

Snoflyer

*The official publication of the
Washington State Snowmobile Association*

December 2021

Volume 44



Merry Christmas

***A slow start compared to last
season, but we predict this
winter will be EPIC!***

Inside:

Club News

Info for running for board positions

Annual awards info - nominate a deserving snowmobiler!

*Cover photo: From the spring manufacturers photo
shoot and provided by GoSnowmobiling.org*



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SANDY BEACHES

DINING

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: _____ Address: _____

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of Registered Sleds: _____ Number of Riders: _____

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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 January 8th, 2021 In Cle Elum

Find out what is going on around the state on the snowmobiling front. All members welcome! Meeting starts at 9am and lunch options will be available.

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>

WSSA Summer Meeting & Campout Blu-Shastin RV Park, Peshastin August 19th - 21st, 2022

Join us for a weekend of fun and information. Chili dinner on Friday night. Saturday breakfast and then our meeting, followed by fun fundraisers and a potluck dinner. (Lunch served too!) Final breakfast on Sunday morning. Spend the weekend with snowmobilers and learn what's in store for the 22/23 snowmobile season.

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Leadership

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



We are breaking records over here in Spokane as I write this. If all goes as predicted, we will reach 60 today, December 1st, 2021. The ski slopes were opened November 28th and now I am not sure what they are going to do. As for the snowmobilers, we will have to travel for now. Maybe this is the year for winter grass drags! Just kidding. Patience is in order for sure.

COVID 19 Omicron variant is now the news headlines. Hopefully this will not turn into another Country shutdown. Please keep safe and stop the spread.

The Spokane Snow Show went well. Attendance and exhibitors were at 75% of normal. This is great because across the nation, the shows are running at about 50-60 percent of normal. If all goes well, 2022 will be a sell-out as long as inventory catches up and COVID behaves.

WSSA had great participation at the Spokane show. Lots of raffle tickets were sold as well as apparel and other items. The WSSA safety trailer was also there and doing a great job with information and education concerning snowmobiling and all things connected. Thank you to all the WSSA board and members for coming out for this event and representing WSSA for the cause. Great Job!

WSSA also participated in SnowFest in Leavenworth the very next weekend. Thank you to all the WSSA board and members for representing us at this event.

A special thanks goes out to Bret Rasmussen for being part of both the WSSA and Winter Knights shows. Your seminars are always over the top and much appreciated. Thank you.

Again, as a reminder, WSSA will be celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2022 as an organization dedicated to 'Keeping the Gates Open' for the snowmobiler as well as many other user groups. There will be shirts available to celebrate and support this milestone. More info to follow.

International Snowmobile Congress 2022 is ever closer than you think. Make plans now to attend in Dubuque, Iowa, next June. More to follow.

Please have patience with our dealers as they do their best to provide the parts and accessories you need for this season. Hopefully the ships with the cargo will dock and get unloaded!

The 2021-2022 challenge is still to keep 'Building Bridges and not Walls!' Don't forget to thank our associate members for their support of WSSA. Please encourage other businesses to join. Thanks in advance.

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



It's finally snowing in the Cascades! It won't be long until we are all out on the snow having a wonderful time.

Please check your equipment and make sure you are ready to handle whatever Mother Nature throws at us. Pack plenty of food, water, and safety gear. Check your supplies and make sure they are in good condition and complete. NEVER go out alone! Riding in numbers ensures you will return home safe and sound. It also gives you an experience to share the wonderful sites you see along the way.

I am really looking forward to having Rendezvous in Yakima on February 18th - 21st. We have three different areas for you to ride; Ahtanum, White Pass, and Chinook Pass. We will offer several rides for people to choose from and different riding skills. We will have rides for everyone to enjoy no matter what your riding skill. We will have the meetings and dinners at the Yakima Museum which will be interesting. I hope to see everyone there.

I am running for the office of President of WSSA and would like your support. I want to promote WSSA to all the snowmobilers in the state. I would like to see WSSA at the different sno-parks throughout the state. With the help and support of the board, we can spread the word that we are helping to keep all the lands open for our riding pleasure. **I would like to grow our membership by 100 percent. If you don't ask, people can't join. So, I challenge each and every one of you to sign up someone new to snowmobiling.**

I hope to see you on the snow!

District Reports



District 1 North

By Hans Brubaker
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(360) 922-8296

Happy holidays fellow riders! November started off with club members putting the finishing touches on trail maintenance and warming hut preparations. Everything was set and anticipation for snow was high! After a few teaser snowfalls, a major setback arrived in the form of the severe flooding in Whatcom and Skagit counties. Most communities were affected and the further north the worse the impacts. Homeowners, farms and businesses were damaged and recovery will take some time.

Not only did the storm melt off accumulated snowfall, but several roadways critical to snowmobilers sustained damage. Worst on the list is a washout on Glacier Creek Road off the Mount Baker Highway. This road represents 50% of the riding on the north side, and loss of riding options here would be a significant loss for the season. Placing all the riding effort on Canyon Creek Road, which also sustained damage, will lead to challenges with parking and grooming conditions.

Glacier Creek Road is popular with all winter user groups; Christmas tree cutting, backcountry skiing, family sledding, and snowmobiling among others. Approximately 20 guides are licensed by the Forest Service to provide services here. Glacier Creek also has the only entry level terrain in the area. I encourage snowmobilers to do all they can to make calls and let it be known that emergency repair of this road is necessary. More information should be available by the time this issue goes to press.



District 1 South

By Glenn Markovits
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(253) 297-1774

Snowmobile friends! I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends and I hope everyone is getting their sleds ready for the snow.

The Cascade Drift Skippers (CDS) have been having their monthly club meetings at the Iron Duck Restaurant in North Bend. The meetings have been going very well and

with great attendance too. Darren King (club president) and the board are doing a great job leading CDS into another great snowmobiling season. CDS will continue to have club meetings every second Wednesday of the month at 7pm at the Iron Duck Restaurant and we welcome everyone to attend.

CDS has a full calendar of snowmobile rides scheduled for all rider levels and at

(Continued on page 8)

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WA State Parks Winter Rec Program	1111 Israel Rd SW	Olympia	WA	98504	www.state.parks.wa.us	360-902-8595
Backcountry Plowing & Grooming	23616 154 th St E	Orting	WA	98360		253-722-4123
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District Reports Continued...

(Continued from page 5)

various locations. Please check in with the CDS club website calendar and CDS Facebook page for updated ride information throughout the season.

I hope everyone had an opportunity to attend the Spokane Winter Knights Snow Show in Spokane on November 13th. It was

a fun event with lots of vendors and great people. I really enjoyed spending the day with other snowmobile friends there in Spokane. I also hope everyone made it over to the awesome Bavarian Boondockers Snow-Fest on November 20th in Leavenworth.

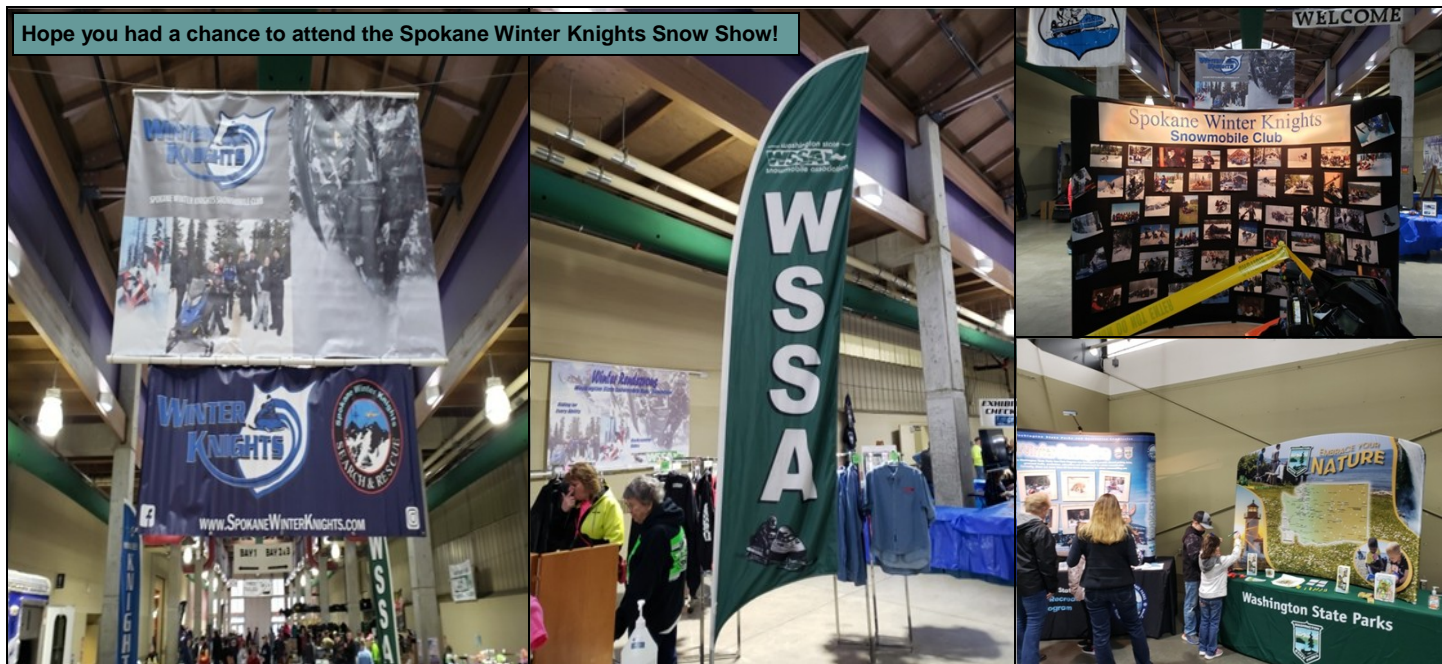
That also was a great snowmobile show and

we had a wonderful time there.

