

Snoflyer

The official publication of the
Washington State Snowmobile Association

March 2024
Volume 46

Winter is back!

Will it stay? Better get out and ride quick!



Please register your snowmobiles today to fund next season's grooming!

Inside:

Winter Rendezvous Coverage

2024 WSSA Award Winners

ACSA Mountain Riding Area Meeting Coverage

A recent February day riding on Chinook Pass

Aim your phone
here, click, and join
WSSA today!





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Click here for up-to-date grooming reports!

Photo Credit - Craig Hill

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GROOMED TRAIL REPORT



UPDATED DAILY



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WSSA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership valid until August 31st, 2025

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

FAMILY/INDIVIDUAL: (\$25)

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ County: _____

Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

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: _____ E-Mail: _____ Website: _____

PAYMENT: Cash: _____ Check #: _____

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

Membership Dues: \$ _____

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

TOTAL: \$ _____

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

Membership questions?

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

Questions about WSSA? Contact: Dean Meakin, President
P.O. Box 184
Newman Lake, WA 99025
E-mail: dean.meakin@wssa.us
(509) 220-1001

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING YOUR SPORT

WSSA MEETINGS AND IMPORTANT EVENTS 2023/2024

WSSA Budget Meeting

March 16th, 2024, at the Lake Wenatchee Rec Club
Snow permitting, ride opportunities will be available.

International Snowmobile Congress June 13th-June 15th, 2024

Join us in Green Bay, WI, and visit friends... or make new friends...
from around the country and learn about snowmobiling in other
states and provinces.

Visit www.snowmobilers.org/isc for details.

WSSA Summer Meeting & Campout

August 16-18th, 2024, Blu-Shastin RV Park, Peshastin
Join us at the Blu-Shastin RV Park in Peshastin for a weekend of fun!
Friday night chili feed. Root beer floats and a duck race on Saturday.



Snoflyer Advertising Targets Snowmobilers!

Advertise with us! Rates starting as low as \$25 a month for
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Club ads heavily discounted - advertise your events!

E-mail or call for details

Matt Mead, Publicity Secretary

(509) 424-1575 or snoflyer@wssa.us

2023/24 Season Single Issue Ad Rates

	Digital	Digital & Print [^]
Full Page	\$160	\$260
3/4 Page	\$135	\$215
1/2 Page	\$110	\$180
1/4 Page	\$90	\$145
Credit Card*	\$25	\$50

Significant discounts for multiple issue buys

Club rates: 25% off full & 3/4 page, 50% 1/2 & 1/4 page

*Available for Clubs & Associate Members only

[^]Only available for months a print issue is offered

Leadership

Delia Alred, President **delia.alred@wssa.us • 509-654-2242**



I hope everyone has had an opportunity to get out and ride. The funding for our grooming program this year is short.

That means our groomers will not be able to groom much longer. The funds for grooming come from the number of snowmobiles registered and a portion of the state gas tax. If you aren't registering your snowmobiles, YOU are part of the problem. Please register your snowmobiles! Refuse to ride with people who don't. Speak up when you see people out riding that aren't registered! We as responsible riders need to educate these people! They may not realize just how important to our grooming program this problem is. So for heaven's sake, SPEAK UP!

We just returned from the WSSA Rendezvous in Winthrop and had the best time! The snow was not as good as in past years, but the trails were nicely groomed and the weather was nice. The clubs there turned out to lead rides for our group. Saturday they had an awesome poker ride. Many thanks to all the ride leaders. Ron Lind and Shannon Lawler did a fantastic job making this one of the best Rendezvous events we've had. Friday night trivia was fun. Our table tied for third place and a 'dance off' was announced. Our table elected to put in a ringer; Elsie Alred (our two-year-old great granddaughter) was placed on stage! She stole the show! Saturday night, the band 'Honey and the Killer Beez' played after our prime rib dinner. The food was delicious! If you weren't there, you really missed out!

Our next meeting is our budget meeting. It is scheduled for March 16th at the Lake Wenatchee Rec Club near Leavenworth. I hope to see you there!

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



Thank you to all who took part in hosting the 2024 Winter Rendezvous. A special thanks to Shannon Lawler and Ron Lind for putting all the time in planning every little detail of this event. I especially enjoyed the dinners and I tipped the scale a little more when I got home. Thank you. I hope you two continue in volunteering your precious time for the 2024 Winter Rendezvous in Dayton. I am sure the other 100 plus attendees appreciated the professionalism you showed from the beginning to the end.

Thank you everyone who voted online for the 2024-2025 elections. My hope is we fill all the needs that WSSA has with more volunteers eager and ready to share their time and special talents with this organization. After talking to several different states and clubs, what is certain, there is a shortage of people in all areas of our user group. Please consider stepping up to fill the gaps in our leadership and committees.

WSSA is still looking into another funding mechanism that will keep WSSA doing what it needs to do for the snowmobiler! Please help Chris Shires out by sending him any of your thoughts or ideas you may have. He still needs more volunteers on his ad hoc Funding Committee.

ISC 2024: This 56th Annual International Snowmobile Congress (ISC) is happening this year in Green Bay, Wisconsin, from June 13th -15th. Please let me know if you are interested and I can send you a registration form and details. More to follow on this.

DC Fly-In 2024: The American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA) has announced the dates for the DC Fly-In. It will start Saturday morning on April 27th and will continue through April 30th. Let me know if you are interested in this event and I can get you a registration form. More to follow on this event.

WSSA: "What We Do" Part Three:

Lets take a closer look at the legislation we do so we can understand HOW we can do what we do for the snowmobiler.

At our Capitol in Olympia, there are things happening all the time that may affect us or not. That is why we have volunteers in WSSA keeping tabs on what is going on. This information is shared with the WSSA board so they can make decisions that will support our user group. Each year in January we do our best to put together an event we call 'Olympia Day'. Since COVID, our event

(Continued on page 5)

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'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.

Leadership *Continued...*

(Continued from page 4)

has been greatly impacted. Hopefully by next year we can bring stability back and have our 'Olympia Day' again. It is important we meet with our local legislatures every year to stay on top of current events that could impact the areas we recreate in. We are always looking for volunteers who have expertise in this area to help WSSA defend our cause.

We also participate in an annual event called the DC Fly-In, sponsored by the ACSA. Because we recreate on Federal lands, we must have our ear to the ground where legislation happens at a National level. We do the same thing in Washington DC that we do in Olympia! ACSA is our ears in DC, at the U.S. Forest Service and other places that impact the snowmobiler. WSSA collects this information all year long and then in March or April goes to the DC Fly-In. Appointments have been made by ACSA to meet with our federal legislators concerning the problems that have come up. After two days of meetings to prepare us, we then go off to the Capitol. Snowmobilers are definitely impacted at the National level and then it flows downhill to the state. It is important we continue to support the snowmobiler by attending these events. It takes money and volunteers to get this job done. You may consider getting involved this way for our user group. WSSA will continue to the best they can with your understanding and support.

WSSA is still in the business of 'Keeping the Gates Open' for the snowmobilers in Washington State. Please volunteer your time and talents so that we may have success for you.



WHY REGISTER YOUR SNOWMOBILE?

ANSWER = \$50.00 FROM REGISTRATION+\$44.20 FROM THE GAS TAX FOR A TOTAL OF \$94.20 PER REGISTERED SNOWMOBILE GOES TO GROOMING & PLOWING FROM YOUR REGISTRATION. YOU GET A FREE SNOW PARK PERMIT!

NO REGISTRATION THIS YEAR= REDUCED FUNDING FOR NEXT YEAR!!!
IF YOU GET A TICKET, MONEY DOES NOT GO TO GROOMING & PLOWING.

New sign created by the Yakima Ski-Benders. If you are interested in obtaining a sign, please contact Ski-Bender president, Liz Van Amburg.

Scholarship

2024 WSSA Scholarship

The Washington State Snowmobile Association will be offering a scholarship to either a graduating high school senior or a person currently enrolled in college. This will be a \$1,000 scholarship and will be given to the winner regardless of other scholarships or grants the student may be awarded. If awarded this scholarship, the funds will be forwarded to the named school after proof of registration is received. An alternate will be picked if the winner should decide not to enroll in college.

Requirements are as follows:

- The applicant must be a member of the Washington State Snowmobile Association, either by a family membership, or as an individual member.
- The applicant must submit the completed WSSA Scholarship application form.
- The applicant must submit a resume detailing their involvement in snowmobiling, as well as any other extra-curricular activities.
- The applicant must submit their essay based on the 'essay challenge' on the application form. The essay should be a minimum of two pages, 12-point, double-spaced and typed. Keep in mind, a well-researched, comprehensive essay, will undoubtedly be significantly longer and we certainly encourage that.
- All tasks on the application form must be completed or it will be rejected.
- The application must be received by the WSSA Scholarship Chair no later than March 15th, 2024, either by e-mail, or regular mail.

2024 Essay Topic:

Two of the major causes of snowmobile-related avalanches are the lack of education and lack of preparation for the area the snowmobiler will be riding in.

2024 Essay Challenge:

- How do you prepare yourself when planning to ride in an unfamiliar area which is outside of your normal riding area?
- How would you advise someone else to prepare to ride in your area which is outside of their normal riding area?

Please visit www.wssa.us and click on the Scholarship menu item to download the 2024 application. Direct scholarship questions to Dean Meakin at dean.meakin@wssa.us or 509-220-1001.

Snowmobile Program Funding 101

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

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

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



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

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

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



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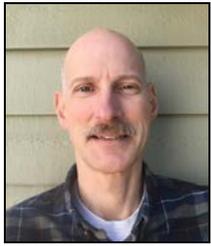
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District Reports



District 1 North

By Hans Brubaker
 hans.brubaker@wssa.us
 360-922-8296

Okay, I have to say it, don't give up on our winter. I've been on two trips and a local ride all of which were predicted to have poor, almost un-rideable snow. Both these trips turned out to have enough last minute snowfall to produce good riding. It's not what we all hope for but the trails are decent and higher elevations can be a lot of fun exploring off trail.

It was great to have a group of Whatcom County Snowmobile Club and Northwest Glacier Cruisers at the Winter Rendezvous in Winthrop. A lot of us got to ride together Friday and had a good ride and overall great time. Our group had 19 riders which normally is way too big, but with three guides and cooperation from everyone, it went pretty well. We met up with other ride groups for lunch at the Black Pine hut for some nice socializing. Sunday was another fun ride to a newly opened burn area. The Methow Club volunteers made the whole weekend a great success. Thanks also to the Northwest Avalanche Center and Forest Service staff for attending the events.

By the time this issue gets out we'll probably know if our signature March events around Mount Baker are going to be possible. Skis crossed that it snows a ton!



District 2 North

By Richard Stahl
 richard.stahl@wssa.us
 509-881-1220

I now know the answer to the question on the cover of the February Snoflyer, "What is going on?" The answer was, "The show must go on." That is what all our clubs decided in the entire state. Watching, listening, and reading about how hard everyone worked to stay on track with all the scheduled events was amazing. I know some were cancelled but for every one that was cancelled there were two that were adjusted and kept going. I looked up the definition of resilience and it is, "the capacity to withstand or to recover quickly from difficulties; toughness. The remarkable resil-

ience of so many institutions". Tell me if that does not describe our clubs this year. Hurrah!

