

Snoflyer

The official publication of the
Washington State Snowmobile Association

December 2022
Volume 45



Juncos



Sno-Jammers

**Local clubs have been working hard
clearing trails, improving sno-parks,
and prepping huts
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Methow Valley Snowmobile Association



Selkirk Trailblazers



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GROOMED TRAIL REPORT
UPDATED DAILY



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WSSA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership valid until August 31st, 2023

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: Dee Alred, President
9104 Wide Hollow Rd.
Yakima, WA 98908
E-mail: delia.alred@wssa.us
(509) 965-8305

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING YOUR SPORT

WSSA MEETINGS AND IMPORTANT EVENTS 2022/2023

WSSA Meeting

January 12th 2023

Zoom meeting, 7pm to 8:30pm. Find out what is going on with snowmobiling in Washington. Zoom log-on info available on request.

WSSA Westside Ride

January 21st, 2023, Glacier

Hosted by the Whatcom County Snowmobile Club. A chance to meet and ride with WSSA leadership on the west side of the state. Details in this Snoflyer.

Winter Rendezvous & WSSA Meeting

In Yakima

February 17th - 20th, 2023

Guided rides. Leaders for family-friendly, mid-level trail/off-trail and again for the extreme; we'll have a ride for you! Meals and entertainment on Friday and Saturday nights. Legal Action auction and announcement of Legal Action Fund raffle winner.

WSSA Meeting at the Lake Wenatchee Rec Club

March 11th, 2023

Our annual budget meeting. Starts at 9am. A lunch option will be provided. Hoping to schedule rides for Friday and/or Sunday. Help set the financial direction of your state snowmobile association.

International Snowmobile Congress

June 7th-June 10th, 2023

Join us in Moline, IL, and visit friends... or make new friends... from around the country and learn about snowmobiling in other states, provinces and European countries. Visit www.snowmobilers.org/isc for details.

WSSA Summer Meeting & Campout

August 18th-August 20th, 2023

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 Dealer/Associate members

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E-mail or call for details

Matt Mead, Publicity Secretary

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

2022/23 Season 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

Single issue rates - 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

As I write this, clubs across the state are planning and scheduling work parties to help clear the trails of fallen trees and overgrown brush. This save the groomer time so they can groom our trails instead of clearing them. That makes our grooming money last longer and we are able to ride longer in the spring. The clubs do an excellent job in helping out their local groomers. Our volunteers here in Washington state are awesome!

If you haven't registered to attend WSSA's Winter Rendezvous in February, you need to do so. This year it is being held in the Yakima Valley Museum! They are planning on having several scheduled rides. They will have extreme, off-trail, and family rides. There are three different areas to ride that are 45 minutes from the hotels. This is the yearly event where we announce the winners from our election, winners of the snowmobiler, dealer, club, club president, groomer and groomer coordinator of the year awards, and draw the winning ticket for the sled deck we are giving away in support of our legal action fund. I hope to see you there.

The snow is starting to pile up in the higher elevations. Please remember the grooming doesn't start until December 15th, snow permitting. Carry your safety gear and know the avalanche conditions. Be safe and have fun.

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



2023 is rapidly approaching and it seems like the past three years have been just a blur. Post COVID is still proving to be a real pain. Everywhere you turn, businesses are looking for people to fill jobs, and the signs 'Help Wanted' are getting bigger and bigger. Starting wages are now being advertised at \$17 per hour and businesses are offering a sign-on bonus to sweeten the pot. I am not sure where all this is going, however I know for sure it has impacted many of our powersport dealers and other businesses connected to our sport. Food costs are soaring as well as interest rates climbing. All this cuts into our extra spendable income. These are the monies we use for recreation. Together, let's do our best to support our dealers and buy local. This way, when all these financial troubles pass, our dealers and supporting businesses will still be here for us!

Our 30th anniversary WSSA Snowmobile Expo this year is evidence of a rapidly changing market. I have spoken to several of the event coordinators across this country and the reports of low attendance and difficulty getting exhibitors to sign up for the show were very common. Several of our vendors had no staff to run a booth, so they gracefully bowed out for this year. I hope this does not become the new normal. The availability of getting new products was another difficulty for the manufacturers and dealers. Attendees were looking for 2023 stuff and it was very scarce. My hope is to do our best to adapt and conquer these difficulties that have been placed in our path. More to follow as we move forward in 2023.

Thank you to all the exhibitors who did participate in our show this year. I know this has been the toughest year than any I can recall. Thank you for supporting this event. Thank you to all the volunteers who stepped up to the plate and helped WSSA with hours of labor to keep everything running smooth. This also includes those who are members of the snow show committee. Thank you to all the attendees for your financial support; that is what makes this event possible. We appreciate you doing business at our show with all the exhibitors.

As a reminder, the next 'Mountain Riding Summit' meeting will begin by traveling on Wednesday, February 22nd, and returning home on the 26th, in Alpine, Wyoming. There will be some avalanche training at a very low cost from the Bridger Teton Avalanche Center. Rooms are blocked for this event. Please let me know if you are interested in attending. More to follow.

ISC 2023 will be held in Moline, Illinois, from June 7th-10th, 2023. If you have never attended this event, then do it this year. The International Snowmobile Congress has always been Educational and Informational! (E/I).

Let's work together this coming year to 'Keep the Gates Open' for all the 'Over-the-Snow Vehicles' that we currently support and ride. Yes, electric too.

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



Join WSSA and help support snowmobiling in Washington State!

What Does WSSA Do For YOU?

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

District Reports



District 1 North

By Hans Brubaker
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(360) 922-8296

Whatcom and Skagit snowmobilers are more than ready for snow and hopefully by the time this issue is released, local riding areas are providing the goods. The Northwest Area Sno-Park Advisory Board Meeting was hosted by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) on November 15th. At the meeting, Washington State Parks and USFS representatives presented updates to motorized trail and grooming conditions going into the season. The most significant news from Forest Service representative Nikolai Ferrell was that groomer and snowmobile access will again be allowed on Glacier Creek Road around the washout at mile 3.8, snow level permitting. The USFS reported the washout on Glacier Creek (Road 39), and the bridge damage on Blue Lake (Road 1230), are both scheduled for repair in 2024 with Federal Highway funding. The Forest Service also reported road grading on Road 12 to Shribers Meadows has been delayed. Let's hope they can squeeze the grading in before the snow comes down in elevation.

Related to the Glacier washout news from the Forest Service, Jason Goldstein from Washington State Parks reported the groomer will have the flexibility to use all the grooming contract funds in the Whatcom contract on whichever roads are available to groom. This means if Glacier Creek cannot be groomed then the groomer can give extra attention to Canyon Creek and Bearpaw to give local sledders the best possible conditions under the contract. Motorized and non-motorized clubs gave reports of their volunteer activities and concerns going into the season. I think the meeting was valuable and hopefully future meetings can expand on some of the topics brought up by the clubs.

Congratulations are in order to the donors and volunteers involved in funding and building warming huts. All the gateways to alpine riding areas in Whatcom and Skagit counties now have warming huts with woodstoves. In addition to adding considerably to the riding enjoyment on inclement days, these huts provide a critical shelter for individuals or groups that may find themselves broken down, lost, or injured and far from their vehicles. Thank you to everyone involved with creating and maintaining this valuable public asset.



District 2 South

By Matt Kensrud
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(509) 433-2100

Hope everyone is doing well! As we start into the sled season, most all the clubs have been out stocking warming

huts with wood and cutting down trees on the trail systems along with clearing brush. We have a little snow in the district as I write this; not really enough to ride.

The Bavarian Boondockers had Snowfest 10 where all the clubs in the district were present!

I talked to Billy Burgess from Pacific Mountain Services, our local groomer, and it sounds like the cats are ready to groom.

Now that all of the snow (Continued on page 6)

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District Reports *Continued*

(Continued from page 5)

shows are done I will be attending club meetings and events.

If you have any questions, feel free to call or e-mail me at (509) 433-2100 or kus-tom509@aol.com.



District 3

By Greg Figg

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(509) 534-3417**

Well, the snow has begun to fall in North-east Washington but not enough in most areas to start an early riding season. At least the good roads make holiday travel easy this year! I know Mother Nature will treat us to some snow in the near future though.

I just got done with the Spokane Winter Knights Snow Show last weekend. It was good to see some familiar vendors and some new ones as well. A good mix of vendors were on hand and I saw a lot of large bags of merchandise leaving the show. Good to see the snow show back on track where we

left off prior to COVID.

We are engaged with the Forest Service as they undertake the planning process for Over-the-Snow Vehicle Use in the Panhandle National Forest. The collaborative group has come with a recommendation that preserves much of the existing riding areas but puts an end date to off-trail travel of March 31st. Much of the riding at the low elevation areas is over by this date but will end the higher elevation riding by March 31st on Forest Service property. More to follow on this as the process continues to move forward.

I would like to remind everyone to do your pre-season checks including your avalanche and survival gear as we never know when this might be needed! With COVID restrictions ending, I notice avalanche classes are being offered more regularly this year. I would urge anyone who snowmobiles or is in the backcountry to get familiar with these offerings. What you learn will help you make better decisions in the backcountry which means you have a much better chance of coming home safely at the end of the trip!

Have a great Christmas and safe New Year!



District 4 North

**By Tanner Hamlyn
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(253) 376-2739**

Greetings everyone!
I'm glad to see all of your snow dancing is working!

The past few months have been full of events! From the annual snow show, to open houses, avalanche training classes and the usual last minute work parties.

The Juncos had a work party at the Wakepish Sno-Park to make some improvements. They had a woodstove donated to replace the existing stove that was falling apart. They also added some blocking to help seal up the structure to keep some of the warm air in, as well as to help keep some rodents out.

