

Snoflyer

*The official publication of the
Washington State Snowmobile Association*

October 2021
Volume 44

And We're Back!

WSSA Expo & Swap
Oct 16 & 17
Puyallup

Inside:

How Your Registration Dollars are Spent
Overview of the 21/22 Snowmobile Program Budget
Van Epps Huts Update - Good News!

*Cover photo: Mt. Adams as viewed from Mt.
St. Helens. Pic by Matt Mead*



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Click here for up-to-date grooming reports!

Photo Credit - Craig Hill

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SANDY BEACHES

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FISHING

RECREATIONAL RENTALS

18 HOLE GOLF COURSE

CROSS COUNTRY SKI TRAILS



GROOMED TRAIL REPORT

UPDATED DAILY



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WSSA MEMBERSHIP

APPLICATION

Membership valid until August 31, 2022

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

FAMILY/INDIVIDUAL: (\$25)

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Mailing _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

County: _____

Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____

of Registered Sleds: _____ Number of Riders: _____

Legislative District _____ Congressional District _____

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

Name _____ of _____ Business _____ or _____ Club: _____

Owner/Business _____ Contact _____ or _____ Club _____ Contact: _____

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

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

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

Phone: _____ Email: _____ Website: _____

WSSA MEETINGS AND IMPORTANT EVENTS 2021/2022

WSSA Meeting

**Lake Wenatchee Rec Club, Leavenworth
October 2nd, 2021**

Join us, 9am, at the Rec Club, located at 14400 Chiwawa Loop Road, just outside of Leavenworth. Find out the latest details on the upcoming Expo & Swap Meet and other hot topics.

D.C. Fly-In

Fall - Date TBD

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

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 and much more!

WSSA Meeting

November 8th, Zoom or November 6th, 2021 at ??

WSSA Meeting

January 10th, Zoom or January 8th, 2021 at ??

Winter Rendezvous & WSSA Meeting

In Yakima

February 18th-21st, 2022

Scheduled rides for Friday, Saturday and Sunday. (Monday too if riders are interested.) Ride leaders will meet your expectations! Hardcore extreme? We got it! Easy short trail ride? We'll provide it! Mid-level trail/off-trail adventure? That's our bread and butter! Evening events including dinners, an auction and awards. Great for families with kids!

March Budget Meeting

March 14th, Zoom or March 12th, 2021 at ??

International Snowmobile Congress

Dubuque, Iowa

June 8th-11th, 2022

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>

Snoflyer Advertising Targets Snowmobilers!

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**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



Moving forward towards some kind of normalcy is proving to be more difficult than first anticipated! The delta variant has turned out to be more stubborn than we had hoped. In August I lost a dear friend of mine to COVID-19. He was an avid snowmobiler and contributed countless hours as a volunteer in the Spokane Winter Knights Search and Rescue Team. Ed Green will be remembered as one that supported the snowmobiler! Please consider getting vaccinated so I do not have to write about you. Ed will be missed.

This Snoflyer will be distributed at our 29th Annual WSSA Snowmobile and Power Sports Expo and Swap Meet on October 16th and 17th. It contains information that is both informational and educational. Thank you to Matt Mead, our Publicity Secretary and Chief Editor, for putting in all the hours needed to make this a great Snoflyer! Please read it through and let Matt know you also appreciate his labor for the cause of snowmobiling.

Welcome to Expo 2021! We are very fortunate to have our event this year. As you know, the 2020 Expo was cancelled and 2021 has come with uncertainty. Thankfully the Governor has only put a mandate on wearing a mask. We could have been cancelled. I went to the Puyallup State Fair to see for myself how it was going to impact this event and maybe our own. I was pleased to see the cooperation and great attendance. Hopefully our attendance will follow the same pattern.

Thank you to all the exhibitors who have turned out this year and made this event successful! Without you, Expo could not and would not happen. Thank you.

Thank you to all the volunteers for your hours of donated time and contributing to a smooth-running show. You had to work more hours this year than any other. Thank you.

2022 will be our 30th annual Expo. Plan for this event now and share in the excitement.

WSSA will be celebrating our 50th anniversary in 2022 as an organization dedicated to 'keeping the gates open' for the snowmobiler. We have come a long way in 50 years. We are now keeping the gates open for snowmobiles, snowbikes, and tracked ATVs and side-by-sides. Our future of electric motorized and mechanized recreational equipment is just around the corner. Help support WSSA for the next 50 years while they look out for you. Thanks for your past 50 years of support as without you we would not exist.

As a reminder, International Snowmobile Congress (ISC) 2022 will take place in Dubuque, Iowa, next June. More to follow.

The 2021-2022 challenge is still to keep 'building bridges and not walls'! Don't forget to support and thank your dealers as they do their best to take care of you in your sport.

In closing, please continue to keep safe and practice social distancing until it is safe.

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



Greetings all WSSA members and fellow snowmobilers!

With summer in the books, I am really looking forward to this coming winter! I can't wait to breathe clear cold winter air again! With the fires in the forest this year, the summer has not been pleasant. Between worrying about all the homes and businesses at risk and breathing the awful air here in Yakima, I am done with summer; bring on the snow!

WSSA is on schedule to hold the Expo in Puyallup this year. The dates are October 16th and 17th and I hope **to see you there.** Last year due to COVID we weren't able to have our event. This year will certainly be different, but we will persevere. We are snowmobilers and we can adapt. If we need to maintain six foot distance and wear masks we will. I am really looking forward to seeing all the people who attend our event. This is when I get all excited about our sport and can share my ideas and experiences with like-minded people.

Please be safe out there and I will see you at the show or on the snow!



2021 WASHINGTON SNOWMOBILE & POWER SPORTS EXPO AND SWAP MEET

WWW.WSSAEXPO.COM



Saturday 9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. Sunday 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

Washington State Fair Events Center, Puyallup, Washington

Admission \$10.00 • Children 12 and Under Free

Safe Rider Snowmobile Seminar for 12-16 year olds to earn a Snowmobile Safety Certificate
Call WA State Parks at 1-360-902-8684 to register or send e-mail to: winter@parks.wa.gov

Free Seminars on Saturday Noon to 5 P.M.

Expo: 1-509-220-1001 Swap Meet: 1-888-457-SWAP (7927)



Tharin on Safety

Start planning now for a safe snowmobile season

By Tharin Huisman
tharin.huisman@wssa.us
(360) 460-6222



Hello fellow sledders!
I had a great summer. I hope you all did as well. I was able to spend time with family and friends, lay down some much-needed miles on my bike, and work as much as I wanted to save for the upcoming season. Life is good and COVID-19 is not.

After the great summer we had, the daytime highs are starting to cool and the leaves are FINALLY changing color. Fall is in the air. This time of year many of us have put away our summer hobbies and are dreaming of the powder days. The wait between now and the first snowfall of the year is very difficult. For me, the long wait time is prep time. It's time to start thinking about equipment I might need to upgrade. Maintenance time for my sleds and truck. Its time to start thinking about refreshing myself on my GPS, avalanche beacon and other safety gear. Its time to start thinking about refreshing my avalanche education and possibly expanding my knowledge. For me,

its time to prepare for the upcoming season.

I encourage you to prepare. Spend some time on your equipment to make it the most reliable and as safe as possible. Spend some time with your life-saving tools and equipment. Know they work and know how to use them proficiently. Encourage your riding partners to do the same. Think about your avalanche education. Be honest with yourself and get the training in areas you are not completely comfortable with. How are your first-aid skills? Be honest, do you need to hone up on back-country first-aid. I know I do.

Lastly, I want to throw out a request (for the second time). I would love to have a couple individuals assist with WSSA Safety. Give me a call or e-mail and we can chat about what that may look like. If you have an hour or two or you have lots of time. Any little bit helps.

Thank you all. I hope to see you all at the snow show.

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

Expo '21 Exhibitors

Due to publishing times, this list is updated through September 24th. For a map with up-to-date exhibitors and their location in Showplex, visit www.wssaexpo.com.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ACSA | Northwest Avalanche Center (NWAC) |
| Amsoil Lubricants | Northwest Glacier Cruisers |
| Bavarian Boondockers | Off-Road Vixens |
| Bickford Trailers | Ortovox |
| BRP/Ski-Doo | Paulson's Motorsports |
| Cascade Drift Skippers | PNWVSC |
| Clem's Enumclaw Powersports | Polaris Industries |
| Conconully Chamber of Commerce | Priest Lake Chamber Of Commerce |
| Diamond Lake Resort | Rescue Tape NW |
| Dynamic Designs | Ride Finesse |
| EZ Raider US | Ride Rasmussen Style |
| Firestarter | SK Northwest & Polaris of Portland |
| Gizmo Enterprises Inc | Sled Slut |
| High Cascades Power Sports Apparel | Sno-Dirt Products |
| HMK/ARVA/Fieldsheer/Oxbow | Sno-Jammers |
| I-90 Motorsports | The Last Resort Operations LLC |
| Jet Chevrolet Inc | Trailer Wholesale |
| JLB Investments | TruckBoss USA |
| JMC Motorsports LLC | University of Idaho |
| Kittitas County SAR | USFS |
| LLUMEN8 Lighting | Washington State Parks Winter Rec |
| Luft Trailer Sales | WSSA |
| Mountain Village Resort | WSSA Rendezvous |
| Mt St Helen's Trac-Riders | WSSA Safety Trailer |
| Mt. Baker Moto-Sports/Arctic Cat | Yakima Ski Benders |
| | Yamaha |



District Reports



District 1 North

By Hans Brubaker
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(360) 922-8296

As this issue goes to press, Whatcom and Skagit clubs are busily preparing for the season following some great late summer events.

The Northwest Glacier Cruisers (NWGC) members enjoyed volunteering at the 'Welcome Home Vietnam Vets Picnic', and also held an awesome end of summer camp out at Terry's Racin' Ranch. Congratulations to the NWGC on their 50th year anniversary!

Planning for fall work parties is underway with public day use warming huts to be put in place, and other trail and road maintenance to be completed before the snow flies.

With respect to road conditions, Whatcom County riders got a major boost from the Forest Service with the grading of Canyon Creek Road and replacement of several failing culverts. One old timer commented it's the best the road has been in 30 years. It's wonderful to see this much needed maintenance and investment on a road which, as recently as 2016, was proposed to be decommissioned. Let's hope this investment signals Canyon Creek Road has a long future, as Whatcom County only has two designated motorized trails. Many thanks are due to the Forest Service staff and contractors involved in this project.

Finally, I would like to dedicate this segment to the memory of Dwight Davis. Many of us can thank one key friend or family member for giving us a start in the sport of snowmobiling and helping us through the steep learning curve to being safe and independent snowmobilers. Dwight helped my daughter Anna and I learn how to ride, maintain snowmobiles, introduced us to the WSSA Snow Show, and brought us on some great rides out of Sky Meadows with his life-long riding group. Dwight, we will never forget your generosity, humor, and the good times spent together.

HAVE FUN
ON YOUR
RUN

BUT DON'T DRINK
'TIL YOU'RE DONE



District 1 South

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

Hello snowmobile friends!
I hope everyone enjoyed the final days of summer and is getting ready to welcome in

the fall and winter.