Included in this is, how about WSSA pushing through with the Winter Rendezvous? Now Shannon Lawler and Ron Lind can sleep again. Thanks to them and all of WSSA for putting on this event.

On another note, something that happened in the Methow this winter, is a statement in the local paper that said fat tire bi-

cycles were allowed on groomed snowmobile trails. That does not align with the Methow Valley Ranger District Travel Management Plan which says no bicycles on trails. Now for me personally I am not worried about bicycles on our trails but I do feel strongly about 'pay to play'. In the Methow we have come up with one way of looking at this and it may not be a good fit in all areas but in the Methow it might just work. I talked with one of our vendors and they (Continued on page 8)

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District Reports *Continued...*

(Continued from page 7) asked if they had the option to sell motorized sno-park permits. I said yes they can and explained that a non-motorized sno-park permit does not help with our grooming and sno-park clearing but motorized permits do; they also cost the same. The vendor has said next year they are going to be selling motorized sno-park permits for skiers and bicycles. The reason this could work in the Methow is because our snowmobile sno-parks get so much use by backcountry skiers and cross-country skiers. I plan on having this same discussion with all vendors in the Methow. I know this is not going to work everywhere but it is a start to help with our shortage of funding. Maybe?



District 3

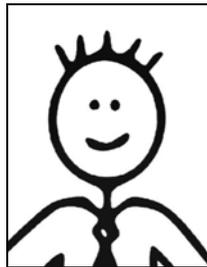
By Greg Figg

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

Well, not a lot to report here. We are still in need of more snow and colder tempera-

tures, or you will need a sled deck to haul up the mountain to unload. The clubs still have rides occurring, but they are mainly limited to the trail in Northeast Washington.

We are also continuing to monitor the over-the-snow planning that is occurring in Northeast Washington.



District 5 North

By Jason Holmes
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253-226-4939

Looking out at my backyard it looks and feels like mid-April, not mid-February. I like to call this 'fishing season', you gotta watch the weather reports and be willing to go where the fish are if you want to catch the goods.

I wasn't able to make the Winter Rendezvous but wanted to give a shout out to Ron, Shannon and all the volunteers who helped put on a great event. Based on feedback from numerous people they had a great time, loved the poker run, and would defi-

nitely go back.

I had an interesting question/statement posed to me during a recent grooming council meeting. I was challenged about it being "my job" about handling a bridge/road closure in my district. I'm not going to speak for all of our District Reps, but just myself. My role, in any VOLUNTEER position for ANY organization/group, is to act in the benefit of the user group. That's it. This isn't a job. I don't get paid. In fact, if I looked at this like a business and cost out my time, mileage, food, hotels, memberships etc., I can guarantee that I'm losing money. But like many volunteers who donate their time, they do it for the benefit of the user group and most importantly they enjoy it.

When you bring your club and plan to attack a council meeting, you really should have a much clearer understanding of what the volunteers role actually is. If you think it's any of our 'jobs' and want to challenge what we've done for the user group; any of us will gladly line up our resumes next to yours. If you want to illegally access areas for YEARS and complain about closures, shutdowns or lack of grooming, it's your JOB to not do things illegally. You (Continued on page 11)

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Ellensburg Tire Center	400 W University Way	Ellensburg	WA	98926		509-925-1044
Jet Motorsports	1005 S Canyon Rd	Ellensburg	WA	98926	www.jetmotorsportswa.com	253-606-0108
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
Atlas Construction Advisors	PO Box 364	Galvin	WA	98544	www.atlasconstructionadvisors.com	509-674-8585
Tracy's Quality Painting, Inc	3008 14th Ave NW	Gig Harbor	WA	98335	www.tracysqualitypainting.com	253-858-8242
Pacific Logging LLC	9823 163rd 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
Greg's Motorsports	5817 184th 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
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
High Mark Real Estate Services	4026 152nd Pl SW	Lynnwood	WA	98020	www.highmarkhomesales.com	206-861-5525
Premier Polaris	122 Charles St	Monroe	WA	98272	www.premierpolaris.com	360-794-8669
Grant County, WA	PO Box 1157	Moses Lake	WA	98837		509-990-4544
Land 2 Lake Powersport Rentals	8686 Hillcrest Dr NE	Moses Lake	WA	98837	www.land2lakerentals.com	509-985-8908
Levi's Auto Parts	500 E 3rd Ave	Moses Lake	WA	98837		509-765-4567
D and G Marine	15379 SR 536	Mount Vernon	WA	98273	www.dandgmarine.com	360-630-1132
Gold Creek Station	18431 SR 410	Naches	WA	98937		509-658-2583
Xtreme Powersports	1930 2nd 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
Blu-Shastin RV Park	3300 US Hwy 97	Peshastin	WA	98847	www.blushastin.com	509-548-4184
Backcountry Plowing & Grooming	859 Cispus Rd	Randle	WA	98377		253-722-4123
Sundance Landscaping	11609 172nd Ave NE	Redmond	WA	98052		425-533-6008
The Last Resort Operations	14254 Salmon LaSac Rd	Ronald	WA	98940	www.thelastresort.us	509-649-2222
Repin Construction LLC	PO Box 541	Roslyn	WA	98941		509-649-3323
Life Support	808 Lincoln St	South Cle elum	WA	98922	www.lifesupport90.org	509-674-2968
Dianes Tank Removal Services LLC	PO Box 77738	Seattle	WA	98177	www.dianestankremoval.com	206-510-9497
Kart-O-Rama Inc	13701 24th 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

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Washington State Supporting Businesses

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Premier Power Sports	2615 Main St	Union Gap	WA	98903	www.premierpowersportswa.com	509-965-9889
Procaliber Motorsports, Inc	PO Box 1679	Vancouver	WA	98668	www.procaliberbend.com	360-256-5000
Wenatchee Power Sports	3031 GS 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 Fingred Jacks	176 Riverside Ave	Winthrop	WA	98862	www.3fingredjacks.com	509-996-2411
Ride Motorsports	19035 Woodinville Snohomish Rd NE	Woodinville	WA	98072	www.ridemotorsports.com	425-487-3881
Nob Hill Auto Wrecking	2609 W Birchfield Rd	Yakima	WA	98901	www.nobhillautowrecking.com	509-452-2803
Apple State Power Sports	1707 N 1st St	Yakima	WA	98901	www.applestatepowersports.com	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

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
Truck Boss USA	7040 SE 298th Ave	Gresham	OR	97080	www.truckbossdecks.com	503-313-2795
SK Northwest	250 SE Division Place	Portland	OR	97202	www.sknorthwest.com	503-238-2510
TrakMaps	2113A St Regis	Dollard-des Ormeaux QC	H9B 2M9		www.trakmaps.com	514-781-4613

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Build Your Dream Rig!

Everyone likes a sweepstakes, right?! The BlueRibbon Coalition, in partnership with BestOff-Road.com, is offering the opportunity to turn your current vehicle into the off-road rig of your dreams. You can choose up to \$20,000 worth of upgrade parts and \$10,000 worth of installation labor is included. Of course there is the fine print and a donation requested. The money raised will go to support BlueRibbon's fight to maintain motorized access across the U.S. All the details and the entry form can be found here:

<http://tinyurl.com/yc4ddk57>



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District Reports Cont.

(Continued from page 8)

want to question about what my job is and when I clearly define what is going on in your minimally used sno-park for the last three years, point you in numerous directions how to advocate for the area you like to ride but then you lead a 'club' ride in an area that is posted as not allowing ANY motorized vehicles, you aren't about the user group. You are about yourself.

Good luck. I will spend my time and efforts elsewhere.



District 5 South

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

Greeting from District 5 South! Hope everyone is getting out and doing some snowmobiling, even with the very little snow we have been getting.

Thank you to everyone who attended the

WSSA Winter Rendezvous in Winthrop. We had a great turnout; almost 70 people on Friday night and over 100 people on Saturday night. I would like to thank Rich, Dolly and Craig Stahl for putting on such amazing guided rides. And, a huge shout out to all of the Clubs in the Methow Valley for putting on such a fun Bucket Run. BS BBQ served pulled pork and brats for Friday night and an amazing prime rib dinner for Saturday. Ryan Devien kept everyone guessing with trivia, and Honey and the Killer Beez kept everyone dancing on Saturday night. Michelle at the Barn did an great job getting everything arranged.

Hope to see everyone next year in Dayton, with Chris Shires and LaRonda McCauley, who are already planning next year's Rendezvous.

In my district the Yakima Ski-Benders have put on their annual Fun Run. They have also done a Spaghetti Feed/Night Ride, put on by Trent and Christa Degnan, at the Government Meadows cabin. As I write this, this upcoming weekend will be their Kids

Ride. Jeff and Audeena Smith will be hosting another 100 kids with rides, prizes and snowmobile giveaways. I'm looking forward to Chinook Fest coming this summer June 6th-9th. This is always a big Fund raiser for the Ski-Benders.

The Ski-Benders have also installed three transceiver check stations with the help of Jason Holmes. Thank you to everyone who helped with the installations.

The Drift-A-Ways are still doing their weekly rides; someday I will be able to enjoy retirement and be able to keep up with them.

As some of you know, registrations are down by 2,900 compared to this time last season, which adds up to less grooming, less plowing and possible closing of sno-parks next season. If you see someone that does not have a registration or sno-park permit, please remind them this is what funds our sport. Without registrations there will be no grooming. The Ski-Benders are making signs to put out at sno-parks explaining how this program works, and that it only works if everyone registers their snowmobile(s).



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WSSA Awards

WSSA presented our annual awards on February 10th during the Winter Rendezvous in Winthrop. WSSA congratulates every award winner! We appreciate their commitment and contributions to snowmobiling in Washington State!



Snowmobiler of the Year

Craig Stahl (Tied)



Ron Lind presenting to Craig Stahl

Snowmobiler of the Year

Jason Holmes (Tied)



Snowmobile Couple of the Year

Jeff and Audeena Smith (Tied)



Ron Lind presenting to Jeff & Audeena Smith

Snowmobile Family of the Year

The Beaman Family, Stephanie, Andy, Braxton & Ryker



Liz Van Amburg presenting to Stephanie, Braxton, Andy & Ryker Beaman

Snowmobile Couple of the Year

Richard & Dolly Stahl (Tied)



Ron Lind presenting to Dolly & Richard Stahl

Snowmobile Club President of the Year

Josh Simpson, Junco Snowmobile Club



Snowmobile Club of the Year

Yakima Ski-Benders



Club President, Liz Van Amburg, with Club of Year award.

Trail Groomer of the Year

Tim Penelerick (Tied)



Ron Lind presenting to Tim Penelerick

Trail Groomer of the Year

Bill & Billy Burgess (Tied)



Ron Lind presenting to Billy Burgess

Snowmobile Dealer of the Year

I-90 Motorsports



Accepting is Remko Oosterhof & Kurt Opel

Winter Rendezvous

WSSA's Winthrop Winter Rendezvous was a hit!

By Matt Mead, Publicity Secretary

We tried something new this year. You might say we tried two things new this year. First, we moved the event up one weekend to move it off of Presidents Day Weekend. We have received feedback for several years many use Presidents Day Weekend as the kickoff to weeklong out-of-state trips, and we might have better participation if we chose a different week. We also incorporated a local club's event, in this case the Methow Valley Snowmobile Association's (MVSA) annual Bucket Run. It seems our choices worked out nicely!