The Juncos have their monthly meetings at the Round Table Pizza on Hosmer St. in Tacoma the first Monday of the month. If you ride the northern sides of Mt. Adams and Mt. St. Helens, check them

(Continued on page 9)

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Washington State Supporting Businesses

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LLUMIN8 Lighting	18715 95 th St E	Bonney Lake	WA	98391	www.llumin8.com	253-233-7547
Mission Outdoors	PO Box 7530	Bonney Lake	WA	9391	www.missionoutdoors.org	253-831-8309
Jay's Snowmobile Service	1325 Hanson Loop	Burbank	WA	99323		509-845-2089
Evans Marine	1058 E Woodin Ave	Chelan	WA	98816	www.evansmarine.com	509-682-4402
Mountain Addiction	362 Porcupine Ln	Chelan	WA	98816	www.mountainaddiction.com	509-881-8016
High Country Outfitters & Camp Wahoo!	1780 Nelson Siding Rd	Cle Elum	WA	98922	www.campwahoo.com	509-674-8331
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Kozy Kabins & RV Park	111 East Broadway	Conconully	WA	98819		509-826-6780
Shady Pines Resort	125 West Fork Rd.	Conconully	WA	98819	www.shadypinesresort.com	509-826-2287
Lone Fir Resort & Café	16806 Lewis River Rd	Cougar	WA	98616	www.lonefirresort.com	360-238-5210
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Clem's Enumclaw Powersports	408 Roosevelt Ave	Enumclaw	WA	98022	www.enumclawsuzuki.com	360-825-4502
High Cascades Power Sports Apparel	2001 S 292 nd St	Federal Way	WA	98003	www.highcascades.co	253-886-8944
Jet Chevrolet - RV Inc	35700 Enchanted Pkwy S	Federal Way	WA	98063	www.jetchevrolet.com	877-538-2438
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Pacific Logging LLC	9823 163 rd Ave NE	Ganite Falls	WA	98252		425-508-9150
I-90 Motorsports	200 NE Gilman Blvd	Issaquah	WA	98027	www.I-90motorsports.com	425-391-4490
Trailside Homes	P.O. Box 1829	Issaquah	WA	98027	www.trailsidehomes.com	509-674-6828
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 184 th Ave Ct E	Lake Tapps	WA	98391		253-380-0558
Mission Outdoors	2402 186 th Ave E	Lake tapps	WA	98391	www.missionoutdoors.org	253-831-8309
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Dan's Food Market	1329 US Hwy 2	Leavenworth	WA	98826	www.dansfoodmarket.com	509-548-5611
Leavenworth Snowmobile Rentals	15361 US Hwy 2	Leavenworth	WA	98826	www.leavenworthsnowmobilerentals.com	509-763-0333
Mountain Springs Lodge	19115 Chiwawa Loop Rd	Leavenworth	WA	98826	www.mtsprings.com	509-763-2713
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Moses Lake Collision Repair Inc	1006 W Marina Dr	Moses Lake	WA	98837		509-764-8001
Red Ace's Customs & Rental	P.O.Box 741	Mossyrock	WA	98564	www.redacesrents.com	360-880-1608
D and G Marine	15379 SR 536	Mount Vernon	WA	98273	www.dandgmarine.com	360-630-1132
Lifestyles Honda Skidoo	3302 Cedardale Rd Ste E100	Mount Vernon	WA	98274	www.lifestyleshonda.com	360-416-3950
Elk Ridge Campground	13880 SR 410	Naches	WA	98397	www.elkridgecampground.com	509-658-2093
Gold Creek Station	18431 SR 410	Naches	WA	98937		509-658-2583
Xtreme Powersports	1930 2 nd Ave N	Okanogan	WA	98840	www.shopxtremepowersports.net	509-826-5771
WA State Parks Winter Rec Program	1111 Israel Rd SW	Olympia	WA	98504	www.state.parks.wa.us	360-902-8595
Blu-Shastin RV Park	3300 US Hwy 97	Peshastin	WA	98847	www.blushastin.com	509-548-4184
Chet's Honda/Polaris	17 H Street SW	Quincy	WA	98848	www.chetshonda.com	509-787-3617
Sundance Landscaping	11609 172nd Ave NE	Redmond	WA	98052		425-533-6008
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
Dianes Tank Removal Services LLC	PO Box 77738	Seattle	WA	98177	www.dianestankremoval.com	206-510-9497
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Kart-O-Rama Inc	13701 24 th St E Unit A4	Sumner	WA	98390	www.kartoramainc.com	253-891-3490
Old Cannery Furniture	13608 Old Cannery Way	Sumner	WA	98390	www.oldcanneryfurniture.com	253-863-0422
Hank's Harvest Foods	412 E Methow Hwy	Twisp	WA	98856		509-997-7711
Twisp NAPA Auto Parts	214 S Methow Valley Hwy	Twisp	WA	98856	www.napaonline.com	509-997-2461
Premier Power Sports	2615 Main St	Union Gap	WA	98903	www.premierpowersportswa.com	509-965-9889
Procaliber Motorsports, Inc	P.O. Box 1679	Vancouver	WA	98668	www.procaliberbend.com	360-256-5000
G & G Automotive Machine	34 S Palouse	Walla Walla	WA	99362		509-525-2890
Wenatchee Power Sports	3031 G.S. Center Rd	Wenatchee	WA	98801	www.wenpow.com	509-665-6686
Radcomp Technologies	136 N Main St	White Salmon	WA	98672	www.gorad.com	509-493-2221
Three Fingered Jacks	176 Riverside Ave	Winthrop	WA	98862	www.3fingeredjacks.com	509-996-2411
Ride Motorsports	19035 Woodinville Snohomish Rd	Woodinville	WA	98072	www.ridemotorsports.com	360-256-5000
Nob Hill Auto Wrecking	2609 West Birchfield Rd	Yakima	WA	98901	www.nobhillautowrecking.com	509-452-2803
Owen's Yamaha-Suzuki Polaris	1707 N 1st St	Yakima	WA	98901		509-575-1916
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Out of State Supporting Businesses

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Hill's Resort	4777 W Lakeshore Rd	Priest Lake	ID	83856	www.hillsresort.com	208-443-2551
Mountain Village Resort	Jct Hwy 21 & 75	Stanley	ID	83278	www.mountainvillage.com	800-843-5475
SK Northwest	250 SE Division Place	Portland	OR	97202	www.sknorthwest.com	503-238-2510
Trakmaps	9045 Chemin de la Cote-de-Liesse	Dorval	QC	H9P 2M9	www.trakmaps.com	514-500-1191

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Show snowmobilers your business supports their passion!
Join WSSA as an Associate Member today!

District Reports *Continued*

(Continued from page 6)

out and becomes a member!

The Sno-Jammers Snowmobile Club has been keeping busy also. Last year at the Pyramid Creek Sno-Park, a loving member of society decided it would be a good idea to drive their vehicle through the Forest Service message board at the head of the parking lot. While destroying the kiosk they also destroyed the club's trail map. After the destruction, the local Forest Service office had a new kiosk sign built, and is also replacing the destroyed trail map. They asked the Sno-Jammers if they could install the kiosk, and with a welcome smile the club stepped up and did a fantastic job removing the old footing, drilling new holes and assembling the kiosk. The club had to rent an auger and used 30 bags of concrete to set the sign. To prevent the destruction again, boulders surrounding the Sno-park were moved and placed around the sign. The remaining boulders were moved, creating 10 more feet of parking and allowing the plow operators to ensure the parking lot can be cleared.

The Sno-Jammers have their monthly meetings at the Round Table Pizza in Puyallup the first Wednesday of the month. The social hour begins at 6pm but the meeting start time has been moved up to 6:30 to accommodate venue hours. If you ride the Greenwater area and want to be part of a club, check out the Sno-Jammers and become a member.



District 5 North

By Jason Holmes
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(253) 226-4939

Hello from District 5 North! Snow flies. Snow stops. People are getting excited!

October/November has been a busy time for the Kittitas County area. Out of the Easton Reload, Beeler Pass will be impassable for awhile. During the massive rain event that came through, a large section of the road has been washed out. There aren't any established timelines, or even if the roadway will be repaired. For the upcoming season, do not plan on the route being groomed or passable.

The Upper County Recreation Association (UCRA) had a large trail party at Blewett Pass working a connector trail that ties Blewett Pass and Mission Ridge trail systems. I'd like to thank all the volunteers who

opened up this trail (approximately one mile). Special thanks to the U.S. Forest Service, Department of Natural Resources, and State Parks for working together and making this project a success.

October 29th was our snowmobile season kickoff event at Dru Bru in Cle Elum. Well over 50 people were in attendance and enjoyed the free pizza, beer and snowmobile videos on the big screens! Thank you to Boulder Creek, The Last Resort, Dru Bru and Sportland for donating prizes to the raffle drawing. Oil was the big ticket this year!

We look forward to next year's event!

On November 5th and 6th, UCRA opened up the Patrick Mine Road. This two-mile trail connects the Cle Elum Ridge down into the town of Ronald. The last item for this project is a gate that will be installed at the bottom of the trail to help mitigate illegal motorized activity during the late spring through late fall seasons. The gate is currently being constructed so it may not be installed until next spring when the weather allows. UCRA spent the first week of the month clearing downed trees up to the top of Sasse Ridge. Over 50 trees were removed from the trail and countless hours of brushing to clear this trail and provide easier access for the groomers to start the season. UCRA recently received a \$3,000 grant to help assist with these efforts. The grant is used to help offset fuel, oil and lunch expenses for our volunteers.



District 5 South

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

Greetings from Dist 5 south, hope everyone is happy with the colder temperatures and some snow in the mountains.

First of all I would like to thank Mike and Liz Van Amburg for spearheading the 1904 Sno-Park project, Chad Atkin with Atkins Landscaping for estimating the amount of gravel needed, Zac Zacaush from Mid-Columbia Fisheries, and McLaren Lewis from Wakefield Excavation for the amazing job they did at the 1904 Sno-Park. The sno-

park is now amazing; much larger than it ever has been, much smoother, and more area to store snow. Zac was able to come up with the money for getting this project started and completed with the incredible job of not only repairing the sno-park but making it better than it ever has been. McLaren Lewis did an exceptional job on making the sno-park larger and more level than it has ever been. I can not express my appreciation for all the work, money and care everyone has put into this project to make our sno-park the best it has ever been.

I would also like to thank the Drift-A-Way



Tree discovered down across road leading to Section 3. Drift-A-Way work party cleared it a few days later.

Snowmobile Club for their help at White Pass. Dee and Ron Alred, Matt Mead, Don Wagoner, and Justin Adamson helped fix the road and fill very large chuck holes going into the Cold Creek Sno-Park, and cutting a very large tree that fell over the groomed trail on the way to Section 3.

I would also like to thank Drift-A-Way club members Matt Mead, Don Wagoner and Dennis Knight for helping my wife and I cut out the many trees on the FS 1901 trail in the Naches area, and most of all, the incredible job removing over 10 very

(Continued on page 10)

**HAVE FUN
ON YOUR
RUN**

**BUT DON'T DRINK
'TIL YOU'RE DONE**



District Reports Continued...

(Continued from page 9)

large trees from FS 1914 and FS 787 in the Greenwater/Pyramid Pass area. Without this



One of several trees down on the Greenwater trail system.

incredible help it would be costing the snowmobilers a lot of money and time for the groomer operator to stop and do this by himself while grooming.



Drift-A-Way members cutting and removing trees from the Pyramid Pass area.



The Drift-A-Ways also cut out many trees on Chinook Pass on the 1600 road out to Clover Springs and dropped the wood at the Little Bald cabin in October. The Chinook Pass Snowmobile Club cut and split the wood and stocked it in the cabin.

The Chinook Pass club meets at Gold Creek Station the third Thursday every month. They have a new President, Rick Arnold. Drift-A-Way meets at Round Table Pizza in Yakima every first Monday of the month.

The Ski-Benders are also extremely busy with all of their events. The sold-out Crab Feed is December 3rd in Glee; the Chilly

Ride is January 14th on White Pass; the Chinook Pass Fun Run on January 28th at the 1904 Sno-Park; and their Kids Ride on February 25th, also at the 1904 Sno-Park. (Look for registration information soon.)