The WSSA November Leadership Meeting was canceled this year; our next WSSA meeting will be in January.

WSSA Rendezvous is happening this year! **It's going to be in Yakima and lots of great rides** are scheduled for all riding levels.

Hope you had a chance to attend the Spokane Winter Knights Snow Show!



Awards will be given out, dinner Friday and Saturday nights and the Legal Action Fund Auction too. Please bring your family and friends to Yakima on Presidents' Day Weekend, February 18th-21st. Check out the WSSA website (www.wssa.us) and this Snoflyer for additional information and to get registered for this great annual event.

Thank you to all who have renewed your WSSA membership this year and I encourage those who have not, to please join WSSA or please renew your membership to help support and protect our sport with legislation and many other ex-

(Continued on page 9)

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District Reports *Continued...*

(Continued from page 8)

penses that WSSA incurs throughout the year.

I wish everyone a wonderful and merry Christmas and a happy new year! Hopefully everyone gets to spend some quality time with your family and friends. Be safe and I hope to see everyone out on the trail soon.



District 5 North

By Jason Holmes
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Hello everyone. The final push towards snowmobiling season is on its way! It is amazing to see the damage to the local communities and infrastructure caused by the back to back atmospheric river events. I'm currently in Eastern British Columbia and the local agencies are predicting the Coquihalla Highway is estimated to be closed for three-plus months. A tremendous impact for our friends and neighbors to the north.

The Upper County Recreation Association (UCRA) is official and the newest member of the WSSA-associated clubs. It is a year-round association that will focus on all motorized outdoor recreation in upper Kittitas County. The intention of the association is to coordinate and complete projects through the grant recipient process. Also, the social aspect of the association will allow users to meet people with similar outdoor enthusiasm.

If you think you would like to be a part of UCRA, our meetings are the first Thursday of each month at the Cle Elum Eagles. We have created a social media page if you would like to follow and join: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/920574301897777/>

It's become very apparent many snowmobile enthusiasts who snow-checked last year have been notified by their respective manufacturers of 'to be expected' delivery delays. I can imagine how frustrated those of you impacted are feeling. This unfortunate delay has many significant impacts. One of which is how it can potentially have a very serious impact on funding the 2022/23 snowmobile season. Let me paint the picture; if an individual does not receive their new sled until March/April, is said new sled owner going to register their sled for the 2021/22 season? In all honesty, some might, most probably will not. Statewide we are talking about a

few thousand sleds; because they are not registering for the 2021/22 season means the snowmobile registration dollars and the gas tax the grooming program receives for each registered sled disappears. Should this scenario take place, please take this into consideration and register your sled for the 2021/22 season. Remember, new batteries for your TRANSCEIVERS, (they aren't friggen beacons), take an avalanche class this year and I hope to see you on the hill. If you ever have questions, feel free to reach out directly; jay.holmes44@gmail.com.

Cheers!



District 5 South

By Ron Lind
ron.lind@wssa.us
(509) 607-0039

Hello fellow snowmobilers! I hope you all were able to attend the Puyallup Snow Show or the Spokane Winter Knights show, or head to Leavenworth for the Bavarian Boondockers SnowFest. These shows all help to promote snowmobiling in the communities; lets support them. Not a lot to report from State Parks; they are still trying to locate contractors to plow snow-parks and are trying to fill in the void left by the Washington Department of Transportation.

I have some bad news from the Naches Ranger district. It looks like we will not be snowmobiling on the roads located within the Snyder springs Fire that burned this summer. They are trying their best to clear all the danger trees and mitigate any of the hill-sides that have roads that have become unstable; it is just going to take time. Please **adhere to the 'road closed' signs and closures.** Included are snowmobile routes 1600, 1706, 1709 including Clover Flats and Little Bald, along with 1500 and Bethel Ridge. Contact the Naches Ranger District office for details.

I would also like to remind everyone we traded grooming on six miles of 1701 Bald Mountain (from the Hwy 410 intersection and it is now open for 4wd rigs), for grooming the 1901, 1915, 743 (Lilly Pond) in the Little Naches area. They are presently logging that area and using those roads but we hope to have them this winter. It also looks like they will be doing some logging in the Kaner Flats Campground area so watch for logging trucks on the Little Naches Road.

As for club news, it looks like the Yakima Ski-Benders are charging ahead with lots of events, one of which is the Crab Feed set for December 4th. I hope you have your ticket; last I heard they were all sold out. They also have a Christmas Gift Swap planned for their December 7th meeting, and a Chilly Ride scheduled for January 15th. I believe they are trying to set it up for the Tieton Air Strip and if not it will be held at Cold Creek Sno-Park. They will be holding their annual Chinook Pass SnowFest Poker Ride on Saturday, January 29th, at the 1904 Sno-Park in the Little Naches. This should be a great time with lots of prizes and fun.

The Ski-Benders, the Drift-A-Way Snowmobile Club, and the Chinook Pass Snowmobile Club will host rides and lunches during the WSSA Winter Rendezvous scheduled here in Yakima February 18th-21st over Presidents' Day Weekend. The tickets will be available soon and if you need a hotel reservation and you are a WSSA member, contact Home2suite at (509) 453-1806; tell them you are with the WSSA Winter Rendezvous.

Then the GRAND DADDY OF THEM ALL, **the 10th anniversary of the Kids' Ride!** If you have not attended this, make sure you sign your kids, grandkids or borrowed kids up; **it's an unbelievable time for the kids.** There were 92 kids last year who had a great time! The date is February 26th; contact Liz Van Amburg at (509) 225-6681 for info.

I also attended the Drift-A-Way club meeting held at Round table pizza. It is the first Monday of the month at 6 pm. They are planning rides for the season and they also help with signing the White Pass grooming area. (Please thank them when you see them on the trail.)

Talked with the Doug Mason and the Chinook Pass Club does not have much going on at the moment. They usually stock the Little Bald cabin with wood but being it will be closed this year, it is not (Continued on page 10)

ALCOHOL OR DRUG USE IS NEVER SAFE WHEN SNOWMOBILING.

DON'T RIDE IMPAIRED SO YOU COME HOME SAFE TO YOUR FAMILY.



Visit snowmobileinfo.org for safe riding information.

District Reports Continued

(Continued from page 9)

going to happen. They also were awarded a \$1,000 WSSA Trail Grant to fix a few things on the shelter but looks like it will have to wait until the area reopens.

In other news, I talked with Mark Tharp who is the Yakima area grooming council chair. He encouraged everyone to attend their monthly meeting held at Round Table Pizza in Yakima on the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

If anyone is interested in closures and maps please use these links:

Closure Order: www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd937966.pdf

Closure Map: www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd937967.pdf



District 6

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

Pomeroy club: Warming huts stocked with wood and ready for snow.

- Bucket Run scheduled for February 20th at the Rose Springs Sno-Park.
- Vintage Show and Ride planned for March 5th at the Rose Springs Sno-Park.
- Join them at the Mt. Misery Shelter for weekend burger feeds.

Dayton Club: Wood cutting completed and Godman warming shelter stocked. Trail Trimming completed. A new website has been created for the Blue Mountain Snowmobile Club – www.bmscwa.com – go check it out.

- Club Ride on January 14th - 17th in Half-way, OR.
- Bucket Run on March 5th at the Touchet Corral Sno-Park.
- Fun Day – TBD
- Burger feeds every Saturday at the Godman warming hut starting first weekend in December – snow conditions permitting.



The Blue Mountain Snowmobile Club prepping trails for the upcoming season!



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!



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



Tharin on Safety

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



Greetings fellow sledheads!

The first snowfall for 2021-2022 season is in the books. From my house I can see Mt. Baker on a clear day and there is nothing more beautiful than Baker in the sun with fresh snow capping it off.

It's been crazy busy for several weeks now with snow shows and snowmobile related activities. As I write this, I'm headed to the Bavarian Boondockers' SnowFest this weekend. Its going to be another great show in Leavenworth.

I've checked all my gear and replaced most everything that needed replacing. I've signed up for a couple classes to further my safety education. I'm finishing up a couple minor repairs on my sleds. I'd say I'm about 99.9% ready for my first trip on the snow.

How are you doing with your pre-season preparations? In a recent Snoflyer I suggested signing up for some avalanche education as well as first aid. Are you prepared? How about your survival gear? Do you carry the essential items to survive a night or two in the mountains? Do you carry anything to make a shelter? Can you start a fire? Have you tried? Do you carry a saw? Extra socks and/or gloves? What about high energy emergency food? Are you able to communicate with emergency services when you cell phone has no service?