The dates of the event were February 9th through February 11th, so my daughter Ryan and I left the Yakima Valley mid-day on the 8th for the drive up. There are several lodging options in Winthrop and WSSA had three 'preferred' places listed on the registration form. We chose the Abbey Creek Inn and were very happy with this choice. Not only was there plenty of trailer parking, but they had a nice continental breakfast each morning. The other two lodging options included the Methow River Lodge and the Winthrop Inn.

While there was nothing planned for Thursday evening, we'd had a discussion at our last club (Drift-A-Way) meeting with the suggestion of eating dinner at Three Fingers Jack's Saloon; the reason is this business is a strong supporter of WSSA and has been advertising in the Snoflyer for years. It turned out to be a great choice as the food was delicious. We weren't the

(Cont. on page 14)



All Rendezvous rides should include at least one group shot! Photo provided by the MVSA.



A great turnout for lunch on Friday at the Black Pine hut. Photo provided by the MVSA.

Less than epic snow, but the weather was great on Friday! Photo provided by the MVSA.



Winter Rendezvous *Continued...*

(Continued from page 13) only Rendezvous attendees there; we saw several friends there as well.

Friday morning the plan was for everyone to meet at 'The Barn' to sign up for rides, and then the groups would leave from there. There were several ride options including a Hwy 20 ride, and others that would meet up at the Black Pine warming shelter for lunch. In recent years my daughter and I have chosen to ride with our own group and avoid the big group rides, but this year we decided to play 'tourist' and follow along on a family-friendly trail ride. 'Bob' was our guide and he led us out of the Yellowjacket Sno-Park. We had a pretty good group, including one tracked side-by-side. We had a great ride, did a bit of off-trail as well, and enjoyed lunch served up by the Butte Busters. Weather was a mix of sun and clouds, but we were certainly lacking snow. But we weren't riding dirt and the trails were groomed very well! I later talked to friends who went on the other rides and they all had great times as well; it sounds like the Hwy 20 ride was likely the best in regards to views; will need to do that one day!

Friday night at The Barn was a pulled-pork and brats barbecue dinner served up by BS BBQ. I'm not a huge pulled-pork fan, but everything was tasty and nobody went away hungry. I had to force myself to eat the deserts. (Yeah, sure!) For fun after dinner, teams were formed and we had a snowmobile trivia contest. Yeah, our table didn't win. But we didn't do the worst! That's a win, right?!

The big event for Saturday was the MVSA Bucket Run. This is the first time (in my 20 years anyway) an event like this has been incorporated into Rendezvous, but it isn't the first time my daughter and I have ridden this event on Rendezvous weekend. Our first time riding it was when we were at 12 Tribes Casino in Omak for Rendezvous. A couple/few years later we again joined the MVSA club for their Bucket Run when Rendezvous was in Chelan. And that year there were several other Rendezvous participants who also came up for the event. It has always been a fun time.

Knowing how packed the sno-park can get, we decided to get an early start and it paid off. They basically park you nose to tail so once in, you aren't leaving until there is room to snake your way out. We were at the front row for a quick escape if needed. (It wasn't.) The only downside to arriving early (around 8am) was the course didn't open until 10am. I'll admit I thought we'd be leaving around 9am, but we just hung

with our group and waited. The weather was nice, so it wasn't a big deal, and it seems there is always somebody in the group tinkering on their sled anyway, and there was no exception on this day.

While waiting to launch, a few people asked if they could join our group as they were uncertain of the way to go. They were more than welcome, but did they understand I didn't really know either? While my daughter and I rode from this sno-park the last time we participated, I didn't remember the exact route, and due to the limited snow, the course had been rerouted for this event anyway. But hey, I can follow signs with the best of them! When we finally blasted up the trail, our group of six had swelled to about three times that many.

The route changed from a loop to an up-and-back event. What was initially confusing was we didn't know where checkpoint one was located. When we came up on the first checkpoint, we were quickly flagged by and continued up the trail. When we reached the next checkpoint, I didn't understand the signals I was getting, so I stopped and talked to someone. They said to keep going up to the end, which was Sweetgrass Butte. But that wasn't quite right... as we came up on the next checkpoint, we were waved down and it turned out this was the first checkpoint. Then we went up to Sweetgrass where there is a warming hut, and this was the second checkpoint. We hung around Sweetgrass for awhile and enjoyed the 360-degree view from the top of the butte. Back on the trail we hit the other two checkpoints we'd passed before arriving back in the sno-park for the final checkpoint. A couple of interesting notes: They had warm fires burning at the checkpoints, along with home-baked cookies for the taking! Our group enjoyed both! The final checkpoint, instead of drawing a card, you actually throw a dart at cards; this adds a touch of skill to what is typically an event of pure luck.

The MVSA Bucket Run has always had great prizes. But they outdid themselves this year! The grand prize was a North Cascades sled deck. Wow! Sadly, we didn't win it. Nor any of the other great prizes. As usual, we were just making donations to the club.

Back at The Barn on *(Cont. on page 15)*

Thanks for attending!

We would like to thank everyone who attended this year's WSSA Winter Rendezvous. Without all of you this would not have been possible. We would like to thank some key people who made this 2024 Rendezvous happen.

First, Rich, Dolly and Craig Stahl; they spent countless hours clearing trails, riding trails, planning rides, not to mention putting on a Bucket Ride with all of the snowmobile clubs in the Methow Valley, and the help of friends, family and businesses. Amazing! (Even with the very small amount of snow across the state!)

We would also like to give a big shout out to BS BBQ for two amazing dinners with pulled pork and brats on Friday, and delicious prime rib and chicken on Saturday. Bart, and his incredible family and staff, (including the great bar staff), made dinners unforgettable.

Michelle at the Barn, for always answering our multitude of questions and providing us with such a beautiful venue.

Ryan Devien, who made Friday night's trivia game not only challenging but put up with all our crazy answers.

Honey and the Killer Beez, for their wonderful music to keep everyone entertained with all their energy on Saturday night.

Pattie Gustafson, who put all the baskets together for our Friday night's raffle, and adorable Harper for selling over \$600 in tickets.

Ron and Dee Alred and their entire team for the Silent Auction for our Legal Action Fund.

Katie Pitzer and her crew who took care of all the check-in and name tags.

Also, Corey Tohler and Travis Larson from State Parks who came to explain to everyone how our snowmobile program is funded, and all the things State Parks is doing to keep our sport going.

Irene Henninger from the Northwest Avalanche Center (NWAC) who explained what they do and how important it is for us to be safe on the snow.

We would also like to thank all the businesses, clubs and individuals who donated to make this entire Rendezvous possible.

From set-up to clean-up, we would like to give a big THANK YOU to everyone who helped us make this happen.

Thank you again to everyone who made this year's Winter Rendezvous possible.

--Ron Lind and Shannon Lawler

Winter Rendezvous *Continued...*

(Continued from page 14) Saturday evening. This is the 'banquet dinner' but I use the term loosely. But it is the night where WSSA holds a silent auction in support of the Legal Action Fund, announces the winners of the annual awards, presents the WSSA Board Election results, and announces the winner of the Legal Action Fund sled deck raffle. Dinner was prime rib and chicken, again served up by BS BBQ. Delicious!

WSSA award winners were announced with many of the recipients in attendance; it is always nice to place faces with the names of these outstanding people.

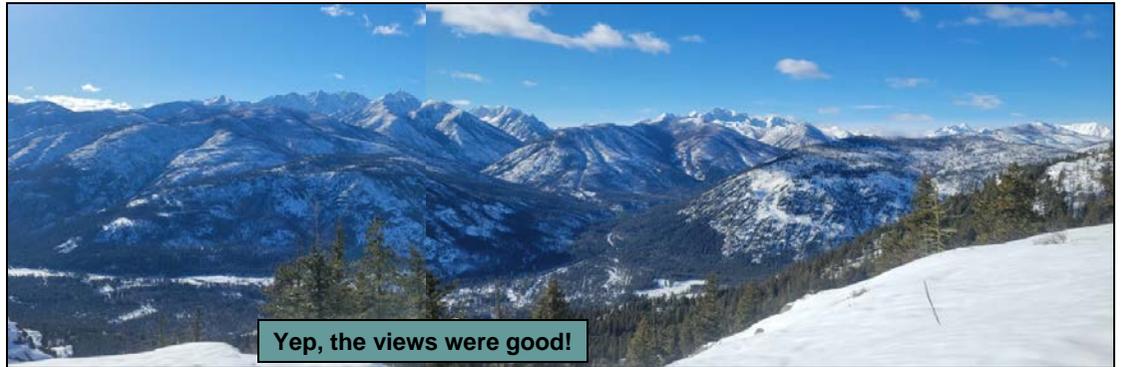
We learned Dean Meakin will be the new WSSA president starting in March. We also learned the vice president, membership secretary and publicity secretary positions will be vacant as nobody was nominated/ran for these positions. If volunteers step forward, they can be appointed by the WSSA board at an upcoming meeting.

A ticket was drawn for the Legal Action Fund sled deck raffle and sadly the winner wasn't present. President Dee Alred called and left him a message, letting him know of his good fortune. Who won? Pat Davidson. Congrats Pat! (I was really hoping it would be me this year...)

As in years past, Rendezvous did hold a photo contest. My daughter was managing it and the categories included scenery, family, action, worst stuck/snafu, and vintage. The winners included LaRhonda McCauley for scenery, Kourtney Webb for Action, Wiel Penders for Family, Lisa McDonald for Vintage, and Dolly Stahl for Worst Stuck/SNAFU. Each won a \$50 gift certificate to a restaurant of their choosing. (Well, they were offered a few different choices including Applebees, Red Robin and Olive Garden.)

Oh, and did I mention the Bavarian Boondockers made a \$1,000 donation to WSSA's Legal Action Fund? Why yes they did!

The evening was capped with a live band. Honey and the Killer Beez played a great mix of classic rock spanning several decades.



Yep, the views were good!



Many know Glenn as an above average mountain rider. But tipping over in the sno-park, this is the Glenn to savor.



A great lunch was served up to riders by the Butte Busters club at the Black Pine hut on Friday.

Winter Rendezvous Legal Action Fund Auction Thank You!

I want to thank the following individuals, clubs and business for donating items for WSSA's silent auction to raise money for the Legal Action Fund. -- Ron Alred

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Aubrey RV & Jim Kingman | Leavenworth Vision Source |
| Bavarian Boondockers | Methow Valley SMA |
| Blue Mountain SMC | Motortoys Rentals |
| Brandin Iron Inn | Rocky Talkie |
| Clint & Kelly Adamson | Spokane Winter Knights |
| Doghouse Motorsports | Sportland Yamaha |
| Drift-A-Way SMC | Stampede Summit Seekers |
| Easton Snomads | Tammy Sims |
| Friends of Snowmobiling | Tri-Rivers SMC |
| Friends of WSSA | Vic's NAPA Auto Parts |
| Jet Motorsports | Wenatchee Motorsports |
| K C Creations | Whatcom County SMC |
| Kocher Kreations | Willow Mountain |
| Lake Wenatchee Rec Club | Yakima Ski-Benders SMC |

Sunday was the final day of Rendezvous and I believe MVSA had a few different ride options. Our group skipped the organized stuff, and based on the recommendation of Richard Stahl, we decided to ride from the North Summit Sno-Park on Loup Loup Pass. He said he heard there was some fresh powder on Starvation Mountain, and there is a warming hut up that way. I'll admit when we came out of room on Sunday morning and there was a heavy wet snow falling, I was ready to just jump in the truck and head south towards home. Our friends wanted to ride so we headed to Loup Loup and be-

(Cont. on page 16)



Winter Rendezvous. A fun time to spend with friends! Photo submitted by Hans Brubaker.