In District 1 South the Cascade Drift Skip-pers (CDS) hosted their first in-person club meeting of the season on September 16th in a new venue at the Snoqualmie Falls Brewery (<https://www.fallsbrew.com>) in Snoqualmie. Hopefully we can continue to have in-person meetings throughout the season as it was so nice to see everyone in person. In

(Continued on page 10)

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Supporting Businesses

Washington State Supporting Businesses

Cycle Barn Smokey Point	P.O. Box 3338	Arlington	WA	98223	www.cyclebarn.com	360-530-7800
Mt Baker Moto-Sports LLC	2111 Iowa St	Bellingham	WA	98229	www.mtbakermoto.com	360-676-4096
LLUMIN8 Lighting	18715 95 th St E	Bonney Lake	WA	98391	www.llumin8.com	253-233-7547
Jay's Snowmobile Service	1325 Hanson Loop	Burbank	WA	99323		509-845-2089
Evans Marine	1058 E Woodin Ave	Chelan	WA	98816	www.evansmarine.com	509-682-4402
Mountain Addiction	362 Porcupine Ln	Chelan	WA	98816	www.mountainaddiction.com	509-881-8016
High Country Outfitters & Camp Wahoo!	1780 Nelson Siding Rd	Cle Elum	WA	98922	www.campwahoo.com	509-674-8331
MotorToys Snowmobile Sales, Svc, Rentals	1313 Spansky Way	Cle Elum	WA	98922		509-674-6807
Sportland Yamaha Inc	4402 Bullfrog Rd	Cle Elum	WA	98922	www.sportlandyamaha.com	508-649-2259
The Cottage Cafe	911 East First St	Cle Elum	WA	98922	www.cottagecafecleelum.com	509-674-2922
Twisted Tunnel	82 Osprey Dr.	Cle Elum	WA	98922	www.twistedtunnelparts.com	425-652-9622
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
Bob Feil Boats & Motors	2131 Sunset Hwy	E Wenatchee	WA	98802	www.bobfeil.com	509-884-3558
The Fab Shop	10315 16th St E	Edgewood	WA	98372	www.thefabshop.com	253-568-9124
Central Powersports	2310 W. Dolarway Rd	Ellensburg	WA	98926	www.centralpowersports.com	509-933-1737
Ellensburg Powersports	309 S. Main St	Ellensburg	WA	98926		509-925-9330
Ellensburg Tire Center	400 W. University Way	Ellensburg	WA	98926		509-925-1044
Luft Trailer Sales	907 N Hibbs Rd	Ellensburg	WA	98926	www.lufttrailers.com	509-962-5445
Clem's Enumclaw Powersports	408 Roosevelt Ave	Enumclaw	WA	98022	www.enumclawsuzuki.com	360-825-4502
Jet Chevrolet - RV Inc.	35700 Enchanted Pkwy S	Federal Way	WA	98063	www.jetchevrolet.com	877-538-2438
Soundview Consultants LLC	2907 Harborview Dr	Gig Harbor	WA	98335	www.soundviewconsultants.com	253-514-8952
Pacific Logging LLC	9823 163 rd Ave NE	Ganite Falls	WA	98252		425-508-9150
I-90 Motorsports	200 NE Gilman Blvd	Issaquah	WA	98027	www.I-90motorsports.com	425-391-4490
Pierre's Polaris	7504 NE 175th St Ste 8	Kenmore	WA	98028	www.pierrespolaris.com	425-488-8600
Ridenow Powersports Tri-Cities	3305 W 19th Ave	Kennewick	WA	99338	www.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
Premier Polaris	122 Charles St	Monroe	WA	98272	www.premierpolaris.com	360-794-8669
Levi's Auto Parts	500 E 3rd Ave	Moses Lake	WA	98837		509-765-4567
Moses Lake Collision Repair Inc	1006 W Marina Dr	Moses Lake	WA	98837		509-764-8001

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Supporting Businesses

Lifestyles Honda Skidoo	3302 Cedardale Rd Ste E100	Mount Vernon	WA	98274	www.lifestyleshonda.com	360-416-3950
Elk Ridge Campground	13880 SR 410	Naches	WA	98397	www.elkridgecampground.com	509-658-2093
Gold Creek Station	18431 SR 410	Naches	WA	98937		509-658-2583
Pape Machinery/Washington Tractor	1 Patrol St	Okanogan	WA	98840	www.papemachinery.com	877-422-3030
Xtreme Powersports	1930 2 nd Ave N	Okanogan	WA	98840	www.shopxtremepowersports.net	509-826-5771
WA State Parks Winter Rec Program	1111 Israel Rd SW	Olympia	WA	98504	www.state.parks.wa.us	360-902-8595
Backcountry Plowing & Grooming	23616 154 th St E	Orting	WA	98360		253-722-4123
Blu-Shastin RV Park	3300 US Hwy 97	Peshastin	WA	98847	www.blushastin.com	509-548-4184
Chet's Honda/Polaris	17 H Street SW	Quincy	WA	98848	www.chetshonda.com	509-787-3617
Sundance Landscaping	11609 172nd Ave NE	Redmond	WA	98052		425-533-6008
Anderson's Grocery	711 S Clark Ave	Republic	WA	99166		509-775-3378
Earthworks, Inc	PO Box 111	Ronald	WA	98940		
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
Dianes Tank Removal Services LLC	PO Box 77738	Seattle	WA	98177	www.dianestankremoval.com	206-510-9497
Empire Cycle & Powersports	7807 E Sprague Ave	Spokane Valley	WA	98212	www.empire-cycle.com	509-892-6368
Kart-O-Rama Inc	13701 24 th St E Unit A4	Sumner	WA	98390	www.kartoramainc.com	253-891-3490
Old Cannery Furniture	13608 Old Cannery Way	Sumner	WA	98390	www.oldcanneryfurniture.com	253-863-0422
Hank's Harvest Foods	412 E Methow Hwy	Twisp	WA	98856		509-997-7711
Twisp NAPA Auto Parts	214 S Methow Valley Hwy	Twisp	WA	98856	www.napaonline.com	509-997-2461
Independent Trailer & Equip Co	1602 Rudkin Rd	Union Gap	WA	98903	www.itec-inc.com	509-452-3672
Premier Power Sports	2615 Main St	Union Gap	WA	98903	www.premierpowersportswa.com	509-965-9889
G & G Automotive Machine	34 S Palouse	Walla Walla	WA	99362		509-525-2890
Wenatchee Power Sports	3031 G.S. Center Rd	Wenatchee	WA	98801	www.wenpow.com	509-665-6686
Radcomp Technologies	136 N Main St	White Salmon	WA	98672	www.gorad.com	509-493-2221
Three Fingered Jacks	176 Riverside Ave	Winthrop	WA	98862	www.3fingeredjacks.com	509-996-2411
Nob Hill Auto Wrecking	2609 West Birchfield Rd	Yakima	WA	98901	www.nobhillautowrecking.com	509-452-2803
Owen's Yamaha-Suzuki Polaris	1707 N 1st St	Yakima	WA	98901		509-575-1916
VanAmburg Enterprises Inc	2920 River Rd Ste 1	Yakima	WA	98902	www.vanamburgent.com	509-225-6681

Out of State Supporting Businesses

Kastle West Dist	55 Matmor Rd	Woodland	CA	95776	www.kastlewest.com	530-662-8879
Elkins on Priest Lake	404 Elkins Rd	Nordman	ID	83848	www.elkinsresort.com	208-443-2432
Hill's Resort	4777 W Lakeshore Rd	Priest Lake	ID	83856	www.hillsresort.com	208-443-2551
Mountain Village Resort	Jct Hwy 21 & 75	Stanley	ID	83278	www.mountainvillage.com	800-843-5475
Trakmaps	9045 Chemin de la Cote-de-Liesse	Dorval	QC	H9P 2M9	www.trakmaps.com	514-500-1191
Prinoth	1001 J.A. Bombardier	Granby	QC	J2J 1E9	www.prinoth.com	450-776-3000

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District Reports *Continued*

(Continued from page 7)

In addition to the in-person meetings, CDS will also host their meetings virtually via Face-

New venue at the Snoqualmie Falls Brewery for Cascade Drift Skippers' meetings.



book live. The Cascade Drift Skippers meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month from September through May and they are a great group of people who welcome everyone of all ages. The Drift Skippers will be having several club rides throughout this coming season, so please stay tuned to their Facebook page and club website for upcoming rides and events.

The WSSA Summer Campout and meeting

was held at the Blu-Shastin RV Park near Leavenworth August 13th-15th. The meeting was very productive and it was great spending time with friends and other WSSA members.

As most of you are now aware, I am happy to announce the WSSA Snowmobile and Power Sports Expo and Swap Meet is happening this year and I hope everyone takes advantage of it by attending to see vendors, clubs and friends, and to buy and sell as much as you can.

I'm also very happy to report WSSA is hosting the annual Winter Rendezvous in Yakima, February 18th-21st, over Presidents' Day Weekend, and it will be amazing! Please stay tuned to the WSSA Snoflyer for more details so you can book your hotel room and Rendezvous tickets.

A big 'THANK YOU' to Wayne Mohler who led a challenge against the U.S. Forest Service to stop a private business from setting up a yurt encampment near Van Epps Pass outside the Salmon La Sac area. Wayne worked with our legal counsel and the Forest Service rescinded their permit, and there won't be any yurts in the Van Epps Pass

area.

I attended the annual Snowmobile Advisory Committee (SMAC) summer funding meeting held late July in Wenatchee to guide the funding of our Grooming Program. I'm happy to announce the grooming revenue was up because snowmobile registrations from last season were up. Therefore it was reported there will be a 14% increase in snowmobile trail grooming this upcoming season. Please keep registering your sleds so we can continue to provide grooming to our trails throughout Washington. Please remember even though your sled registration is only \$50.00, we actually get \$94.20 toward our trail grooming. That is because we also receive a portion of the gas tax from the fuel used in our sleds. You also get a free sno-park parking pass with every snowmobile registered. Your money pays for trail grooming, sno-park snow removal, sanitation, law enforcement, education and administration. So please register your snowmobiles and snowbikes.

Please start thinking about getting ready for this coming snowmobile season. Start ordering any of those needed parts, accesso-

(Continued on page 11)

info@3fingeredjacks.com
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Find us on Facebook
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Your Methow Valley Snowmobile Headquarters



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176 Riverside Ave
Winthrop, WA

Open every day at 7am - enjoy a hearty breakfast
to kick off your day in the powder!

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

District Reports *Continued...*

(Continued from page 10)

ries and clothing because there is a shortage of sleds, parts and accessories. Along with that, please check your overall sled for needed repairs or adjustments.

Check your safety equipment such as avalanche backpacks, beacons, probes, shovels, radios, and start getting educated by taking an avalanche awareness class and even go further and take a level-1 avalanche safety class; it may save your life or your riding partners!

Also start thinking about your snowmobile trailer repairs and maintenance such as wheel bearings, door hinges, tire pressures, tire wear, license, and lights.

Now is also a great time to start looking at purchasing a new snowmobile, sled deck, or trailer from a local dealer as the sled inventory is very limited this year. Please check in with Dan Johnson with Jet Chevrolet (<http://www.jetchevmotorsports.com>) in Federal Way who has a great selection of Marlon Sled Decks. Also stop in and see the great guys at I-90 motorsports (<https://www.i-90motorsports.com>) in Issaquah for Ski-Doo snowmobiles and all your clothing and accessories. Please visit Clem's Enumclaw Powersports (<https://www.enumclawpowersports.com>) for a great selection of Polaris, Ski-doo and Arctic Cat snowmobiles. And for you Polaris riders up north, please don't forget to pay a visit to Pierre's Polaris (<https://www.pierrespolaris.com>) in Kenmore. All of these local dealers in my District are great people to do business with and I encourage you to stop in and see one or all of them!