The Ski-Benders are making progress on getting a 40ft container cut in half to make two separate warming shelters, one going in the Chinook Pass area and one going in the White Pass area. These warming shelters will be built by the Selah High School which we are very thankful for, using two WSSA Grants given to the Ski-Benders and the Drift-A-Way club.

The Ski-Benders club meets the first Tuesday of the month at Magic's Pizza in Selah.

The Yakima County Grooming Council, chaired by Mark Tharp, has been working



extremely hard on getting out schedules for the Ahtanum, Chinook Pass, Greenwater and White Pass areas. They have been working with the Department of Natural Resources to get gates installed in the Ahtanum area. One project still in the works is getting the warming shelter at Tree Phones stocked with wood for the winter. The Yakima County Grooming Council meets the second Wednesday at Round Table Pizza in Yakima; everyone who has questions or comments is welcome to attend or e-mail Mark Tharp at main@YAKGROOM.groups.io.

I hope everyone had a happy Thanksgiving, and has a very Merry Christmas.

Notes

WSSA Board Position Nominations

It's that time of year again and before long everyone will be up to their shoulders in snow. This means it's snowmobile season and WSSA is now seeking nominations for certain board members.

Those up for election are President and Vice President, both of which are one-year terms. Also up for election are Recording Secretary and Treasurer; both of these are two-year terms.

If you would like to run for any of the positions, please contact me at jim.kingman@wssa.us or your district representative from the area you reside in.

Nominations will close in the middle of January just before voting opens.

Voting will be conducted online at www.wssa.us. You will need your user name and password to log in to vote. If you don't remember these or have never logged in, contact membership at fwmohler@msn.com or wfmohler@msn.com and they will help you log in. I don't have the exact date voting opens but it will be late January; watch the Snoflyer and the website for updates.

—Jim Kingman—

—Past President/Nominations Chair—



WSSA Legal Action Fund Raffle North Cascade Sled Deck

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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Notes

Know before you go - Trespassing edition

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

The International Snowmobile Tourism Council (ISTC) and the International Snowmobile Media Council (ISMC) want to bring to the attention of all snowmobilers the trespassing issue.

Trespassing on private land is more prevalent in the Midwest and Northeast than in the West as there is more public land in the West, but regardless, all snowmobilers need to respect private land as the use of it is a privilege and not a right. If you trespass on private land you add to the reason we lose trails and other riding areas. When you see a No Trespassing sign, do not go there; respect the landowner's right to keep anyone he wishes off his land.

In the words of the American Council of Snowmobile Associations, "Know Where To Go Or There Will Be No-where To Go!"

ALWAYS ASK FIRST!



STAY ON THE TRAIL UNLESS YOU KNOW
OFF-TRAIL RIDING IS LEGAL.

Visit snowmobileinfo.org for responsible snowmobiling.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO - Avalanche edition

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

The International Snowmobile Tourism Council (ISTC) and the International Snowmobile Media Council (ISMC) want to bring to the attention of all snowmobilers riding in the West, how important it is to KNOW BEFORE YOU GO.

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

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

KNOW THE RISKS, AND BE PREPARED.



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Club News



Tri-Rivers Snowmobile Club

By Kurt Hensley,
President

The Tri-Rivers Snowmobile Club is looking forward to an excellent year of snowmobiling. We had an early snowstorm hitting the Okanogan and Methow valleys. We got be-



Check out the warming huts in the region and the excellent snow conditions!

tween 20 and 35 inches of snow and cold weather to make the snow stay.

Our club is struggling with membership and we are trying to have a Sunday breakfast brunch and encourage all of our members to attend.

The Okanogan County clubs have a variety of huts to warm up in. We are looking for a great snow year with much great snowmobiling. Come and join us and check things out on Facebook!

Happy sledding!



Yakima Ski-Benders

By Liz Van Amburg,
President

Hi! Sure has been great fall weather. Rain, snow and sunshine! Hunting season is about wrapped up so get your sleds ready; we are up next! I know I am looking forward to actually riding this year!

Congratulations Jolene Vesey for selling out this year's crab feed in one week. Thank you to all the VIPs who purchased tables. This money goes toward the Kids Ride! Next

issue I will have pictures and updates on this event. So excited to see all of Jolene's new ideas.

Stephanie Beaman is working on putting her twist on the Poker Ride/Chinook Pass Family Fun Day! This event is held at Little Naches on January 28th. There will be shirts given out to the early birds and all are welcome. If you would like to donate or be on the sponsor shirt, please contact Stephanie at (509) 930-1261.

The Yakima Ski-Benders have been working on a warming shelter project. We have purchased a 40' container. Sam Ross and Chad Atkins are cutting it in half. Action Towing is delivering the container halves to Selah on January 4th. We have recruited Selah High School's Ag and Shop class to build us two emergency shelters. They will eventually be placed on White Pass and Chinook Pass. The insides will have a counter top, bench, wood stove and some hooks for hanging wet clothes and such. Jim Kingman donated windows that the students will install for lighting. We still need to get the doors, pipes for stoves, flooring and wood to build the wall. WSSA gave the Ski-Benders and Drift-A-Way clubs each a \$1,000 Trail Grant towards this project. This has been a huge undertaking, but I am proud of the idea. Rudy Classen made a motion to dedicate it to my mother-in-law, Mary Van Amburg, for all her years of service to the snowmobile community. I know she would be very proud. Thank you to all who are helping with this task. I will get some pictures hopefully for the January or February issue.

Some of you may know the Little Naches had a huge restoration project done this fall. The end result was our sno-park was a mess. Mike Van Amburg reached out to the project manager, Zac Zacuch, at Mid Colombia Fisheries. Zac and I worked together while he was in the Congo canoeing, to get some bids to

Ski-Bender president, Liz Van Amburg, checking out the progress on the 1904 Little Naches Sno-Park.



replace the gravel and level the lot. Chad Atkins and Google Earth determined how



Gravel being hauled in and ready to spread.

much material it would take to fix it. Then I called Ron Lind, our area groomer, to see if he could meet them there to give direction on how the lot worked. Within two weeks the sno park was restored to better condition than it was ever before.

Level, flat, rolled and graveled. I can not thank these guys enough for helping me get this done. I always say "team work makes the dream work"! Without Mike Van Amburg's years of commitment to the Tapash (Sustainable Forest Collaborative) group, this would never have been fixed.

The next Ski-Bender meeting is December 6th at Magic's Pizza in Selah. This is our Christmas party meeting. So if you would like to participate in the white elephant gift exchange, please bring a present with a \$25 value.

Hope everyone has a very Merry Christmas,



Picture speaks for itself!



Winter Knights

By Al McCarty,
President

I love it when it all comes together. There's something oddly addictive about bringing a variety of talents together and forming a cohesive product. (Continued on page 14)

Club News *Continued...*

(Continued from page 13) I have to admit, when going into a big project, I battle with the anxiety and

phonies, I've learned to set the tempo first, then follow-up with the appropriate beat so each instrument can find their place in the music and work in concert not to drown each other out. As long as I can provide the format ahead of time and set the tone, the theme should become vividly clear, and what is produced will appear seamless to those in receipt of the effort. As it unfolds, all the anxiety and worry vanish to make way for emotions charted on the positive end of the spectrum. Stress turns into smiles as the anguish fades. At least that's the intended experience.

As I write this article, our Club just completed its annual Snowmobile and Power Sports Expo fundraiser. It's still too early to accurately account the financial gain of our efforts, but what is certainly apparent is the feeling of accomplishment we all share in the successful completion of hours of preparation and sacrifice in order to bring it all together. While most of those involved can now sit back and sigh in relief, there's still a

stress of all the pieces floating around, uncertain of how well they will fit in harmony. As the occasional maestro in these sym-

phonies, I've learned to set the tempo first, then follow-up with the appropriate beat so each instrument can find their place in the music and work in concert not to drown each other out. As long as I can provide the format ahead of time and set the tone, the theme should become vividly clear, and what is produced will appear seamless to those in receipt of the effort. As it unfolds, all the anxiety and worry vanish to make way for emotions charted on the positive end of the spectrum. Stress turns into smiles as the anguish fades. At least that's the intended experience.

(Continued on page 15)

The Winter Knights had a successful Snow Show in Spokane in November.



Come ride the eastern slopes of the Cascades with the Yakima Ski-Benders!



Join us for the following events:

Chilly Ride

January 14th 2023 - White Pass

How are your navigation skills? Location coordinates will be announced a few days ahead of event on our Facebook page. Chili and dogs will be your reward for finding us! (Family-friendly!)



Chinook Pass Snowfest Poker Ride

January 28th 2023 - Little Naches on Chinook Pass



Easy loop ride with play areas and awesome views. Lots of great prizes up for grabs! A great sno-park with easy access for RVs.

WSSA's Winter Rendezvous

February 17th-20th 2023 - Yakima

Hosted by WSSA, with several rides led by the Yakima Ski-Benders. Get a taste of the local riding opportunities in the Ahtanum, and on Chinook Pass and White Pass! Easy trail to extreme off-trail, we've got you covered!



Kids' Ride

February 25th 2023 - Little Naches on Chinook Pass



Young riders are our future! Bring out the kids, any age, they will have a blast! Supervised loop track set up for Kitty Kats and small displacement sleds. Rides for the less experienced youngsters and

challenging rides for the older kids. A great meal served in the afternoon. Camp for the weekend!

Chinook Fest

June 8th-11th 2023 - Jim Sprick Park on Chinook Pass

A spectacular music festival in the mountains! The Yakima Ski-Benders host the bar and this is a great fundraiser to help support our in-season activities.

Club News *Continued...*

(Continued from page 14) this yearly project is probably already thinking about the next show as our administrative person is painstakingly skinning the cat's tail to assure everything is set straight. A debriefing meeting has been set to talk over the logistical aspects of the event and everyone invited will have their chance to help hone the process in order to better focus our efforts the next time around. From my vantage point I feel things went relatively smoothly at the event. I hope my feelings are justified.

While I certainly was not the one carrying the baton for this fundraiser, as club president, I did feel a sense of responsibility to bring everyone together and coordinate efforts. In no way did I do this alone. Several key people stepped up to define and staff their areas with a great amount of time and energy put into securing the necessary number of volunteers to pull this thing off. A month prior to the event, our participant count looked bleak, so I addressed the club at a monthly meeting and plead for their help, and reminded them not to be discour-

aged if they found themselves calling twenty people in order to get just one to join in. Admittedly, the message was as much for me as it was for them. The area leaders then set out to take care of business, each with their unique way of accomplishing the task, and in the end, we actually had more volunteers than expected. A big shout goes out to both the leaders and their helpers, and to those who put in way more than their share.

In the end, it all came together. Everyone stepped up their game and worked together to create another successful fundraiser. Vendors, attendees, and volunteers all enjoyed themselves and regardless of the amount of money raised, it was all worth the stress and uncertainties to see everyone in a concerted effort to produce something to be very proud of; music to my soul. I'm actually already looking forward to next year's event, even if it means living with stress and nervousness as the pieces come together. If for some reason I find myself not involved in the next one, I'm sure I'll feel very strange

and awkwardly unsettled. I've come to realize I really need to be in the frenzy to get my fix. I guess that's the true nature of addiction.