Winter Rendezvous *Continued...*

(Continued from page 15) fore we got there the snow had quit and the weather was looking reasonable.

The ride to Starvation Mountain was on smooth trails, but we did run into quite a bit of fog as we climbed. This was our first visit to the Shrew Creek warming hut and we hung around for quite awhile talking with some local riders. The view from the top of Starvation is likely stunning on a perfect weather day. We did have about five minutes of sunshine and good views, but then the fog/clouds engulfed us again.

Our goal had been to make a loop around and over Buck Pass before heading back to the sno-park, but due to the clouds/fog, time of day, and an incident of bent handlebars when a rider exited his machine, we retraced our tracks back to the sno-park.

That was the conclusion of Winter Rendezvous for Ryan and I, and we headed back home.

If you missed Rendezvous this year, be sure to put it on your calendar for next! We are heading to Dayton, just east of Walla Walla, and will be riding the Blue Mountains of Washington and Oregon!



Silent auction items laid out and waiting for the bidding to begin!



Ryan Mead announcing winners of the Photo Contest. Little miss Rubee was a winner! (Okay, it was her Mom Kourtney Webb.)



The crowd is working hard to come up with answers for the trivia questions presented.



Fred Pitzer, WSSA Treasurer, accepting a \$1,000 donation from the Boondockers Snowmobile Club for the Legal Action Fund.



Kelly and Clint Adamson from Yakima dancing to the music played by Honey and the Killer Beez.

Land Use

U.S. Forest Service releases final snowmobile plan for North Idaho - It's a loss for snowmobilers

By Matt Mead, WSSA Publicity Secretary

Let me start out by saying this is commentary on my part. But I'm guessing my views will be shared by many of you. I recently read an article in The Spokesman-Review noting the final Kaniksu Over-Snow Vehicle Use Designation Project (Plan) has been released. This document is designed to be the outline of how the agency will manage motorized winter recreation on roughly one-million acres of public lands in North Idaho. The document covers the Bonners Ferry, Priest Lake and Sandpoint Ranger Districts of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. A piece of the Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District is included, too. (My understanding is this does affect a small part of Northern Washington as well.) The article does a pretty good job of covering the issue, but tends to gloss over our loss and focuses on a minor win.

Let's start with the win. The article states the new plan "would give riders more certainty and a little more room to play beginning next winter". "More room to play" does sound like we are gaining ground. The new plan adds about 17,000 acres to where motorized users will be allowed to ride. 17,000 acres. In a plan covering nearly one-million. Is this a win?

But the real problem is with the length of the season, specifically, a date set where off-trail travel will be limited or shut down. That's right, after a certain date each season, most of the off-trail areas will be closed to motorized users. What is the date? April 1st. The article stated riders can access more than 767,000 acres before April 1st, and after April 1st, will be limited to 141,000 acres. So that means 626,000 acres are off-limits. Living in Central Washington, we routinely ride in April. I'm pretty sure Northern Idaho is the same.

Of course I'm sure you can figure out the closure is related to conservation. In this case the party line is "this is to protect the threatened grizzly bear." Of course other species are in play; the plan keeps more than 250,000 acres off limits to protect lynx, grizzlies and wolverines.

The article further wants you to believe this was a collaborative effort, largely mirroring recommendations from the North Idaho Working Group. This group was made up of conservationists, motorized users, and others, totaling more than two dozen people. It is being called a good compromise for all involved. I'd disagree. The only group that loses in this 'compromise' is snowmobilers. We lose access, period.

But it ain't over til it's over. I'd gamble there is NO WAY this plan goes forward without a legal challenge by SOMEBODY. I'd guess snowmobilers will file a lawsuit. Probably supported and partially funded by the Idaho State Snowmobile Association. And of course the extreme environmental groups will sue saying the plan doesn't go far enough to "protect" various species, along with flora below the snow. They are already grouching about earlier closure dates, along with a minimum snow depth requirement.

When does the plan go into effect? It will happen when the Forest Service publishes a final map with the new regulations. It is expected to happen before next winter unless a judge intervenes.

The news article is here: <https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2024/jan/12/forest-service-releases-final-snowmobile-plan-for-/>

Club News



Lake Wenatchee Rec Club

By Marilyn Mylius,
Vice President

Greetings from the Lake Wenatchee Rec Club! We are thrilled our trails are holding up well, snow-wise. We are fortunate to have received enough snow to hold us over through the warmer weather of the last couple of weeks.

As I write this, we are gearing up for our annual Poker Ride on February 17th, hoping for a great turnout.

We are so proud of our groomer guys! They won the annual Groomer of the Year

ride you are missing out.

The Junco's had our 25th annual Charity on the Snow event on January 13th. We were a little worried about the low temperatures and wind but thanks to Back Country Plowing and Grooming, and some awesome volunteers, we were able to have our event at the sno-park. Dayna Emery and Sarah Simpson did an outstanding job planning and managing the event this year.

The Junco club is so proud of our sponsors, donors, and attendees for making this event fun, entertaining, and successful! We raised almost \$16,000 this year and all of that will go to the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Alaska and Washington. A special THANK YOU to our sponsors and donors:

- Back Country Plowing and Grooming • Logix Consulting • WCW Trucking
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- Mrs. Mountain Man Studio
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- Cispus Learning Center
- Mark Loftis • Nate Walker
- Snap On • Mark Turgeon
- Ledgestone Hotel • Old Cannery Furniture
- Josh and Sarah Simpson • Kat Shepp • Jimmy and Shani Bauer
- Grasshopper Inn
- Karl and Amy Coleman
- Oxbow • The Last Resort
- Off Road Vixens • Auburn Dodge

Great groomed trails in the Lake Wenatchee area; no surprise they won the 2024 WSSA Groomer of the Year award!



award at the WSSA Winter Rendezvous. Way to go guys! And thanks to those of you who nominated them! They really do deserve the honor. We have such a good relationship between our groomers and the club. They go out of their way to help us out for events, trail needs, and do the best job for the users of our trail system.

Have a great last month of snowmobile season; hope you get out and spring ride!



Junco Snowmobile Club

By Jennifer Haines,
Secretary

The snow is finally here, and if you have not had a chance to

We will have our second annual Junco Ladies Ride on March 9th at The Last Resort in Ronald. Follow us on Facebook or check out our new website, www.ridewithjunco.com, for more details on this event and much more!

Our meetings are the first Monday monthly at Round Table Pizza, 7921 S. Hosmer St, in Tacoma, or attend via Zoom.



Pacific Northwest Vintage Snowmobile Club

By Stephen Phillips,
Webmaster

The Pacific Northwest Vintage Snowmobile Club had a great time showing sleds in Conconully with Joe Berney and the Butte Busters Snowmobile Club. We lined up our old iron on Main Street and enjoyed music and a vintage snowmobile apparel fashion show while everyone came by to see the sleds. Sleds of all types and conditions were showcased, from barn-fresh Ski-Daddlers and Olympiques to an impeccable Polaris SnoPro racer. We'd like to thank the Butte Busters



Pacific Northwest Vintage Snowmobile Club members had a great showing in Conconully!



for having us and look forward to next year's show.

Ed, Erin and I cruised up to Kerr Sno-Park and found some snow the next day! It felt like a
(Cont. on page 19)



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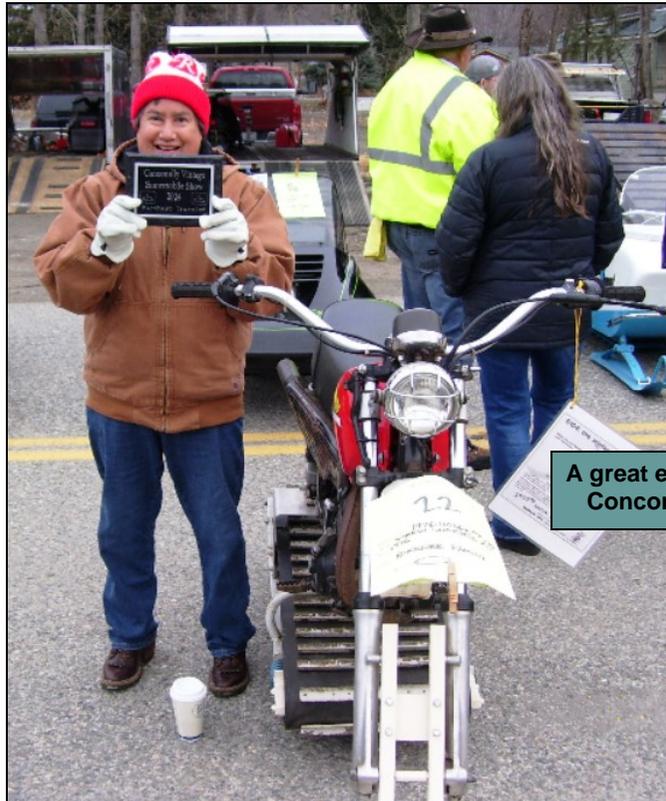


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Club News *Continued...*

(Continued from page 17)



A great event in Conconully!



lucky break to ride to Salmon Meadows and play around after the show.
Given the snow situation this season, our next official club event will be at the 30th anniversary All Wheels Weekend car show in Dayton on June 14th-16th. Details to follow via our website www.pnwvsc.org and e-mail. *(Cont. on page 20)*



Three members enjoyed a ride out of the Kerr Sno-Park on the day after the show.



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Club News *Continued...*

(Continued from page 19)



Tri-Rivers Snowmobile Club

By Kurt Hensley, President

The Tri-Rivers Snowmobile Club has been busy with several local events. We had a successful Chili Feed at the Shrew Creek Hut. Our event was well attended by the three surrounding clubs' members and much thanks to those attending. We had fresh groomed trails and some great food and fel-

lowship!

We also had much fun attending the Methow Bucket Run and WSSA Winter Rendezvous.

Even though our low elevation snow is slim, we have some great high elevation snow and hope everyone can get out for some spring riding. See enclosed pictures of our Chili Feed.

Happy trails!

Lewis County Drift Skippers

By Jim Beslow

As I write this, the Johnson Creek Sno-Park, the 21 Road, has been plowed to the lower level. You have to drive up past the upper level to **unload. It's a narrow road and hard** for long trailers to turn around.

They are doing a great job grooming. Best kept secret in the state!

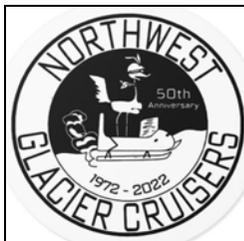
There is still enough snow to ride to Top Sail, Four Corners, and so on.

That's all that counts!

Happy riding!



Tri-Rivers club members had a successful Chili Feed at the Shrew Creek hut with participation from three local clubs!