Dan Adams from Next Level Riding Clinic talks about what he carries everyday in the backcountry. I've attached a link to his Youtube video about what he carries. Check it out - it's worth watching. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PxT5zb7SsWM>

I want to leave you with this - are you prepared?

Take care all. I hope to see you on the snow soon!



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 Snowmobile Associations
www.snowmobilers.org



Elections

WSSA Elections

Are you a candidate?

**NOMINATIONS
 NOW OPEN**



Every year WSSA holds elections for four board positions. Every year the **President** and **Vice President** positions are up for election. The positions of **Membership Secretary** and **Publicity Secretary** are two-year positions, and they are up for election as well.

Any WSSA member in good standing is eligible to run for a WSSA board position and you are encouraged to do so.

How do you go about getting your name on the ballot? It's as easy as contacting Jim Kingman, Past President and Nominations Chair. You can reach Jim at (509) 961-1122 or mtnmax777@yahoo.com.

Please note nominations close on January 15th. (Online voting opens no-later-than January 17th and ends at 10pm on February 19th.)



DIESELWERX.COM

WSSA Legal Action Fund Raffle North Cascade Sled Deck

Buy a raffle ticket (or several) in support of WSSA's Legal Action Fund and win a sled deck! The drawing will happen on Saturday night during WSSA's Winter Rendezvous in February. The tickets are \$5 each and only 1,000 will be sold. Those are spectacular odds!

Legal action to protect your riding areas is expensive! WSSA needs to be able to defend snowmobiling when the issues arise and this means having a strong Legal Action Fund!

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

Don't miss your chance to win a top-rated sled deck and help support WSSA's Legal Action Fund. The more you buy, the better your odds of winning!

Deck provided and built by North Cascade Sled Decks in Marysville, WA. Features include:

*All aluminum expandable sled deck
 Adjustable legs for long or short box
 11 foot 2 piece ramp*

*Includes center loading
 Side lights and dome light
 Carbide protectors for all 3 positions*

Super Clamps donated by DieselWerxs.com in Cle Elum, WA

(Buying raffle tickets in support of the Legal Action Fund are in no way tax deductible.)

Club News



Pacific Northwest Vintage Snowmobile Club

By Kevin Hancock,
Webmaster

We spent the weekend with the Vintage Snowmobiles of the Inland Northwest snowmobile club showing our sleds at the annual Winter Knights '2021 Snowmobile and Power Sports Expo and Swap Meet' at the Spokane Fairgrounds. There was a good crowd looking at our antique, vintage, and classic sleds. Tom Field was chosen for People's Choice for this display of 1971 Arctic Cat race sleds. Congratulations Tom!

The Winter Knights Expo ended our summer show season. We are now moving into our riding events. Our first vintage and 'nice sled' ride is at the Lone Butte Sno-Park in the Pinchot-Gifford National Forest. This is an annual ride for us. We use this weekend to test what vintage sleds we plan to use, and our modern sleds, for the season. It is always an interesting time. Interesting if we can keep to old-ones running! (Continued on page 14)



Members of the PNWVSC joined the Vintage Snowmobiles of the Inland Northwest club and displayed machines at the Spokane Winter Knights Snow Show.



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Club News *Continued...*



More pics of vintage sleds from the Spokane Snow Show.



Tom Field was chosen for People's Choice for this display of 1971 Arctic Cat race sleds.



Methow Valley Snowmobile Association

By Evie Johnson, Secretary

(Continued from page 12)

Cheers to the holiday season!

The Methow Valley Snowmobile Association (MVSA) did our annual bough round up for the town of Winthrop, a tradition we have kept for a long time. We had the help of a lot of our junior members to gather the boughs and bring them to town for the businesses to decorate with. As I write this, next up for the holiday traditions will be helping with the warming barrels for Winthrop's Christmas at the end of the Road on November 27th. This is a great community event to bring your family to, with the town lighting at 5pm and fireworks at 6pm.

This season, we will be hosting one 'club ride' per month. The club rides start out at one of the nearby sno-parks and typically go to a warming hut. Once there, we build a fire inside and outside for everyone to enjoy. Groups branch off for rides from that point; riders go with leaders who match their ability level. The levels are designated as Trail, Off-Trail, and *Mountain (*specific tools, gear, and avalanche safety gear required). These rides are great opportunities for folks to meet more sled fam! Other rides may pop up throughout the season as leaders become available. Check our blog site for more info!

We host a Bucket Run every year and this year we will be changing the traditional weekend for that event. This event is normally on President's Day weekend but will be scheduled for another time in either late January or February. Stay tuned for more info!



Yakima Ski-Benders

By Liz Van Amburg, President

Hi everyone!

I sure missed snow show season. Looks like everyone had a blast! I have been busy remodeling and planning for the annual crab feed on December 4th. We sold out in record time this year. This is one of our biggest fundraisers to support our charities and events. I want to thank Dee and Ron Alred for chairing this event. We tried something new and sold 20 VIP tables and they went quick! Thank you To all our VIPs—**Atkin's Landscaping, Whistlin' Jack's Lodge, Build-it Off Road, Action Towing, Evans Fruit, Monson Fruit, Northwest Auto Body, Burke's Plumbing, Paxton Mountain Tribe, Ray's Retail Meats, Ringer Property Management, Lacey Roofing, Ice & Fire Mechanical, C.R. Sansilow, Dave Desmarais, Rhonda Cook, Amanda Uecker, J & A Motorsports, and Ray Appraisal Service.** I will let everyone know how it went next month.

If you want to be on the sponsor shirt for our Fun Run, make sure and contact Ron Lind.

(Continued on page 15)

Want to Volunteer?

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

Club News *Continued...*



(Continued from page 14)

Northwest Glacier Cruisers

By Jessica Ronhaar

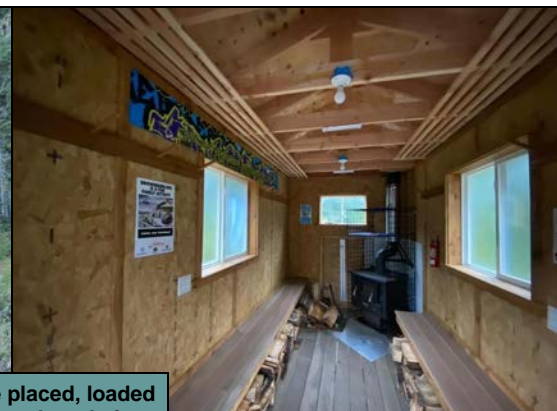
The huts are filled with wood and in place and we are ready for the season! The new Mount Baker Memorial Hut is located at the toilets near Schriebers Meadow. We are excited for this new hut and it's great location.

Ploeg's Place is located at Koma Kulshan Dam where we had it last year and the Kensington Hut is also ready to keep you warm. They are great destinations for brining families riding, to warm up and have lunch.

Our annual Christmas Party is December 4th at the Grand Willow in Mount Vernon. La Conner Seafood and Prime Rib House will be providing the delicious dinner. Join us for raffles, prizes, kids activities and a great time celebrating the Christmas season. Tickets are \$40 for adults, \$20 for kids 7-12, and kids under 7 are free. Tickets can be purchased on our website at www.northwestglaciercruisers.com.

We also have our shirts, sweat-

(Continued on page 16)



The huts are placed, loaded with wood, and ready for the season!



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Club News *Continued...*

(Continued from page 15) shirts, hats and more for sale on our website. Check out our 50th Anniversary limited time logo.

While you are on the website, don't forget to purchase your raffle tickets. This year we have a Klim Aspect 16 Avalanche air bag and a BCA beacon, probe and shovel set that will be raffled off at our Annual Mt. Baker Shoot Out in March.

You can also purchase tickets for the Luke Rohde Wrap Raffle for benefit of the Luke Avalanche Scholarships for three-day training classes. This year Elevated Backcountry will be teaching our scholarship winners. Check them out!

We are excited for this coming season. See you on the mountain!



Sno-Jammers Snowmobile Club

**By
Christina Markovits**

The Sno-Jammers are getting ready to have an awesome season! With the snow starting to fall and our first club ride right around the corner, we couldn't be more excited to get back on the mountain!

Join the Sno-Jammers at Round Table Pizza in Puyallup on the first Wednesday of the month, September to May!



Over the month of November the club collected food and gift donations to help families in need this holiday season and the goal was to fill an entire truck bed! Thank you to Jennifer and Jay Hamlyn for sponsoring this event once again.

Glenn Markovits, Dan Johnson, and Jeff Huard tackled a huge project in preparation for this year's season. They spent an entire day putting up the groomed trail maps in the Greenwater area. It was a wet, cold day but they still got the job done! The snowmobile community thanks you for all your hard work



Glenn Markovits, Dan Johnson, and Jeff Huard spent a day putting up the groomed trail maps in the Greenwater area.



and dedication to our sport!

Don't forget, we have an impressive calendar of rides this year and are hoping to have many of our new members join us on a ride or two. Our first ride this season is our Avalanche Training Ride with the Northwest Avalanche Center on December 19th at Greenwater.