Lake Wenatchee Rec Club

By Marilyn Mylius,
Vice President

Hi all! Well, we got a nice surprise of around 10 inches of snow in the beginning of November. As I write this we haven't received any more since, but now we have a nice base waiting for more snow!

The Rec Club has scheduled the 'Bob Melson Memorial Poker Run' for February 18th.

And we are going to have our third annual snowmobile challenge; the Tour the Twelve geocache event. This starts December 15th, snow permitting, and ends March 15th. So you have all season to find

(Continued on page 16)



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Club News *Continued...*

(Continued from page 15) all the caches and get stickers for prizes!

Merry Christmas to everyone and hopefully we'll see you out on the snow soon!



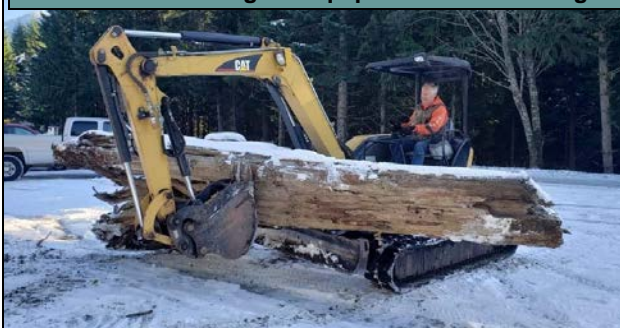
Sno-Jammers Snowmobile Club

By
**Christina Hamlyn,
Vice President**

The snow is starting to fall and riding season is just around the corner! The Sno-Jammers are gearing up for a fun-filled season and we encourage anyone who rides the Greenwater area to check us out and learn more about what we are doing for the community! Follow us on Facebook or check out our website at www.snojammers.org for our list of upcoming events and rides.

The Sno-Jammers, in conjunction with the Greenwater Grooming Council, tackled another successful work project in November. On November 12th, huge improvements were made to the Pyramid Creek Sno-Park. Boulders were moved to increase the parking area and allow the plow operator to

Dan Johnson using his equipment to move a log.



Major improvements made to the sno-park.

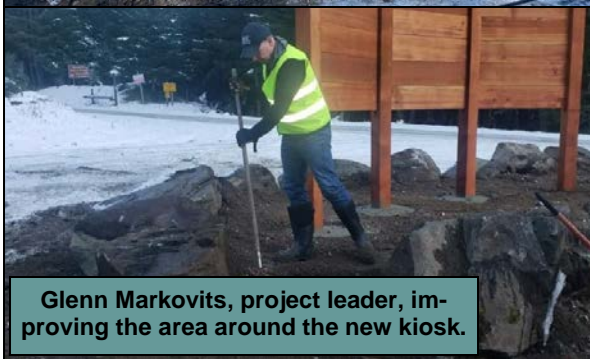


properly remove snow from the sno-park and a new kiosk sign was also installed which displays trail signs and important information for the season. The previous sign, which stood for almost 20 years, was un-

The crew who rebuilt the Pyramid Creek Sno-Park.



Digging the holes for the new kiosk.



Glenn Markovits, project leader, improving the area around the new kiosk.

fortunately run over, vandalized, and destroyed last season. It is disappointing to see incidents like this occur as it ultimately costs the clubs in the area time and money to replace what was destroyed. Thankfully, we have a great relationship with our local U.S. Forest Service and they generously paid for all the materials to replace this sign; we just had to supply the labor. We had a strong crew come together, who devoted their time, energy, and resources and battled the elements to get the job done. They did an excellent job, and their hard work and determination is a reminder of just how important our volunteers are in keeping our

sport alive! A huge THANK YOU to everyone who was involved in this project.

I would also like to recognize the hard work of several volunteers who came together to stack firewood at the Government Meadows cabin - an annual event we do to supply the public with wood to keep the cabin warm year round. We are the only user group in our area that does this for the community which is another reminder of just how valuable

our club is. A huge THANK YOU to all who were involved. So, the next time you catch yourself wondering "why should I be a part of a club?", consider all the things clubs do for our sport and remember, without us (clubs), our sport wouldn't be much fun at all. JOIN YOUR LOCAL CLUB TODAY!

On a more fun note, the Sno-Jammers enjoyed a great night of bowling on Novem-



The 'girls'.



Sno-Jammers Bowling Night.

ber 4th and close to 30 people came out to partake in the fun! We had novice bowlers all the way to bowlers who had a few more frames under their belt, but in the end we all had a great time! More family and adult events will be happening throughout the season, so if you missed this one, don't worry because there will be others.

Our next family event will (Continued on page 17)

Club News *Continued...*

(Continued from page 16)

be our annual Christmas party on December 10th at Clem's Enum-claw Powersports. RSVP is required as food will be catered, so if you would like to join in on the fun, contact Markus Loftis at big-mark_96@msn.com for more information and to reserve your spot.

Mark your calendars for our first official club ride of the season! Our Toys for Tots Pancake Breakfast will be held on December 17th at the Crystal Springs Sno-Park. Breakfast is by donation only and we are asking donations be in the form of cash or a new, unwrapped toy. 100% of the proceeds will be given to Toys for Tots just in time for Christmas. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME** and you do not have to be a club member to attend. Bring all your friends and family for this fun filled event on the snow

Saturday, December 17th

Crystal Springs Sno-Park

7AM to 10AM



*** Meal by donation only ***

Donations must be in the form of cash or a new toy (unwrapped)

100% of the proceeds will go to

TOYS-FOR-TOTS

Breakfast Includes
Pancakes, eggs, sausage,
orange juice, and coffee

that is going to help a great cause!

Lastly, our general club meetings are held every first Wednesday of the month, September - May, at the Round Table Pizza in Puyallup and you are invited!

Social time starts at 6pm and the meeting starts at 6:30pm. These meetings are very informative and give members the opportunity to meet other riders and get involved with activities throughout the year. We hope to see you all at our next meeting!
#SupportTheSport



**Northwest
Glacier
Cruisers**

**By Jessica
Ronhaar**

The Northwest Glacier cruisers are excited for the snow to come and to get riding. We have some exciting events planned.

December 10th - Northwest Glacier Cruisers Christmas Party

at the Grand Willow in Mount Vernon. Tickets are \$50 for adults and \$25 for kids. You can buy tickets on our website.

January 14th - Hwy 20 TNT Ride.

February 2nd - Youth Snowmobile Day. Bring the family!

March 11th - Annual Ladies Ride.

March 18th - Annual Shoot-out and Raffle.

Please remember to pack all of your trash out when using the warming huts.

As always, our club meets on the first Thursday of the month at Coconut Kenny's in Burlington at 7pm; we would love to have you come and join our club and meetings.

Check out our website at northwestglaciercruisers.com or our updates on Facebook.

(Continued on page 18)

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Club News *Continued...*



(Continued from page 17)

Pacific Northwest Vintage Snowmobile Club

**By Ray Bergstresser,
President**

We spent the weekend with the Vintage Snowmobiles of the Inland Northwest (VSOTINW) snowmobile club showing our sleds at the annual Winter Knights' Snowmobile and Power Sports Expo and Swap Meet at the Spokane Fairgrounds.



The Pacific Northwest Vintage Snowmobile Club teamed up with the Vintage Snowmobiles of the Inland Northwest to show their sleds at the Spokane Snow Show.



There were a lot of people looking at our snowmobiles; also a good crowd for the show. Talking to some vendors, they seemed happy with the number of sales they were making.

Our people included Dick, Loye, Willie, Paul, Candy, and Ray. Special (Continued on page 19)

Charity on the Snow

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Presented by the Junco Snowmobile Club!

JANUARY 14-15, 2023

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

Jan. 14 - 10 a.m. Let The Fun Begin!

We start off the day with a couple of guided rides, we will also have some maps and markers up for those who prefer smaller groups! We'll have a Pulled Pork Dinner w/ sides for you after we all return, followed by a Combination Live & Silent Auction and then our "Sled on Fire" Show, ALL benefiting Make-A-Wish Alaska and Washington!

Jan. 15 - Between 9 & 10 a.m. Free Pancake Breakfast!

Directions to Orr Creek Sno-Park:

From Randle, WA: Head South on Highway 131 (Cispus Road) to Forest Road 23, follow that to Forest Road 21, and then to Forest Road 56, and then to Forest Road 5603. The roads are plowed by Back Country Plowing and Grooming and marked with Signs! The Orr Creek Sno-Park is 26 Miles from Randle!

For more info call Chris Sutton at (253) 224-8806 or Zach Bradbury at (253) 592-9893, or see Junco Snowmobile Club on Facebook!

Club News *Continued...*

(Continued from page 18)

thanks go to Dave Bum-mer from the VSOTINW for organizing the event, and Emily for decorating our display with Christmas decorations.

As a side note, some of us will be going to **Willy and Emily's on December 10th** for a birthday-play day event next. Questions? Call (509) 566-7021.

Our club's next scheduled event is an annual ride in the Trout Lake area between Christmas and New Years.

Then on January 7th will be our annual Play Day. We try to have the event at Greg Byrd's property, depending on snow. You can contact Greg at (509) 993-7107 or (509) 662-1865.



Junco Snowmobile Club

By
Chris Sutton

We want to start out by thanking all our members who were able to help at our Wakepish Work Party on November 12th! We had a great turn-out and were able to get everything on our list done in record time. The stove we installed last

season unfortunately wasn't up to par and needed to be replaced again. Thanks to the generous donation of a nice Schrader fire-place from Jimmy and Shani Bauer, we now have a stove that will warm the shelter with ease throughout the winter! We also added some new lighting, so bring your generator and some firewood with you for an enjoyable evening at the sno-park. We also want to thank all the other clubs in our state for all the hard work and countless hours of volunteering to ensure we all have a great season and those who cleared trails for the groom-ers!

Make-A-Wish has taken notice of our club's Charity on the Snow event and the HUGE contribution we have made to their cause over the years. Their CEO plans on attending our event this year and may even give snowmobiling a try! Our GRAND TOTAL raised for Make-A-Wish throughout this 20-year tradition is now over \$100,000!

On January 14th - 15th we are hosting our annual 'Charity on the Snow' event at the Orr Creek Sno-Park. This is a family-friendly weekend of camping, snowmobiling, and other fun activities with a charity auction for the Make-A-Wish Foundation! Since 2002 we have been donating 100% of the money raised from this event directly to

Make-a-Wish, Alaska and Washing-ton. We have some exciting new ideas this year, including our 'Win A Snowmobile' raffle for a mint do-nated 1999 Ski-doo MXZ 600 and our 'Sled on Fire' show! We de-pend on donations from our local communities for this event, so if you would like to donate items for our auction, or money to our

cause, please contact me at (253) 224-8806 or Snowkingsutton79@gmail.com.