Northwest Glacier Cruisers

By Jessica Ronhaar

As many of you know we haven't had much snow. Because of the lack of snow this year we had to cancel the Northwest Glacier Cruisers (NWGC) Kids Ride. We have also decided to cancel the Ladies Ride the first weekend of March. We are still planning on having the Mount Baker Shoot Out and Luke Rohde Memorial Ride March 16th. Watch our Facebook page and website www.northwestglaciercruisers.org for updates.

We still have raffle tickets for our annual raffle and the Luke Rohde Tribute Raffle. You can purchase tickets for \$5 each on our website, at Mount Baker Motor Sports, Skagit Valley Polaris, Lifestyles Honda, and our club meetings. Prizes include a Klim Aspect 16 avalanche bag, 509 heated goggles and a wrap.

We would love to have you join us

at any of our club meetings the first Thursday of the month at Coconut Kenny's in Burlington.



Sno-Jammers Snowmobile Club

By Christina Hamlyn, Vice President

The snow is finally back! I am happy to see our season isn't quite over yet!

By the time you read this, the Sno-Jammers will have had their 34th annual Fun Run on March 2nd. If you happen to see this edition before then, come by the Crystal Springs Sno-Park (I-90, exit 62) and take part in some EPIC fun! Food, massive prizes, t-shirts, a family-friendly course, CASH prizes, and we are giving away a 2024 Ski-Doo snowmobile! This is an event you do not want to miss! The event is from 8am -4pm with registration ending at 12pm. Cash and cards accepted. For those who want to make a weekend out of it, there is a large camping section in the sno-park and many lodging options nearby (Easton, Cle Elum, etc). **EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

I would like to give a HUGE shout-out to all of our t-shirt sponsors, checkpoint sponsors, and club volunteers who have helped make this a successful event once again! We could not do it without you all! Remember to check out the next WSSA Snoflyer edition for pictures of our event.

Event sponsors: I-90 Motorsports, The Old Cannery Furniture Warehouse, The Last Resort, McCallum License Agency, EWT, 509, Ski-Doo, Pacific Legacy Wealth Partners, Gold Creek Station, Jet Motorsports, Noob Crew Sledgers, Mountain West Development, U.S. Forest Service - Mt. Baker Snoqualmie Ranger District, and the Northwest Avalanche Center.

(Continued on page 21)

Sno-Jammers' Fun Run sponsors.



Club News *Continued...*

(Continued from page 20)

On Sunday, March 10th,



Sno-Jammers enjoyed a club trip to Polaris, MT. Want to join the fun? Join the club!



Clem will be hosting his annual Kid's Ride at the Government Meadows Cabin. All kids are welcome to take part in this fun event! Follow the event on our Facebook page or check out our website for more information. You may also call Clem's shop directly to RSVP, 360-825-4502.

On Saturday, March 16th, Bill Yager will be hosting a sled recovery ride out of the Crystal Springs Sno-Park. This is a great opportunity to advance your sled recovery skills and learn some new tips and tricks. This ride is open to everyone.

Have you ever thought about joining a club? Maybe you have been following us on Facebook for awhile and enjoy seeing all the fun we have been having? If this sounds like you, then there is no better time than the present to join the Sno-Jammers! We are a family-friendly club and are always looking for new members and families to join us. We meet every first Wednesday of the month from September to May at the Round Table Pizza in Puyallup. Join us for social time at 6pm and then the meeting starts at

6:30pm. See you all on the snow!
#SupportTheSport



**Methow Valley
Snowmobile
Association**

**By Evie Johnson,
Secretary**

Bring on March madness if it means some late-winter storms and accumulation! This year has been a rough one for winter lovers to say the least. We are calling it "low tide". The variety in riding conditions can't get any more pronounced as you gain elevation out of the valley floor. Currently, you will get mud on your sled at the sno-parks and have to navigate some gravelly patches on the lower trails. There is some decent powder for boondocking at higher elevations, as well as some heavily wind blown areas and 'hero snow'. Like always, we are anticipating

(Continued on page 22)

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Club News *Continued...*

(Continued from page 21)

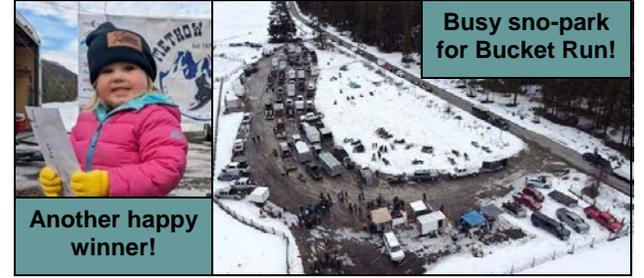
some late season plowing up to Cash Creek to access Harts Pass in hopes to extend our snowmobiling season. This info will be posted on our facebook page as conditions unfold.

The WSSA Winter Rendezvous weekend was a success with six group rides. One ride went up the beautiful Highway 20 corridor and another five rides out of Goat Creek Sno-Park. The Butte Busters volunteered to cook lunch that Friday and the Northwest Avalanche Center (NWAC) joined for observation days for the weekend. We had a wonderful ride on Sunday where four pits were dug to learn about snow pack conditions. Huge thank you to NWAC for the education over the weekend.

The annual Bucket Run was as popular as ever with a record number of riders and

prizes! With a sled deck as the grand prize from Xtreme Powersports, 60+ prizes from other sponsors, and an amazing lunch done

(Continued on page 23)



Another happy winner!

Busy sno-park for Bucket Run!



Great sponsors and great prizes for the Bucket Run!



A very happy winner!



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POLARIS

Club News *Continued...*

(Continued from page 22)
by Suzzett and Linda, everyone left the snowpark all smiles.

Later that evening, our association president, Craig Stahl, received the Snowmobiler



Award winners! Richard, Dolly & Craig Stahl.

of the Year award from WSSA. Our own board member Rich Stahl, and wife Dolly, won the WSSA Couple of the Year award for their contributions to the sport of snowmobiling as well.

How did the warming huts treat you this season? Thank you so much for the donations and the visits! Don't forget to send us your photos of your visit via facebook! We are so fond of these huts and want to continue to provide them for everyone's use each winter.



Yakima Ski-Benders

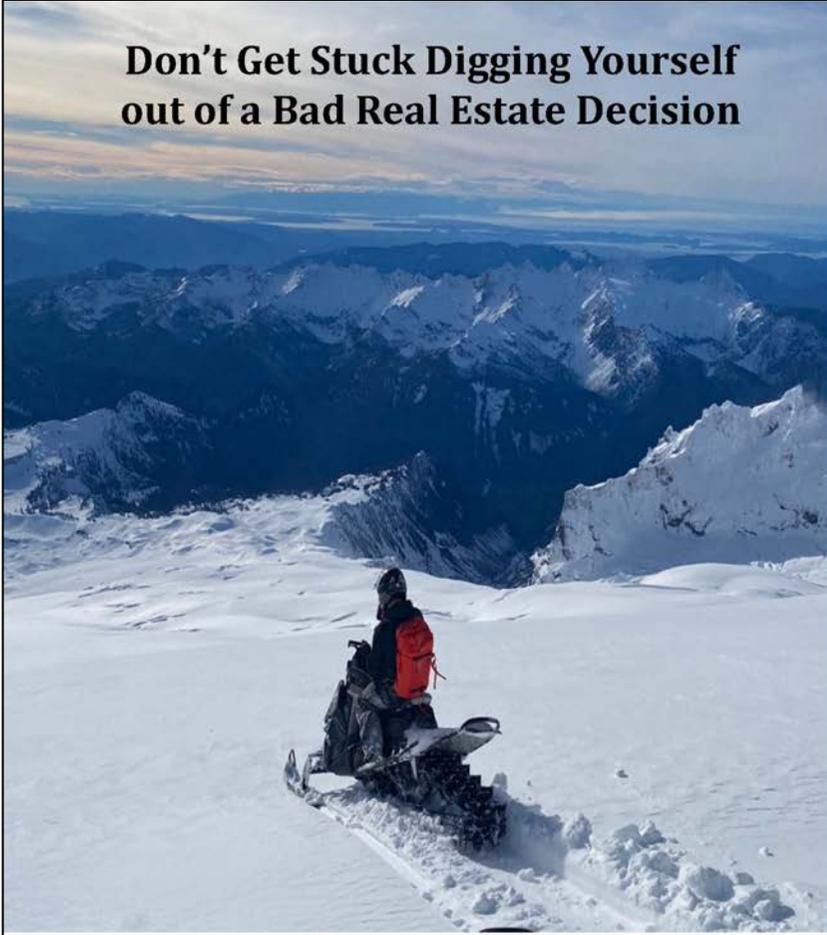
By Liz Van Amburg, President

Hi Ski-Benders!

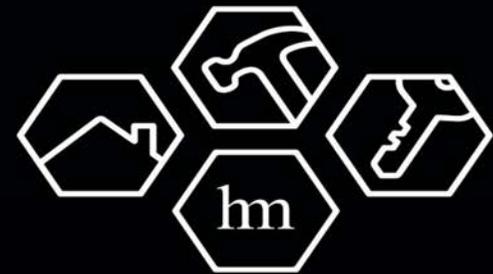
While everyone has minimal snow conditions, we have made the best of what we have in the Yakima Valley.

On January 27th, in the pouring rain, we had a very successful Family Fun Run Poker Ride. We gave first place a \$1,000 for both adults & kids. Second place \$600 and third place \$500. The raffle was huge and we gave away tons of prizes including a Blackstone and a 3-D printer. Thank you to Andy and Stephanie Beaman for (Continued on page 24)

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Club News *Continued...*



Midway checkpoint. Can you hear the rain beating on the fabric roof of the pop-ups?!



Three of the cash prize winners!

hosting this great event!

On February 17th, 36 snowmobilers joined us on a night ride hosted by Trent and Christa Degnan. They made a fabulous spaghetti dinner at the Government Meadows

recognizing the Ski-Benders as the WSSA Club of the Year! We have some of the most amazing volunteers and donors! You all should pat yourself on the back! They also recog-



Thirty-six Ski-Benders ventured to Government Meadows for the Spaghetti Feed/Night Ride on February 17th.



(Continued from page 23) cabin. Ron Alred and Matt Mead loaded up tag-a-long trailers and hauled lights, food, tables and a generator to the cabin. It was a bit windy at times and the snow was like concrete, but it was still a very fun night. We even ran into some guys from Ukraine.

As I write this, our Kids Ride is scheduled for February 24th. We set a record with 117 registered kids. Jeff and Audeena Smith have been very busy preparing for this event. A huge shout out to all of the amazing vendors who in this tight economy still stepped up and helped us to provide several thousands dollars worth of prizes for these enthusiastic kids. I will give a full report next month.

Thank you WSSA for recognizing the Ski-Benders as the WSSA Club of the Year! We have some of the most amazing volunteers and donors! You all should pat yourself on the back! They also recognized two stand out couples in our club for couple of the year. Those awards went to Jeff and Audeena Smith and Andy and Stephanie Beaman. Jeff and Audeena have been Ski-Benders for quit a few years. Audeena is a full-time teacher and Jeff runs J & A Motorsports while raising their son Cole. Keep in mind they live in the Tri-Cities. Thank you to both of them for making time for our club and hosting the Kids Ride. We all are so lucky to have you. Andy and Stephanie are not new to the industry, but are newer to the club. Their award should have been Snowmobile Family of the Year as their two boys Ryker and Braxton work (Continued on page 25)

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509-649-2222
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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.

