Consider exploring locally, as driving and parking may be more challenging in winter. If you travel, be mindful of your impact on Native and local communities.

LEAVE NO TRACE

Did you know that the snow is our water supply? Keep our winter playgrounds clean. Pack out any human or pet waste. Be respectful of the land.

BUILD AN INCLUSIVE OUTDOORS

Everyone deserves to experience a winter wonderland. Be an active part of making the outdoors safe, accessible, and welcoming for all identities and abilities.

State Parks Update

(Continued from page 23) will use this winter to make adjustments and improve its usefulness and reliability for future winters. Check it out, we would love to hear from you! We don't have GPS receivers on all statewide equipment just yet but hope too soon. We also only collect GPS data every five minutes and only if satellite reception is good. (Valleys and tree cover often limit reception intervals longer than five minutes.) Some trails may show gaps; that's ok; assume it is most likely groomed between the gaps, but a GPS data point did not fall within the time interval. The map has other advantages too; here are some of Jason Goldstein's favorites: The user can select different base maps; turn on ownership; allows a quick zoom to a particular sno-park if you type in a sno-park name in the search box; allows selection of SNOTEL snowpack depth at weather stations throughout the state – the blue points on the map. Plus many other improvements are coming such as addition of drone photos of sno-park parking layouts (we will add more aeriels over time).

We encourage users to report back to us via email at winter@parks.wa.gov and let us know how we can make this product even better. The map can be found on our main winter recreation webpage; scroll down and select on the left hand side 'Winter recreation map'.

Main winter page <https://parks.state.wa.us/130/Winter-recreation>

Tip: open the map on your pc or mobile phone and save the link to your home screen so you can check it daily over the winter.

Direct link to map [https://wa-stateparks.maps.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?](https://wa-stateparks.maps.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?web-map=8203a133191e4b3ba1bb081e939881f4)

web-

map=8203a133191e4b3ba1bb081e939881f4

Sno-Park Permit Fees to Increase in Fall 2021!

In order to stay in line with the non-motorized programs sno-park permit fees, both programs will be increasing the seasonal sno-park permit fee from \$40 currently to \$50 beginning October 2021. This will NOT have any impact on your sno-park permit which you receive at NO additional cost when you register your snowmobile. However, people visiting from out of state or out of country, will need this sno-park permit to park at snowmobile sno-parks in Washington. Again, when you register your snowmobile and/or snowbike, there is no additional cost to you for your seasonal sno-park permit. Questions? Send us an email winter@parks.wa.gov

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



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 | 3,189 | (168) |
| November | 2,870 | 3,129 | 3,362 | 4,360 | 2,960 | 2,372 | 5,009 | 2,637 |
| December | 6,656 | 11,575 | 13,170 | 6,973 | 8,320 | 6,726 | 7,229 | 503 |
| 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 | 19,047 | 3,230 |

Membership

Membership Matters

By Wayne & Florence Mohler, Membership Co-Chairs

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

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

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

So, you're a mountain rider and don't need trails? RIGHT...



Facts Are:

- Groomed trails provide quick access to higher elevation & better snow.
- When you have sled issues, trails provide safest return to your vehicle.
- Injured? Yep, it's the trail they drag you out on.

SUPPORT GROOMERS, TRAILS & SNOWMOBILING BY JOINING A CLUB WHERE YOU RIDE.

ACSA E-News

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



Executive Order Commits To TRIPLING Protected Lands

An Executive Order signed recently ordered a pause on new oil and gas leases on public lands, created a White House Office on Environmental Justice, and committed to protect 30% of U.S. land and coastal seas by 2030. This is commonly being referred to as 30x30.

The U.S. is currently conserving around 26% of its coastal waters and 12% of its land in a largely natural state, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. To reach the 30x30 target will require conserving more than 440 million acres, within the next 10 years.