Back Country Plowing and Grooming has always been a HUGE supporter of our work parties and events, even bringing up their Starlink internet for us to use! They are al-ways investing in the latest and greatest equipment, posting condition updates when-ever possible, and communicating with our clubs if they need any assistance to clear the trails. Travis and the crew never cease to amaze us with their commitment to our sport and we are lucky to have such a great relationship with our groomer! We know **their job isn't easy, and we appreciate all the** hard work and long hours they put in.

The Junco Snowmobile Club recently changed the location of our meetings to Round Table Pizza at 7921 S. Hosmer St A-1, in Tacoma. We now have use of a private meeting room which makes it much easier to interact and hold meetings, along with a new Zoom option for those who cannot attend. We meet on the first Monday of each month at 7pm, September through April, with our social hour beginning at 6pm. We are a small informal club with lots of young fami-lies and we are always looking for new friends to ride with. It is very common to see kids in our sno-parks doing parking lot circles on their snowmobiles and playing with friends, so please watch out for them!

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



Methow Valley Snowmobile Association

By Evie Johnson,
Secretary

Wow! What a start to the season! We asked our membership to do their snow dances and we received 18+ inches on the valley floor already. We are excited we got all of our mobile huts and

(Continued on page 20)

New woodstove and lighting in the Wakepish warming hut.

These ladies were a huge help at our work party!

Jim & Jan Martinek out breaking in...

...Jan's new Khaos!

Craig Miller out for a pre-season ride at Wakepish.

Great group of guys helping out at our Wakepish work party.

Club News *Continued...*

(Continued from page 19) other huts ready for the season prior to the storm. Everything is in place and ready for a wonderful season. Make sure to stop by one of our huts, build a fire, and enjoy while you are out here.

The Methow Valley Snowmobile Association (MVSA) is excited to have monthly rides posted on our blog site every month (<http://mvsnowmobile.blogspot.com>). We are going to center these rides around local events in the area. Join us for local chili feed rides, a vintage sled ride, and Outhouse races in Conconully.



Bavarian Boondockers

**By Matt Kensrud,
President**

Hello from the Bavarian village!

The season is off and running, the warming hut is on the hill, wood is stocked, and Snowfest 10 was a big hit! It was so much fun seeing everyone, now let it snow!

The club will be holding there monthly meetings the first Wednesday of every month through the season at Kristall's Restaurant at 6pm. We will be discussing upcoming events and one thing on the agenda is buying a bigger trailer for our stuff!

Later in the season we will be having the Northwest Avalanche Center riding with us on one of our club rides; check the website for info at www.bavarianboondockers.com.

Any questions? Feel free to e-mail me at bavarianboondockers@gmail.com.



Drift-A-Way Snowmobile Club

**By Matt Mead,
Secretary**

Did we make it? Our mid-November ride I mean. Sadly, we didn't. While there were a few local diehards who took first rides during this time, the snow wasn't quite deep enough for my taste. Looks like if we'd been up in the Methow, we'd have been fine.

But that doesn't mean Drift-A-Way members weren't up in the snow! We held three work parties and found ourselves in nearly 12" of snow at the higher elevations.

Our first outing was up near Section 3 on White Pass where Ron Alred and I moved the remains of a giant tree off the road for groomer access.



Ron Alred making his old Ford earn its keep.

Our second trip was back to the same area about a week later after a big wind storm where we moved a few more trees out of the road and worked on smoothing the access road to the Cold Creek Sno-Park. Thanks to Ron Lind, Shannon Lawler, Ron and Dee Alred, Don Wagoner and (school skipping) Justin Adamson.

Our third 'party' was on Chinook Pass where club members cut and removed trees from near Lilly Pond and then over in the Greenwater area by Pyramid Pass. These trees also came down in the windstorm and were rather large. Thanks to Ron and Shannon for leading the way, and to Dennis Knight and Don Wagoner for helping us cut and drag trees.

Club meetings kicked off in November with topics ranging from work parties, our club hosting rides at this season's WSSA Winter Rendezvous, our own campout/hot dog ride, and club merch including T-shirts and decals. Our next meeting is scheduled for December 6th at Round Table Pizza in Yakima. Show up at 6pm for dinner with the meeting at 6:30pm.

Looking for low-key riding partners? Mid-week and weekend? We aren't the high-mark brigade, but we spend plenty of time off-trail. We are very family-friendly and tailor our adventures based on the ability of the riders along each day. Feel free to get in touch with President Jim Kingman or myself if you'd like to try us out. (Our contact info is on the WSSA contact page.)

Notes

THANKS FOR THE FIX!

We would like to give a huge 'thank you' to everyone involved in the amazing restoration of the 1904 Sno-Park in the Chinook Pass area. Thanks to Mike and Liz Van Amburg, Chad Atkins and Zac Zacaush, and a huge shout out to McLauren Lewis of Wafefield Excavation.

After the Forest Service and Fish and Wildlife did a river restoration project in this area over the summer, it left this sno-park in terrible condition. Mike and Liz Van Amburg then stepped up and spearheaded a project to get the sno-park returned to its original condition. Chad Atkins of Atkins Landscaping estimated the amount of gravel needed to restore this sno-park. Zac Zacaush of Mid Columbia Fisheries then acquired the money necessary for this project. McLauren Lewis then went above and beyond making this sno-park better, larger and leveler than it ever has been, moving large boulders farther out to give us more snow storage. We can not express our gratitude enough to everyone who made this happen.



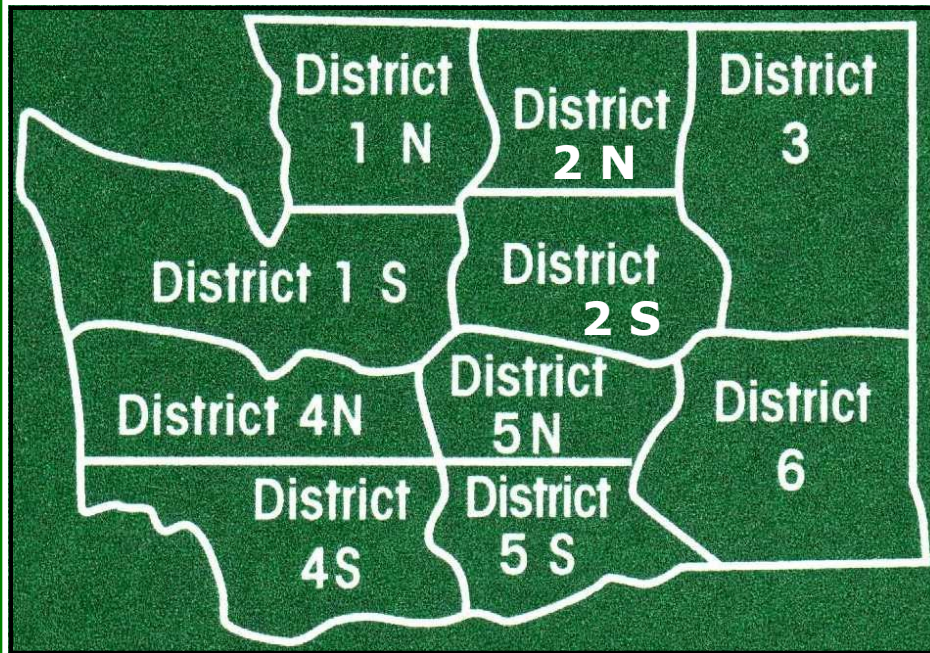
1904 Sno-Park at Little Naches is bigger and better than ever!



Without everyone's help, the sno-park this season would have been about half the size it is now. Again, thank you everyone for stepping up and making this happen.

**Ron & Shannon Lind
R & R Grooming Inc.**

Snowmobile Clubs



Note: Facebook addresses in blue

District 1 North

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

Northwest Glacier Cruisers

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

Whatcom County Snowmobile Club

John Varner
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[Whatcom County Snowmobile Club](#)

District 1 South

(King County)

Cascade Drift Skippers

Darren King
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www.cds.clubexpress.com
[Cascade Drift Skippers](#)

District 2 North

(Okanogan/Ferry Counties)

Bonaparte Snowmobile/ATV Club

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[Bonaparte Snowmobile/ATV Club](#)

Butte Busters Snowmobile Club

Ron Hirst
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[Butte Busters Snowmobile Club](#)

Methow Valley Snowmobile Assoc.

Craig Stahl
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www.mvsnwmobile.blogspot.com
[Methow Valley Snowmobile Association](#)

Mountain Trails Grooming Assoc.

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North Central ATV Club of WA

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[North Central ATV Club of Washington](#)

Okanogan Association of Snowmobile Clubs

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Republic Tree Benders

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[Republic Tree Benders Snowmobile/ATV Club](#)

Tri-Rivers Snowmobile Club

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[Tri-Rivers Snowmobile Club](#)

District 2 South

(Chelan/Douglas Counties)

Apple Country Snowmobile Club

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Lake Chelan Snowmobile Club

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Lake Wenatchee Recreation Club

Michelle Kocher
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[Lake Wenatchee Rec Club \(LWRC\)](#)

District 3

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

Chewelah Sno Posse

Howard Justice
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Selkirk Trailblazers

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Spokane Winter Knights

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[Spokane Winter Knights Snowmobile Club](#)

District 4 North

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

Barnyard Racing

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Junco Snowmobile Club

Joshua Simpson
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[Junco Snowmobile Club](#)

Lewis County Drift Skippers

Jim Beslow
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Northwest Boondockers

Mike Eveler
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Sno-Jammers Snowmobile Club

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[SnoJammers](#)

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(Clark/Cowlitz/Skamania/Wahkiakum Counties)

Mt Adams Snowmobile Club

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Mt St Helens Trac Riders

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(Kittitas County)

Hi Country Beelers

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Snomads

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Chinook Pass Snowmobile Club

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Drift-A-Way Snowmobile Club

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Yakima Ski-Benders

Liz Van Amburg
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www.yakimaskibenders.net
[Yakima SkiBenders](#)

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

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www.BMSCWA.com
[Blue Mountain Snowmobile Club](#)

Mt. Misery Snow Drifters

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Tollgate Trail-Finders

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Pacific Northwest

Pacific Northwest Vintage Snowmobile Club

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

Vintage Snowmobiles of the Inland N.W.

Dave Brummer
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www.wsvsa.com/VISOTINW.html

Tharin on Safety

**You've done all your
pre-season prep, right?**

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

Season preparations are well on their way. Sleds are ready to go. Truck, trailer, deck and equipment are ready to go. I've been in the gym regularly and am ready to go (I think). Now we just need a little more snow and its go time. I can't wait. Some of you out there have been fortunate enough to have a ride or two in.

Many of the clubs have been out prepping their warming huts and cutting downed trees. Some have built new huts and some have made repairs or modifications to existing ones. Thank you to those of you who have helped. It takes an army to prep for the season and I for one definitely appreciate being able to pull up to a warming hut and step in to a heated hut to warm my toes and fingers.

Hopefully by this time of year you have had your avalanche equipment out and checked to make sure it works correctly. Hopefully you've checked your two-way radios and your GPSs. Hopefully you have been practicing with your safety equipment. Hopefully you've brushed up on your first aid and CPR skills. Hopefully you have brushed up on your avalanche safety and rescue skills. **IF YOU HAVEN'T, THERE IS STILL TIME.**

Its about go time. Be safe, watch out for others and for yourselves. The snowmobile community, as a whole, are great people out there enjoying life. Let's make sure we all make it home after each ride.