If you are not a member of a local snowmobile club or a member of WSSA, I encourage you to join both. The local snowmobile clubs have so many good things to offer fellow snowmobilers; you can join in on great group rides, make new friends and get the opportunity to volunteer your time for some great events. Joining WSSA provides you with great information and education as to what is going on with the legal side of things and your annual dues helps our legal funding so we can continue to keep the snowmobile trails and sno-parks open in Washington State when we face legal challenges. You also get access to this great Snoflyer to stay tuned in with the rest of the state and other clubs you might want to join. So please look at the club page in this Snoflyer for a local club in your area to join.

Last, but not least, great news! The weather forecasters have predicted another La Nina winter pattern in the Northwest this coming winter. That means below average

temperatures and above average snowfall. So get ready for a fantastic snowmobile season and I hope to see everyone out on the mountain soon.



District 2 South

By Matt Kensrud

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(509) 433-2100

The weather is changing in the District which only means one thing; our season is right around the corner! Yay!

Not much for business yet in the District as the clubs are just starting to get organized for the season.

If you have any questions, feel free to e-mail me at kustom509@aol.com or call (509) 433-2100. Thanks and see you on the mountain!



District 3

By Greg Figg

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

It is the middle of September as I write this and fall is right around the corner in Northeast Washington. We are very hopeful this is going to be a great snow year based on the long-range weather forecast and of course the Farmers' Almanac.

The clubs are making plans for the fall activities of getting firewood cut and warming huts stocked for the winter. Some of the clubs are also planning to have ATV rides this fall prior to sledding season. It is good to see these activities returning in Northeast Washington.

I'll have much more to report in the following months.



District 4 North

By Tanner Hamlyn

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(253) 376-2739

Greeting fellow snowmobilers! I wanted to start this off with a HUGE 'thank you' to the Sno-Jammers and Junco Snowmobile Clubs. Without groups like

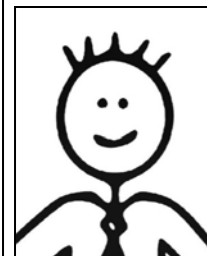
these our trails would be in such disrepair that we wouldn't have trails.

The Junco Snowmobile Club is undertaking a huge three-phase project at the Midway Garage. Their projects include cleaning up land, improving the structure, installing a new roof, creating an actual foundation, and ensuring the building will last for years to come. They have been working tirelessly with the Forest Service, suppliers, and contractors, to bring this project to life.

The Sno-jammers have had their hands in a lot of projects as well. With the help of local businesses, many donated pieces of heavy equipment, countless man hours, and in one weekend, installed a 36ft gate, and massively increase a gravel pit into a much larger early and late season sno-park. They also improved the safety of two roads, by widening, and flattening out dirt and rocks to allow for better access. Additionally, they improved the access road going into the Government Meadows cabin with gravel and allowing for proper water drainage. This has been a project needing to be done to allow for a septic truck to pump out the restroom at the cabin; a task which has not been done for several years.

If it wasn't for these clubs and the many like it around the state, we would not have access to our lands. I ask you all to please consider joining your local club, wherever you ride, participate in the events they have, and the work parties they put on. These clubs are more than a year's worth of membership dues; as much as your dues go to helping this sport and your area out, your time and participation is even more valuable.

If you would like to join either of these clubs, the Juncos meet the first Monday of each month September through April, at the Godfather's Pizza in Spanaway; social hour begins at 6pm, and the meeting starts at 7pm. The Sno-Jammers meet monthly the first Wednesday of the month, September through May, at the Roundtable Pizza, in Puyallup; social hour begins at 6pm, and the meeting starts at 7pm.



District 5 North

By Jason Holmes

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(253) 226-4939

Hello from District 5 North! It's been a fantastic summer and I'm definitely looking forward

(Continued on page 12)

District Reports *Continued*

(Continued from page 11)

to the upcoming snowmobile season.

As many people already know, WSSA was involved in a litigation procedure with the Forest Service starting in February and was resolved in WSSA's favor in August. WSSA was able to help protect and preserve our existing motorized use areas by preventing a commercial outfitter from placing three Yurts in the Van Epps Pass area which would allow 4,500 user days of non-motorized access. In actuality, WSSA's actions help protect and preserve this area to more than just the snowmobile community. Many user groups would have been directly impacted by a negative result from the litigation process. In a nutshell, please encourage your friends and other users to join WSSA and donate to the Legal Action Fund. WSSA spent over \$20,000 dollars defending our position in this case.

I am extremely excited to announce a new local club is currently being established in the Upper Kittitas County area. It will represent the Teanaway Valley and sno-parks along the Hwy 903 corridor. The Upper Kounty Adventure Club will be meeting the first Thursday of each month in Cle Elum. The committee is putting everything together and interested people should look for more announcements coming in mid-late October. The focus of the club will be social/educational activity for the Upper County areas. It will not just be a snowmobile club, but more of a year round activity group. Stay tuned!



District 5 South

By Ron Lind
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(509) 607-0039

Greetings from District 5 South! Hope everyone is doing their snow dance and for more than one reason. First and foremost to start riding; but second and probably more important, to knock down the Schneider Springs Fire that we in the Naches/White Pass/Yakima area have been suffering with since early July. Thankfully it looks like the warming shelter at Little Bald has survived. Not so lucky with Timberwolf. If there is anything good coming from this devastation is riding should be awesome.

On to club news; the Ski-Benders have had their first board meeting in September.

A few things discussed include the news they have purchased a 40' shipping container they are planning on cutting in half and turning into two emergency warming shelters. Their big fundraiser this year has been postponed to June of 2022; Chinookfest did not happen this summer. Club president, Liz Van Amburg, found out (because of COVID again) the price and availability has priced us out of being able to have the annual Crab Feed, which was the club's other big fundraiser. The club will however still be doing some type of other event on December 4th, possibly a prime rib/chicken barbecue dinner, with the amazing prize raffle still a highlight of the night. (I will keep everyone informed.)

The Ski-Benders will also sponsor their 'Ron and Ron Chili Feed' at White Pass, out of the Tieton Airstrip or Cold Creek Sno-Park, on January 15th. All are welcome to attend.

Their Annual Fun Run is scheduled for the last weekend in January and their 10th annual Kids' Ride will be Saturday, February 26th. If you have never attended the Kid's Ride, it is a great time focused on introducing kids to love this sport as much as we do.

The Chinook Pass Snowmobile Club received their WSSA Trail Grant to repair and maintain the Little Bald Shelter; however with the fire in that area this summer no work has been completed.

The Drift-A-Way Club hasn't met yet this fall; I will keep you posted on their upcoming events.



News

USFS Revokes Permit Update on Van Epps Huts Permit

By Wayne Mohler, Land Use Chair

Following is a brief update on the permit issued in late December by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). WSSA filed a complaint in federal court challenging the issuance of a permit that would have allowed construction of three huts on a highly-used snowmobile route on Van Epps Pass in the Cle Elum District of the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. Upon further review by the USFS, the permit was revoked due to inadequate consideration for the handling of human waste, and for inadequate consideration of potential conflict of use. While WSSA is pleased the permit was revoked, it was an expensive, but necessary, effort to remind the USFS to comply with their own requirements in the issuance of these permits and to protect important riding areas for snowmobiling. While the applicant may appeal revocation of the permit, or reapply, a more rigorous process will likely be conducted before the permit will be reissued.

Notes

Charity & Volunteering Reporting

By Ron Alred, Charity & Volunteer Chair

Good day everyone, I am Ron Alred and I have volunteered to chair the charity and volunteer hour program for WSSA.

From reading the Snoflyer and the posts placed on Facebook, it is clear most of the clubs are doing a lot of work keeping our areas cleaned, brushed and a lot more. I want to help you get credit for all the hard work you do by collecting your charity and volunteer accomplishments to share with fellow snowmobilers, national snowmobile organizations, and land managers at all levels.

Feel free to contact me with any help you need in reporting. I have redone the reporting form to make it easier to fill out and can provide a copy at your request. If you don't want to use the form, e-mail me your information and I will fill it out for you.

If you have any questions or need/want to talk to me, you can e-mail me at rdalred1971@gmail.com or call me at (509) 961-2806.



WSSA's Associate Partnership Program

Luft Trailer Sales in Ellensburg is offering a 10% discount on parts.

Are you next? Add your business name here!



With all the challenges facing everyone during this past year, we're starting a 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!

State Parks Update

By Pamela McConkey, Winter Recreation Program Manager

A Busy Summer for staff and SMAC!

Your Winter Recreation Program staff was very busy this 'off' season! We had trail grooming, snow removal and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) partnership contracts expire this past spring that needed to be renewed or put out to bid. Staff has been writing and sending out Request for Proposals for these contracts and holding bid openings and bid reviews and awarding contracts. We are nearing the finish line with our USFS partners and our private contractors and will have everything signed and ready to go by December 1st.

The Snowmobile Advisory Committee (SMAC) met in person (YAY!) in July in Wenatchee and worked through and recommended a budget for the 2021/2022 winter season. Thankfully snowmobile registrations were a bit higher than the previous year, which put the program in a more reasonable financial situation. Due to this healthier budget, the SMAC was able to restore and give a slight bump in dollars for trail grooming, snow removal, sanitation and education and enforcement. They were also able to fund some new projects. If you want to make sure we don't face reduced grooming, snow removal and sanitation services in the future, please make sure you register your sleds this year. Remember, your registered sled this season is funding for next season (2022/2023).

What? Free Sno-Park Permit!

Snowmobile Program Funding 101 - Here's how to get your sno-park permit at NO EXTRA COST:

You register your snowmobile (August 15th through June) and you receive a Sno-Park Permit at NO EXTRA COST.

(You then enjoy the coming winter season without any worry of a citation for not being registered and having a sno-park permit)

\$50 of your registration fee is put into a dedicated account for the Snowmobile Program, (minus 3% to DOL).

The gas tax formula is applied: 135 gallons as the average yearly fuel usage per snowmobile, times the number of registered snowmobiles during the calendar year under determination, times a fuel tax

rate of \$0.349 cents per gallon of motor vehicle fuel (minus 3% to DOL).

So for your one snowmobile you have provided approximately \$94.20 to the dedicated Snowmobile Account.

That money is then available for the following winter season - money from snowmobiles registered last winter season will be used during the 2021/2022 season. The snowmobile program does not budget based on projections but on actual revenue 'in the bank'.

If you don't register your snowmobile for the coming 2021/2022 winter season, it will be that much less money available for trail grooming, snow removal, sanitation, administration, education and enforcement for the 2022/2023 winter season.

Your snowmobile registration funds YOUR program.

Ahtanum State Forest (DNR)

The Ahtanum State Forest is again a member of the State Parks Sno-Park Program. Grooming, snow removal, sanitation and services will all remain the same.

What's back is the required sno-park permit, which of course you receive at no additional cost when you register your snowmobile.

What's no longer required is the Discover

Pass. In cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), local clubs



and interested parties, State Parks and DNR have agreed to pull the Ahtanum and other DNR properties, such as Rattlesnake, back into the Sno-Park Program. So, register you sled, get your free sno-park permit and think snow! Thanks to all the area snowmobile clubs, grooming councils, service contractors and DNR staff for the hard work, long discussions and dedication to make this change!