The White House has yet to specify who will oversee the initiative at the federal level and which lands and waterways might be prioritized. Conservation scientists who have been advocating the idea for years, however, say the secret to pulling it off will be making decisions based on sound science, avoiding shortcuts, and ensuring voices from those most impacted, like rural voters and American Indian tribes, are heard.

The Executive Order promises to engage a broad range of stakeholders, including local governments, in the process.

Read the National Geographic article on this initiative here:
<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2021/01/biden-commits-to-30-by-2030-conservation-executive-orders/#close>

TransMontana Ride

A group of 18 snowmobilers are coming together in western Montana for a week-long trek in the name of charity.

The Montana Snowmobile Association's Trans-Montana Charity Ride started 20 years ago and raises money for the Montana chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, which works to support veterans and prevent teen suicide.



Riders were to meet Friday, January 29th, in Kalispell and start riding the following morning. The riders will travel south, hitting six different riding areas until they end up in West Yellowstone on Thursday, February 4th.

Electric Vehicles

General Motors (GM): A pioneer of the automobile and a pillar of American manufacturing, recently declared it will stop making cars that run on gas.

GM has been building Electric Vehicles (EVs) longer than any other automaker, since the mid-1990s, and has resisted making them mainstream for almost as long. EVs were incompatible with the company's multi-billion-dollar investments in internal-combustion engine factories around the world.

Lordstown Motors Corp: A fledgling electric vehicle maker in Ohio expects to complete the prototypes of its new pickup truck in March and remains on target to start full production in the fall.

Lordstown Motors Corp. said it already has begun metal stamping and welding for the Endurance all-electric pickup truck prototypes, which will be used for testing.

Full production of the pickups will begin in September at the former GM assembly plant near Youngstown, which Lordstown Motors bought in 2019.

The company announced earlier this month it already has more than 100,000 orders for the light-duty truck, which is mainly being sold to commercial customers such as utility companies and municipal governments.

Did You Catch the Weather Channel's segments on snowmobiling?

In recognition of International Snowmobile Safety Week, the Weather Channel had two segments on snowmobiling. ACSA Vice President Dan Long was interviewed for the segments.

If you were unable to tune in, you can catch them here.

The first interview can be seen here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/14IT-kFNMNJ2aByD8oYb_4_QySUIVsXQF/view

The second interview can be seen here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Zva4zNDYrH3JnNIYzJn8Vz3D4hWeonw/view>

New Tools Available To Promote Snowmobiling

New PSAs have just been developed and posted for your use. These 30-second PSAs were developed through a Cooperative Agreement with the Federal Highway Administration and are FREE!

Join a Snowmobile Club: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Z2G6LM3vR8&feature=youtu.be>

Support Trails: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ssdd5Dnai8&feature=youtu.be>

Landowners: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=produMGVAns&feature=youtu.be>

Please take advantage of these tools and distribute them in your local areas and on social media.

Ski-Doo Grassroot Club Assistance

Ski-Doo has put a program in place to support clubs that want to partner with local businesses in assuring snowmobilers have pit-stops along the trail. The basis is to provide expanded protected/sheltered areas for snowmobilers to come off the trail for snacks, food, refreshments and take a breather or use the rest rooms before continuing their journey. Clubs applying need to account for local guidelines and mandates with regards to COVID restrictions.

The program targets trail areas specifically as mountain riders typically ride from a trail head/parking lot and return there each day.

E-mail Guillaume at Guillaume.brodeur@brp.com for more details.

Solution to Decrease Wildfires?