We also have our New Year's Ride and Sno-Park movie night planned for January 1st at Crystal Springs. These are both excellent family events, so bring the whole family out for some fun time on the snow.

If you are up at Clem's Enumclaw Powersports between now and December 17th, don't forget to buy your 50/50 raffle tickets. The winner will be announced on December 18th and that lucky person will walk away with up to \$2,500 in CASH! Perfect timing just before Christmas! Tickets are \$5 a piece and are only sold at Clem's.

Stay up to date on our rides and events by following us on Facebook and checking out our website at www.snojammers.org. Better yet, we would love to have you and your family become members! Dues are only \$20 for a whole year. Come check out one of our meetings at the Round Table Pizza in Puyallup the first Wednesday of every month from September to May. Social hour is at 6pm and the meeting starts at 7pm.

See you all on the snow!
#SupportTheSport



Junco Snowmobile Club

By Chris Sutton

We know a few of you have already had your first rides; the rest of us are very jealous! I have watched my news feed fill with powder, so those snow dances must be working. We are getting excited and rushing to finish up our sled projects for the next snowfall. We know a lot of people are still waiting on their sleds due to manufacturing delays, and hope you all get your sleds in time to enjoy the season before it is gone!

On January 15th and 16th we are hosting our annual event we call 'Charity on the Snow' at the Orr Creek Sno-Park. This is a family-friendly weekend of camping, snowmobiling, and other activities, with a charity auction for the Make-A-Wish Foundation!

Since 2002 we have been donating 100% of the money raised, totaling over \$80,000 from this event, directly to Make-A-Wish Alaska and Washington! Last year alone we raised just over \$7,000 with a record turnout, and this year we hope to top that and give even more to Make-A-Wish!

We are excited to be doing our 'Sleds on' (Continued on page 17)

Club News Continued...

Fire' raffle again this year, so come get "fired up" with us as Clem would say!

If you would like to donate items for our auction, please contact me at (253) 224-8806 or snowkingsutton79@gmail.com.

The Junco Snowmobile Club meets monthly at Godfather's 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. We are a small informal club with a lot of young families, and we are always looking for new friends to ride with. It is very common to see kids in our snow-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 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 on the check. You can also follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/318085678333978/ for more information about our club, our rides, and our 'Charity on the Snow' event!



**Tri-Rivers
Snowmobile
Club**

**By Kurt Hensley,
President**

The Tri-Rivers Snowmobile Club recently had their first meeting of the season. We caught up on great food, getting together, some needed bill paying and gathering of dues.

We set the date for our Chili Feed for January 8th at our Shrew Creek hut. We put the hut in place and it is ready for winter use.

We had much discussion about getting new membership and set the date for our White Elephant Christmas Party for December 18th at Whiteley's in Malott.

We hope you can join us for our Chili Feed and come ride our great area with us.

Charity on the Snow
BENEFITING
Make-A-Wish
ALASKA AND WASHINGTON
Presented by the Junco Snowmobile Club!
JANUARY 15-16, 2022

The Junco Snowmobile Club is excited to announce our 2022 "Charity on the Snow" event at the Orr Creek Sno-Park and we hope you can join us on this fun-filled weekend for Charity! There is plenty of room for large RV's for those who want to stay the whole weekend with us.

Jan. 15 - 10 a.m. Let The Fun Begin!
We start off the day with a couple of guided rides, we will also have some maps and markers up for those who prefer smaller groups! We'll have a Pulled Pork Dinner w/ sides for you after we all return, followed by a Combination Live & Silent Auction and then our "Sleds on Fire" Raffle. All benefiting Make-A-Wish Alaska and Washington!

Jan. 16 - Between 9 & 10 a.m. Free Pancake Breakfast!

Directions to Orr Creek Sno-Park:
From Seattle, WA: Head South on Highway 52 (Circum Road) to Forest Road 25, left turn to Forest Road 31, and then to Forest Road 36, and then to Forest Road 303. The roads are paved by Rock County Planning and Grading and marked with signs! The Orr Creek Sno-Park is 24 Miles from Seattle!

For more info visit Chris Sutton at (253) 224-8806 or Jack Brothers at (253) 393-8885, or see Junco Snowmobile Club on Facebook!



Kyla Carter didn't bother waiting for the snow!



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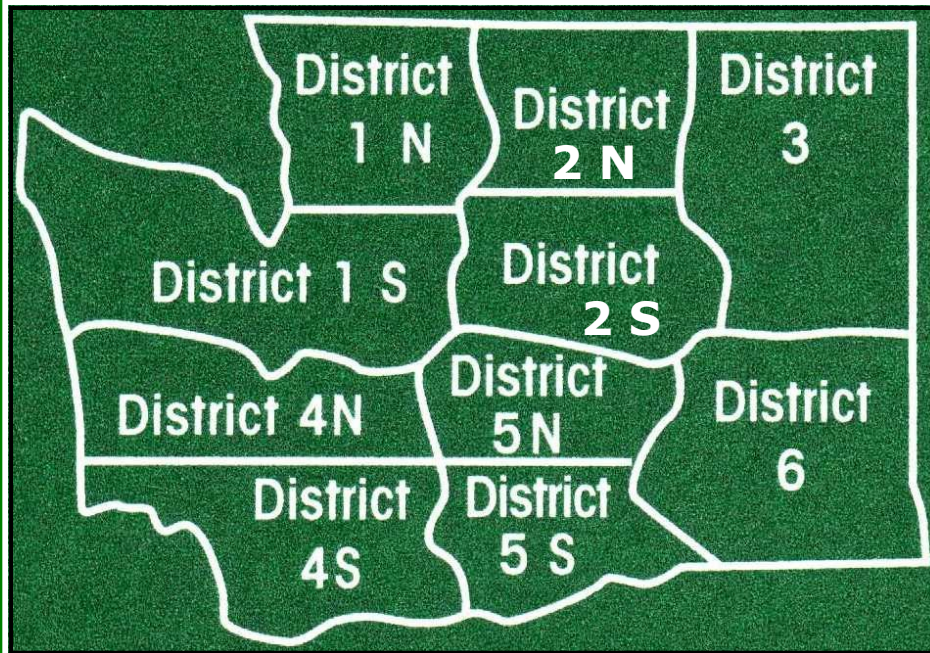
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Snowmobile Clubs



Note: Facebook addresses in blue

District 1 North

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

Northwest Glacier Cruisers

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

Whatcom County Snowmobile Club

Clark Morgan
(360) 927-5825
whatcomcountysnowmobileclub@gmail.com
[Whatcom County Snowmobile Club](#)

District 1 South

(King County)

Cascade Drift Skippers

Darren King
(360) 224-5411
darren.j.king@hotmail.com
www.cds.clubexpress.com
[Cascade Drift Skippers](#)

District 2 North

(Okanogan/Ferry Counties)

Assoc. of Okanogan County Snowmobile Clubs

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

Bonaparte Snowmobile/ATV Club

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

Butte Busters Snowmobile Club

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

Crawfish Lake Snowmobile Club

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

Methow Valley Snowmobile Assoc.

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

Mountain Trails Grooming Assoc.

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

North Central ATV Club of WA

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

Republic Tree Benders

Brian McKay
(509) 775-3511 • bam2604@yahoo.com
[Republic Tree Benders Snowmobile/ATV Club](#)

Tri-Rivers Snowmobile Club

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

District 2 South

(Chelan/Douglas Counties)

Apple Country Snowmobile Club

Jim Burts
(509) 860-3980
applecountysnowmobileclub@yahoo.com
www.applecountysnowmobileclub.com
[Apple Country Snowmobile Club](#)

Bavarian Boondockers

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

Lake Chelan Snowmobile Club

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

Lake Wenatchee Recreation Club

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

District 3

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

Chewelah Sno Posse

Howard Justice
509-233-8027

Selkirk Trailblazers

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

Spokane Winter Knights

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

District 4 North

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

Barnyard Racing

Eric Clark
fj55@comcast.net

Junco Snowmobile Club

Joshua Simpson
clanofsimpson@gmail.com
[Junco Snowmobile Club](#)

Lewis County Drift Skippers

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

Northwest Boondockers

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

Sno-Jammers Snowmobile Club

Tanner Hamlyn
(253) 376-2739
tanner.hamlyn@wssa.us
www.snojammers.org
[SnoJammers](#)

District 4 South

(Clark/Cowlitz/Skamania/Wahkiakum Counties)

Mt Adams Snowmobile Club

Duane Warren
(360) 521-9728
mtadamssnowmobileclub@gmail.com
[Mt Adams Snowmobile Club](#)

Mt St Helens Trac Riders

Dan Frazier
(360) 903-6185
jwatson98626@gmail.com
[Mt. St. Helens Trac Riders](#)

District 5 North

(Kittitas County)

Hi Country Beelers

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

Reecer Creek Riders

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

Snomads

BJ Oswald
(206) 227-2912
bjoswold21@gmail.com
[Snomads of Easton](#)

Stampede Summit Seekers

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

Teanaway Snowmobile Club

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

District 5 South

(Benton/Klickitat/Yakima Counties)

Cascade Snow Drifters

Nina Gottschalk
(509) 945-2511 • 98shay@gmail.com

Chinook Pass Snowmobile Club

Bob Jump
(509) 966-5074

Drift-A-Way Snowmobile Club

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

Yakima Ski-Benders

Liz Van Amburg
(509) 759-5179
yakimaskibenders@hotmail.com
www.yakimaskibenders.net
[Yakima SkiBenders](#)

District 6

(Adams/Asotin/Columbia/Franklin/Garfield/Walla Walla/Whitman Counties)

Blue Mountain Snowmobile Club

Jake McNeil
(509) 386-4688
verticalescape03@hotmail.com
[Blue Mountain Snowmobile Club](#)

Mt. Misery Snow Drifters

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Tollgate Trail-Finders

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Pacific Northwest

Pacific Northwest Vintage Snowmobile Club

Stephen Phillips
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pacificnorthwestvintagesnowmobileclub.org
[Pacific Northwest Vintage Snowmobile Club](#)

Vintage Snowmobiles of the Inland N.W.

