

Snoflyer

*The official publication of the
Washington State Snowmobile Association*

*December 2019
Volume 42*

***Wishing you a Merry Christmas
and a snowy New Year!***



***Inside: WSSA, Western Chapter & ISMC Scholarship winning essays
Wakepish Sno-Park warming hut upgrade
Snowmobile Program effects from Initiative I-976
Upper Yakima Basin Recreation Survey info***

*Photo courtesy of the International Snowmobile Manufacturers
Association - Annual Spring Snow Shoot*

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Idaho's Crown Jewel **PRIEST LAKE**

Photo credit: Gary Smith



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WSSA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership valid until August 31, 2020

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

FAMILY/INDIVIDUAL: (\$25)

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____ County: _____

Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____

of Registered Sleds: _____ Number of Riders: _____

Legislative District _____ Congressional District _____

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

Name of Business or Club: _____

Owner/Business Contact or Club Contact: _____

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

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

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

Phone: _____ Email: _____ Website: _____

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

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

Questions about WSSA? Contact: Dean Meakin, President
2928 N. Nevada
Spokane, WA 99207
E-mail: dean.meakin@wssa.us
(800) 783-WSSA or (509) 220-1001

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING YOUR SPORT

WSSA MEETINGS AND IMPORTANT EVENTS 2019/2020

WSSA Meeting Centennial Center, Cle Elum January 11th, 2020

Come get a mid-season update on WSSA projects, the grooming program, and whatever else may be going on. Meeting starts at 9am. Lunch available on site for additional cost.

WSSA All Trails to Olympia Day Olympia Capitol January 28th, 2020

Did you know we almost lost \$2 Million from our Snowmobile Program last spring? That would have eliminated our grooming program for this new season. This is why it is important to visit your legislators. Come to Olympia on January 28th. Details posted in the Snoflyer as the event draws near.

WSSA Winter Rendezvous Campbell's Resort, Chelan February 14th-17th, 2020

Join us for four days of fun in Chelan. Experienced off-trail riding groups as well as family-friendly trail rides. WSSA and the local clubs will set up rides you'll LOVE! Dinner on Friday and Saturday as well as some type of entertainment. Plenty to do in Chelan and a casino is nearby if you want to take a break from sledding. Join us!

WSSA Budget Meeting Location TBD March 14th, 2020

Season wrap-up. Find out what is planned for the upcoming summer and fall and help set WSSA's budget for the following year. Meeting starts at 9am.

International Snowmobile Congress Regina, Saskatchewan June 10th-13th, 2020

Take a vacation to Saskatchewan and become involved in snowmobiling at the international level! Find out how snowmobiling and snowmobile programs differ across the U.S. and Canada. A fun and educational time awaits! Visit www.snowmobilers.org/isc for details.

WSSA Summer Meeting & Campout Blu-Shastin RV Park, Peshastin (Blewett Pass) August 14th-16th, 2020

A fun family campout with meals provided Friday night through Sunday morning (for \$20 per person). Meeting starts at 9am on Saturday.

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Leadership

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



Well it is almost time to groom our trails, however it would be a good idea to have enough snow on the ground. I was talking to a friend of mine in Iowa last week and he shared with me the snow was great, however the corn is still on the stalks in the field they groom for snowmobiling. As you see each state has its problems. I say bring on the snow and let's go ride!

As you probably already know, Initiative 976 has passed which will change our snowmobile registration to \$30 annually. That said, **what is our next step?** Well I'm glad you asked. This initiative is going to reduce our State revenue to the tune of about \$4 billion and our snowmobile funds about a half-million dollars. As you can see, we are a very small part of the picture. About .000125%. This is big for us! And nothing to everyone else. The implementation coming up in December is for the most part inevitable. It really is out of our hands and was never within our reach to change. We are now in a holding pattern, waiting for the outcome of what others such as Seattle and King County are possibly going to attempt to do. Our next step is to continue to do what we have always done, **'protect our dedicated account'**. With the drastic need for monies in the other areas, there will be a competition to grab up anything that is on the books. This is commonly called 'sweeping'. We are more vulnerable than ever before! I know we have a little time between now and when the legislature will be in session. We need to use this time wisely. **1. Keep a positive attitude. 2. Work this out as a team effort. 3. Guard our funds. 4. Be open to other funding suggestions when the smoke clears.**