In 2020 alone, over 4.9 million acres burned on U.S. Forest Service-protected lands. That's nearly the size of Delaware and Con-

(Continued on page 26)

ACSA E-News

(Continued from page 25)

necticut, combined.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed a new rule that will limit frivolous lawsuits that seek to block projects designed to reduce the risks to our forests. It provides relief from harmful anti-forestry lawsuits that have blocked efforts to thin overstocked forests and reduce fuels that are contributing to these devastating fires. You can view the proposed language here: <https://beta.regulations.gov/document/FWS-HQ-ES-2020-0102-0001>

If interested, comments must be submitted by February 11, 2021. Visit here: <https://healthyforests.org/action-center/?vsrc=%2Fcampaigns%2F79237%2Frespond>

California Fires Could Upend Years of Air Pollution Progress

The findings from researchers at Stanford University and University of California at San Diego show wildfire smoke is now responsible for as much as half of the fine-particulate air pollution in western states. That's about double the level that smoke accounted for in the mid-2000s, according to the paper published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

While the country took large strides to improve air quality after passage of the federal Clean Air Act decades ago, the latest research suggests smoky skies are frustrating the trend, particularly in western states such as California.

BRP Wins 3 Design Awards

Bombardier Recreational Products (BRP) ended 2020 on a high note with three wins at the prestigious Good Design USA Awards. The three winning products include the Ski-Doo Expedition Xtreme, Sea-Doo GTI, and Can-Am Spyder RT.

"We're thrilled to have been recognized with 13 awards in 2020. This is a huge accomplishment for our teams, and I'd like to highlight the dedication and innovative spirit of everyone at BRP," said Denys Lapointe, Senior Vice-President of Design, Innovation and Creative Services at



BRP. "This year saw many people take refuge in the outdoors with the help of BRP's products, and we look forward to seeing a continuation of this trend in 2021."

Did You Hear This COVID News?

Can you guess the COVID infection rate on Forest Service wildfire lines last summer? Bear in mind, the Forest Service had between 10,000 and 15,000 firefighters on the lines on any given day.

What's your guess.... 30%..... 20%..... 10%?

Nope. Two Percent. Yes - only 2%. Far below the infection rate anywhere else in the United States.

Yes, men and women working on fire lines are spaced far enough apart to be practicing 'social distancing'. But they live in tents in fire camps, eat in common areas and use chemical toilets that are difficult to keep clean in the best of circumstances.

Congratulations to the Forest Service leadership that came up with a plan to protect wildland fire crews!

Carbon Offset Market is Changing

The markets where sequestered carbon are bought and sold, including California's 'cap and trade' market, are only available to forest landowners with tens of thousands of acres, due to the high costs of quantifying and verifying projected carbon sequestration in trees.

However, a variety of groups are ramping up efforts to open up the multi-billion dollar carbon offset market to small forest landowners. They want their efforts to financially boost small landowners while also enlisting more corporate polluters to mitigate the harmful effects of climate change on the nation's most forested state.

That's because large companies, including Amazon and Disney, are willing to pay landowners for tree growth in order to offset their own carbon emissions.

In December, Maine Governor Janet Mills called for the formation of a group to develop a voluntary forest carbon program. The program would provide financial incentives for the state's 86,000 woodland owners with between 10 and 10,000 acres to "increase carbon storage in Maine's forests" while "maintaining current timber harvest levels."

BP is planning to launch programs in 2021 that will combine smaller forest landowners' property into large offset projects.

2021 ACSA Calendars!

There is still time to get your 2021 Cash Calendar!

Call the ACSA Office at (517) 351-4362 or your State Snowmobile Association for assistance to get your calendar today!

Be SNOW SMART!

Just a Friendly Reminder for you and your fellow riders to be safe this weekend - and every time you're out riding!

30-second Video Impaired Riding PSA:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Yox3Xjh0Qk>

30-second Video Speeding PSA: Click here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QfRlrHU1dXM>

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!



Notes

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

From the International Snowmobile Tourism Council
And the International Snowmobile Media Council

The ISTC and the ISMC want to bring to the attention of all snowmobilers riding in the West, how important it is to **KNOW BEFORE YOU GO**. We strongly urge snowmobilers to check the avalanche forecast before heading out no matter where you ride in the West. You have the training (Are You Beeping?) and the tools but **DID YOU CHECK THE AVALANCHE FORECAST?** Very easy to do: go to www.avalanche.org and click on the state you are going to ride in. The Midwest and Northeast riders especially need to be aware of this when they head west to ride as this would likely not be part of their normal routine. Read the avalanche forecast before every ride. Know what the avalanche problems or the bottom-line summary says for your riding area. If you get buried in an avalanche, it takes about ten minutes to die.