Dave Brummer
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www.wsvsa.com/VSTOTINW.html

WINTER RENDEZVOUS 2022

YAKIMA

FEBRUARY 18 - 21

Guided Rides

Friday-Sunday
Information / Sign up @ Check-in

Rendezvous Pricing

Dinners
Friday and Saturday Night
Yakima Valley Museum

Home2 Suites

Yakima, WA
Rates \$119/Night
Reservations
509-453-1806

Great Fun for the entire Family

Photo Contest
Sled Deck Raffle
Silent & Live Auctions (proceeds go to Legal Action Fund)
Awards Ceremony & Dinner (Fri & Sat Night)
Entertainment & Prizes



Membership

Membership Matters

By Wayne and Florence Mohler, Membership co-chairs

Membership renewals and new sign-ups are continuing to come in. Thanks to all who have renewed or signed up. For those who haven't joined WSSA or renewed yet, please do so right away.

2022 will mark the 50th anniversary of WSSA. We would like to hear from those who have been instrumental in the evolution of our association. How it has changed, and how it has remained the same. What were the issues in the '70s and how they've evolved in 2020s. If you have some thoughts or records of events, issues, or other happenings and of those who made them happen, we'd like to hear from you. Let's make 2022 a special year to recognize snowmobiling in Washington!

WSSA continues to look at ways to make your membership more valuable. We invite our Associate members to participate in a 'loyalty' program by providing a benefit or incentive to WSSA members. The Associate member can identify the benefit, and WSSA will publicize the information through the Snoflyer, our website and social media. This is the second year of the trial program and runs from December 2021 through November 2022. It is our hope this will turn out to be a win, win, win scenario with our Associates getting more business, our members getting something of value, and WSSA getting more members. For Associates to get signed up, just contact membership@wssa.us with your proposal!

Individuals/families, dealers, businesses and clubs make up WSSA and the volunteer effort put forth by everyone is what allows us to effectively promote snowmobiling. Whether it's raising money for charities, protecting access to our public lands, clearing and maintaining trails,

Info Provided by WA State Parks 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	3,418	198
October	1,662	2,139	2,489	1,882	3,357	3,189	2,274	(915)
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	7,169	360

sponsoring events, communicating with our legislators, congressional delegations, state and federal agencies, or working with other recreational groups - it's all done by volunteers. WSSA isn't a separate entity - WSSA is everyone who cares about snowmobiling and is willing to invest time and energy to help protect and preserve a form of winter recreation that is important to all of us. Please use the membership application in the Snoflyer, or go to our website www.wssa.us to renew your membership or join WSSA.

We also want to wish everyone a great holiday season - and particularly a White Christmas.

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

And remember - Your Membership Matters!



Follow the State Parks Winter Recreation Program on Twitter @ WaStatePks_WNTR



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

Notes

Annual WSSA Awards

**Submission deadline is
February 1st, 2022!**



The Washington State Snowmobile Association believes it is important to recognize and honor those who make significant contributions to organized snowmobiling in our state. One way we accomplish this is through our annual awards program.

In order for WSSA to recognize these worthy individuals/clubs/businesses, we need help from the local clubs and others to seek out and nominate them. If you know of a standout in any of the categories listed below, please submit nominations by February 1st, 2021.

Categories

- Club of the Year
- Club President of the Year
- Dealer/Associate of the Year
- Groomer Coordinator of the Year
- Groomer of the Year
- Snowmobiler/Snowmobile Couple of the Year

Nominate them today!

Contact Shannon Lawler, Awards Chair, at slawler411@msn.com or (206) 423-5584 for more details.

ATTENTION - Information Needed

**SPRING OF 2020 - APRIL/MAY TIMEFRAME
(During the COVID lockdown)**

You or someone you know were recreating (snowmobiling) in the Snoqualmie pass area and you may have found a BLACK ULV BACKPACK somewhere near the Snoqualmie Pass Ski Area, possibly off one of the 9070 spurs, and took it to the West Summit parking lot, and left it there.

I'm trying to locate the person/group that found it.

PLEASE come forward! I need to know exactly where it was found!

Any information would be appreciated.

Thank you in advance!

CONTACT INFO:

Ron Smith
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District 2 South Rep

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District 4 South Rep

- -VACANT- -

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Tracked ATV/UTV • Matt Mead
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State Parks Update

State Parks Winter Recreation Program Encourages Responsible Snowmobiling

By Pamela McConkey,
Winter Recreation Program Manager



As the snow begins to build in the Washington Cascades range, the State Parks Winter Recreation Program joins members of the International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association and the snowmobile community nationwide in promoting responsible snowmobile etiquette. The national 'Take the Pledge' campaign aims to protect riding areas and trail systems for current and future generations. The campaign also reminds motorized recreationists to respect the landowners who provide access to their properties.

Those who take the pledge agree to the following:

- I Pledge to ride off-trail only where I know it's legal and accepted.
- I Pledge to check before going off-trail if I don't know.
- I Pledge to protect access for future generations by doing the right thing.
- I Pledge to protect access by encouraging those I ride with to take the Pledge also.

Washington snowmobilers enjoy over 3,800 miles of groomed trails statewide. The trails cross over between state, federal and private lands. They have been built and maintained by snowmobile clubs and volunteers for generations. Washington snowmobile clubs also build warming huts, assist with backcountry rescue operations and offer organized rides to veterans and children with disabilities. Snowmobilers are an important part of the winter recreation community.

The national initiative includes snowmobile dealers, lodges and chambers of commerce as snowmobiling contributes to the state's tourism and outdoor recreation economy with particular benefit to rural areas.

The Pledge was created to raise awareness about the impacts of motorized winter recreation on landowners, pets and livestock. Increased use of winter recreation areas over the last several years calls for awareness of legal riding areas and responsible recreation principles.

The State Parks Winter Recreation Program and International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association invite all snowmobilers and their riders to take this pledge at www.snowmobilerspledge.com.

ISMA
International
Snowmobile
Manufacturers
Association

Snowmobile Program Funding 101

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

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

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



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

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

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



Connect with us on social media

twitter

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facebook

www.facebook.com/WashingtonStateParks

YouTube

www.youtube.com/WashingtonStateParks

Instagram

www.instagram.com/WASStatePks

Share your stories and photos: AdventureAwaits.com

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 rdal-red1971@gmail.com or call me at (509) 961-2806.

Washington State Parks



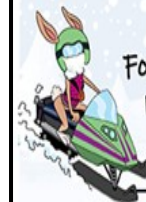
Welcome!
Warming huts & shelters
are open this winter.

We invite you to come in and get warm.

Please wear a face covering and stay 6 feet apart from people not in your household.



For smaller warming huts, please minimize your time spent inside if others are waiting to get in.



ENTER & USE AT YOUR OWN RISK
Warming huts & shelters are not sanitized. We can't guarantee surfaces are free from COVID-19.

Thank you
for recreating responsibly!



PSR 45-16100-25 (10/20)

ACSA E-News

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



Lumber Tariffs

The U.S. Commerce Department is moving forward with an administrative review decision to double the tariffs on Canadian softwood lumber shipments into the U.S. to 17.9% from 9%.

The National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) has condemned the move, calling it "the worst time" to add to housing costs as the U.S. faces a national housing affordability crisis. "Home builders are grappling with lumber and other building material supply chain bottlenecks that are raising construction costs. And consumers are dealing with rising inflation that is pushing mortgage interest rates higher," said Chuck Fowke, chairman of the NAHB.

Black Hills Logging

The owner of the largest sawmill in the Black Hills says it may shut down if logging levels are reduced. The Forest Service is proposing to reduce timber sales anywhere from 35% to 50%.

The Forest Service says recent logging levels are not sustainable. Jim Neiman is the president of Neiman Enterprises, which already closed a mill in Hill City earlier this year. The company also owns a mill in Spearfish. Neiman says if the Forest rests for a decade or two, the Black Hills won't need a timber industry. "Because the bugs are going to come back and it's going to burn. We got too many communities," Neiman said. "This is the most infiltrated forest with private lands in all the National Forest system. This is dangerous to have the attitude that we want to grow this back - the level of inventory - that we had in 1999. That is asinine."

A timber industry group is challenging Forest Service research about the Black Hills. The Black Hills Forest Resource Association says it's filing a challenge through the Federal Government's Data Quality Act.