Stay safe--See ya on the mountain.

**GET THE GEAR, TRAINING AND FORECAST
BEFORE RIDING IN AVALANCHE COUNTRY!**

Only ONE AT A TIME on the slopes!



Visit snowmobileinfo.org for avalanche safety information.

Notes



Westside WSSA Ride

January 21st, 2023 - Glacier, Washington

**Hosted by WSSA and the
Whatcom County Snowmobile Club.**

*Meet and ride with WSSA leadership and other
WSSA members!*

*Create connections with riders up and down the West
Cascades. Planned as an annual event alternating in
north and south riding areas.*

*Have an opportunity to ask questions, contribute ideas,
and participate in the growth of WSSA and the future of
snowmobiling.*

Learn a new riding area, ride leaders available.

*Learn about some of the snowmobile access challenges
faced in different riding areas and participate in securing
the right to ride.*

Cookout provided on the snow.

*Discounted lodging available at Home2Suites Bellingham
Airport and Hampton Inn Bellingham Airport.*

Further details to be announced at a later date.

Hotel Booking links for WSSA ride rates:

Home2Suites

<https://tinyurl.com/5n8jvv76>



Hampton Inn

<https://tinyurl.com/5n7yr3dj>



Membership

Membership Matters

By Wayne and Florence Mohler,
Membership co-chairs

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

This is the third year of our 'loyalty' program in which we invite our Associate members to participate by providing a benefit or incentive to WSSA members who patronize your businesses. The Associate member can identify the benefit, and WSSA will publicize the information through the Snoflyer, our website and social media. This year of the program runs from December 2022 through November 2023. It is our hope this will turn out to be a win, win, win scenario with our Associates getting more business, our members getting something of value, and WSSA getting more members. For Associates to get signed up, just contact membership@wssa.us with your proposal!

Individuals/Families, Dealers, Businesses and Clubs make up WSSA and the volunteer effort put forth by everyone is what

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

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

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

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



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!



WSSA Contacts

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News

Snow NW and Snowmobile WA are ready for the 22/23 season

By Jennifer Hackett,
Northwest Portal
(formerly Washington Hometown),



We have made some major improvements to Snow NW and Snowmobile WA and are getting ready for the 2022-2023 season.

The biggest improvement is you can now post and view trip reports. This is fully integrated into the web maps; just click on a point or trail and select View or Post Trip Report. You need an account with Totago (our partner) - but that account (and the trip reports) will work across all of the maps and apps. (So if someone leaves a comment about conditions at Crystal Springs on Snow NW and someone else looks at Crystal Springs on the Snowmobile map, they will see the comment left on the other map.) This is available but not quite fully integrated into the app. (You have to search for the place name, and see a list of all trip reports, not just for that location, but we hope to have that integration finished by December.) If we could get people to share posts about conditions - this could be huge. (For example, a note that a sno-park is really crowded, that a trail was just groomed, or is in really bad shape.) As appropriate, we will be sharing these reports with the agencies too (if there is a problem.)

Last year we experimented with printed maps that could be handed out. We will only do printing this year if we have at least six paid businesses in an area - but we will be doing a complete set of letter sized PDFs that people can print out.

We are hoping to partner with more clubs. Club membership is just \$100/year and includes a link to the club on 10 riding areas (trails or trailheads.) We will also put the club logo on the printable maps for their riding area, clubs can share events, and if clubs want a fundraising opportunity they can either give their member businesses a code for a 30% discount on the maps, and we will donate 10% of the revenue to the club, and/or we can work with clubs on printable maps that their businesses can pay to be on. We are also hoping we can get more clubs to link to the maps from their club page. (There is no cost to do that, and it is a huge help for us.)

We have improved the way we map events. If a partner club has any events they would like on the map, just forward me the information and we can add it to the map. People will see the event on the map as a dot (more than a month out), a star (within a month), and large star (within a week). For events at a location on the map, (for example a ride starting from a sno-park), we can highlight the sno-park and add a link to the event details.

Questions or comments, contact me at:

jennifer@washingtonhometown.com

BlueRibbon Coalition announces Yellowstone Snowmobile Adventure Sweepstakes

To support snowmobile legal challenge

Contact: Jack Welch, BRC Snowmobile Ambassador,
j4442welch@comcast.net



BLUERIBBON
COALITION

The BlueRibbon Coalition (BRC) recently launched a Yellowstone Snowmobile Adventure Sweepstakes to raise money for the legal challenge to excessive snowmobiling closures in the Stanislaus National Forest. The four-night, five-day excursion to West Yellowstone is provided by Three Bears Lodge and includes guided excursions by snowmobile into Yellowstone National Park and the surrounding National Forest.

"BlueRibbon Coalition has long been recognized as a leading organization that fights for snowmobile access to public land," BRC Snowmobile Ambassador, Jack Welch, said. "It was BRC's legal efforts that made it possible to continue riding snowmobiles into Yellowstone National Park, and now those who have benefitted from this decision want to give back to the broader snowmobile community."

Funds raised through the sweepstakes will go to a legal challenge that was made by the Sierra Snowmobile Foundation, BlueRibbon Coalition, and the American Council of Snowmobile Associations to challenge a Forest Plan in California that closes 500,000 acres out of 700,000 acres in the Stanislaus National Forest.

"The Stanislaus plan was one of the first Forest Plans to be finished after a 2015 rule required our National Forests to develop snowmobile management plans. This first plan used problematic snow depth requirements, unreasonable seasons of use restrictions, and unnecessary wildlife protections, to justify far too many acres of closure", BRC Executive Director, Ben Burr said. "This is the biggest legal challenge for snowmobile access since the Yellowstone fight, and we want to remind everyone why these experiences are worth fighting for. We hope the chance to win an exclusive trip to Yellowstone in the winter will remind everyone in the snowmobile community what is at stake."

Anyone can enter the sweepstakes to win a trip to Yellowstone by visiting the sweepstakes homepage: www.sharetrails.org/sweepstakes.

Ticket entries to the sweepstakes will be allocated based on donation amounts. This is a great way to give back to the sport of snowmobiling and support the organizations fighting to keep your winter adventures alive.

WSSA Trail Grant

Selkirk Trailblazers clear trails with new saw purchased with WSSA Grant

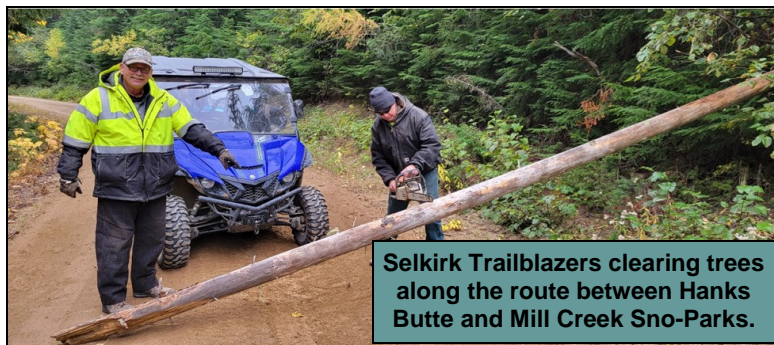
By Bryan Ford, Club Secretary

Hello everyone! Its been a long time since we published anything so be patient!

Yes, the Selkirk Trailblazers are still kicking along and gearing up for a fun winter and doing snow dances all over the place!

We had a great summer full of activities including the Snowmobile Watercross as part of the annual Down River Days celebration in Lone, to our final ATV/side-by-side ride to Chewelah in October; it was a good year!

In preparation for the upcoming snowmobile season, some trail clearing work was done by club members in October which consisted of removing trees which would interfere with grooming along the route from the Hanks Butte Sno-Park up to the Mill Creek Sno-Park near the Beaver Lodge. The work was made much easier following the purchase of a new club chainsaw and supplies made possible by a WSSA grant. Huge thanks to grant chairman Jim Kingman and all those who make that stuff possible.



Selkirk Trailblazers clearing trees along the route between Hanks Butte and Mill Creek Sno-Parks.

As we get ready for the snowmobile season, please check your maps and look at the new Hanks Butte Sno-Park location. This area was a U.S. Forest Service parking area for years but in 2021 we were able to get it recognized as a sno-park by the state. This sno-park is a couple miles southwest of Lone and offers access to some great riding, tying in to the Mill Creek groomed trail system and offering access all the way over to Calispell Peak. Very good riding is available and usually we don't have too much traffic on the trails so it is just a fun relaxing place to ride!

Have a safe and healthy winter season and if you need any info on the area over here, hit us at selkirk-trailblazers@gmail.com.

**Make New Friends,
Join a
Snowmobile Club**



**You'll Never
Ride Alone**

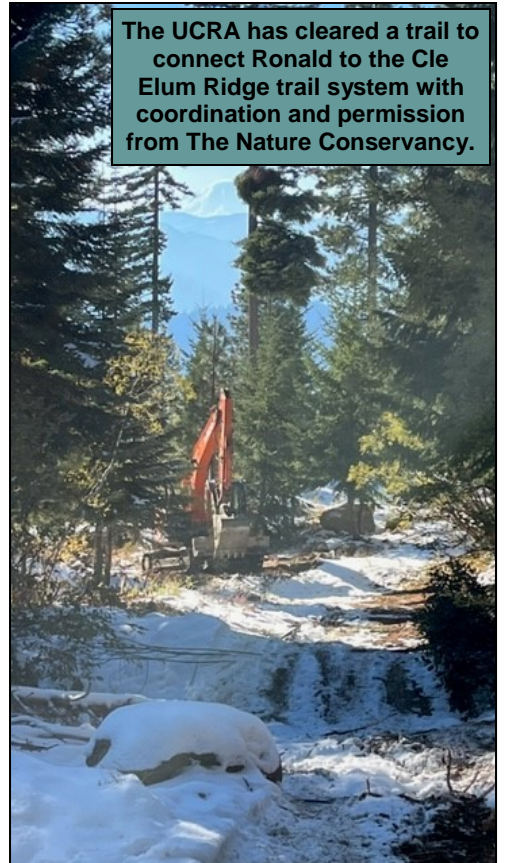
UCRA opens connector trail between Ronald and Cle Elum Ridge trail

Information submitted by Jason Holmes, WSSA District 5N Rep.