You can look at the avalanche statistics from last season on the ACSA website www.snowmobilers.org. They were compiled by Mike Duffy, one of the top avalanche experts in the U.S. Also, on the ACSA website is Snowmobile Education and Safety. **KNOW BEFORE YOU GO**, and live to ride another day.

KNOW THE RISKS, AND BE PREPARED.



And make every trip a round trip.



ISMA - 1840 Hudson Road, Suite 170 - Bloomington, Michigan 48904 Tel: (517) 379-7788 Fax: (517) 379-7788 Web Site: www.ismaonline.org

**KEEP RIGHT
RIDE SINGLE FILE.
ANTICIPATE
ON-COMING
TRAFFIC.**

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



**THANK A GROOMER!
THEY WORK DAY & NIGHT TO MAKE YOUR
RIDE SMOOTH & PLEASURABLE!**



**ALWAYS WATCH OUT,
SLOW DOWN &
YIELD TO GROOMERS!**

Visit snowmobileinfo.org for safe riding information.

SNOWMOBILE RENTALS IN WASHINGTON

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

Ride Finesse
(Ravensdale)
(206) 883-4635
www.ridefinesse.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.**

Matt's Misc.

Tracked ATV/UTV legislation update.

There was a hearing in front of the Senate's Transportation Committee on January 21st. Ron Lind and I testified in favor of on behalf of WSSA and Owen Rowe testified in favor of for State Parks. There was no opposition and several other people and businesses signed in supporting our legislation. Since we advanced beyond the Senate Transportation Committee last session, I'm hopeful we'll do the same this year. Politics are fickle though, so we'll take each day as it comes.

Grooming map! It's mentioned a couple of times already in this Snoflyer, but if you missed it, you'll want to check it out. Visit the link below and take a look! <https://wa-stateparks.maps.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?web-map=8203a133191e4b3ba1bb081e939881f4>

Ski-Doo's removable snowflap. What an awesome idea! Too bad they only offer it for the Gen IV. But with a little creativeness, it can be adapted to an XM. And that's what I did! As I was hacking up my original snow flap to make it work, I was wondering if I was wasting my time. Turns out I was able to test it a couple of times the very next day. While bebopping down a forest road I got a bit careless and rode off the side and ended up a bit off-camber and was partially stuck in a small tree well. Going forward was going to require testing my handsaw. A flip of the two latches holding on the flap, and I was able to completely back out of trouble. Anyone with a stock late-model Summit knows the snowflap will quickly get sucked down under the track whenever backing up in deep snow, so this was pretty amazing! It is incredible the way this machine will reverse without a flap! A short time later, while trying to climb a steep hill up between the trees, I buried it. My friends were helping others, so I was on my own. I quickly popped off the snow flap, and damned if I wasn't able to back the sled a few feet down the hill and out of the deepest part of the trench. After a bit of shoveling on the left side, I was able to drag the sled sideways where I could ride it out. The kit comes with a set of LinQ mounts to put on the tunnel to store the snowflap when removed. Pretty handy, but you'll have to watch your temp gauge as the machine runs a lot hotter sans flap; fine in the powder but a no-no on a hard packed trail. The removed flap is supposed to help you go forward too by shooting snow straight back and not having it rotated back around into the tunnel to be chewed up

a second time. Makes sense, but honestly I feel the ability to back up in more situations is the real benefit. I'm thinking about adding one to my daughter's Renegade Backcountry and I'm guessing it would be possible to retrofit to most any sled with a 16" tunnel.