The association calls the move "an administrative action" that "doesn't immediately involve the courts." The challenge arises from a long-running dispute over logging levels in the Black Hills National Forest. Forest Service researchers say the Forest is reeling from wildfires and bug infestations. They say current logging levels are not sustainable over the long term.

Forest officials say they're reducing logging levels for the next several years while they work on a new Master Plan for the forest.

Did You Know....

Strategic Petroleum Reserve: Recently the Biden Administration authorized the release of 50 million barrels of crude oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) to help ease high gas prices. The 50 million barrels of oil equates to three days' worth of oil.

U.S. Energy Information Administration acting Administrator Stephen Nalley told a Senate panel the agency predicted a release of oil would reduce prices about 5 to 10 cents per gallon. The current average for a gallon of gas across the country was \$3.40.

Originally founded in the aftermath of the 1973-74 Arab oil embargo, the Strategic Petroleum Reserve was supposed to hold crude oil in case of a global supply disruption that would send prices skyrocketing.

The SPR currently holds 609 million barrels of crude, but almost half that amount has been earmarked for sale by Congress, which has used the reserve to pay for priorities like health care research and highway modernization.

The White House said 18 million barrels of the 50 million it plans to sell in the near future stems from a congressional mandate. The other 32 million would be available to companies that promise to replace it in the future. That's why officials said it was not an emergency release.

Four out of five kindergarteners can't ride a bike! Ryan McFarland, the founder of Strider kids bicycles, told his motorcycle industry audience at an event in California that today only one in five kindergarteners know how to ride a bicycle.

Similarly, most young drivers today have never learned to use a clutch

to drive a car with a manual transmission. Most motorcycles require both balance and use of a clutch, and in the past one could assume that new motorcycle customers would already be familiar with both.

The U.S. Forest Service manages twice as many road miles as the national highway system with only a small fraction of the budget.

- More than 370,000 miles of roads - many built half a century ago during the logging boom - require over \$3.2 billion in back-logged maintenance needs.
- Hundreds of thousands of culverts, more than 13,000 bridges, and 159,000 miles of trails are all components of the agency's infrastructure.
- The Forest Service also has a responsibility to protect clean water for the 3,400 communities that rely on National Forests as drinking water sources.

America's carbon emissions. America's carbon emissions are at a 27-year low because of the replacement of coal-fired electric power plants with natural gas - which emits half as much carbon dioxide as coal.

Stanislaus National Forest

The Stanislaus National Forest is located in the Lake Tahoe area - and has some great snowmobiling areas. The Stanislaus recently completed an 'Over Snow Vehicle Use Designation' which was not favorable to snowmobiling. A local snowmobile club, Sierra Snowmobile Foundation partnered with ACSA to file suit against the Forest Service.

Closures of many riding areas, seasonal closures and a 66% decrease in cross-country OSV (over-snow vehicle) use were included in the final decision. Also included is a minimum snowmobile depth. When the Forest Service completed their Over Snow Vehicle Rule, a minimum snow depth was not included in the criteria.

The Stanislaus Plan includes a minimum depth of 12 inches of snow, without providing sufficient data or analysis to explain this requirement.

ACSA has been involved in the Over Snow Vehicle Use Rule since the beginning. Many state associations, clubs and individual snowmobilers have submitted comments through the years of development of this Rule. We are very disappointed to see the criteria that was initially determined by the Forest Service is changing as the individual Forests complete this process.

It is imperative all snowmobile clubs work closely with your local Forests. There are always anti-snowmobile groups working to see additional limitations placed on snowmobiling.

A minimum depth of 12 inches of snow is not acceptable. We must all work together. We must all be alert and involved.

Join a club. Join your state snowmobile association. Attend Forest meetings where you live -- or where you ride.

Ski-Doo Grant Program

In its inaugural season, the Ski-Doo Snow P.A.S.S. (Protect, Access, Sustain, Support) grant program is providing more than \$580,000 in funding towards more than 100 projects for snowmobile organizations across North America.

With more than 200 applications for project funding submitted in just two short months, the response from the snowmobile community was phenomenal. Bombardier Recreational Products (BRP) and their network of Ski-Doo dealers teamed up to provide the funding to these hard-working volunteer organizations need.

"Together with the support of our amazing dealers, the Ski-Doo Snow P.A.S.S. grant program surpassed all expectations," said Annick Lauzon Director, Global Marketing, Sea-Doo & Ski-Doo. "We are very pleased to help these passionate organizations continue their efforts to improve trails and infrastructure for all snowmobilers across North America," Lauzon added.

Each organization was eligible to receive up to a \$5,000 grant if their project application was selected as a recipient. The projects chosen to receive funding stretch across North America - from Nova Scotia to Alaska.

(Continued on page 24)

ACSA E-News *Continued...*



(Continued from page 23)

With the enthusiasm of organizations and riders such as these, the future of snowmobiling remains bright. Stay tuned to Ski-Doo.com and the Ski-Doo social media channels for updates on Snow P.A.S.S. project progress later in the 2021-22 snowmobile season.

Videos were created to celebrate, share and thank the clubs for their efforts. You can see the video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QcIV6-y5GZY>

Greenflation

Going green could save the world, but we're all going to have to pay up for it. At least, that's the view of some on Wall Street.

Wall Street's worry is that government policies and business moves aimed at decarbonization carry knock-on effects translating into higher costs for everyday consumers, possibly even tempering the economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic. They have coined the buzzword for this phenomenon: Greenflation.

The term is being used to explain the twists and turns that could come on the path to a greener future — and the costs associated with ratcheting down sources of carbon emissions.

Analysts are also worried about demand for the U.S. clean energy industry without ample mineral supplies to back it up.

Products integral to the shift away from fossil fuels, like electric cars, solar panels and wind turbines, all require a host of minerals. But those minerals — including copper, lithium, cobalt and nickel — are all in short supply.

Analysts say there is evidence some of these price increases are due to climate action: Coal is more expensive because there is not enough being produced to meet demand, while steel is pricier partially because some steelmakers, cautious of expanding production and their carbon footprints, have declined to restart idled blast furnaces. Metals like copper and nickel only recently died down from record-high bull runs driven by scarce supplies unable to meet the demands of a growing clean energy sector.

Last week it was reported the consumer price index, or CPI, rose 6.2% year over year in the month of October, its largest spike in 31 years.

Greenflation; something to watch in the coming weeks and months.

In Case You Missed It....

Forest Service officials Anticipate Federal Funding: Following a devastating wildfire season, U.S. Forest Service officials are eagerly awaiting funds from a \$1 trillion Federal infrastructure bill that would go towards managing forest fire fuels. "There's a bunch of numbers in front of it but it's billions of dollars for very specific [wildland urban interface] treatments in the western part of the country," said Chad Benson, Kootenai National Forest supervisor on Nov. 3rd.

The bill, which Congress passed Nov. 8th, allocates \$3.3 billion to reducing wildfire risks. These funds would provide salary bumps to firefighters, boost fire detection and response technology, and bolster firefighter training. The dollars would also fund more fuel reduction work, including prescribed burning, thinning and harvesting.

Daines-Feinstein Emergency Wildlife and Public Safety Act were also included in the infrastructure bill and include:

- A new 3,000 acre Categorical Exclusion under the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) for developing fuel breaks along linear features such as trails, roads, and transmission lines across National Forest System lands. This will expedite the implementation of important, time-sensitive projects that protect Western communities by slowing the spread and severity of wildlife and providing a defensible space for our wildland firefighters to fight fires.
- A new statutory 'Emergency Situation Determination' authority that allows the Forest Service to accelerate Forest management projects when the agency determines a risk

(Continued on page 25)

No Trespassing "SLOGAN" Challenge

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

Trespassing = Lost Riding!

You Ride – You See the Trespassing and the results of lost riding! We need YOUR ideas.

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

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

GIVE US YOUR BEST IDEAS!



2021 Poster Winner

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

Slogan Challenge is open to **ALL Ages**. Submit your original poster design by **January 15, 2022**.

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

Prizes will be awarded to the top 3 ideas or submittals. Prize Winners will be notified by **February 4, 2022**.



**** Submit your Slogans to: info@snowmobilers.org**

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

to

ACSA E-News *Continued...*



(Continued from page 24)

public safety or resource value exists. This bill streamlines important post-disaster restoration and reforestation work and pro-active preventative work to slow the spread of insect and disease or reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire. Projects under this authority may not be enjoined unless the courts determined the plaintiffs are likely to succeed on the merits.

California Dixie Fire: You may recall the recent Dixie Fire in California, which burned over this summer, which burned nearly 1 million acres and required hundreds of firefighters to respond, three of which were injured severely. Recently a Federal Grand Jury indicted a 47-year old former professor at Santa Clara University in California, on 5 counts of arson related to fires.

So far he has not been charged in the Dixie Fire, however the U.S. Forest Service continues to investigate.

Arson arrests have skyrocketed in recent years. Investigators made 136 arrests for arson in 2021, almost double the number of such arrests in 2016. If convicted, he faces a maximum of 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine for each count of arson. Arson to federal property carries a mandatory minimum sentence of five years in prison.