Reminder - 2021 Legislative Session

The 2021 legislative session began January 11th and concluded on April 25th. The snowmobile program had success in getting Senate Bill 5016, legalizing tracked ATVs/UTVs, passed with their second attempt during this session. This bill became effective on July 25th, 2021, and the cost for registration will be the same as a snowmobile (\$50 annually). The Bill in Summary: 'Tracked all-terrain vehicle' is defined within the snowmobile chapter of state law as a WATV (wheeled all-terrain vehicle), weighing less than 2000 pounds in stock configuration, with tracks or a combination of tracks and skis installed in (Continued on page 14)



Follow the State Parks Winter Recreation Program on Twitter @ WaStatePks_WNTR

Snowmobile Registrations								
	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY 21-22 Difference
July	149	145	134	148	166	151	186	35
August	531	676	782	2,307	222	249	1,291	1,042
September	2,968	3,145	2,946	1,682	2,974	3,220		
October	1,662	2,139	2,489	1,882	3,357	3,189		
November	3,129	3,362	4,360	2,960	2,372	5,009		
December	11,575	13,170	6,973	8,320	6,726	7,229		
January	3,528	3,196	3,358	3,433	4,514	3,295		
February	1,164	1,513	1,166	1,602	1,293	1,541		
March	298	686	674	958	355	636		
April	82	181	175	258	89	219		
May	32	93	93	90	135	108		
June	30	84	71	83	126	179		
Total:	25,148	28,390	23,221	23,723	22,329	25,025	1,477	1,077

State Parks Update Cont... Membership

(Continued from page 13) place of the tires. The definition of snowmobile is broadened to include tracked all-terrain vehicles. An owner of a WATV is allowed to maintain concurrent registrations for the vehicle for use as a WATV, and for use as a tracked all-terrain vehicle. When registering as a WATV, the WATV registration laws apply, including applicable fees. When registering as a tracked all-terrain vehicle, the snowmobile registration laws apply, including applicable fees. The Department of Licensing has established a declaration for submission by the WATV owner when initially applying for a snowmobile registration, which states the WATV complies with all applicable federal or state vehicle safety standards while in use as a WATV upon public highways. Here's where to look for more details:
DOL webpage for registering a TATV (tracked all-terrain vehicle)
<https://www.dol.wa.gov/vehicleregistration/trackedatv.html>
Here is a page that has links to snowmobile snowbike and tracked atv
<https://www.dol.wa.gov/vehicleregistration/offroad.html>

Hopeful for the Future:

As we prepare for the upcoming snowmobile season, we are also hopeful for the future and 'getting back to normal'. We are looking forward to the snow shows in Puyallup, Spokane and Leavenworth, grooming council meetings, club events and being back out on the snow. Take a look at your calendars and the WSSA calendar of events and start planning to attend the snow shows, reconnect with vendors and friends, see what WSSA has been working on and check out all the new snowmobiles, gear and swag. Stop by the State Parks Winter Recreation Program booth and say hello!

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



Membership Matters

By Wayne and Florence Mohler, Membership co-chairs

Membership renewals are well underway. We have sent out two notices by e-mail and will be sending another renewal by the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) in the next few days. The USPS renewal notice will also include those members who did not renew last year. And, of course you can renew your membership, or join WSSA, at the WSSA Snowmobile and Power Sports Expo and Swap Meet, in Puyallup, on October 16th and 17th. Hope to see you all there! As a reminder, family/individual members can now print your membership card from the WSSA website. For those without e-mail, we will continue to mail the membership cards as in the past.

We are also going to continue with our 'Affinity Program' with our Associate members that was introduced last year. The Associate members will decide what they want to offer WSSA members (discount, special purchase items, etc) and we will highlight their offer in the Snoflyer.

WSSA will be celebrating our 50th year in 2022 and we want to make it a special year by recognizing or highlighting significant events from those early years. If you, or your club, have something, or someone you would like to recognize, let us know and we will include it/them in one of the upcoming editions of the Snoflyer.

In closing, remember to renew your membership right away, and ask a friend to join, too. There is strength in numbers and we will be having many challenges to keep our riding areas open.

Remember - Your membership matters!



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

Join WSSA and help support snowmobiling in Washington State!

What Does WSSA Do For YOU?

- WSSA's Legal Action Fund defends snowmobiling in Washington against adverse land-use actions
- WSSA members work on behalf of all Washington State snowmobilers' in Olympia's Capitol
- WSSA District Reps represent snowmobilers' interests with local land officials and in regional trail grooming councils
- WSSA travels to Washington D.C. to discuss snowmobile related issues with your congressional representatives and national land managers
- WSSA represents snowmobilers on the national level with a voice in the American Council of snowmobile Associations and the International Snowmobile Council
- WSSA hosts the annual Snowmobile Expo & Swap Meet in Puyallup – the largest snowmobile event in the Pacific Northwest
- WSSA's successful Trail Grant program helps fund new sno-parks & warming huts, trail upgrades & facility improvements
- WSSA's annual Winter Rendezvous offers you the opportunity to ride in different parts of the state with guided rides and evening social gatherings
- WSSA supports snowmobile and non-snowmobile projects and charities to boost the image of snowmobilers across the state



Club News



Lake Wenatchee Rec Club

By Marilyn Mylius, Vice President

Greetings all from the Lake Wenatchee Rec Club (LWRC)! We hope your summer has been a good one!

The Rec Club is looking forward to winter events including a second year for the Geo-Cache Challenge, and a Poker Run in Febru-



ary. These events are open to anyone who wants to come and ride our area. We are on the calendar to host the Winter Snowmobile Advisory Committee (SMAC) meeting the first weekend in February as well, with a ride on Friday. Lets hope for another great snow year so all these events go off without a hitch!

For continuing info on our events, go to <https://lakewenatcheerecclub.org>. Also, our President Michelle is our social media guru, posting pics and updates on our Facebook page and other online options.

Get your tune-ups done and get ready for SNOW! Hope to see you on the trails!



Tri-Rivers Snowmobile Club

By Kurt Hensley, President

The Tri-Rivers Snowmobile Club, like everyone else, is tired of the heat and smoke. Sure hoping we have a snow-filled winter wonderland and get back in the groove of sledding!

We are getting ready to get the Shrew

Creek hut back up on the mountain for winter use. We are planning on getting it up a bit earlier as hopefully we won't have to have chains on all the wheels of the pickup. We hope to have benches made into storage with some hinges and have made some steps for getting in before the snow is deep enough to make snow steps.

So glad we have snowmobiling to look forward to as it has been several years of strange things happening. Glad for the great outdoors and the friends who enjoy them with us.

Give us a call if you want to come and enjoy the riding in our beautiful area!

Hoping for lots of snow!



Bavarian Boondockers

By Matt Kensrud, President

Hello from the Bavarian village! The club had their first board meeting to discuss upcoming events, club rides, work parties, along with SNOWFEST 9!

Details will be posted soon and the date for Snowfest is November 20th from 10am to 5pm. It will be held in the Leavenworth Festhalle.

We will have club members running a booth at the Puyallup Snow Show and we hope to see you there.

If you have any questions, e-mail us at bavarianboondockers@gmail.com.



Northwest Glacier Cruisers

By Jessica Ronhaar

We are excited for the upcoming season and would love to invite everyone to become a part of our club as we work together to share our love for riding and the snow with others. Here are a few of our upcoming events:

October 9th is our annual work party to fill our warming huts with firewood. We are meeting at 9am on the Mt. Baker Dam Road if you would like to help. We will be providing lunch.

The Northwest Glacier Cruisers will be at the WSSA Snow Show and Swap Meet this

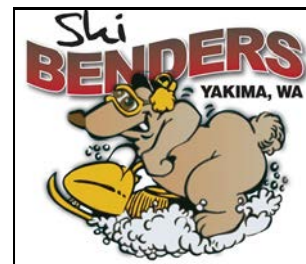
year on October 16th and 17th. Stop by our booth to join our club, renew your membership, buy some awesome swag and get your raffle tickets. This year we will be raffling off a Klim Aspect 16 avalanche airbag and a BCA beacon, probe and shovel. We will also have Luke Rohde memorial raffle tickets for an avalanche course.

The Off-Road Vixens Ladies Meet and Greet is for all the ladies out there and will be from 1-2pm on Saturday at the Puyallup show. Come join us as we celebrate the strong women that aren't afraid to get dirty.

We have a new hut, the Baker Memorial Hut, that will be in place this season. And we will be moving our Ploeg's Place warming hut to its home for the winter on October 23rd at 9am if you would like to join us.

Finally, we would like to congratulate our own Tina Shields in her new position with the Northwest Avalanche Center (NWAC). She will be working with other clubs in Washington and Oregon to help have NWAC representatives attend club rides. So, if you are planning a ride, talk to Tina about having NWAC participate.

The snow is coming and we will see you out on the mountain.



Yakima Ski-Benders

By Liz Van Amburg, President

Hello! As I write this, the Schneider

Springs Fire has been burning for over a month. It has burned more than 100,000 acres and is 17% contained. I and other Ski-Bender members live on Chinook Pass and it has taken its toll. Our first meeting was canceled. Chinook Fest was canceled. The air quality sucks everywhere in Yakima County at this point. I pray every day that it snows! Well rain would be good too, but it will take mounds of snow to put this monster out.

Life has been fire reports, updates and back fires. It really feels like the Twilight Zone. The neighbors are all checking on each other as one night it is the Nile and the next it is the Whistlin' Jack side of the fire. My husband Mike calls it Whack-A-Mole!

The board did get together recently to make our yearly plan. Our first meeting will be October 5th at Magic's Pizza in Selah. I hope to see you all there. Remember, dues will be collected; \$5 for a single and \$10 for

(Continued on page 17)

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Club News *Continued...*

(Continued from page 15) a family, and WSSA is \$25. You must pay your WSSA dues to be a voting member of the Ski-Benders.

Save the dates: December 4th is our Crab Feed; we had a huge turn out last year. If you would like to volunteer or donate a prize, please get hold of a Ski-Bender. With Chinook Fest being postponed to June 2022, this will be our largest fundraiser for the season.

Other events include: January 15th is the Chili Ride. Ron Lind and Ron Alred are this event's chairs. More details to come. January 30th is the Chinook Pass Snow Fest Poker Ride. February 26th is the annual Kids' Ride.

The Ski-Benders purchased a 40' shipping container this summer to split in half and make two emergency warming shelters. More details to come and if you would like to donate to this project, please get hold of a Ski-Bender.

For now, pray for lots of snow this coming season. See you in the mountains soon!

cle, and our original and re-stored snowmobile display. There is also a Kiwanis's pancake breakfast, kids zone, judging and awards, vendors, food trucks and more!

(Continued on page 18)



The PNWVSC showed their vintage and antique sleds at the Central Washington Agricultural Museum in Union Gap in late August.



**Pacific Northwest
Vintage
Snowmobile
Club**

**By Kevin Hancock,
Webmaster**

We had our first annual vintage and antique snowmobile show at the Central Washington Agricultural Museum in Union Gap over the weekend of August 21st - 22nd. The museum is known for its displays of antique farm machinery. The weekend also had special showing tractor and draft-horse pulling contests, antique tractor parades, a grain mowing and thrashing display, antique cars and modifications, mixed in with food vendors, and a swap meet. There also were active vintage apple processing and working blacksmith shop displays. There was a lot going on to see both days. We had the perfect location for our display. We were under shade trees, and located at the head of the events so we were visible as the public entered the viewing, and food areas. We plan to make this an annual summer show.