Stuck much? With age comes wisdom... Well, that's the saying. Is it true? Who knows? But I've snowmobile a good chunk of my adult life and I've learned a few things.

First, I'm not the guy who will tell you not to ride alone, but I will tell you riding friends are good to have... to help you get un-stuck! A count of three makes almost every un-sticking easier. So many times a light touch of the throttle and a tug on each ski will get a sled out.

Of course this assumes you follow rule #1... If you know you are about to get stuck, STOP! Is it really necessary to dig a hole to China to prove you are really stuck?!

Pin and wiggle? (That's where you rock the machine side to side to keep it from being high-centered on the running boards and PEG the throttle.) Think long and hard before using this maneuver. Will it work? My experience has been no, not usually. Can it work? Sure, but if you have friends, save everyone's back and don't try it.

A sharp saw is your friend! Don't waste your time with a cheap Harbor Freight folding saw or the like; it will work, but you can do much better. I have a Samurai Ichiban 13" Curved Pruning Saw I bought on Amazon. This thing can CUT! Just recently a friend brought along a 36-volt Torryza 4-inch mini chainsaw and it performed really well too. (Jury is still out on quality and lifespan of this no-name China brand, but the kit comes with two batteries and a charger.) A saw gives you options of which way to go! Sometimes going forward would be real easy if a few branches or a sapling were dis-



By Matt Mead, Publicity Secretary



patched.

Like they always say, "work smarter, not harder". Carrying a few specialized tools, stopping before you are TOO stuck, spending a minute to formalize a game plan, and a couple of additional bodies to help you out, makes for a quicker and less labor intensive un-stucking. What are your secrets?

Ontario snowmobiler found after writing S.O.S. with coffee grounds. This was a happy ending! A Canadian snowmobiler went missing and search crews found snowmobile tracks on a lake leading into open water. They continued the search and about half a mile away, found a helmet on the ice. Soon they saw a plume of smoke and found a cabin with a person outside waving his arms and an S.O.S. signal written nearby in the snow. The snowmobiler was treated and released from a local hospital with no significant injuries.

Well this blew my mind... As I was reading through my Google Alerts on snowmobile-related content, I came across a rescue in Canada credited to an app called what3words. Wait, what?... Reading the news story piqued my interest so I then Googled the name of the app. This was followed by me downloading the app. What is it you ask? Basically every 10' square of earth has been assigned three words for identification purposes. For instance, this combination, 'reality.benchmarks.slumped' is at the entrance to the Crystal Springs Snow Park. Getting back to the Canadian rescue, the victim was able to use his phone and the app to identify his position, relay the three words to the local police, who were then able to find his location by using the app. (And actually, you don't need the app as you can go to www.what3words.com and type in the three words and it will show you the location on a map.) Think of it as GPS coordinates for those who can't read latitude and longitude. Doing some reading on Wikipedia, it turns out this idea goes back to 2013; who knew?! Certainly not me. So, is this going to be used in rescues going forward? Probably not. But could it be used in a fun

(Continued on page 29)

Matt's Misc.

(Continued from page 28) way... Such as in geocaching? I will have to give this some thought... Maybe I'll set up a what3words geocache and see if any Snoflyer readers can find it...

Cool pics from Facebook... As this Snoflyer was wrapping up, these two pics popped up in PNW Snowmobiler. Spotted in McCall and sporting a WA license plate.



Pretty awesome! **Washington's gas tax going up?** Argh, not again! We don't know for sure what is going to happen, but know WSSA and other user groups are aiming to get a piece of the pie if

that happens. While nobody wants to see an increase, if it occurs, we are supposed to see an equal increase in our fuel tax refund to the snowmobile account. Sadly it doesn't happen automatically; WSSA and other users groups will have to lobby hard to ensure we do. We have successfully done so in the past and will continue to do so in the future. Stay tuned!