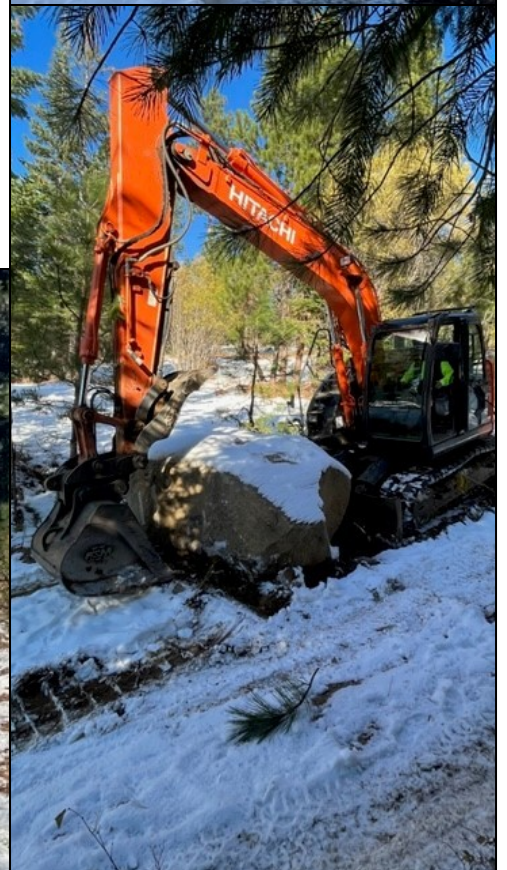
The Upper County Recreation Association (UCRA) has been working with The Nature Conservancy for quite some time now regarding The Patrick Mine Road/Trail in the upper county. This trail is approximately two miles long and connects Ronald to the Cle Elum Ridge trail system. The Memorandum of Understanding with The Nature Conservancy will allow motorized recreation for winter activity only. The recent maintenance on the trail will also allow for groomer access.

The Upper County Recreation Association worked many long hours to ensure this project was a success for the snowmobiling community. UCRA received \$11,000 in grants for this project. UCRA is extremely appreciative to Polaris and Washington State Snowmobile Association for recognizing the value of this project and awarding the much needed grant funding for this project.

UCRA would like to give special thanks to The Nature Conservancy for partnering with us on this project. Also, a tremendous thank you to Ben Chavez with BKC Construction for allowing the use of his excavator. This project would have been extended for weeks with smaller equipment. Thank you Ben! As always, thanks to the volunteers who made this project a tremendous success.



The UCRA has cleared a trail to connect Ronald to the Cle Elum Ridge trail system with coordination and permission from The Nature Conservancy.



State Parks Update



State Parks Winter Recreation Program

By Corey Tolar, Winter Recreation Program Manager



Preparing for the Season

The Winter Recreation Staff is hard at work getting ready for the rapidly approaching winter season preparing new contracts, processing amendments, and providing necessary signs and poles to agencies and clubs that need them. In between our administrative duties, staff has attended the Spokane Snow Show and the Leavenworth Snowfest. As this was my first time to attend these shows I was impressed by the dedication, time, and effort it took to put on these successful shows. Since I am still trying to find my footing as the program manager, I appreciate the support and encouragement shown to me and the staff these past few months. I can see the passion you have for snowmobiling and look forward to another great season. As a reminder be sure to check road and avalanche conditions, put new batteries in your beacons, have plenty of snacks and water, and let someone know where you are going and when to expect you back. We want everyone to have a great time on the trails, but more importantly, to return safely.

Staff Update

It has been a challenge to fill the Administrative Assistant 3 position on the Winter Recreation staff but an offer was made to a candidate, and the offer was accepted with a conditional start date of December 1st. So, barring any unforeseen circumstances and approval by HR, we should be fully staffed in December and ready to go for the upcoming season.

Snowmobile Advisory Committee (SMAC) Board Members Needed

The SMAC seeks candidates from Area 2 which represents Okanogan, Chelan, Douglas, and Grant counties; Area 3 which represents Ferry, Stevens, Pend Oreille, Lincoln, and Spokane counties; and Area 4, which represents

Pierce, Thurston, Lewis, Cowlitz, Skamania, Clark, Mason, Pacific, and Grays Harbor counties. The committee also seeks an at-large candidate to represent non-motorized winter sports enthusiasts. If you or someone you know is interested in serving on the SMAC, please contact the Winter Recreation Program at winter@parks.wa.gov or call 360-902-8684.

Snowmobile Registrations

As you can see by the chart below, snowmobile registrations are currently down 923 from last year at this time. We need everyone to register their snowmobile and be sure to pass the word around. Remember when you register your snowmobile you get a free sno-park permit.



Winter Recreation Contact Information

E-mail: winter@parks.wa.gov Phone: (360) 902-8684

Visit
the State Parks Winter Recreation Page at
<https://www.parks.wa.gov/130/Winter-recreation>
for
Sno-Park Info,
Mobile Friendly Maps,
Updated Grooming Map,
and Other Useful Information

Snowmobile Registrations

	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY 22-23 Difference
July	149	145	134	148	166	151	186	147	(39)
August	531	676	782	2,307	222	249	1,291	636	(655)
September	2,968	3,145	2,946	1,682	2,974	3,220	3,418	3,385	(33)
October	1,662	2,139	2,489	1,882	3,357	3,189	2,274	2,078	(196)
November	3,129	3,362	4,360	2,960	2,372	5,009	2,860		
December	11,575	13,170	6,973	8,320	6,726	7,229	7,681		
January	3,528	3,196	3,358	3,433	4,514	3,295	3,337		
February	1,164	1,513	1,166	1,602	1,293	1,541	1,072		
March	298	686	674	958	355	636	449		
April	82	181	175	258	89	219	153		
May	32	93	93	90	135	108	116		
June	30	84	71	83	126	179	92		
Total:	25,148	28,390	23,221	23,723	22,329	25,025	22,929	6,246	(923)

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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 Share your stories and photos: AdventureAwaits.com

News

ISMA Grant Program Reaches \$1.54 Million in Awards

By Ed Klim, President, ISMA



The members of the International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association (Arctic Cat, BRP, Polaris, and Yamaha) are pleased to announce this year the ISMA Grant Program will award over \$44,000 in grants being distributed to 15 Organizations in the United States and Canada. The organizations are active members of The Canadian Council of Snowmobile Organizations (CCSO) or The American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA). The ISMA Grants are awarded to the state and provincial associations based on their support of key issues of importance in the grant process.

The ISMA Grant process includes but is not limited to: Supporting efforts which enable snowmobilers to continue snowmobiling in regions and riding areas enjoyed by enthusiasts.

Supporting and participating in Legislative Enlightenment Rides for elected local, federal, provincial, and state representatives.

Supporting introductory rides for non-snowmobilers have also been realized through the grant program.

The promotion of the Safe Riders! campaign and the Take the Pledge program – highlighting snowmobile safety and staying on designated trails and legal riding areas.

In this year's allocation of ISMA Grants, ISMA was pleased to support Search and Rescue educational projects along with continuing to expand and support safe snowmobiling in avalanche country.

The ISMA Grant program began in the year 2001 and to date ISMA has awarded over \$831,000 in grants to state snowmobile associations and over \$720,000.00 in grants to provincial associations! Well over \$1.54 million dollars has been distributed to snowmobile associations in North America supporting key activities that support organized snowmobiling. The manufacturers of ISMA are pleased to note that matching funds raised by the Associations in performing these activities has generated over \$2 million dollars in economic investments in the organized snowmobile community. These investments help to improve our riding areas, our trails, and safety training. Our joint interaction on the grant program supports the snowmobiling community in so many important ways.

The ISMA Grant program has been successful in accomplishing many small to mid-range construction projects, improving riding areas, trailheads, and more, as well as dramatic expansion in the Safe Riders! You make snowmobiling safe Campaign. Thanks to all who have participated in the grant program and who joined the manufacturers in supporting the continuation and expansion of the program.

WSSA Winter Rendezvous Yakima February 17th - 20th

Guided Rides

Friday-Sunday

Information / Sign up @ Check-in

Different rides for:

extreme/family trail/easy off-trail



Rendezvous Pricing

Dinners

Friday and Saturday Night at the

Yakima Valley Museum

Friday \$30/Saturday \$30

Includes Entry to Museum

Home2 Suites

Yakima, WA

Rates \$119/Night

Reservations

(509) 453-1806

Registration Form

Last Name _____ First _____ Spouse _____

Children Names/Ages _____

Mailing Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone # () _____ E-Mail _____

Friday Night Dinner \$30 (Under 7 Free) #Adults _____ x \$30 = Sub Total \$ _____

Saturday Night Banquet \$30 (Under 7 Free) #Adults _____ x \$30 = Sub Total \$ _____

Total Amount \$ _____

Method of Payment: Check or Credit Card (Visa/Master Card only)

Make payment out to WSSA and mail form to:

Fred Pitzer
P.O. Box 668
Yakima WA 98907
(509) 534-3417

Credit Card # _____

Expiration Date _____ CVV (3 or 4 digits) _____

Name on Card _____

Signature _____

ACSA E-News

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



Snowmobile Club To The Rescue!

This fall the leadership and volunteers of the Gogebic Range Trail Authority - ORV and Snowmobile Club in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan were shocked when they realized the new owners of a local ski resort were not going to honor the lease agreement for the snowmobile trail that crossed their property.

Disappointment sent the volunteers into action to find a new route so snowmobilers would be able to access food and gas and not leave a big hole in a major trail.

Hard work and lots of conversations later -- they have submitted their proposal to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for review and approval.

Good work Gogebic Snowmobilers and ORVers! Thanks for your dedication!

Will the Biden Administration Go Around Congress For The 30 x 30 Program?

Soon after taking office, President Biden committed to conserving 30% of America's lands and waters by 2030, an ambitious goal aimed at protecting wildlife while slashing planet-warming emissions.

With Republicans set to take control of the House, the next Congress appears unlikely to pass major legislation that would deliver on this goal. But Biden can still fulfill his commitment to conservation if he acts with urgency and wields his executive authority, according to a report shared with The Climate 202 before its broader release on Tuesday.

The report can be found here: <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/executive-action-vs-the-nature-crisis-top-8-opportunities/>

U.N. Summit Marks the Latest Hurdle in Kerry's Long Climate Crusade

In the wake of the U.N. Climate Change Conference in Egypt, known as COP27, U.S. climate envoy John F. Kerry has a mixed record as the face of America's response to climate change on the international stage, The Washington Post's Timothy Puko and Steven Mufson report.

Kerry, 78, faced criticism at COP27 from poor countries that said the United States was not matching its climate rhetoric with action. But by the end of the summit, Kerry, who negotiated virtually in the final hours after contracting covid-19, helped reverse the United States' past resistance to creating a fund to help developing countries cope with the ravages of climate change.

Still, Kerry failed to garner enough support for his push to include language in the final agreement calling for phasing out all fossil fuels and implementing stronger emissions-cutting plans. Kerry and President Biden have also been unable to persuade Congress to approve climate finance for developing countries, even though the administration has pledged to deliver \$11.4 billion annually by 2024.

Rail Strike Coming?

The rail unions recently announced the rejection of a tentative contract agreement negotiated by the Biden administration, raising a risk of a walkout on December 9th.

A strike will pose supply chain challenges because railroads transport around 1/3 of U.S. freight, including food, packaged goods, fuel and car parts that cannot be shipped by other means.

The nation's drinking water and wastewater systems are warning that a nationwide rail strike could snarl shipments of critical chemicals like chlorine and imperil their ability to provide safe drinking water and sewage services across the nation.