For our next event we are participating in the West Richland Cool Desert Nights car show on October 2nd. The weekend features a Friday night car cruise parade, and a party in the park. On Saturday is the show 'n shine antique and vintage car, motorcy-

Club News *Continued...*



(Continued from page 17)

Sno-Jammers Snowmobile Club

**By
Christina Markovits**

With snowmobile season quickly approaching, clubs around the area often designate September and October as 'work party' months to prepare for the upcoming season. Without the hard work and dedication from clubs, their members, and local volunteers, the roads, trails, and warming huts would be overgrown, in poor shape, or without wood to stay warm when those frigid temperatures set in. I would like to take this time to RECOGNIZE and THANK ALL the volunteers who spend countless hours every year donating their time and resources to help make this sport the most fun winter activity in the state. Your support speaks volumes, and we APPRECIATE YOU ALL! #SupportTheSport

With that being said, the Sno-Jammers

had several big work parties this September. As you may have seen on social media last season, snowmobilers in the Greenwater area battled riding on three miles of dirt from the Pyramid Creek Sno-Park to the snowline for several weeks earlier this year. This posed a serious safety risk and caused unnecessary damage to several sleds. These conditions were by far the worst we had seen it in years.

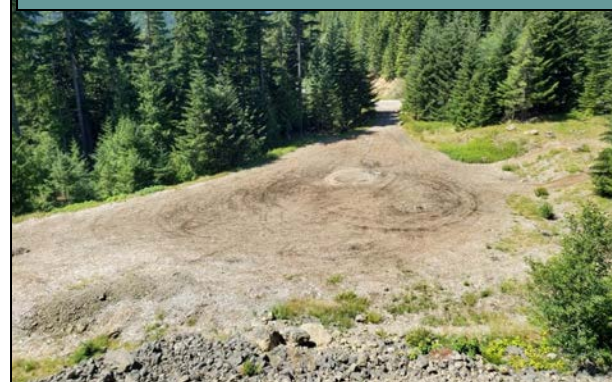
To help prevent this from happening this season (and ever again), the Forest Service has officially authorized the installation of a **gate at the 'upper sno-park' on Forest Service Road 70**. This gate will serve multiple purposes:

1. It will allow snowmobilers to park further up FS Road 70 and closer to the snowline to unload when the snow-level is high.
2. It will prevent wheeled vehicles from driving on our groomed trails.
3. It can close off the upper sno-park during the summer to prevent unauthorized shooting.

Glenn Markovits has been a huge advocate for this project and has worked closely with the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie Forest Service District to make this project possible.

On September 17th-19th, the Sno-Jammers, in conjunction with the Forest Service, gathered a large group of people to

Here is a 'before' pic. Check back for the November Snoflyer to see the work completed!



tackle this project. A sincere THANK YOU goes out to Glenn, the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie Forest Service District,

(Continued on page 19)



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Club News *Continued...*

(Continued from page 18) R & R Grooming, Clem's Enumclaw Powersports, Jet Chevrolet, Corliss, Kleen Sweep Construction, and all the Sno-Jammers members and volunteers for your donations and hard work to complete this long overdue project. I know it took some serious planning and manual labor to make this happen, but we got it done! So, this season when you find yourself enjoying **not having to ride on three miles of dirt...** take the time to thank everyone involved because without them and this club, this would have never been possible.

On September 25th the Sno-Jammers also held our annual Forest Road 70 clean-up. We spent all day picking up trash from Highway 410 to the Government Meadows Cabin. Approximately 21 miles! Just a friendly reminder, if you pack it in, **PACK IT OUT**. Another huge **THANK YOU** to all the volunteers we had at this event, and the amount of trash that was picked up was impressive!

The club is anticipating hosting a wood stacking and cabin maintenance work party in early October. The date is still to be determined, but if this is something you would be interested in helping with, contact Tanner Hamlyn (club president), follow us on Facebook, or check out our website at www.snojammers.org for updates. We can never have too many volunteers and even **though these are 'work' parties, we still have a lot of FUN.**

This past summer the Sno-Jammers also hosted several **AWESOME** events. We kicked off the summer with an **adult's day out go-karting** event which was a blast! Everyone

really enjoyed themselves and we are already making plans for another racing event next year. Our annual rafting trip took place in mid-August, and we had a great turnout



Annual Yakima River float trip!

as well. Our last summer event was our (first-ever) family outdoor movie night, and boy, was that a hit! We have plans in the making for more movie nights this year (including **ON THE SNOW**), so stay tuned for updates! **THANK YOU** to Rick Hein and Mark Loftis for hosting our summer events.

Up next is the WSSA Expo ('snow show') and I know you are all just itching to get your hands on the latest and greatest sleds and gear, but I want to challenge



Family fun time – movie night!



Adults' fun time – go-kart racing!



you all this year. While you are walking around getting ready to spend \$500-\$1,000 on a new monosuit, take a minute to think about how our sport stays alive. Do our trails stay open because you are wearing a new high-vis jacket or riding the fastest sled on the mountain? **NO.** It is because of WSSA and the clubs in this state whose members fight to keep our sport alive and thriving every year. So, the next time you pass by one of the booths of a club sponsoring your favorite riding area, stop and think how they are the ones making a difference in this sport. Better yet, I challenge you to become a member of a club and WSSA and get actively involved so we all can continue to enjoy this sport for years to come. The Sno-Jammers will have a booth displayed with some fun activities for the whole family, **so don't forget to stop by!**

Friendly reminder, our club meetings are held the first Wednesday of every month from September to May at the Round Table Pizza in Puyallup. Social hour starts at 6pm and the meeting starts at 7pm. I encourage you all to join us to see what we are all about. Join a club. Make a difference. **#SupportTheSport!**



Junco Snowmobile Club

By Chris Sutton

If you are reading this at our WSSA Snow Show, you probably **already met one of us in the 'Blue Lot';** we proudly manage the parking lot every year asking for donations to the WSSA Legal Fund. **Without the Legal Fund, we wouldn't** have had the resources to fight the recent U.S. Forest Service (USFS) permit issue in the Van Epps Pass area. We thank everyone who has donated in the past; your donations helped protect our right to ride!

Our Midway Garage project has kicked off to a good start! We are currently working with the USFS Heritage Program Manager for the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, Matthew Mawhirter, and the Cowlitz Valley District Ranger, James King, to convert the derelict structure into a new warming shelter. Our club signed an **'Adopt-a-Shelter'** agreement last season with a three-phase plan and hopes of completing it by the 2023/2024 season! This warming shelter will be accessible by all snowmobilers

(Continued on page 20)

Club News *Continued...*

(Continued from page 19) and will also split a huge gap in emergency shelters between the Oregon border and Ulrich's Cabin at Government Meadows for those that hike the Pacific Crest Trail! If you are interested in donating money, time, and/or materials to this ambitious project, please contact me at (253) 224-8806 or e-mail me at SnowKingSutton79@gmail.com.

We are very pleased to have Back Country Plowing and Grooming looking after our roads and trails again! They are very ambi-



Common grooming update pic from Back Country Plowing & Grooming.

tious, expanding their territory and improving their equipment every year. This year they have added Nick Hoppins from White Pass. "He is a top mechanic and a HUGE upgrade to our Badass Crew!" said co-owner, Travis Martinek. They now have three snowplows and eight snowcats in their line-up and manage most, if not all, of the Southwest Cascades now, including the following sno-parks: Wakepish, Orr Creek, Marble Mountain, Johnson Creek, Skate Creek, Lone Butte, Atkisson, Flattop, and more! They are an irreplaceable asset to our club and always bring their whole crew and families to our events.

The Junco Snowmobile Club meets monthly at Godfathers Pizza near Spanaway at 15709 Pacific Ave S. in Tacoma. We meet on the first Monday of each month at 7pm, September through April, with a social hour beginning at 6pm! This year's Club Officers are Josh Simpson - President, Zach Bradbury - Vice President, Kristal Simpson - Treasurer, and myself as Secretary. We are a small informal club with lots of young families and we are always looking for new friends to ride with. It is very common to see kids in our sno-parks doing parking lot circles on their snowmobiles and playing with friends, so please watch out for them! Our membership is only \$20 a year per family, and we welcome yours to come join us! If you would

Kids making the most of the Orr Creek parking lot!



Kyla Carter on her 'new to her' Indy Lite!



Deni & JJ Simpson STOPPING for a photo op!

like to be a member and support our club but cannot make it to our meetings, you can mail a \$20 check to our Treasurer, Kristal Simpson, at 14404 50th Ave. E., Tacoma, WA 98446; please include your e-mail address on the check! You can also follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Junco-Snowmobile-Club-693699857309032 for more information about our club, our rides, and our 'Charity on the Snow' event!



Methow Valley Snowmobile Association

By Craig Stahl,
President

Hey SledFam! The Northwest Glacier Cruisers have always opened their arms with the SledFam statement. The Methow Valley Snowmobile Association (MVSA) loves the statement and is embracing it! We really are feeling the love

from our snowmobile family after this past season. Last season consisted of a new warming/safety shelter at Starvation Mountain, a new sno-park at Silverstar located on Highway 20, receiving national recognition for being positive advocates for the sport of snowmobiling to keep our riding areas open, avalanche education courses, adventurous group rides and our membership is at an all-time high. Thank you, SledFam, for all the support of MVSA. This past season would not have happened without you.

How can we top last season? Well, you will just have to find out. Our new group of board members and elected positions are excited to lead MVSA starting October 1st.

We have many new things happening this season up in the Methow, including a grant from Washington State Parks' Winter Recreation Program to support all six huts in Okanogan County. Our mobile huts require volunteer hours along with permitting annually to keep them on our trails. We are so thankful for the financial support to keep the hut dream alive here in Okanogan County.

We are very excited for our new sno-park signs promoting co-habitation of recreationist on our trails, safety awareness and the importance of supporting Washington State Parks' Winter Recreation Program. This was a joint effort by trail users to create these signs. We are having conversations about new ride methods here in the Methow, so stay tuned.

The change in seasons is about to happen up here in the Methow. We do embrace the change and can't wait for

(Continued on page 21)



New sno-park signs ready to be installed!

Clubs:
Show us your
LOGOs!

Club News *Continued...*

(Continued from page 20) those little white things hitting the ground. It has been a long, hot, and there have been many dark summer days due to smoke in the Methow.

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer gearing up for this upcoming season and we hope to see you soon out on our trails!



Winter Knights

By Greg Figg,
President

The Winter Knights just had their first club meeting of the season via Zoom given the COVID situation in Northeast Washington. We are planning on having Zoom meetings for the next few months, then will re-assess.

The Winter Knights Snow Show is back on this year for November 13th at the Spokane County Fairgrounds. We hope to see all the area snowmobilers at the show.

We will still be cutting wood for the Ritz warming hut, cutting brush at Kings Lake, and getting ready for the season of riding. Our wood cutting is being pushed back into October with the high fire danger and the inability to operate chainsaws until it rains more.

We are hoping for a year of deep snow and some great rides in NE Washington. More to follow in the upcoming months.

Please be safe and enjoy your fall!!



Tollgate Trail Finders

By Brandon Christensen,
Past President

Hi snowmobile friends!
Wow, how time flies!

Hopefully it has been a great summer for you and your family. This summer has been one of many fires, literally. The Umatilla National Forest has seen much more fire activity than normal. Luckily most of our riding area at Tollgate have been unaffected. Thanks to the firefighters for their hard work getting the fires contained and keeping us safe. The Forest closure for a few weeks made some of us change plans for camping and summer riding. We had to cancel our firewood work party for Bone Springs which will be rescheduled later this fall. Keep and eye on our

website and social media pages (Facebook and Instagram) for the latest updates.