Let's not let history determine our future: As you recall a few years back when WSSA was petitioning to raise the registration fee from \$30 to \$50, we found ourselves in a standoff. Half of the WSSA membership wanted the increase and half did not. As a result, WSSA took a huge hit in membership. Our membership has been slowly growing the past couple of years. We are going to once again find ourselves in the same situation! Why do I say this? The simple fact is many of the WSSA membership voted for I-976 and many of the WSSA membership voted against I-976. **This is everyone's right no matter the outcome! Now WSSA represents about 25,000 registered snowmobilers and they also have the right to vote their convictions.** This should teach us that our plan of attack is flawed in that we can't get a united user group with our current methods. That is why number '4' above is so important. We need to have a greater number of snowmobilers in agreement. Through ACSA, I work with presidents from over 20 states here in the U.S. and there are lots more funding ideas that we have not pursued. My challenge goes out to all of our WSSA District Reps to collect thoughts and ideas from the snowmobilers in your area and bring this with you to the January meeting in Cle Elum. This is our best chance to find a common plan for fundraising that is more agreeable than arguable.

Now is the time if you have never been, to go to Olympia and be a voice for the snowmobilers. I am still hopeful we will have a record attendance at All Trails to Olympia Day in January. Protecting our dedicated fund is a full-time job for every snowmobiler in this state! Not just WSSA, our lobbyists and a few club members.

We are still trying to 'build bridges' and not 'walls' this year. Please visit your dealers, associates and other user groups to talk to them about partnering with WSSA. There is strength in numbers! Go WSSA! Go outdoor recreation! Go talk to them! Please!

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



With the three snowmobile shows over, we can look forward to preparing for winter. Once we get our homes ready, we can focus on getting our toys ready to go out and play!

If you are looking for someone to ride with, you should check out the list of clubs in the state in the Snoflyer and give them a call. The clubs are always welcoming to new people and will guide you through their favorite riding areas.

The WSSA January meeting will be at the Senior Center in Cle Elum. We should have a list of people who are running for election. The officer positions up for election are: President, Vice President, Publicity Secretary, and Membership Secretary. We started voting on-line last year and will continue to do so this year. We felt that all members should have a say in who is representing them and this was the best way for all our members across the state. Before, it seemed that only the people who attended our annual meeting were voting. If anyone would like to put their name in for any of the above positions, please contact Jim Kingman, our Past President and Nominations Chair, at (509) 698-3658 or mtnmax777@yahoo.com.

Next we will have our Winter Rendezvous at Campbell's Resort in Chelan February 14th-17th. This event offers three days of snowmobiling with guided rides on Friday through Sunday. This is also when we have our awards banquet to honor the Club, Club President, Groomer, Dealer and Snowmobiler of the year. If you know someone worthy of any of those awards, contact Ronna Younie at (509) 698-5619 or ronna.younie@wssa.us. I'm hoping several people will step up and nominate worthy individuals for their hard work in helping make our sport better.

I hope to see you on the snow!

District Reports



District 2 South

By Matt Kensrud
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Reporting for District 2 South - Well, the snow shows are over; hope everyone has their sleds and snowbikes ready; its coming.

Business in the district - The Chelan club has posted there Christmas party event for December 6th at the Lakeside Lodge. This year the Wally Peterson Memorial Drag Races are on January 25th.

The Wenatchee Apple Country club has finished the snow cat maintenance and are ready for the season.

The Bavarian Boondockers hosted their big event, Snow Fest 8. What a great turnout; all the clubs from the district were there, along with Washington State Parks and WSSA. Their warming hut is on the mountain and stocked with wood.

The Lake Wenatchee Rec Club has posted their events on there website; go check them out.

Feel free to e-mail me with any questions.



District 3

By Greg Figg

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(509) 534-3417

Greetings everybody from Northeast Washington!

Well it is the end of November with the WSSA Expo and Winter Knights Snow Shows both now in the history books. It was encouraging to see increased attendance this year and to hear vendors at both shows reporting very good sales!

In the Spokane area we are hoping for a great winter. Some have already been out riding at Roman Nose in Idaho this year with the snow that fell early in the season. So it looks like the riding season in NE Washington cannot be very far away.