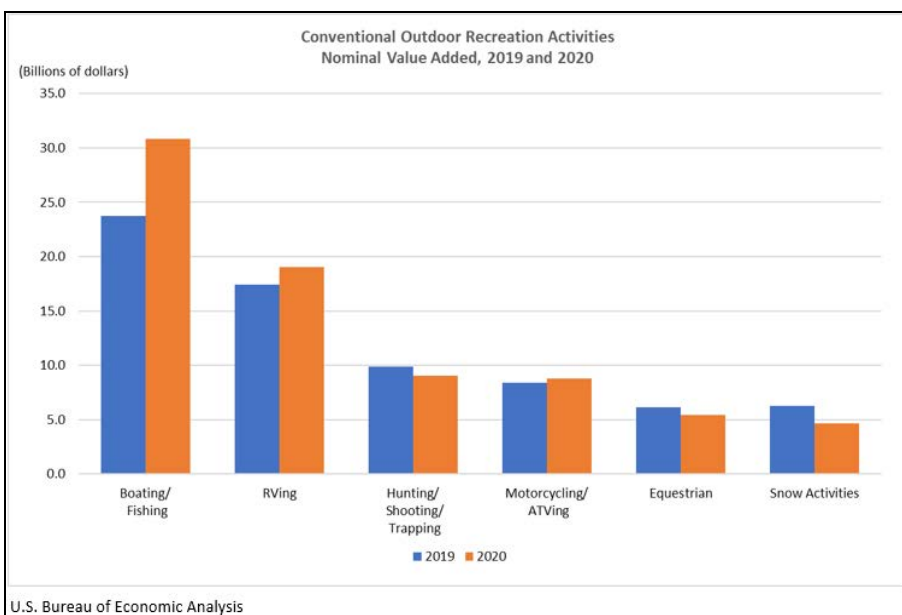
After smoke drifts east, U.S. Congress eyes spending billions to curb wildfire threat. Billowing smoke from wildfires was so thick over the summer that it blocked out mountain views in the western United States and prompted health warnings for vulnerable people - even those far from the deadly blazes - to stay indoors.

But it was the drift of the worsening air as far east as New York and Washington D.C. that may have been the spark lawmakers needed to advance major spending packages now moving on Capitol Hill that aim to address the threat, said U.S. Senator Michael Bennet (D-CO). "I hate to say it, but this year smoke finally made it to the East Coast - and I think people on the East Coast started to grasp the urgency of the situation," Bennet told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Outdoor Recreation and the Economy

In 2020, conventional outdoor recreation accounted for 37.4% of U.S. outdoor recreation value added, compared with 30.6% in 2019.

The increase was due to higher spending on boating/fishing and RVing. Other outdoor recreation accounted for 16.8% of value added in 2020,



compared with 19.7% in 2019. The decrease was driven by amusement parks/water parks and festivals/sporting events/ concerts.

Supporting activities accounted for the remaining 45.8% of value added in 2020, compared with 49.7% in 2019. Supporting activities, particularly

travel and tourism-related activities, declined in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic as consumers traveled less and reduced spending at hotels and restaurants.

BRP CEO José Boisjoli Talks Powersports!

BRP CEO José Boisjoli recently shared in a Forbes Magazine article that he grew up on a farm in the small Canadian town of Wickham and rode his first snowmobile at 10 years old. It was the start of a journey that led him to be president and CEO of BRP, the Canadian company that owns the world-renowned Ski-Doo, Sea-Doo, and Can-Am brands.

"We're selling experience," said Boisjoli, who joined BRP in 1989. "The beauty of our product is that when you're riding a snowmobile, a three-wheel or watercraft on the lake, you forget about everything. It's incredible how you relax."

Boisjoli describes BRP products as "powersport therapy," and shared that he met some of his best friends while riding powersports vehicles.

"I use them all," he said. "In the winter, I opt for the snowmobile, but the three-wheel vehicle is a very pleasant way to relax, and all our products are fun to ride."

BRP is now a global leader and sells its products through over 3,500 dealers in 127 countries with, employing about 15,000 people in 26 countries.

You can read the entire article here: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/karlmoore/2021/11/11/whats-next-for-powersports-with-jos-boisjoli-ceo-of-brp/?sh=440e11c93c41>

Northern Spotted Owl

The Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) revisited one of its longest-running Endangered Species Act disputes, finalizing a modified critical habitat for the northern spotted owl that will now span roughly 9.4 million acres.

The agency reversed course from the Trump Administration, which on January 15th excluded 3.4 million acres from the 9.6 million acres of owl habitat designated in 2012.

The final rule announced this week excludes 204,294 acres from the original designation.

A little history...

- In 1990 the FWS listed the northern spotted owl as a threatened species, kicking off debate over its critical habitat.
- A 1992 rule designated 6.9 million acres of critical habitat, but was revised as a result of a 2003 settlement agreement with the timber industry.
- In 2008 the George W. Bush administration finalized a revised critical habitat designation of 5.3 million acres, but that plan was later discarded by the Obama administration.
- In 2012, FWS finalized, again, the owl's habitat. About 9.3 million acres.



Are You Following Us?

www.facebook.com/AmericanCouncilofSnowmobileAssociations

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

ISMA Update

International Snowmobile Safety Week January 15th-23rd

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

ISMA

International
Snowmobile
Manufacturers
Association

The snowmobile community will sponsor the 28th annual International Snowmobile Safety Week. This is a special event for the snowmobile community, including state and provincial snowmobile associations, visitors and convention bureaus, chambers of commerce, snowmobile clubs and local and state and provincial agencies joining together to recognize the importance of safe, responsible snowmobiling. Many groups highlight safety week by holding various snowmobile safety training programs. All of the efforts highlight the key position statements highlighted by the safety week efforts. Those key points include:

- **Snowmobiling and alcohol don't mix** - Don't drink and ride.
- **Smart Riders are Safe Riders** - Take a snowmobile safety training course.
- **When night riding, slow down** - Expect the unexpected.
- **Know before you go** - Always check local ice conditions.
- **Cross with Care**
- **Know the risks and be prepared** - Make every trip a round trip.
- **One is the loneliest number** - Never ride alone.
- **Ride safe, stay on the trail** - Respect private property.

Avalanche Awareness:

When snowmobiling in avalanche terrain, always check the existing conditions. You can do so by visiting one of the two websites:

- United States: www.avalanche.org
- Canada: www.avalanche.ca

The five guidelines for mountain terrain riding:

- **Get the gear** - Ensure everyone has an avalanche transceiver, shovel, and probe on their person and knows how to use them.
- **Get the training** - Take an avalanche course.
- **Get the forecast** - Make a riding plan based on the current avalanche and weather forecast.
- **Get the picture** - If you see recent avalanche activity, unstable snow exists. Riding on or underneath steep slopes can be dangerous.
- **Get out of harm's way** - One at a time on all avalanche slopes. Don't go to help your stuck friend. Don't group up in runout zones.

This year we are continuing our effort that all snowmobilers must respect private landowners and public land and the land managers. We highlight the need to protect land use privileges and to stay on the trail and if you don't know - don't go. Remember to 'Take the Pledge' at <https://snowmobilerspledge.com>.

Snowmobile Clubs and Associations / Federations are encouraged to invite local representatives from the business community to go snowmobiling and show them our known, safe riding standards. There is information available from the ISMA office to help support your efforts. That information includes the 'Safe Rider' video chapter series, with 13 videos, located on the www.snowmobile.org and www.gosnowmobiling.org websites. All of the videos are free and can be downloaded and used at local events. There is a Safety Week Manual available to download, from www.snowmobile.org, with ideas on how to set up a Safety Week event and get the International Snowmobile Safety Week recognized in your community.

During your campaign activities, we encourage you to take photos and share them with others on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/GoSnowmobiling.

Snowmobiling is a Fun Family Activity where we must keep safety as a top of mind awareness issue.

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

Red Ace's Customs & Rentals

(Mossyrock - Orr Creek Sno-Park)

(360) 880-1608

www.redacesrents.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.

It really is pretty simple... I just read about a 39-year-old snowmobiler in British Columbia who died of exposure. This season. And he shouldn't have. He had gone for a ride (alone) and got his machine stuck and was unable to get it out. He apparently decided to walk out and was found about 36 hours later. He was less than two miles from his sled.

I'm far from 'Mr. Safety', but some things really jump out at me here. First, why wasn't he prepared to spend a night out? Why didn't he start a fire and hunker down? Why did he leave his sled? Many will focus on him being out alone; I won't hold that against him, but if you are riding alone, that is even more reason to be prepared.

What do you bring with you when you ride? Do you have a way to start a fire? You have a sled full of gas, so worst case you just need a way to ignite it. (The gas, not the whole sled... I hope.) More than likely you have trees around you, so can you gather some wood. Do you have a saw? And how about a shovel? Dig yourself a hole or a cave and get out of the wind. What do you have to keep your core body temp up? A roaring fire helps, but what about a space blanket? And once you figure out how to keep from freezing to death, do you have food and water? (With heat, you have an endless supply of water.) Personally I have a pretty good supply of trail mix along with me in addition to whatever food I think I'll want on the ride.