Club News *Continued...*

Stephanie Beaman, Liz Van Amburg, & Christa Degnan. Stephanie and Christa, along with their families, are 2024 WSSA Award Winners!



(Continued from page 24) harder than most adults I know. This family attends all events with helping hands. They host the Family Fun Run Poker Ride and Stephanie is the club treasurer. Again, we are all so lucky to have them. Thank you to both couples for your service and for setting a great example as volunteers!

Hope everyone gets out and enjoys what is left of this winter!



Drift-A-Way Snowmobile Club

By Matt Mead, Secretary

Wow, what a fun time we've had during the last month! Some are complaining about a lack of snow and say they are done riding for the season. We don't get that; we've been out riding weekly!

Since our last report, a handful of members have been helping with events hosted by another local club, the Ski-Benders. Drift-A-Way members hauled supplies to Government Meadows for a Spaghetti Feed/Night Ride, then helped them eat the food. The annual Kids Ride was in late February and members helped with that event as well.

Over the February 9th-11th weekend, a good showing of members attended the WSSA Winter Rendezvous in Winthrop. We had a great time riding with locals, participating in the Methow Valley Snowmobile Association's Bucket Run, and enjoying the

food and entertainment presented by WSSA.

The club has held several local rides, both mid-week and on the weekend. A couple of rides were up on Bethel Ridge, one of our favorite riding areas. We've also ridden Boulder Cave/Little Bald, Little Naches, and on the south side of Rimrock to Conrad Meadows and Section 3. While there hasn't been a ton of fresh snow, all areas have been well groomed, with little to no dirt leading out of the sno-parks.

If you are interested in a small, family-oriented club,

the Drift-A-Ways might be a good fit. You won't find a group of extreme riders, but you'll definitely ride a lot of off-trail miles and learn of secret treasure spots you may have been riding past for years. We have members of all ages and abilities and tailor our rides accordingly. We usually get out a couple of times a week, both mid-week and weekend.

Interested? Join us on the first Monday of the month during the season at Round Table Pizza in Yakima. Arrive around 6pm for dinner, followed by the meeting at 6:30. Bring your sense of humor! *(Continued on page 26)*



A ride of six dwindled to two; hey, it happens! Do you know where Betty's Meadow is? Ride with us!



Longer tracks and narrow creeks not a good combo!

Yes, great cell service on the top of Bethel Ridge!



One stuck, one not stuck...

Darland Mountain area; we found some fresh snow during our lean February.



We were early for the Ski-Benders' Spaghetti Feed. Or maybe we were hauling supplies for them.

Spring riding in February?! Lunch break along the 7036 Rd.



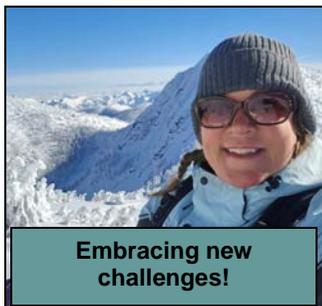
Club News *Continued...*

(Continued from **Blue Mountain Snowmobile Club** page 25)

By **LaRhonda McCauley, President**

Howdy snowmobiling peeps! Greetings from the snow-covered slopes of Southeastern Washington in our cozy little town of Dayton. I'm LaRhonda McCauley, thrilled to serve as the President of the Blue Mountain Snowmobile Club (BMSC) this season. Having been part of this exhilarating sport for over 25 years, I'm excited to share some updates, news, and the latest adventures with our snowmobiling community.

President's corner: Empowering women in snowmobiling. This year, I embraced a new challenge by participating in the 2024 Ladies Ride Calendar, a venture that celebrates and empowers women in the traditionally male-dominated world of snowmobiling. It's been an honor to represent our corner of the state and inspire fellow female riders.



Embracing new challenges!

Trail updates and mountain news. Despite a challenging low-snow year, our dedicated team at BMSC has been hard at work. We addressed parking issues at the Touchet Corrals SnowPark with new signage and making the exit more visible. Kudos to our groomer for making the trails more accessible! As late February brought over 19 inches of fresh snow, we remain hopeful for more in March and April.

A friendly reminder to register your sleds, side-by-sides, and snowbikes - let's ensure we have the funds needed for grooming, snow removal, and more next year.

Community engagement and fundraising. Our 'Burgers on the Mountain' initiative continues to be a success every Saturday at the Godman Springs warming shelter. Thanks to a generous member, beef donations have made this fundraiser possible, ensuring the financial health of our club.

We held our annual Christmas party in December along with a white elephant gift exchange, fostering camaraderie and sharing stories.

Club elections and events recap.

The WSSA Rendezvous in Winthrop saw many BMSC members participating, despite the low snow conditions.

Congratulations to the newly elected BMSC officers for the 2024-25 season - President Jake McNeil, Vice President Sierra Smith, Secretary Courtney McNeil, Treasurer David Carlton, and WSSA District 6 Rep Chris Shires.

Family Fun Day was a hit with games



Family Fun Day was a hit!



like the divorce obstacle course and time trials. We're gearing up for the annual bucket run on March 2nd.

Upcoming events and future plans.

Our last meeting for the season is on Thursday, March 21, and the Godman workday is our final event where members pitch in to prepare the shelter for the next season.

We're also applying for a WSSA grant to assist with much-needed trail clearing in June.

Exciting news for 2025 - the WSSA Rendezvous is coming to Dayton! Save the date, make your reservations at the Best Western, and join us for a fantastic snowmobiling gathering next year.

Stay safe, ride hard, and let's make the most of the remaining snow this season!

ACSA

Mountain Riding Area Committee Winter Summit 2/23/2024 West Yellowstone, Montana

By **Dean Meakin, Vice President**

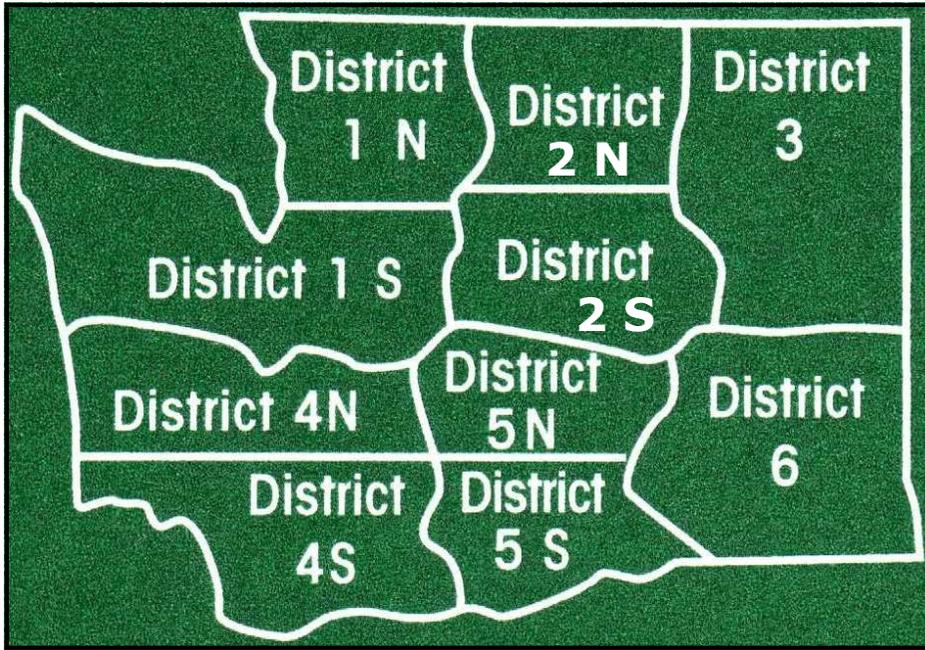
The meeting started off at 9am on Friday morning. After announcements and introductions, we had a panel of guest speakers to talk to us about each of their industries and to answer questions Jason Howel had prepared in advance. Present at the table was: Dustin from Klim, Jerry from SLP, Steve from SnoWest, Allen previously from Timbersled, and Bret from Ride Rassmussen. The first question was how to get the American Council of Snowmobile Associations' (ACSA) name out there so people will know who they are and what they do for the snowmobiler. The answers were pretty much consistent: #1 social media (all platforms, including YouTube for sure), #2 print and #3 sometimes radio. The next question was concerning the importance of connecting with more clubs. There is a need to get local clubs more involved with supporting the national organizations like ACSA. To get more involved with local dealers. Dealers could have more links to the clubs to make for better communication. The consensus of the panel was the younger generation of snowmobilers (20-40) do not see the need for clubs or at least the type of clubs that have been around for the past 50 years. That said, we have our work cut out to figure out what type of club is going to work in 2024. We need to educate the younger generation and answer their question as to why we do need clubs. Communication at the grassroots level is vital to success.

The industry participants shared their crystal ball with us, telling us of some of the future problems they see five years down the road. Noise, loss of public and private lands, and trespassing were at the top of their lists. The #1 problem was the price of snowmobiles in the future. Circling back to clubs, there is a great need for change! Clubs are boring. We need more cool attractions for the 20 to 40-year-olds. We also need to step up our avalanche educating. We need to make winter more exciting to those who are migrating up here (north). We need to use education as the tool to reach the new sledders. We need to be less redneck and more professional in our sport. We need to figure out how to modify exhaust without all the added noise! A snowbike is too loud and we need to consider some regulation to force the fix of the problem. We need to educate the snowmobilers on what is the best fit machine for them. Bigger is not always best. Too many newcomers just want the most expensive and powerful sled that money can buy.

The question was presented to the panel asking: can they help promote ACSA in their companies? The common answer was: it gets down to the dollars and their monies are better spent promoting clubs which indirectly promotes ACSA if everyone does what they are supposed to do. "Pay to play" and "popularity" is what industry focuses on in order for success. The conclusion was they can help in areas like more links to and from the clubs, dealers and ACSA. They also said we need to up our video presence on YouTube and other social platforms.

In the afternoon, all the state associations gave reports on what was happening in their areas. These reports will be included in the next Snoflyer.

Snowmobile Clubs



Note: Facebook addresses in blue

District 1 North

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

Northwest Glacier Cruisers

Darin Hipskind (Interim)
Phone # UNKN
northwestglaciercruisers@gmail.com
www.northwestglaciercruisers.com
[Northwest Glacier Cruisers](#)

Whatcom County Snowmobile Club

John Varner
(360) 510-1560
whatcomcountysnowmobileclub@gmail.com
[Whatcom County Snowmobile Club](#)

District 1 South

(King County)

Cascade Drift Skippers

Jon Ferrian
(218) 251-2069
jonferrian@gmail.com
www.cds.clubexpress.com
[Cascade Drift Skippers](#)

District 2 North

(Okanogan/Ferry Counties)

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](#)

Methow Valley Snowmobile Assoc.

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

Mountain Trails Grooming Assoc.