I would encourage everyone to attend the WSSA Winter Rendezvous this year at Campbell's Resort at Lake Chelan. It is over President's Day weekend which is February 14th-17th. Please see this edition of the Sno-Flyer for more information and the sign up sheet.



District 4 North

By Jim Bauer
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(360) 508-9855

As Christmas approaches I hope everyone is pulling their sleds out and getting ready for the winter season.

I attended the annual open house at Clem's Enumclaw Powersports and saw many of you purchasing new gear and the obligatory yearly supply of oil, as well as a good number of new sleds heading out the door! It was a great open house with lots of prizes and good food - even if the sled blow up was a bit anti-climactic this year, biting the dust in under 10 seconds.

Junco's management of the Blue Lot at the WSSA Snow Show was a great success. The club appreciates all of the generous donations for the WSSA Legal Action fund.

Several members came out to assist with installing the new floor in the snow hut at the Wakepish Sno-Park. Look for a separate article and pictures on that great project!

Upcoming events: Junco plans to hold its annual Charity on the Snow event the weekend of January 18th and 19th. All proceeds of that event go to the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

The Sno-Jammers have been busy over the last couple of months with several work parties. Many members showed up to pick up trash along Forest Road 70 to the highway with over 1,000 pounds of trash removed including eight tires and a toolbox. The cabin at Government Meadows has also been restocked with wood for the winter. Good job Sno-Jammers!

Congratulations to Backcountry Plowing and Grooming for picking up the grooming contract for Wakepish, Marble Mountain and Cougar Sno-Park riding areas. Backcountry has done a great job for us in the Orr Creek Sno-Park area. If you haven't checked it out, go and follow Backcountry's Facebook page as they continuously update their page on riding conditions and grooming status.



District 5 South

By Rudy Classen
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Once again Mother Nature has been playing jokes on us. Heading over to the Snow Show in Puyallup we encountered lots of snow on the passes and everywhere at the show there was a buzz about an early season and lots of snow for us this year. But on the way home all the snow that contributed to the pass being closed was gone. The road wasn't even wet. Does that mean bye bye to an early and long season? Stay tuned, we will find out.

All our clubs have had their first and some second meetings; ride schedules have been set for some as well as events. Many of us from the Drift-A-Ways are planning on riding twice a week, once on Sunday and then again on Thursday. The Sunday ride will probably a good family ride with the illustrious Jim Kingman guiding while the Thursday ride very well could be a bit more technical with the adventurous Matt Mead doing most of the guiding. He is always looking for off-trail opportunities and sometimes is a bit hard to follow but what a blast.

The Ski-Benders are hard at work putting together their annual Crab Feed which is always held on the second Saturday at the Pomona Gun Club. This event is our area kick-off for the season and we have been told by numerous folks who have attended 'all you can eat' events throughout the Northwest that this one is the very best in the area. We have ordered 1,200 pounds of crab and a 100 pounds of prime rib. If the 300 attendees don't get enough to eat then they are talking too much and/or tending to other business. After eating there will be a raffle of many prizes.

I want to take the opportunity to thank State Parks and especially Pamela McConkey who works very closely with snowmobilers for getting out the information on the changes in the new snowbike regulations passed this last session. I recently visited all of the subcontractor license offices in my area to make sure they were aware of the changes and all were. In fact several indicated they had already sold tags for this season and everything went smoothly. This new law will make it possible for a rider who converts a street legal motor-

(Continued on page 8)