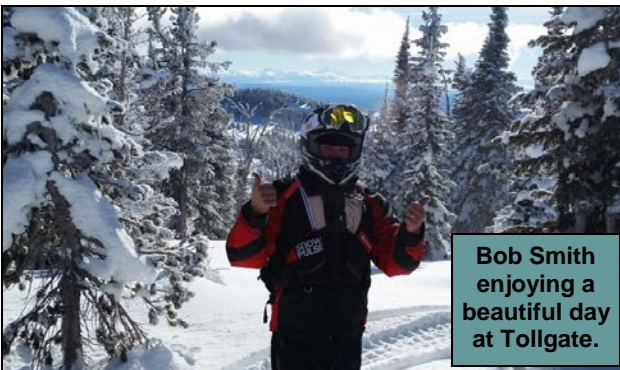
Trail Finders' Past VP loses battle with cancer. We've lost a Tollgate Trail Finder (TTF) member, former TTF Vice President, TTF Board Member, husband, father, grandfather, friend, neighbor, riding buddy and all-around amazing man. Bob Smith lost his battle with cancer on August 15th. A battle that he fought well over three years.



Bob Smith taking a break in Winthrop.

It's amazing how positive and faithful he was throughout the arduous process of cancer treatments, doctor appointments and other inconveniences that come with battling cancer.

Bob and wife Connie bought their first cabin at Tollgate in 2009 but had been involved in the club before then. Bob stepped forward in Trail Finders' leadership when the club was at a crossroads and really needed some folks to step up and get things done. Bob's leadership was instrumental in transforming the club to adapt to the changing landscape of snowmobiling. This included the inclusion of owners of tracked side-by-sides, tracked ATVs and snowbikes. In fact, Bob owned a tracked side-by-side. This al-



Bob Smith enjoying a beautiful day at Tollgate.

lowed him to continue to enjoy Tollgate while battling cancer since he was unable to ride his snowmobile. Bob was the most kind and genuine person you would ever meet. He had a soft way of being direct but in a very effective way. Bob joined many of us on trips to ride amazing places like Halfway, Winthrop, McCall, Island Park and Utah. He

was an amazing rider and was always there to help when someone needed a ski pull or a tow back to the sno-park. Bob's leadership, humor, laughs, and friendship will certainly be missed.

Obituary - Robert 'Bob' Smith passed away peacefully on August 15th, 2021, at home in Kennewick, Washington, surrounded by his loving family after a valiant three-year battle with cancer.

Bob was born on September 16th, 1958, in Caldwell, Idaho, to Donald and Evelyn Smith. He attended school at Sunny Slope, Huston, Dixie and Vallivue Jr. High. He was a member of the graduating Class of 1976 from Vallivue High School. Go Falcons!

In 1972, he met his forever love, Connie Tucker Smith, on a school bus. They became high school sweethearts and married in 1976. Together they raised three children who were the loves of his life.

Bob was always an ambitious guy. He worked swing shift as a welder with his brother, Jim, and best friend Kevin James at



Bob Smith giving Dwayne Harvill a hand and a laugh in Winthrop.

Ace Supply in Caldwell. Bob later farmed for the Cook Family and as a carpenter for Petzoldt Construction. During this time, he learned lifelong skills that would help build their family's first home in Sunny Slope, another in Burbank, WA, and a home for their son and his wife. He joined his brother Jim in a farming adventure, moving to Burbank, in 1983, later joining forces with his brother Dan forming S & S Farms. Together they developed a 2000-acre farm above the Snake River in Burbank, which was his most significant professional accomplishment. With the help of others, he worked tirelessly to transform sagebrush into pivot irrigated farmland bringing precious water six miles from the river to raise row crops, mainly potatoes. Bob and Connie's farming operation would eventually become known as Outback Farms. Retiring in 2008, they sold the equipment and leased the farm to travel and enjoy family. During this time, his passion was traveling with his wife (Continued on page 22)

Club News *Continued...*

(Continued from page 21) in his 'fancy' motorhome across the United States. Enjoying the sites of Panama City Beach, Florida, the changing colors of the Midwest, and visiting friends along the East Coast were highlights of his retirement. He especially loved touring on his motorcycle to areas such as Sturgis, South Dakota, meeting new friends everywhere he went. In 2008, he fell in love with snowmobiling. In 2009, he enjoyed it so much that he purchased a cabin in Tollgate, Oregon. It became a special place to retreat with family and friends. In 2016, Bob and Connie sold their farm and farmhouse, moving to Kennewick to enjoy the 'city' life. His retirement was cut short after his diagnosis in 2018.

Bob will be remembered as a generous man, one of fairness and integrity with a great smile, huge heart, and one that never knew a stranger. He will be dearly missed by family and friends. Bob lived his life by John 14:6 "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Bob was preceded in death by his parents Donald and Evelyn Smith, and brother and sister-in-law, Carl and Alyce Fretwell. Bob is survived by his wife Connie, his children Monica and Marc Armstrong, and their children Ashley, Kendall and Brooke, Tonya and Eric Schuld and their children Morgan and Tucker, Cody and Megan Smith and their son Bowden. Also surviving him are siblings Arlene and Chris Yamamoto, Jim and Janie Smith, Dan Smith, Forest and Nancy Fretwell, Don Fretwell, and many nieces and nephews.

For online condolences please visit www.Hillcrestfunerals.com.



Drift-A-Way Snowmobile Club

**By Matt Mead,
Secretary**

It has been a heartbreaking summer as Drift-A-Way members breathed the smoke of the Schneider Springs fire, knowing it was burning through some of our favorite snowmobile areas. We held our breath as it burned past the Little Bald warming shelter, reportedly with no damage, and sighed when we discovered it took a lesser-known shelter near Bethel Ridge. With the fire still burning and area closed, we have yet to see what

the landscape looks like. While fires are a natural means of thinning the forests, better land management practices in the past would have prevented this fire from becoming as large and dangerous as it has been. Looking for the silver lining, maybe we'll find new places to ride...

Coming off of a great, early start to last season, the first 'Thursday Misfits' ride is penciled in with early snow anticipated. Will it happen? We can only hope.



If you are interested in joining us, please get in touch. Mid-week rides enjoy quite a bit of time boondocking. Weekend rides are tailored to the group, meaning we stay closer to the trail if that is what some riders are comfortable with. Regardless of the ride, egos are left at home and a sense of humor is required. (We will laugh and take pics when you get stuck.)

Our club's first meeting is scheduled for October, likely October the 4th. We haven't set a location yet, but if you are interested in joining us, get in touch with president Jim Kingman or myself. (Our contact info is on the WSSA contacts page.)



Guided Rides

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More Information to Follow

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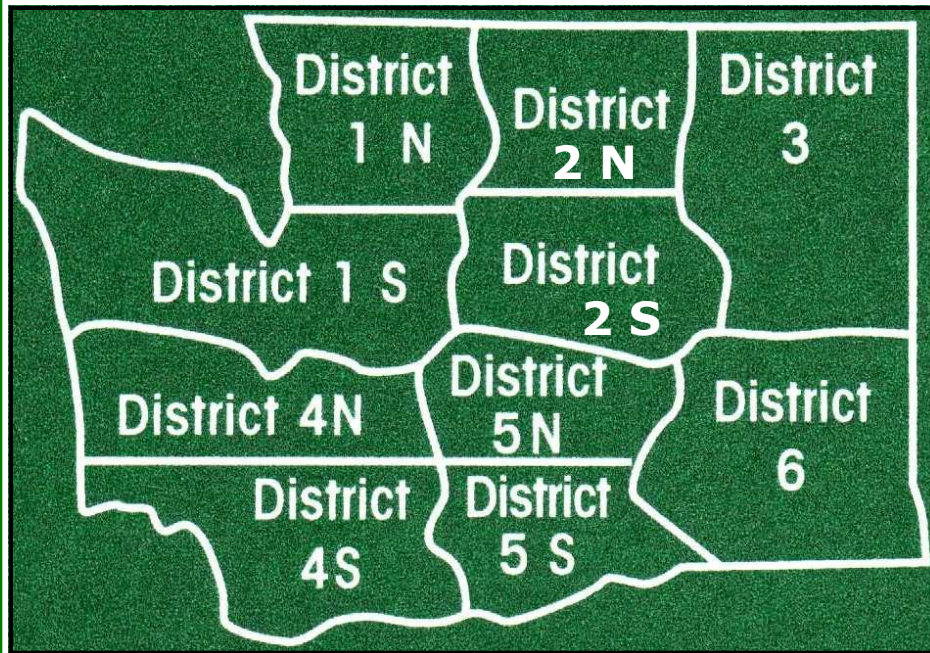
Sled Deck Raffle

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

**Awards Ceremony & Dinner (Fri &
Sat Night)**

Entertainment & Prizes

Snowmobile Clubs



Note: Facebook addresses in blue

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([Clallam/Jefferson/Kitsap/Skagit/Snohomish/Whatcom Counties](#))

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District 1 South

([King County](#))

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[Cascade Drift Skippers](#)

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Pacific Northwest

Pacific Northwest Vintage Snowmobile Club

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Vintage Snowmobiles of the Inland N.W.

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Notes



In Memory of William J. Zentner

Obituary

1936-2021

Eatonville High School

US Navy- Sumbmarines

He had a passion for fast boats
and snowmobiles.

He leaves behind family and
friends.

We will miss you greatly.

It is appropriate to remember Bill Zentner in this issue of the Snoflyer.

Bill came in as the WSSA Expo Chair on the fourth year of Expo's existence. Wayne Kester was hired by WSSA as the promoter for its first three years, 1992 – 1994, and Bill chaired it from 1995 through 2000, and really brought it through some challenging times in developing credibility as a viable event that is currently celebrating its 29th year.

Bill's contributions to snow-

mobiling were numerous. He served on State Parks' Snowmobile Advisory Committee as the District 4 Representative for two terms/six years in the 90s, helping set grooming budgets for our state-wide trail system.

If you've enjoyed the rustic warmth of the Government Meadows cabin, Bill was one of the essential people involved in constructing the cabin at Government Meadows; the cabin was first built off-site by Bill and others and then they had the local military do a 'training exercise' and fly the logs in to the site by helicopter... not exactly a Forest Service approved method.

Bill was one of the founding members of the Sno-Jammers Snowmobile Club, a solid advocate of organized snowmobiling.

Bill's accomplishments earned him a 'Snowmobiler of the Year' award as well.

Before his retirement, Bill owned B & G Enterprises, a steel fabrication shop; he was quite talented as a welder/fabricator and made several of the displays for snowmobiles for Expo. (One was a rotating platform and the other was a stand up display with the snowmobile standing on its tail.) He also converted a car to a crane to use in the initial construction of the Government Meadows cabin.

As the owner of Straight Line Trucking, he noted he had driven to 49 of the 50 states.

In addition to his love for fast boats and sleds, at one time he was an aviator with his own plane; certainly the guy you wanted to be friends with.

Bill had a reputation for being cantankerous, but this worked with his 'gitter done' work ethic. His friends noted he would do anything for them.

Rest in Peace.

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- -VACANT- -

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- -VACANT- -

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Feature

Let's talk about the 2021/2022 Snowmobile Program Budget...

By Matt Mead, Publicity Secretary

Every summer the State Parks' Snowmobile Advisory Committee (SMAC) meets and votes for a budget for the upcoming snowmobile season. This budget outlines how funds in our dedicated account are spent on the Snowmobile Program during the upcoming season. Who are these mysterious SMAC members? They are basically you and me, meaning any of us can volunteer to work on this committee, with the main restriction being members represent a specific region of the state and must live in that district. The Summer Funding Meeting was held this past July and the budget for the upcoming 2021/2022 season was set. (Note: State Parks staff actually sets the budget, but with SMAC input.)