Bob Wagner
(509) 739-4430
mountaintrailsgrooming@gmail.com

North Central ATV Club of WA

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

Okanogan Association of Snowmobile Clubs

Richard Stahl
(509) 881-1220
rstahl327@gmail.com

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 Trail Twisters

Austin Rollins
509-846-5471
austinrollins@hotmail.com

Selkirk Trailblazers

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

Spokane Winter Knights

Greg Figg
(509) 951-2564
spokanewinterknights@gmail.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
juncosnowmobileclub@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) 749-3107
tracrider@gmail.com
[Mt. St. Helens Trac Riders](#)



District 5 North

(Kittitas County)

Hi Country Beelers

Dan Johnson
(253) 606-0108
jetjohnso@aol.com



Snomads

Fanny Castrilli
(509) 607-0671
snomadsecretary@gmail.com
[Snomads of Easton](#)



Stampede Summit Seekers

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

Upper County Recreation Association

Jason Holmes
253-226-4939
jay.holmes44@gmail.com
[Upper County Recreation Association](#)

District 5 South

(Benton/Klickitat/Yakima Counties)

Chinook Pass Snowmobile Club

Rick Arnold
(509) 945-1678 • rickrollc@gmail.com



Drift-A-Way Snowmobile Club

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District 6

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Blue Mountain Snowmobile Club

LaRhonda McCauley
(509) 386-3067 • larhondamccauley@gmail.com
www.bmscwa.com
[Blue Mountain Snowmobile Club](#)

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Pacific Northwest

Pacific Northwest Vintage Snowmobile Club

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Vintage Snowmobiles of the Inland N.W.

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Membership

Aim your phone here, click, and join WSSA today!



Membership Matters

By Wayne and Florence Mohler, Membership co-chairs

As we wind up WSSA's business year, (March 1st through February 29th), this is a good time to mention that our membership year runs from September 1st through August 31st. The reason this is important for new members is you can join after March 1st and receive the remainder of this year and next year's membership – 18 months for \$25.

If you've been thinking about joining, this is a good time to go ahead and do it. Overall, our membership decreased slightly over the past year. When you consider we currently have just under 1,100 active members and there are approximately 22,000 snowmobiles registered in Washington, it's clear we have a lot of room to grow so we can better represent snowmobiling. That's where the clubs, dealers, and our association can really help out the new snowmobiler by hosting events, social media posts, etc., to get in touch with the new snowmobilers and help them figure out where to go, what to wear, and how to have a safe and enjoyable snowmobiling experience, and most of all, to make new friends. There are a lot of clubs that already have effective outreach to bring in new members and for others, this is a chance to help make those first experiences good experiences.

The recent Winter Rendezvous in Winthrop was a great event! Although the snow was less than we hoped for, the riding at slightly higher elevations was fine, although off-trail was a bit risky. Good food, good riding and good friends – just what is needed to bring us closer to the end of this season and to begin planning for the future.

This is still a great time to join a club (many have summer activities), join WSSA, and volunteer to work on one of the many committees, and to enjoy the remainder of the snow season.

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



SLOW DOWN WHEN RIDING WITH KIDS



KEEP THEM SAFE. MAKE IT FUN!

Visit snowmobileinfo.org for safe riding information.

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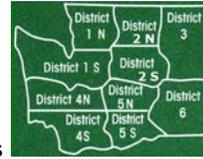
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State Parks Update



State Parks Winter Recreation Program

By Corey Tolar, Winter Recreation Program Manager



As we enter the final stretch of the season it goes without saying this winter season has not been a good one for snow with above average temperatures and rain around a good part of the state. Even with the lack of snow, I hope everyone was able to enjoy the trails at some point this season.

SMAC Winter Meeting

The Snowmobile Advisory Committee (SMAC) winter meeting was held on January 27th in Cle Elum at the U.S. Forest Service Cle Elum Ranger District. I would like to thank the Cle Elum Ranger District for their hospitality in hosting the committee and for the use of their conference room.

Even though the weather was not great and with less than normal snow, some of the committee members were able to ride Blewett Pass on Friday while staff and another committee member toured the snowparks in the area such as Salmon la Sac, Crystal Springs, and Easton Reload.

There were several items on the agenda such as groomer updates, the new State Parks website, and of course the current snowmobile registration numbers. As most are aware, with the decrease in snowmobile registrations there is also a decrease in revenue. There are hard decisions that need to be made regarding the snowmobile program and you can be sure the SMAC, along with staff, will continue to discuss and make the best decisions possible.

The SMAC funding meeting is scheduled for August 2nd-3rd, 2024, in Wenatchee.

Funding applications and the budget will be evaluated, discussed, and determined during this meeting. More information will be provided as we get closer to the summer budget meeting.

WSSA Rendezvous

I would like to send a thank you to Dee Alred for the invitation to

attend and speak at the WSSA Winter Rendezvous dinner on Saturday night (February 10th) in Winthrop, and to Ron Lind and Shannon Lawler for a job well done putting the event together. I believe everyone had a great time.

While there I had the opportunity to speak to those at the dinner and to hopefully shed some light on the snowmobile program. I heard multiple people discussing how the snowmobile registration fees are increasing next year. To make it clear, there has been no recommendation submitted for increasing the cost of registering snowmobiles. Yes, that idea has been discussed, among other options, for increased revenue, but no decision has been made and will not be made without feedback from the snowmobile community. Any changes to snowmobile registration fees will have to be approved by the state legislature as it is set in state statute and currently no change to legislation has been submitted. With that in mind the snowmobile program cannot keep doing business as usual as it is unsustainable. Without an increase in revenue expect to see reduced services in the coming seasons.

Snowmobile Registrations

The snowmobile registrations through February are listed below and as you can see, snowmobile registrations are currently down 2,910 from last year at this time. We need everyone to register their snowmobile and be sure to pass the word around.

Did you know when you registered your snowmobile this year the money will be spent on next winter's services? That's how your snowmobile program works. Unlike other government programs, this program works with funds that are IN the snowmobile account not what revenue is possibly projected. Much like your personal bank account, you can only spend what you have.

Winter Recreation Contact Information

e-mail: winter@parks.wa.gov Phone: 360-902-8684

Snowmobile Registrations

	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY24	FY 23-24 Difference
July	149	145	134	148	166	151	186	147	126	(21)
August	531	676	782	2,307	222	249	1,291	636	968	332
September	2,968	3,145	2,946	1,682	2,974	3,220	3,418	3,385	2,892	(493)
October	1,662	2,139	2,489	1,882	3,357	3,189	2,274	2,078	2,210	132
November	3,129	3,362	4,360	2,960	2,372	5,009	2,860	3,787	2,309	(1,478)
December	11,575	13,170	6,973	8,320	6,726	7,229	7,681	6,995	4,580	(2,415)
January	3,528	3,196	3,358	3,433	4,514	3,295	3,337	2,703	3,736	1,033
February	1,164	1,513	1,166	1,602	1,293	1,541	1,072	1,210		
March	298	686	674	958	355	636	449	541		
April	82	181	175	258	89	219	153	163		
May	32	93	93	90	135	108	116	93		
June	30	84	71	83	126	179	92	94		
Total:	25,148	28,390	23,221	23,723	22,329	25,025	22,929	21,832	16,821	(2,910)

ACSA E-News

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

Polaris Grants

The Polaris TRAILS Grant program makes funds available to organizations in the United States and Canada to promote safe and responsible riding, support trail preservation and help protect the environment and natural resources that are a part of the off-road trail systems.

Funds can be used by organizations for off-road trail development and maintenance projects, safety and education initiatives, and other projects to increase and maintain land trail access.

Visit here to apply: <https://forms.benevity.org/2893f1c7-6421-4272-a92d-9c35027ae13d>

Black Woods Blizzard Tour

The lack of snow did not stop the Black Woods Blizzard Tour from recently celebrating its 25th anniversary where they raised \$2 million to provide support to individuals battling Lou Gehrig's disease.

With no snow, the ride was canceled, but the celebratory gathering took place with 600 attending. The \$2 million raised was a record, bringing the total raised over 25 years to \$19.3 million!

Four Northland snowmobilers started the idea of an annual fundraising snowmobile ride when they rode their sleds around Lake Superior in 1999. Randy Bannor, Larry Bannor, Greg Sorenson and Dennis Nelson raised \$15,000 for ALS efforts that year. One year later, the annual event now called the Black Woods Blizzard Tour began.

Congrats Black Woods Blizzards! Job well done!

Ski-Doo Sneak Peaks

The 2025 Ski-Doo and Lynx snowmobiles will be making their way across the U.S. Make your plans to check them out!

- **March 5: Specialty Recreation, Coeur d'Alene, ID**
- **March 7: Allsport, Liberty Lake, WA**
- **March 9: Lifestyles Recreation, Mount Vernon, WA**
- **March 11: Clem's Enumclaw Recreation, Enumclaw, WA**
- March 14: Dennis Dillion RV & Marine, Boise, ID
- March 16: Action Cycle N Sked, Twin Falls, ID
- March 18: Rexburg Motorsports, Rexburg, ID

For the Love of Oregon's Trails

Recently over 70 trails users from a variety of motorized and non-motorized trail groups were at the State Capitol speaking in support of trails and showed their support of the recreational immunity for the trail system.

The trails groups are seeking a fix to Oregon's recreational immunity law that provides clear protections for all landowners who open their lands to the public for recreation free of charge and that clearly applies to both improved and unimproved trails.

The trail users discussed the recreational immunity law with the elected members and several groups, including the Oregon State Snowmobile Association, also spoke in favor of the proposed legislation in a committee hearing.

Electric Vehicles

A snail, the newest endangered species? The Fish and Wildlife Service has launched an in-depth study of whether a teensy-tiny snail that inhabits springs in a small slice of lithium-rich Nevada desert should enjoy federal protections under the Endangered Species Act.

The probe will consider effects tied to the massive Thacker Pass lithium mine near the Nevada - Oregon border, currently envisioned as a major source of the material that's a crucial component of electric vehicle (EV) batteries.



Following an initial assessment of a petition filed by the Western Watersheds Project, the agency announced a 12-month study on listing as a threatened or endangered species.

Jennifer Granholm, Department of Energy Secretary, stated the Biden administration is "very concerned" about U.S. reliance on China for critical minerals.

China's dominance in the world's critical minerals supply chain is "one of the pieces of the supply chain we're very concerned about in the United States," Granholm said at the International Energy Agency's 2024 Ministerial Meeting in Paris.

China produces approximately 60% of all rare earth elements, which are critical to alternative-energy technologies, such as electric vehicles.

Ford has shifted its electric vehicle strategy to concentrate on smaller, lower-priced EVs and electric work vehicles such as pickup trucks and full-size vans. Any EV larger than a Ford Escape "better be really functional or a work vehicle," according to Ford CEO Jim Farley.

Farley also said he sees EV battery prices coming down with more competition. The company, he said, may go with a common cylinder-shaped battery cell to leverage purchasing and get better prices. He also said Ford might do that with another automaker.

Ford's Model e, the electric vehicle unit, lost nearly \$5 billion before taxes last year. Farley wouldn't give a date for it to break even, but said any new EV built by the company has to make money within 12 months of its release.

In Case You Missed This...

Yellowstone National Park: During the week of February 5th, the National Park Service (NPS) and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service moved 116 Yellowstone National Park bison to the Fort Peck Indian Reservation in Poplar, Montana. The Bison Conservation Transfer Program continues to make history, having relocated the largest number of live Yellowstone bison to American Indian Tribes in the world.



The bison transferred to the Fort Peck Indian Reservation included 108 males, four females and four calves.

European Farmers Protest: Mirroring protests across Europe, thousands of farmers in Spain staged a second day of tractor demonstrations across the country, blocking highways to demand changes in European Union farming policies and measures to combat production cost hikes and severe drought.