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Mt Baker Moto-Sports LLC	2111 Iowa St	Bellingham	WA	98229	www.mtbakermoto.com	360-676-4096
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Mountain Addiction	362 Porcupine Ln	Chelan	WA	98816	www.mountainaddiction.com	509-881-8016
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MotorToys Snowmobile Sales, Svc, Rentals	1313 Spansky Way	Cle Elum	WA	98922		509-674-6807
Sportland Yamaha Inc	4402 Bullfrog Rd	Cle Elum	WA	98922	www.sportlandyamaha.com	508-649-2259
The Cottage Cafe	911 East First St	Cle Elum	WA	98922	www.cottagecafecleelum.com	509-674-2922
Whispering Pines RV Park	100 Whispering Pines Dr	Cle Elum	WA	98922	www.whisperingpinescleelum.com	509-674-7278
Benny's Colville Inn	915 S Main St	Colville	WA	99114	www.colvilleinn.com	509-684-2517
Clark's Marine & Powersports	192 DeGrief Rd	Colville	WA	99114	www.clarkspowersports.com	509-684-4581
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Silver Ridge Ranch	182 Silver Ridge Ranch Rd	Easton	WA	98925	www.silverridgeranch.com	509-656-0275
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CJ Marine and Rentals	540 Bridges Ave S	Kent	WA	98032	www.cj-rentals.net	206-878-8668
Good Time Motors	7979 S 180th St	Kent	WA	98032		206-909-4997
Pacific Logging LLC	8425 123 rd Ave NE	Lake Stevens	WA	98258		425-508-9150
Greg's Motorsports	5817 184 th Ave Ct E	Lake Tapps	WA	98391		253-380-0558
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Pacific Mountain Services	22745 Brown Rd	Leavenworth	WA	98826		509-670-6665
Loon Lake Marina	41080 Marina Rd	Loon Lake	WA	99148		509-233-2303
Lynwood Motoplex	17900 Hwy 99	Lynnwood	WA	98046	www.motoplex.net	425-774-0505
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Pateros Trading/Rivers Restaurant	245 Lakeshore Dr	Pateros	WA	98846	www.howardsontheriver.com	509-923-2200
Blu-Shastin RV Park	3300 US Hwy 97	Peshastin	WA	98847	www.blushastin.com	509-548-4184
EWS Motorsports	3102 Airport Rd	Pullman	WA	99163	www.ewsmotorsports.com	509-332-6512
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Chet's Honda/Polaris	17 H Street SW	Quincy	WA	98848	www.chetshonda.com	509-787-3617
Roosterbuilt LLC	PO Box 166	Ravensdale	WA	98057	www.roosterbuilt.com	425-432-3278
Rainier Welding Inc	19020 NE 84th St	Redmond	WA	98053		425-868-1300
Sundance Landscaping	11609 172nd Ave NE	Redmond	WA	98052		425-533-6008
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Roadhouse @ The Last Resort	14254 Salmon LaSac Rd	Ronald	WA	98940		509-649-3125
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Life Support	PO Box 433	S. Cle Elum	WA	98943		509-260-0091
Dianes Tank Removal Services LLC	PO Box 77738	Seattle	WA	98177	www.dianestankremoval.com	206-510-9497
Trailside Homes	PO Box 4279	Seattle	WA	98194	www.trailsidehomes.com	
Empire Cycle & Powersports	7807 E Sprague Ave	Spokane Valley	WA	98212	www.empire-cycle.com	509-892-6368
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Wenatchee Power Sports	3031 G.S. Center Rd	Wenatchee	WA	98801	www.wenpow.com	509-665-6686
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Three Fingered Jacks	176 Riverside Ave	Winthrop	WA	98862	www.3fingeredjacks.com	509-996-2411
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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
Premier Power Sports	1504 Fruitvale Blvd	Yakima	WA	98902	www.premierpowersportswa.com	509-965-9889
VanAmburg Enterprises Inc	2920 River Rd Ste 1	Yakima	WA	98902	www.vanamburgent.com	509-225-6681
Out of State Supporting Businesses						
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Baum Shelter Too	131 Bemis Gulch Rd	Warren	ID		www.baumsheltertoo.com	208-636-4393
Cheap Thrills Rentals	303 N Third St	McCall	ID	83638	www.cheapthrillsrentals.com	208-634-7472
Elkins on Priest Lake	404 Elkins Rd	Nordman	ID	83848	www.elkinsresort.com	208-443-2432
Hill's Resort	4777 W Lakeshore Rd	Priest Lake	ID	83856	www.hillsresort.com	208-443-2551
Mountain Village Resort	Jct Hwy 21 & 75	Stanley	ID	83278	www.mountainvillage.com	800-843-5475
SK Northwest/Polaris of Portland	250 SE Division Pl	Portland	OR	97292	www.sknorthwest.com	503-238-2510

District Reports

(Continued from page 5) cycle to a snowbike to save roughly \$200 per year. If you or someone you know has difficulty with getting a tag this year for their snowbike, please inform your local WSSA representative.

If you do nothing else with you monthly Snoflyer, read what Matt Mead has to say. You will agree with me that he is very informed and has a wonderful way of expressing his thoughts. Matt has done a fabulous job for years with the Snoflyer and I for one look forward each month for his incites.