A union strike could cost the U.S. economy up to \$2 billion per day, according to an estimate from the Association of American Railroads. Roughly 40% of the nation's long-distance freight is moved by rail—more than any form of transportation—and a strike could stop more than 7,000 trains from operating.

What rail workers want: The standard paid time off (PTO) for freight railroads is 1 week for 1 year of service, 2 weeks for 2 years, 3 weeks for 8 years and 4 weeks after 17 years of service. PTO is an issue for sick time, doctor appointments and other time off, especially with often requiring employees to work more than 12 hour shifts and being on call 24/7.

Union leaders said they pushed for 15 paid sick days, but the proposed deal included only one day. Rail workers are also seeking the right to take unpaid sick days, and the proposal did not include any, Union President Tony Cardwell said in a public statement.

Over the past 6 years, railroads have cut nearly 1/3 of their workforce -- 45,000 jobs -- forcing the remaining workers to often be on-call 24/7, according to the rail unions.

In an effort to save money, the railroads have been pushing for a single-man crew the last few years, leaving only the engineer to staff the entire train which creates another issue for the unions. This is another issue with the union members.

Join in the Fun!

The leadership of the American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA) Trails Riding Region and the Mountain Riding Region are mixing up some riding fun with meetings. We would love to have you join!

The Trails Region will be holding their meetings and rides in Watersmeet, MI, February 3rd-5th.

Make your reservations at the Northern Waters Resort and Casino - (906) 358-4949 and ask for the ACSA Room Block for rates of \$109/Thursday and \$129/Friday and Saturday.

The Mountain Region will be in Alpine, WY, at the Flying Saddle Resort.

The meeting will be Friday, February 24th, and the rides will be Thursday, February 23rd, and Saturday, February 25th.

Reservations can be made by calling (307) 654-4422 and ask for the room block ACSA23 for the room rates starting at \$129/night.

Natural Resource Committee Chair is a Forester

With Republicans taking control of the U.S. House of Representatives, Congressman Bruce Westerman (R-AR) is poised to lead the House Natural Resources Committee. A forester

(Continued on page 29)



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

ACSA E-News *Continued...*

(Continued from page 28) and engineer by trade, he was just re-elected to his fifth term.

"My priorities on the committee will be aligned with our Republican majority priorities, and I will specifically be focused on issues under the jurisdiction of our committee including domestic energy and mineral production, streamlining the environmental permitting processes to make policies like NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) and ESA (Endangered Species Act) work for both the environment and the economy, forest management, water, federal lands and parks, wildlife and fisheries, and working with our tribal partners and U.S. territories to address their myriad of relationships and policies with the federal government," Westerman said.

The True Cost of Wildfire

The True Cost of Wildfire in the Western U.S. 2022 Report describes the full range of costs associated with wildland fire in the Western U.S. to help inform leaders and policymakers working to improve wildfire response and mitigation.

Wildfire cost information has, in the past, primarily focused on suppression costs and structure losses; however, as this report shows, there are many other types of costs relating to values such as human health, water supply, transportation, the labor market, and local economics, among others. These less-recognized costs are massive in aggregate.

You can read the full report here: https://www.thewflc.org/sites/default/files/True%20Cost%20of%20Wildfire_For%20Web_0.pdf

EPA Touts \$53B Investment to Monitor Air Pollution

Recently the EPA said that it would be able to fund 132 projects for monitoring air pollution in 37 states after recent legislation passed Congress.

The funds, from both the COVID-19 stimulus package and the climate, tax and health care bill, will cover the grants.

"This is the largest investment in air pollution monitoring in EPA's history," EPA Administrator Michael Regan told reporters.

Communities in 37 states will be assisted in efforts to monitor for pollutants including particle pollution and smog, which both cause lung issues, as well as other substances including a carcinogen called ethylene oxide that's used to sterilize medical devices.

Did You Know?

Ambitions for an American-made electric vehicle (EV) industry have a graphite problem. A key ingredient in the modern EV battery, graphite is used in making rechargeable cells. But it hasn't been mined in this country for decades. There's also synthetic graphite — often made with coking coal — but little production exists today in the United States. Like with so many parts of the battery supply chain, China dominates in production of both kinds of graphite — a source the Biden Administration and a bipartisan contingent of lawmakers in Congress have stridently turned against.

To get around this, the Biden administration may now have to help prop up a domestic graphite mining and refining industry in the United States, while fostering the sector's growth abroad.



Are You Following Us?

www.facebook.com/AmericanCouncilofSnowmobileAssociations

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

SNOWMOBILE RENTALS IN WASHINGTON

Chewack River Guest Ranch

(Methow Valley/Winthrop)

(509) 996-2497

www.chewackranch.com

CJ Marine

(Lake Wenatchee Area)

(Lake Wenatchee Area)

(206) 878-8668

www.cj-rentals.net

Leavenworth Snowmobile Rentals

(Leavenworth)

(509) 763-0333

www.leavenworthsnowmobilerentals.com

Motortoyz

(Cle Elum)

(509) 674-6807

www.motortoyrentals.com

Mountain Springs Lodge

(Lake Wenatchee/Leavenworth)

Tours Only

(800) 858-2276

www.mtsprings.com

Red Ace's Customs & Rentals

(Mossyrock - Orr Creek Sno-Park)

(360) 880-1608

www.redacesrents.com

Ride Finesse

(Ravensdale)

(206) 883-4635

www.ridefinesse.com

Sharkey's Watercraft & Snowmobile Rentals

(Chelan)

(509) 687-2312

www.lakechelanonline.com/rentals.html

The Last Resort

(Ronald/Roslyn/Cle Elum)

(509) 649-2222

www.thelastresortwa.com

List compiled by Florence Mohler, WSSA Tourism Chair.
Please call (800) 784-WSSA (9772) with tourism questions or updates to this listing.

Note: WSSA does not endorse any business listed. WSSA provides this list only as a courtesy. Please report any errors in listing to Florence Mohler at (800) 784-9772.

Matt's Misc.

Print editions are tough! Did you know the pages count has to be divisible by four? So this issue was either going to be 28 or 32 pages. Costs more to print 32 of course. And if I only have content for 29 pages, what do I fill the other three with? So adjustments are made. I actually could have spread this one to 32 pretty easily, but my Snoflyer budget is happier at 28. We need more advertisers to do more pages. **Not complaining; we're doing better with ad sales this year than last!** Even if you read the print issue, you may want to check out the digital. (Or vice versa.) They will be laid out a bit different and content may change.

Snoflyers in warming huts. Starts with this issue. Several clubs are participating and I appreciate it!

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan needs your comment!

The DRAFT Washington State Recreation Plan has been released for comment. Previous plans have been pretty light on winter recreation, particularly snowmobiling, as they have basically treated snowmobiling under a category (winter activities/sports, or something like that) which was an umbrella/catch all for all winter activities. The draft is available for comment until December 18th. Please share this with others. Follow the link: <https://wa-rco-scorp-2023-wa-rco.hub.arcgis.com/pages/draft-plan>

Is this another Polaris recall?! It hit online media just a few days ago. "Polaris Industries recalls some snowmobile models due to fire hazard." The affected models are MATRYX model years 2021 through 2023, AXYS model years 2015 through 2022 and certain 2013 and 2014 Pro-Ride snowmobiles. There have been 30 reports of fuel tanks bursting, including 16 incidents of fire. The company recommends owners of the recalled snowmobiles stop using them and schedule a free repair. If a machine needs to be moved the tank should be full. Visit www.polaris.com/en-us/off-road-recalls for details.

Taiga snowmobile named to Time Magazine's 'Best Inventions of 2022'. It was their Nomad electric snowmobile. Time solicited nominations from their editors and correspondents, and through an online application process, paying special attention to growing fields—such as the electric vehicle industry, green energy, and the metaverse. TIME then evaluated each contender on a number of key factors, including originality, efficacy, ambition, and impact.

By Matt Mead,
Publicity Secretary

Polaris donates \$110,000 to off-road and snowmobile clubs with T.R.A.I.L.S. grants. Combined with its earlier spring grant recipients, they have donated nearly \$230,000 this year, and more than \$3 million since the program began. The grants were awarded to 11 non-profit organizations to support the development, improvement, and expansion of trails, and help to educate riders on safe and responsible riding practices. Here in Washington, Wenatchee-based TREAD received an award. Other locations earning grants include Kingfield, ME; Mt. Chase, ME; Millinocket, ME; Robbinston, ME; Saint Helen, MI; Emily, MN; Bethany, OK; Sayner, WI; Summerside, PEI; and Humboldt, SK. So... maybe Washington snowmobilers need to step it up...

New avalanche backpack expected to increase victim's survival window from 15 to 90 minutes.

Avalanche caused deaths aren't from a lack of oxygen, but from carbon dioxide poisoning. This new backpack pumps oxygen into the snow around the victim's mouth and pushes away carbon dioxide. In reading about this new backpack, what I'm not seeing is an inflatable section for 'floating'. Hopefully that version is in the works. The Safeback SBX, invented by a Norwegian company, is set to release during the 2023/24 season.



BRP's Rotax engines are so good, even Iran wants them! Did you know Iran has been stealing Rotax engines from airplanes around the world for many years? It's true; they need them for their military drones and due to sanctions, can't buy them from the U.S., Canada or European Union. More than 130 Rotax 912 engines and six Rotax 914 engines have been stolen since 2000, mainly in Europe. Iranian drones with Rotax engines have been shot down in several conflicts, from Armenia to Libya. Produced since 1989, there have been over 50,000 sales of the Rotax 912.

Want to try snowmobiling? That was the title to a recent article in the Seattle Times. Well, at least the online 'Outdoors' section. Check it out here: <https://www.seattletimes.com/life/outdoors/want-to-try-snowmobiling-heres-what-you-need-to-know-to-get-going/>

Win a new sled and support the Pink Ribbon Riders! Last month I told you how

to enter to win a new Super Duty; wouldn't it be nice to throw a new sled in the back?

Well, it's a Polaris... and not a mountain sled...

But it's a '23 Polaris 850 VR1 valued at over \$17K. Would give you a nice trade-in for a new Doo! But seriously, tickets are limited and the money goes to a great cause. Drawing is February 27th, 2023. Buy tickets here: <https://www.pinkribbonriders.com/snowmobile-affle/?v=93b46a3fc67d>

Maybe you'd rather have a new trailer or \$5,000 cash?

How about taking a chance on the Super Raffle in support of the Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts. It's their annual fundraiser with the grand prize being a new 4-place enclosed Blizzard Trailer (or \$5K cash). Second prize is \$2,000 cash; third prize is \$1,000. Tickets can be purchased online. Deadline is April 13th, 2013. Visit <https://www.sledmass.com/affle/>

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



BLUERIBBON
COALITION

WSSA Awards



Submit your favorite snowmobiler, snowmobile couple, club president, club groomer, groomer coordinator and/or dealer/associate member for our annual awards. Let's acknowledge those who go above and beyond for snowmobiling!

Entry deadline is February 1st, 2023.

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