And finally, how about some type of communication/rescue device? I've got a SPOT and lots of people recommend InReach. Either offer the ability to notify search and rescue if you are truly in over your head.

Chip shortage. I've seen pics on the web of acres of brand new trucks parked and non-deliverable because they need computer chips in them. That explains why my local Ford dealer hasn't had a new Super Duty on the lot in months! And it is affecting Polaris too. Polaris has been shipping some machines without their display screens because they don't have the chips to finish them; dealers will install them later.

While I see lots of reports of a chip shortage, I'm not seeing a date when things will be back to normal. Not good.

Snowmobile organization insurance RRG? Okay, I'm far from an expert on insurance and had to look up 'RRG'. (It stands for 'Risk Retention Group'.) But an interesting thing has happened in Vermont and I wonder if this is something we should be

looking into nationwide, and probably spearheaded by the American Council of Snowmobile Associations. Here's a bit of history as reported by the Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (VAST):

"To operate and manage the statewide snowmobile trail system, the state of VT requires VAST to maintain a general liability insurance policy. As many of our members know, over the course of the last several years we have encountered an increasingly difficult and costly market for this important policy. In each of the last several years we have received a notice of non-renewal from our insurance provider. This has been followed a short while later by a letter informing us that we will be able to purchase a new policy for a significantly increased premium. In addition to the annual questions about being able to obtain an appropriate policy, VAST has not always been happy with other aspects of its relationship with commercial insurance companies. This type of instability not only makes planning for the future difficult, but it is also a threat to the trail system itself. To address these issues, the Long-Term Planning Committee was tasked with researching alternatives to traditional insurance. Much of our research was focused on captive insurance, specifically Risk Retention Groups (RRGs). An RRG is a company formed to provide liability insurance to its member organizations. RRGs, like credit unions, are owned by its members. RRGs provide member organizations many benefits, chief among them:

- *Program control.*
- *Long-term rate stability.*
- *Customized loss control and risk management practices.*
- *Stable source of liability coverage at affordable rates."*

If you are a member of a local club or follow the inter-workings of WSSA, you know insurance has been an issue. Coming into this season it was nip and tuck as our insurance agent was scrambling to find new coverage for all the state associations. (The state associations are able to provide an umbrella policy to cover the clubs and their events.)

To me, an RRG basically sounds like self-insuring, but I never found that term when researching it and assume it is a bit more complicated. But the draw of an RRG would be the ability to tailor policies to meet the needs of snowmobile organizations. In addition to the uncertainty of coverage we cur-

By Matt Mead, Publicity Secretary



rently face, a big shortcoming has been the ability to add event coverage on the fly; as it stands now, the event must be known at the beginning of the annual term renewal and if something pops up later, good luck in finding coverage!

It will be interesting to see what happens in Vermont. They have created the 'American Outdoors Risk Retention Group' and expect to have it operational in the next 12 months. Maybe it will provide a roadmap for the rest of us.

Taiga electric snowmobiles update.

Nothing new on the machines themselves and they should be appearing in limited numbers this season. Whether you see one on the trail or at a ski resort is the question.

What is newsworthy though is the announcement of creating an 'off-road charging network'. Their press release states "we're rolling out a robust network of on-water and on-land charging stations to push the boundaries of where powersports can go. These chargers connect trail routes and circuits and appear at marinas and waterways across Canada and the United States."

The goal is to electrify 75,000 off-road kilometers (46,000+ miles) with roughly 1,100 charge points by 2025.

I wouldn't expect to see charging stations at Crystal Springs or Little Naches anytime soon, but maybe there is a chance to find one at a nearby fuel stop or restaurant accessible by sled. While there aren't many places like that here in Washington, wouldn't it be something if you could ride to Whistlin' Jack's Lodge for lunch and top off your battery?

I suppose what we'll see first is the ability for rental outlets to have charging stations as that is the logical market for electric sled rollouts.

Children's Museum of Southern Minnesota. What does it have to do with snowmobiling? Annually the museum offers a 'Northwoods Winter Exhibit' which is designed to introduce kid's to upcoming snowy adventures. Families can kick back in a log cabin with hot cocoa and roasted marshmallows and there are kid-friendly displays of ice fishing, sledding, snowball fights and skiing. But most importantly, they also have a child-sized snowmobile display. It's nice to see

(Continued on page 28)

Matt's Misc. Continued...

(Continued from page 27)

snowmobiling displayed as a normal, mainstream activity.

Polaris T.R.A.I.L.S. Grant Program.

What does T.R.A.I.L.S. stand for? It doesn't roll off the tongue... Trail Development, Responsible Riding, Access, Initiatives, Lobbying, Safety. But regardless, the program is appreciated by the motorized community.

From a recent press release: "Deepening its commitment to developing and improving off-road trail systems throughout the United States, Polaris Inc. recently announced a total donation of \$120,000 through its T.R.A.I.L.S. Grant Program. The grants were awarded to 12 off-road and snowmobile non-profit organizations to support trail stewardship and rider education aimed at promoting safe, responsible riding practices."

Examples of what was funded include providing safety courses for youth and adults, trail maintenance and repair, improving signage and the development of a digital trail database.

The fall 2021 grant recipients are:

- Snomads, Inc. (Homer, AK)
- Alaska Safe Riders (Palmer, AK)
- East Branch Sno-Rovers and ATVs Inc. (Medway, ME)
- Ranger Riders ATV Club (Nashwauk, MN)
- Mississippi State University Foundation, Inc. (Mississippi State, MS)
- Friends of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks (Las Cruces, NM)
- Cranberry Lake Mountaineers Snowmobile Club, Inc. (Cranberry Lake, NY)
- Boondockers Sno-Club (Russell, NY)
- Anthracite Outdoor Adventure Area (Coal Township, PA)
- Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt (Nashville, TN)
- Tushar Mountain ATV Club (Beaver, UT)
- Tread Lightly (Centerville, UT)

In 2021, the T.R.A.I.L.S. Grant Program has awarded 21 grants for a total of \$200,000. Since it was founded in 2006, the program has supported 335 off-road and ATV organizations with nearly \$3 million in grants to help support the future of off-road and snowmobile riding by championing safe and responsible riding and promoting environmental preservations and trail access.

What is interesting is snowmobilers here in Washington aren't aware of these grants. I knew Polaris had a program, but I didn't

think it was targeted towards snowmobilers. Something to think about if your club is seeking funding for a worthy project.

For more information on the T.R.A.I.L.S. Grant Program and to apply for a grant, follow this link to the Polaris website: <https://www.polaris.com/en-us/trails-application/>.

What's the problem officer?... In looking at the picture, I'm sure you aren't sur-



prised the driver was pulled over. But you might be surprised as to why the officer had a problem with it. It isn't the obvious question as to whether the sled is safely secured. No, it is a matter of overall width, and not even the fact it may or may not exceed the 102" max width most of us are familiar with. I don't know how this plays in other states, but in Wisconsin, you can't haul a load that extends past the fender line on the driver's side. The passenger side has a bit more flexibility and you are allowed six extra inches.

So this begs the question: Would a sled deck be legal in Wisconsin? Wouldn't the sled deck be considered a load in itself? Pull those sides out and you are certainly beyond the fenderline. Inquiring minds want to know!

Idaho registration changes. I previously mentioned registration costs in Idaho were going up and significantly for non-residents. But other interesting aspects of the legislation that brought this change include:

Two-year sticker options are now available. Is there an advantage to purchase a two-year sticker. Sure, you save \$1.50! (Pretty lame.)

Vehicle specific information is no longer required and a sticker is no longer tied to a specific vehicle. (Sounds good right? But it also notes all snowmobiles must have a permanently attached sticker...)

As a reminder, the new non-resident fee

is \$59.50 (compared to \$45.50 for a resident).

Want to buy a sticker online? Visit www.idahostateparks.reserveamerica.com.

Vermont changes snowmobile muffler laws. A new law is in effect regarding how law enforcement can enforce the noise regs in Vermont. Check this:

Exhaust system; noise emissions. An individual shall not operate the following on the state snowmobile trail system:

(1) A snowmobile manufactured after February 1, 2007 that does not display a visible and unaltered marking of "SSCC Certified" issued by the Snowmobile Safety and Certification Committee (SSCC) on all critical components of the exhaust system; or

(2) a snowmobile, regardless of the date of manufacture, with an exhaust system that has been modified in a manner that amplifies or otherwise increases total noise emission above that of the snowmobile as originally constructed.

And it goes on to say:

(1) No person shall sell for operation, or offer to sell for operation, within the State of Vermont, a snowmobile that does not comply with the exhaust system requirements specified in this section.

(2) No snowmobile shall be equipped in any manner that permits the operator to bypass the muffler.

(3) No person shall sell or offer to sell a replacement exhaust system or component of an exhaust system that will not meet or exceed the exhaust noise reduction capabilities of the snowmobile manufacturer's original equipment specifications for the snowmobile.

(4) Any person selling or offering to sell a snowmobile or replacement exhaust system shall include in the specifications precise information concerning the designed maximum sound levels of the snowmobile or replacement exhaust system as outlined by the SSCC.

So basically, any aftermarket system or can is effectively illegal in Vermont as I'm not aware of a single one that keeps the decibel level the same or lower than stock.

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.