I hear so many times when talking to sledgers about joining WSSA that their feeling is that WSSA does nothing for them. That is just not true. This past issue Matt had a blurb about the two million dollars that was attempted to be stolen from our snowmobile account. WSSA saved that grooming money which is just one thing WSSA does for the sledgers. WSSA was also instrumental in getting the snowbike bill passed. It took two years but it happened. WSSA also calls on every state legislator every year and has been the leading instrument in getting more of our state gas tax money which by constitutional authority is dedicated to us but has in the past been used elsewhere by the legislature. For the longest time we only received **23 cents per gallon, but because of WSSA's** efforts we are not receiving 34.9 cents for every gallon that your sled uses. Currently the state gas tax is 49.4 cents per gallon. We have been promised the roughly 15 cents we are currently not getting but are entitled to will be getting to us when the programs/bonds it is supporting mature or end. We all know how short our legislators are on memory and that is the reason we must visit them each year. Take a day and join us, you will enjoy it.

Here in District 5 South there is a very important survey that needs to be taken by every snowmobiler and their family and friends who recreate in the Upper Yakima Basin. It wouldn't hurt if other snowmobilers from across the state took this survey as well. The first time I attempted to take this survey I found it to be a huge, difficult project that only a programmer could survive. However, there have been changes made to it and now even I who is almost computer illiterate can finish it in five minutes or less. Google "Upper Yakima Basin Survey" and it will be one of the first thing to pop up. We have some great riding areas and it would be a shame if we lost them because of a lack of interest when compared to the greenies. Thanks in advance for your help.



District 6

By Chris Shires

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(509) 521-5511

Both Pomeroy and Dayton clubs have started their respective club meetings and are in the process of putting together their respective calendar of events. Warming shacks are ready for use in both riding areas and now we wait for more snow.

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Club News



Apple Country Snowmobile Club

By Tim Downs

Greetings to all Snoflyer readers from the Apple Country Snowmobile Club - located high above the city of Wenatchee and on some of the finest groomed trails your snowmobile will ever grace.



Speaking of Wenatchee, Washington State Parks will be holding their winter SMAC (Snowmobile Advisory Committee) meeting here in January with some highly trained (and good looking) guides showing off the Colockum trail system. There has been particular attention paid to this area by the Stimilt Land-Use Committee affecting our winter recreation and it will be revisited again in two years.

Current efforts by the club:

Looks like we have perhaps another eight hours of maintenance on the snow cats. We have a day planned of brush and limb clearing on two of our minor trails and then we will be ready to groom December 15th. It just needs to snow a little bit more. Our first meeting will have happened by the time you read this and then we'll be gearing up for the club's Christmas party. Things are happening fast now.

On a personal note, I am very concerned about my Thanksgiving table which is currently covered in club business of laptop, briefcases, QuickBooks, notebooks, check-book, bills, papers, memberships, and the worker-be who does all this, my wife, is running off to Europe on a cruise with our daughter - and I'm nervous. But she promises to be home in time to heat the gravy!

I'd like to give a shout-out to Mitch of Cashmere Power Sports in Cashmere who maintains our machines every year. He's a nice guy who provides a great service to the community.



Our prayers are with club President, James Burts and family, as his father Everett Burts, transitions from here to heaven. Everett was one of the founding fathers of our club, joined WSSA in 1972, wrote our club by-laws and built this club for many decades. Jim proudly and passionately continues his fathers legacy.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas!



Tollgate Trail Finders

By Bob Smith,
Vice President

Tollgate Friends!
We had our first club board meeting of the season on November 2nd and took care of club business. This clears the way to concentrate on playing in the snow! A special thank you to Bob and Dottie Carrell for taking on and completing internal club business that has been lingering for years. All your efforts are greatly appreciated. The rest of the meeting was devoted to upcoming events. As we mentioned in our last newsletter OSSA has provided a new Tucker snowcat for grooming our trails. Our all-volunteer groomer team now has the



groomer safely tucked away and waiting for snow. We still have the 2008 Tucker snowcat and all the maintenance is completed and its ready to roll as well.