How Much? For the 2021/2022 season, the approved budget is \$3,325,130. This amount includes \$2,628,593 in revenue, a rollover of \$547,606 from last year's budget and \$148,931 from RTP grants.

Where Does it Come From? Every year the snowmobile community preaches the need to register snowmobiles and brags how we are solely funded by users and don't dip into the State's General Fund. Our quick and dirty breakdown is each \$50 from a snowmobile registration, and \$44.20 in rebated fuel tax for that snowmobile, puts \$94.20 in the account. Last season, sled registrations totaled 25,025; up 12% over the previous year!

But technically that isn't the whole story.

On the negative side, Department of Licensing takes a slice of our pie for administrative costs to the tune of 3% for each snowmobile/fuel tax rebate transaction.

On the plus side are RTP Grants. The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is a Federal program that rebates a small percentage of the Federal fuel tax used in off-highway vehicles (including 4x4s, ATVs/UTVs, snowmobiles, motorcycles, etc.) to each state to be divided up for trail users to fund recreation needs for motorized, non-motorized and shared-use. Our State Parks Winter Recreation Program staff does a great job of writing grant funding requests and is successful more often than not. Grant cycles run two years, so a successful request will put additional money in our dedicated fund for two years. But unlike registration dollars/state fuel tax refunds, this money isn't guaranteed as there is no way to know year to year if our grant requests will be scored high enough to 'win' funds.

Let's look at some numbers for the upcoming season. Just how much money is spent on grooming, plowing and other needed services?

Myth Busting. Snowmobilers are sometimes misinformed; here are a couple of items where there may be a misunderstanding.

Grooming and plowing contractors are paid based on actual documented grooming and plowing and not the contracted max amount. If we have a lean snow year with less grooming and plowing, then contractors make less money and those funds roll over to the next year's Snowmobile Program budget. (Note they are not tied to the same region the following year.)

Our Snowmobile Program and budget are separate from the Non-Motorized Winter Rec. Program. Some people think snowmobilers foot the bill for all winter recreation and that is not the case; the non-motorized crowd has their own income (from sno-park permits, special grooming stickers and RTP grants) and a separate budget.

Grooming. Trail grooming by far takes the bulk of our annual budget and is probably the area most noticed by snowmobilers. It's pretty obvious when a trail hasn't been groomed, or hasn't been groomed recently.

For the 2021/2022 season, \$1,983,613 is budgeted for trail grooming and related expenses.

\$1,681,175 is for private contractor grooming, and \$202,438 for state-owned/government agency grooming. (In addition, there is \$100,000 budgeted for state-owned equipment repair to keep the machines up and running). Grooming funding is up 14% over last season and is a direct result of more snowmobiles registered last season compared to the previous season!

The SMAC members, with input from their local area grooming councils, help determine how many grooming dollars go to each specific trail system based on miles groomed and other factors. A smaller or lightly used trail system, we'll use Touchet Corral

(Dayton) as an example, will see \$31,062 budgeted for grooming for the upcoming season. Contrast that with the Crystal Springs area, a busy and large trail system, where \$110,362 is budgeted for the season. Check out the box at right for the budgeted grooming in your area this winter.

Note I only included the areas groomed by private contract groomers in the box. Grooming conducted by government agencies using state-owned equipment is more

complicated. And while it looks like less money is spent on government grooming, what isn't readily evident are the other expenses involved. Whereas a private contract groomer is responsible for his equipment, transportation, repairs and etc., the Snowmobile Pro-

2021/2022 Grooming Budget by Area

Skagit County - \$94,314
Whatcom Area (Glacier & Canyon Creek) - \$58,162
Greenwater - \$86,228
Chelan - \$126,668
Entiat - \$40,625
Lake Wenatchee-South - \$85,812
Lake Wenatchee-North - \$62,535
Stemilt-Colockum - \$56,143
Methow Valley - \$51,731
Chewelah (Power Peak/Calispell Basin) - \$48,638
Colville - \$54,094
Kings Lake/Paupac - \$98,360
Johnson Creek/Orr Creek/Skate - \$41,181
Mt. Adams - \$50,678
Mount St. Helens - \$59,366
Ahtanum - \$82,343
Chinook Pass - \$95,682
Cle Elum River/Teaway - \$132,066
I-90 Corridor - \$110,362
Taneum/Manastash - \$134,893
White Pass - \$80,232
Touchet Corral - 31,062

State-Owned Grooming Equipment Info

Location	Equipment	Purchase Price	Date Put in Svc	Projected Svc End Life	Replacement Cost
Cle Elum	BR 275	\$160,218	11/3/1999	11/3/2009	\$275,000
Cle Elum	PB 200	\$222,739	11/15/2004	11/15/2014	\$275,000
Ferry County	BR 180	\$97,708	8/15/1998	8/15/2008	\$200,000
Okanogan County	Tucker	\$118,317	10/23/2001	10/23/2011	\$200,000
Okanogan County	PB 100	\$285,895	11/4/2017	11/4/2027	\$200,000
Pomeroy County	BR MP+	\$159,718	11/3/1999	11/3/2009	\$290,000
Mt Spokane	PB 100	\$119,408	7/31/2000	7/31/2010	\$290,000

gram bares these expenses with government-sponsored grooming. A private contractor factors in to his bid the costs of maintenance,

(Continued on page 26)

Feature *Continued...*

(Continued from page 25)

replacement equipment and etc., but the Snowmobile Program staff, working with the actual operators and government agencies, determines how much to budget for the state-owned equipment. **Snowcats don't last forever and have to be replaced. And don't forget the trucks that move them around.** State-owned grooming equipment is monitored closely all season and unexpected costs (such as an expensive snowcat repair or the loss of a cat) have to be addressed and the budget adjusted to cover. major equipment repair.

Snow Removal. How about sno-park plowing, the Snowmobile Program's second highest on-the-snow expense? What we all need to consider is this is likely the most important need for snowmobilers. Nobody wants to ride bumpy, un-groomed trails, but without sno-park plowing, we have no place to even unload. Can you imagine pulling off the road at the top of Blewett Pass or trying to access Greenwater in mid-January if it had never been plowed? Yikes!

The plowing budget for 2021/2022 is set for \$333,135 across the state. A few examples of season plowing budgets include: Baker Lake Hwy/Rocky Creek - \$8,278; Road 70/Greenwater - \$25,907; Ahtanum - \$15,114; Cold Creek - \$4,334; Rose Springs - \$3,886; Lake Wenatchee Airstrip - \$2,851; and Kerr Campground - \$1,854.

While grooming and plowing expenses account for nearly 70% of the Programs overall budget, there are other expenses.

Program Administration. Administering the Snowmobile Program takes a big chunk and \$403,900 is budgeted for this upcoming season. It's easy for the un-informed to cry "foul!" and complain about government waste. Normally I'd be right there cheering them on, but we are very lucky when it comes to our State Parks Winter Recreation Staff. If you've had any interaction with them, you know they are friendly and competent and manage our program with a vested interest and not a typical 9-5 government job. Last year with COVID was a poor example, but during the 2019/2020 season, they spent in excess of 40 days on the road during the snowmobile season visiting sno-parks, riding the trails and inspecting grooming, attending grooming council and snowmobile club meetings, and addressing problems encountered on the snow. In addition, winter recreation staff have written numerous successful RTP grant requests over numerous grant cycles which benefits the Program, and it could be argued, offsets a big chunk of their salary cost.

Administration expenses include much more than salaries though. Things like office rental space, travel and lodging for SMAC members to attend meetings, land-access fees (to Idaho, Kittitas County and at Mt. Spokane), snowmobile trail and sno-park signage, GPS tracking, mapping, and direct snowmobiling expenses including truck, trailer and two machines.

Sanitation. Sanitation expenses are projected to be \$75,277. Holy c#@p! But ask your kids and riding partners if they are willing to do without toilets.

Education and Enforcement. The Program has budgeted \$83,485 and I'd argue this isn't enough. This budget item has a direct impact on registration numbers; the more education/enforcement conducted, the better compliance from snowmobilers in the form of buying snowmobile registrations. More registrations this season means a larger budget next season! (Remind your friends!)

Emergency Reserve. The budget also contains a \$30,000 'Emergency Reserve' fund. This money isn't used to supplement grooming, but in a pinch has been used for extra plowing in banner

snow years.

Priority 4 Funding. Everything listed up to this point has been part of the 'Program Activities and Services' part of the budget, kind of the meat and potatoes of the Program. Priority 4 is 'equipment replacement' and is currently funded at \$326,558, but there isn't a specific line-item identified for the 2021/2022 season. But this is where the money would come from for the replacement of a state-owned groomer or hauling truck.

Priority 5 & 6. How does the Program change over time? How do we add new grooming, plowing or sanitation to grow snowmobiling? The definition of 'Priority 5' is the "acquisition and development of new snowmobile facilities and equipment; and trail maintenance and services". Priority 6 is defined as "support of special snowmobile programs (increased law enforcement, safety education, expanded signing, equipment maintenance training)". While this funding might only be a one-time request, for it to become a permanent part of the budget, the new requests need to be approved for three consecutive years and these items are one of the first things cut when the budget shrinks due to decreased snowmobile registrations. Here are this season's approved requests:

Priority 5 Approvals.

This is the third year approval for the Chinook Pass-Clover Springs 1600 Rd Grooming.

This is also the third year for Mt. Adams snow removal from the fire station to Curly Creek Rd.

A new first year approval includes increased grooming at Mt. Baker Canyon/Glacier.

First year trail grooming connector for Blewett/Clear Lake/Lilly Lake.

First year increased grooming in the Methow Valley.

First year for new sanitation at Methow Valley warming huts.

First year for a new Hanks Butte Sno-Park including snow removal and sanitation.

First year for increased grooming in the Ahtanum.

The Snoqualmie Ranger District was approved for \$14,000 of a \$26,000 request for two new snowmobiles for use in E&E. (This is a one time request/approval.)

Priority 6 Approvals.

Third year and \$5,000 to Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) for Education and Enforcement (E&E) in Skagit/Whatcom Region 4.

A second year WDFW \$5,000 request for E&E in the Blue Mountains Region 1.

First year request for \$7,175 for E&E in the Methow Valley Ranger District.

Final Notes. There is some sharing of expenses between the Snowmobile Program and Non-Motorized Winter Rec. Program in regards to sanitation and snow removal in shared-use areas. This benefits both programs.

And along this same line, the Winter Recreation staff works to split their administrative expenses between the two programs. An example of this would be if they made a trip to Mt. Spokane; they would split their time between snowmobiling and skiing/snow shoeing activities, and then their travel expenses would be split between the two programs.

After reading this you may have more questions than answers. The good news is State Parks will happily answer any budget questions you have; all you have to do is ask them! Contact them at winter@parks.wa.gov or (360) 902 8684.

ACSA E-News

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



Feds Consider Reinstating Gray Wolf Protections

The Fish and Wildlife Service now says it will consider potentially restoring Endangered Species Act protections for gray wolf populations in the western United States.

Citing "substantial, credible information indicating that a listing action may be warranted," the federal agency announced it will initiate a comprehensive status review that could last a year or more.

"The Service finds the petitioners present substantial information that potential increases in human-caused mortality may pose a threat to the gray wolf in the western U.S.," the Fish and Wildlife Service said.

"Aggressive anti-wolf state laws and regulations in Montana, Idaho and Wyoming place wolves at risk of extinction in these states, and wolf populations remain tenuous or absent in other western states within their historic range," said Erik Molvar, executive director of the Western Watersheds Project.