Logging closures. I noticed grumblings on Facebook about road closures due to logging. In fact, we experienced it first hand up in Little Naches during a poker ride. While I understand the short-term pain, I hope snowmobilers consider the long-term gain! Our group sometimes complains about all the tree growth that has turned former powder-filled meadows into impenetrable forests. But a couple of years ago we took a trip up on Bethel Ridge (Yakima area) and discovered new open areas because of logging. We've experienced it in the Ahtanum and are witnessing it right now at Little Naches. These areas become phenomenal

play areas once the logging is done and slash piles burned. Considering the poor forest management in the past that led to the dense and fire-prone areas in our state, we should be happy to see this logging take place and bide our time until these spots are ripe for riding again!

20-year-old Wisconsin resident creates snowmobile youth group.

Seeing the need for youth involvement in the sport, Cheyanne Warren of Eagle River started her own club for kids. The idea is for the youth to see what is involved in organized snowmobiling and want to help, eventually moving into positions of more responsibility, likely in a traditional snowmobile club.

WSSA has tried to encourage youngsters to get involved and had a Snowmobiling 4-H program in the past. It's a tough road though as the leaders of these activities are usually parents and as their kids quickly grow through this age group, the families move on, leaving gaps to fill in the leadership roles, not to mention finding new kids to join. WSSA would love to pursue this again; if you are interested, contact Past President Jim Kingman, who has shown great interest in putting a program back in place.

WSSA highlighted in current edition of ShareTrails.org magazine.

Every winter, ShareTrails magazine dedicates their issue to snow-related recreation. The current vice-president, Jack Welch, is a friend and recently called me and asked if I'd be interested in writing up a profile article for WSSA for the 'Organizational Spotlight' section of the magazine. Of course I was! How could I overlook an opportunity to promote WSSA? The current issue can be found here: https://www.sharetrails.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Issue_022.pdf

Dad's and Daughter's ride. While we are on the subject of youths, I'd like to extend an invitation to any dads and daughters who'd like to ride the Yakima area. While my daughter is now a young adult in her sophomore year of college, she's still my little girl and I enjoy riding with her im-

mensely. I remember her first rides when her top speed was about 15 mph and she wouldn't ride her sled along a trail with a steep drop on one side. She's come a long way and now follows me (sometimes she shouldn't!) just about anywhere. If you have a young daughter just getting started and are looking for an easy and kid-friendly environment, my daughter and I would be happy to show you around.

COVID vaccine delivered by snowmobile in rural Alaska. That probably doesn't surprise you too much. How about the fact it was an all-female team? I don't care who you are, that's impressive! Dealing with limited daylight hours, sub-zero temperatures, and remote locations would be a real challenge. The team has traveled hundreds of miles across northern Alaska at times above the Arctic Circle. Hats off to these professional healthcare workers!

Michigan's Department of Natural Resources (DNR) bought land for sled trails. Specifically, the DNR bought 30-foot wide easements along 56 miles of trail, creating permanent access for future generations. Michigan spent just a hair under a million dollars for access, which also included an additional 11 miles for other multiple-use trails. Michigan takes their motorized recreation seriously!

A tale of broken snowmobiles. I just read a column by a freelance writer in New York about a snowmobile adventure he was on. It was one of those rides where anything that could go wrong did. Multiple sleds broke and were towed. I've been on those rides... Luckily I was usually the tow-er and not the tow-ee. When it is happening we are usually cussing under our breath. Time heals and soon it makes for a great story to tell for years. You can read the entertaining tale here: https://poststar.com/sports/outdoors/columns/winter_sports/column-a-broken-snowmobile-adventure/article_c201f4c1-d2d3-53a3-b3fb-135ec45de9c3.html?fbclid=IwAR1VtfyxcLRLNP7yhY8-MukTHA0IxPIeSHpu-hEYVhpgwIGspm8lg7w1SwAc

Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!

Facebook followers are over 3,475! Find us on Twitter at @wssaus and on Instagram at WSSA.US.

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