The protests led to several main national highways being blocked. State news said that 1,000 tractors were heading slowly toward Barcelona's city center, causing major traffic jams on roads into the northeastern port capital of Spain's Catalonia region.

The protests, involving several thousand people on tractors and in other vehicles, have not been backed by Spain's three main farming organizations, which called for separate protests in the coming days.

There have been other protests in countries such as France, Poland and Greece in recent days. The European Commission, the EU's executive branch, has already made concessions to farmers over the last few weeks on environmental and aid rules, and this week decided to shelve plans to halve the use of pesticides and other dangerous products.

Are You Following Us?

www.facebook.com/AmericanCouncilofSnowmobileAssociations

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

Matt's Misc.

By Matt Mead,
Publicity Secretary

WSSA Publicity Secretary

board position is currently unfilled. That is the position I hold until the March budget meeting. March also marks my 20th year in this position and this lack of change is unhealthy for any organization. WSSA needs new faces and ideas to be successful in the future. Whoever takes over this position won't be hung out to dry; I will work with the new person as much as they'd like until they are comfortable in the role. Please get in touch for more information.

On a side note, we are still seeking a Membership Secretary and a Vice President as well.

Ski-Doo's Grand Touring Electric snowmobiles debut in Colorado. That was the headline from a January news article. The author, a person familiar with snowmobiles, visited Grand Adventures outside of Winter Park and took one for a spin. Currently there are five locations in the U.S. where the machines are being rented/tested. What did he learn from his ride? The machines use a level-2 car-style charger that can recharge in less than three hours. These snowmobiles are meant for short distances (about 30 miles) with a top speed of around 37 mph. They are quiet, claiming no louder than a washing machine. **His final thoughts? The sled's speed and range limits will keep most riders, himself included, on traditional gas-powered snowmobiles for the foreseeable future. No surprise. If one was really serious about an electric snowmobile, I think Taiga is leading the pack in performance (speed and range) at the moment.**

Polaris owners aren't out of the woods yet! Yep, fire danger still exists in recalled machines. Polaris recently posted a bulletin on their website stating the repairs previously issued did reduce the fires caused by static discharge, there have been eight more incident reports since the

recall repairs have been completed. The recall is being revised and is telling owners to use E10 fuel with a 91 or higher octane rating. (This fuel prevents the electrostatic buildup according to Polaris.) There isn't a stop use/sale order as owners just need to switch fuels. Snowmobiles affected are 2021-2024 MATRYX models and 2015-2023 AXYS machines.

Snowmobiler went missing and nearly spent a deadly-cold night near the rim of Crater Lake. This happened in mid-February when the 38-year-old rider, on a rental machine, was separated from his group. He zigged when the group zagged and he rode several miles through the backcountry before getting stuck. Unable to free the machine, he managed a call to the local search and rescue before his phone died. **He told them he didn't know where he was and that he wasn't dressed for the weather.** Luckily he was found just before midnight, but in a hypothermic state. The temp was 19 degrees and a winter storm was approaching.

One can write this off to inexperience and lack of preparation... **But are YOU prepared?** Many snowmobilers brag on how they are equipped for avalanches with bags, probes, shovels and transceivers. But can they (you) make shelter and build a fire? I've ridden with lots of different groups and there has been a time or two where we can't find one of our members for a period of time. So far we always have found them after a brief search, but what happens if the weather turns, it gets dark, or something else hinders the group? Maybe practice those skills on the next group ride?...

ENVO. For all your electric snowsport needs! No, not really, but the British Columbia company does have a couple of cool products... prices notwithstanding.

First up is the SnowKart at about \$4,370. It's a twin-track/single ski machine billed as a "fun machine that won't hurt you". (Hmm, doesn't sound like a lot of fun...) But the design is cool; reminds me of a snowmobile version of a Big Wheel and only weighs about 100 lbs. Turning is accomplished more with differing track



speeds than the handlebar-directed front ski; pull the left brake handle for left turns, right handle for right turns. The top speed is a blistering

12 mph... no wonder they advertise it as not being able to hurt you! **I'm guessing some smart person can offer up a 'performance' speed controller to boost the top speed.** Other (not so) newsworthy features include the ability to climb a 20-degree grade, ability to buy versions with differing battery capacities with run times of two to three hours, and tow up to 400 lbs. Wait, that tow rating is impressive! Oh, and like an e-bike, the batteries are removable and can be brought in for charging, which takes from two to six hours based on size and state-of-charge.

Prefer something with one less track? Then check out their Flex Electric Snowbike. Not a snowbike in the traditional sense, but more like a track-equipped electric mountain bike. But at \$2,872, it is actually pretty affordable.

If you'd like to check out either of these offerings, you can find them at www.envodrive.com.

WA Senate Bill 5831 - Permanent Registration of Vintage Snowmobiles. I covered this legislative effort last month. As for an update, I did a bill search to find the status and it appears the bill has died in committee for this go round.

Snowmobile safety and Search and Rescue. The article started off talking about a recent snowmobile accident in Kittitas County near Cooper Lake. Two snowmobilers rode off a 50-foot embankment into a wooded area below and were injured. Another snowmobiler discovered them and was able to alert Search and Rescue via an emergency locator, and helped one of the riders back up to the trail. Kittitas County Search and Rescue and the Snoqualmie Pass Ski Patrol came in and retrieved the more seriously injured victim and she was airlifted out. The other ride was taken to the hospital via ground transport. It was reported they were a husband and wife, both 52-years-old, and from the Auburn area.

And then the article took a twist and noted the Kittitas County Search and Rescue Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Team is looking for volunteers.

The Kittitas County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) says the mission of the KCSO ORV Team is to provide Search and Rescue coordinators and mission planners with an off road vehicle option that can negotiate terrain conventional vehicles cannot. The team provides search capability, search area containment, logistical and staging support, traffic control, transportation and more.

So if you live in the area and are interested in joining, visit www.kittitassar.org and fill out the "Join or Contact KCSR" section.

Again Polaris?! If you own (Continued on page 32)



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 couple of years, we have 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!

Matt's Misc. *Continued...*

(Continued from page 31) a Polaris and have avoided the fires, now you need to think about the clutch **taking your leg off!** Okay, it probably isn't that dire, but a new recall on MATRYX models with 650 and 850 engines says the primary (drive) clutch can fail and the clutch and clutch components can come off the vehicle with a possible injury result. The recall looks to cover 2022 to 2024 models, so if you are an owner, check it out.

Hey Ski-Doo owners, quit snickering! A recall of certain 2024 Ski-Doos has just been issued as well. Seems sleds with Pilot X skis might suffer a failure. There have been 28 cases of the left ski breaking, but with only one injury so far. If by chance you own one of these machines, you are asked to park it and contact Ski-Doo.

A tragic accident near Leavenworth. In February a 51-year-old woman was killed and her 14-year-old female passenger suffered leg injuries in a snowmobile accident near the Eagle Creek Sno-Park. A snowmobile rental company reported the accident to the Chelan County Sheriff's Office. Emergency crews arrived on the scene around 2:45pm and began to treat the older victim who had significant chest and leg injuries but she died at the scene. It was reported the snowmobile had left the trail, went down an embankment, and under a tree, where the driver was struck in the chest. Both victims were reported as being from the Seattle area. I couldn't find reference as to whether these two were new riders on a rental machine, but it may very well be the case. Our hearts and prayers go out to the family and friends of individuals.

Is snowmobiling safe? Across the U.S. and Canada, there are too many news reports like the one above. That being said, I contend snowmobiling can be a very safe sport. But there are a lot of risks surrounding snowmobiling. Those in the West think of avalanches. But you are more likely to be killed or injured in some other kind of accident while snowmobiling. Going off the trail and hitting an object is probably at the top of the list. Snowmobiles, even older, less powerful ones, can get you into trouble with a handful of throttle and a distracted mind. Please keep that in mind when you ride, and more importantly, stress this to our younger riders and new beginners. What's the saying? "Make every trip and roundtrip."

Snowmobile Program funding issues; how about a bond? Sounds crazy to us here in Washington State, but that is exactly what snowmobile and ATV leaders are pushing for in the state of Maine. More than 500 of these leaders are asking the state legislatures to pass a \$30 million Maine Trails Bond. They want lawmakers to place this on the November ballot so Mainers have an opportunity to have their say. The article notes trail maintenance is usually paid for through fees paid by snowmobile and ATV club members, but recent storms have severely damaged the trails and it is too costly to cover. Since

Maine is very dependent on recreation tourism, the ask is for \$30 million in grants to be disbursed over a four year period. The money would go to organizations and towns to pay for construction, design and repairs on trails. It **probably doesn't need mentioning there is opposition to this.**

So, should we... can we... do this in Washington? Not likely given the current political climate **and the fact most in state government don't see snowmobiling as adding any significant value to the State's economy. That's too bad. But hey,** they have no problem coercing citizens across the state to keep funding the Puget Sound ferry system. Hmm...

Not timely, but important to recognize. One issue with print, and I've mentioned it before, is the limitation on pages. I've been holding this since January, but I wanted to share the passing of Peggy Spieger, the past Executive Director for the Oregon State Snowmobile Association. Peggy was an accomplished women and worked tirelessly on behalf of snowmobilers in Oregon and across the nation. I wasn't a close friend of Peggy's, but we had several conversations over the years while we both attended the International Snowmobile Congress events. Of course she always called me Mike. Close enough! Rest in peace Peggy.

Snoflyer or website comments? Call me at 509-424-1575 or e-mail to snoflyer@wssa.us.

The Oregon snowmobile community lost a fierce advocate of snowmobiling today. Peggy Spieger has passed away.

Peggy served as OSSA Executive Director for over 30 years. She made contributions as a trail and program developer for Oregon making it one of the best in the nation. She always took your call no matter the day or time. She was also active with the American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA), the International Association of Snowmobile Administrators (IASA), Western Chapter of Snowmobile Associations, as well as her local snowmobile club. She was a volunteer leader at the club, state, national, and international level. Peggy fought for the rights of snowmobilers to access Crater Lake National Park and the Newberry National Volcanic Monument. She played an instrumental role in the development of Kapka Sno-Park. Peggy worked with the Oregon Department of Transportation to administer grooming and trail maintenance of Oregon's snowmobile trails. She was the voice for Oregon snowmobiling in Washington D.C.

Peggy has received many awards. In 2020, she was inducted into the International Snowmobile Hall of Fame and received the Iron Dog Brigade Distinguished Service Award.

Our deepest sympathy and heartfelt thoughts and prayers go out to the entire Spieger family. Peggy will be missed by all that knew her.



ISHOF Nominations due by April 1st

In 2024, we look forward to honoring individuals for their involvement in the sport of snowmobiling. You are invited to nominate a candidate for possible future induction into the International Snowmobile Hall of Fame in Eagle River, Wisconsin. We are also now seeking nominees for the Edgar Hetteen Memorial Award of Merit and the International Groomer of the Year. All inductees and award recipients will be recognized in September at our annual induction ceremonies.

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

Hall of Fame Induction

This prestigious honor is bestowed

upon the incoming class of annual recipients in recognition for their achievements for the sport of snowmobiling.

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

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

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

Visit <https://www.ishof.com/nominate.html> for details.