Best Job in the World Has Been Filled

This summer, Bombardier Recreational Products (BRP) created a new job at the Uncharted Society, billed as the Best Job in the World. Ross Robinson has been appointed to fill the position. Robinson was one of the 2,000 applicants and will kick off the six-month, 35-stop journey in Naples Florida.

Born and raised in Oregon and serving later as a guide in Colorado, Robinson comes with snowmobile experience.

To see the press release, visit <https://news.brp.com/news-releases/news-release-details/best-job-world-uncharted-society-taps-ross-robinson-epic-role>. To see the Uncharted Society website, visit <https://www.unchartedsociety.com/us/en/>

Meanwhile.... In DC...

What may make the cut? What are the priorities in DC?

The Infrastructure Bill ~ The Budget Reconciliation

- A bank provision in the Infrastructure Bill requires all banks, credit unions, and fiduciaries to send the IRS all transactions over \$600 for any person of any age or financial condition. Included in the reporting will be deposits, transfers, and withdrawals. Banks believe this raises serious questions about your right to privacy.
- The 'human infrastructure' package contains raising taxes, including the corporate tax rate from 21% to 26.5%, the capital gains tax rate from 20% to 25%, and the income tax rate from 37% to 39.6%.
- The budget resolution would allow students to enroll in community college at no cost, among other measures.
- Will the State and Local Tax (SALT) deduction cap be repealed? This deduction reportedly saves many Americans money on their state and local taxes.
- \$105 billion to illegal immigrants in the U.S.
- The IRS will double their budget - and double the number of employees.

At the House Committee Level....

- The House Agriculture Committee blocked a fire reform package that would have reduced fire risks and reformed federal fire policy, and blocked an amendment that would have increased pay for U.S. Forest Service firefighters.

At the Agencies....

- The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) has abruptly canceled its contract process for the second phase of the Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI). It throws the next steps of the large-scale thinning project into a state of uncertainty. The Forest Service had hoped to award the 20-year contract over the summer and had updated its requirements to add more certainty for companies bidding on the job. But this week cited financial risk to potential contractors and announced it would reevaluate.

If any of these issues are a priority for you, contact your elected officials in Washington, DC.

Too Much Government Involvement in Fighting Forest Fires?

The rapid uptick in wildfire intensity is primarily due to forests being overstocked with fuel. This can be attributed to the lack of active management conducted on our Federal lands.

According to the USFS, which manages 193 million acres across the country, 63 million acres of that total face a high risk of wildfires. In 2020, 70% of the nationwide acreage that burned was on Federal lands, most of which was managed by USFS.

Despite the major threat posed by wildfires, USFS only carries out 2% of needed fuel reduction treatments per year. This number is abysmally low because of a mix of bureaucratic red tape and excessive litigation.

This issue was recently highlighted at a House Natural Resources Committee hearing. According to Dr. Dave Daley, a rancher from CA, 'overzealous' policies have led to a lack of land management, resulting in ecosystems defined by their susceptibility to fires.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is well-intentioned, but has impeded management efforts with the requirement of documentation for expected environmental impacts of their actions. This has proven burdensome with the average approval process for a NEPA permit being three years.

Is government a major hurdle in the fight against wildfires? Do we need to put more tools in the hands of local leaders and reduce bureaucratic hurdles to protect our forests and communities?

There are some efforts coming together from both House and Senate members. We'll keep you updated.

Deadly Smoke From Wildfires

Wildfire smoke causes more than 33,000 deaths a year across 43 countries, according to a new global study.

While previous studies estimated premature deaths from wildfires in a specific country or region, authors of a study published recently in Lancet Planetary Health say this is the most comprehensive assessment to-date of global wildfire mortality.

The findings come as the smoke from yet another season of record-breaking wildfires in the Northern Hemisphere impacts air quality hundreds of miles away from burn areas.

Are You Following Us?

www.facebook.com/AmericanCouncilofSnowmobileAssociations

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

ISMA Update

Snowmobile community announces Sled Season Celebration October 29th & 30th

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



The snowmobile manufacturer members of the International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association (ISMA) (Arctic Cat, BRP/Ski-Doo, Polaris, and Yamaha) are excited to partner with their snowmobile dealers across North America, and the snowmobile associations/federations and clubs in coordinating the first annual Sled Season Celebration in North America. ISMA is happy to be joining Sweden, which has been holding a Snowmobile Celebration event in October of each year for the past decade, to kick off the 2021-2022 snowmobile season. North American events will be hosted at snowmobile-friendly venues like dealerships and clubhouses, October 29th and 30th, 2021.

The event will be centered around having fun, celebrating snowmobiling activities, and gathering all snowmobilers, both long time acquaintances and new snowmobiling members of the community. North American snowmobile dealers, snowmobile clubs and associations/federations are invited to participate in the two-day celebration. Each dealer and club is encouraged to develop their own fun activities as part of the celebration. Activities could include but are not limited to:

1. Vintage sled displays
2. Show and shine displays
3. Halloween costume contest
4. Live music
5. Great food
6. Fun games such as horseshoes, corn hole toss, etc.
7. Snowmobile safety training
8. Maintenance seminars
9. Avalanche safety training
10. Assorted giveaways (created by clubs and dealers)



The event is modeled after the celebrations that have been successful in Sweden. The imaginations of club members and dealers can create great, fun times to get people thinking about the upcoming snowmobiling season. The goal of the event is to have a fun way to gather snowmobilers to plan snowmobiling activities for the upcoming winter, and discuss trail expansion, backcountry access, club rides, maintenance, grooming issues and all things snowmobiles.

The event will be supported with a social media ad campaign and promoted through communication by the manufacturers and dealers. ISMA is helping coordinate the activity and more information about the event can be found at Sled Season Kickoff 2021. We look forward to great activities planned throughout North America and are partnering with the American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA) in the United States and the Canadian Council of Snowmobile Organizations (CCSO) in Canada. Their websites will have information on the event as well.

Following this past year's excellent sales of new and used snowmobiles, we are looking forward to meeting the many new snowmobilers who are being introduced to the sport, the clubs and enjoy a snowmobile community's warm welcome. We look forward to seeing you all in October for the Sled Season Celebration!

SNOWMOBILE RENTALS IN WASHINGTON

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
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.

Looking for a past Snoflyer? Did you know we are archiving Snoflyers on the WSSA website, dating back to the November 2008 issue? That's right! So if you missed the Summer Snoflyer, it's just a couple of clicks away, along with all of last season's editions. Most of them you will need to log in to the website, meaning you'll need to be a member. The summer edition is currently available to everyone.

As an aside, while looking at the list of advertisers in the November 2008 edition, it is noteworthy the Priest Lake Chamber of Commerce was with us then and is with us today. AWESOME and THANKS!

Electric snowmobiles, will they catch on? Taiga will have electric snowmobiles on the snow this winter. I suspect a couple of early adopters will even be riding them here in Washington. Range is going to be an issue, but might they sell anyway here in the Evergreen State?

Snowmobilers seem to clash with the cross-country skier crowd and usually through no fault of ours. We have no problem sharing a trail until their attitude gets in the way as it sometimes does. But might electric snowmobiles help bridge the gap between us? While some of these folks are stuck on human-powered conveyance, I suspect many are just against the noise and smell. What if they could buy a quiet sled, ride deeper into the woods, and then find new places to ski away from the crowded snow-parks? Range may not be a concern as they aren't planning an all-day ride. And once they are riding a snowmobile, maybe they'll see what we see, and maybe they'll see how fun our sport is. The more folks we can convert, the fewer we'll have to fight for land access. Maybe it's just wishful thinking on my part...

Don't eat pink snow. I know you know better than to eat yellow snow, but have you seen pink snow? Climbers this summer on



Mt. St. Helens have encountered it and asked Mt. St. Helens Institute volunteer climbing rangers about it.

Turns out it is called 'watermelon snow' and is caused by a cold-loving algae species. Watermelon snow isn't good for maintaining the glaciers either as the darker color in-

creases the speed of melting. If you are looking for more info, check https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/watermelon_snow.

One million miles of off-road and snowmobile trails. This is Polaris' claim regarding their Ride Command platform. If you frequent this column, you'll know I tried the Ride Command app for a couple of years when it first came out and found it buggy and a real battery hog on my phone. Since I switched to Avenza and the Snowmobile WA apps, I've never looked back. Maybe it is time to take another look as a million miles of roads and trails seems pretty impressive. This would be especially helpful when venturing out of WA or when I don't have the appropriate map loaded in Avenza. In addition to the maps, this system allows a person to plan routes and track rides, and share experiences and 'build community', (whatever that means).

Chris Gamache, Ride Command Trails Manager offered this: "This feat of adding one million miles into Ride Command would not have been possible without the strength and support of the powersports community, as input from on-the-ground clubs and associations greatly contributed to the mapped trails."

Update: I just downloaded it again and will give it another try. First thing I noticed is off-trail riders will want to put the app in the 'off-road' mode vs. 'snowmobile'; the snowmobile-specific mode only shows trails while the 'off-road' mode shows forest roads. Will report back in future Snoflyers.

Michael Kelso, snowmobiler? If you were a fan of 'That '70s Show', you know Ashton Kutcher played the prank-prone, dim-witted Michael Kelso. You probably know Kutcher in real life is no dummy and in addition to being a film and TV star, is an entrepreneur and successful business man. He made early bets on Uber and Airbnb, but before that he worked at Lenovo as a product engineer and was a member of the management team at the technology startup Ooma. His investments extended to two restaurants as well. It is said he has investments in over 60 companies.

What caught my eye in a recent article though was his ambitions as a 13 year-old; he mowed lawns and washed dishes and saved up \$1,400 to buy a snowmobile!

I wonder when he last rode one?

Polaris Star Car. Have I mentioned this vehicle previously? I don't recall, but certainly would have if I'd read about it.

By Matt Mead, Publicity Secretary



Going back to 1965, Polaris came up with the idea of an affordable small open-wheel racer powered by a Polaris snowmobile engine and clutches.

The go-kart sized racer used a steel tube chassis and a fiberglass body with a full-length belly pan. This pint-sized offering was no toy with an 80 mph top speed and good handling due to a double-torsion bar front suspension and partial leaves in the rear.

It was rumored Polaris built around 100 Star Cars, but in '68 Textron purchased the company and halted Star Car production.

Supposedly there was a safety concern... amplified due to the fact larger engines were easy to install by owners... and a recall was issued for these racers and Polaris destroyed every one they got back. (It is guessed about 20 still exist.) There is a lack of evidence confirming this, but the interwebs is full of people claiming to know first-hand. Regardless, this is one cool machine!



First ride only seven Thursdays away?

I joked in the Summer Snoflyer my first ride was 17 Fridays away. Looking at the calendar now, it might be seven if Mother Nature cooperates. Come on snow!

Washington Hometown's Snowmobile

WA: Here is the app WSSA is a sponsor of. Local Ellensburg company and has the maps for all your recreational needs. In addition to the Snowmobile WA app, they cover dirt biking, off-road and ATV/UTV. The ATV/UTV version also covers what towns and counties allow road travel with a street-legal kit. Visit <https://www.washingtonhometown.com/>

Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!

Facebook followers are over 3,570! Find us on Twitter at @wssaus and on Instagram at WSSA.US.

Snoflyer or website comments? Don't hesitate to get in touch if you have a concern or question with the Snoflyer, WSSA website or our Facebook site. Call (509) 424-1575 or e-mail to snoflyer@wssa.us.