Upcoming events:

Kids' Snowmobile Safety Course – Dec 7th. Taught by Andy Millar. 9am to 2pm. Please e-mail Brandon at brandon@christensenusa.com to sign up. Send the child's name, age, contact phone number and mailing address. The class is offered free of charge by the Tollgate Trail Finders Snowmobile Club, however, membership (\$60) is encouraged and can be purchased the day of class. It is recommended for youth between the ages of 8 and 18. Food provided for attendees.

Boondockers 16 Premier – date and location to be determined. A fundraiser for the Wallowa Avalanche Center. Food, fun and watching the Boondockers 16 movie. Will be in the Tri-Cities. Watch our website and Facebook for updates.

Bluewood Ride – December 14th. Meet at the clubhouse at 8am. Led by Glenn Warren and Brandon Christiansen. Expert riders only; this is an extreme ride. Bring avalanche pack, beacon, shovel and probe. Dress for extreme weather conditions. Participants must be at least 18 years old. Pack gas; over a 90-mile round trip! Pack plenty of food in case we don't make it to the God-man Shelter for burgers provided by the Blue Mountain Snowmobile Club (by donation). Pack plenty of water. Come have fun!

Poker Run and Holiday Party – December 28th. At Trail Finders clubhouse. Poker Drawing Fun Run with over \$1,000 in cash and prizes. Chili and potato bar! Poker draw 9am to noon. Swing by the clubhouse for your poker hands. The Holiday Party starts at 6pm. Food, fun, cash and prizes; **doesn't get any better than that!** We are celebrating New Years a bit early this year. Fun for all ages!

(Continued on page 11)

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Club News

(Continued from page 9)

OSSA Winter Convention – January 14th - 18th. In Joseph, Oregon. Guided beginner to advanced rides Tuesday thru Friday. Socializing every evening; poker night after dinner Thursday; pizza night on Friday; delicious banquet on Saturday. Poker Run on Saturday. Book early as rooms are limited in the Joseph/Enterprise area. Registration due December 21st. www.oregonsnow.org/convention.

WSSA Winter Rendezvous – February 14th - 17th. Campbell's Resort on Lake Chelan. Join in for four days of fun in Chelan. Experienced off-trail riding groups as well as family-friendly trail rides. WSSA and the local clubs will set up rides you'll LOVE! Dinner on Friday and Saturday as well as some type of entertainment. Plenty to do in Chelan and a casino is nearby if you want to take a break from sledding. www.facebook.com/events/635621110307351

McCall Winter Getaway. The club is planning a winter getaway to McCall Idaho in mid February. This was a great success last year and it included UTVs as well as snowmobiles. Plan to attend; it should be a great time as McCall is a beautiful winter wonderland.

The Tollgate Trail Finders are looking forward to another great season of snowmobiling. The grooming team is ready to rock and roll when the snow arrives. Come and be a part of our snowmobile club and enjoy the weekend rides that usually originate at our club house around 9am.

Think snow and have a great year of sledding.

Your friends from the Tollgate Trail Finders Snowmobile Club.



Lake Wenatchee Rec Club

By Marilyn Mylius, Vice President

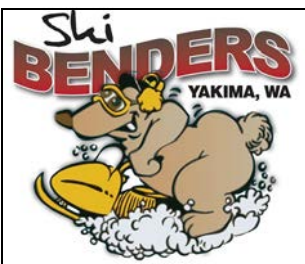
Fellow snowmobilers, please add these Lake Wenatchee Rec Club events to your calendar:

December 14th - Snowmobile Safety Class, 9am - 4pm, at the clubhouse; contact CCSO Rich Magnussen at (509) 667-6508 or rich.magnussen@co.chelan.wa.us for more info or see our Facebook page. No charge for class and lunch provided.

Dec. 14th - Lake Wenatchee Rec Club's Annual Christmas Party, 5pm - ?, main dish provided, bring potluck and white elephant gift for exchange. This event for members and guests.

January 25th - Club Snowmobile Ride, for members and guests.

February 15th - Annual Poker Ride - open to everyone! Buy \$5 hands from 8am to 9:45am at the Clubhouse.



Yakima Ski-Benders

By Liz Van Amberg, President

Greeting's from Yakima!

The Ski-Benders have been in full swing planning our annual Crab Feed. This is an awesome event and dates back forever! I

hear people say all the time it is their favorite crab feed!

Dee Alred and I went shopping and I want to (Continued on page 13)

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- - VACANT - -

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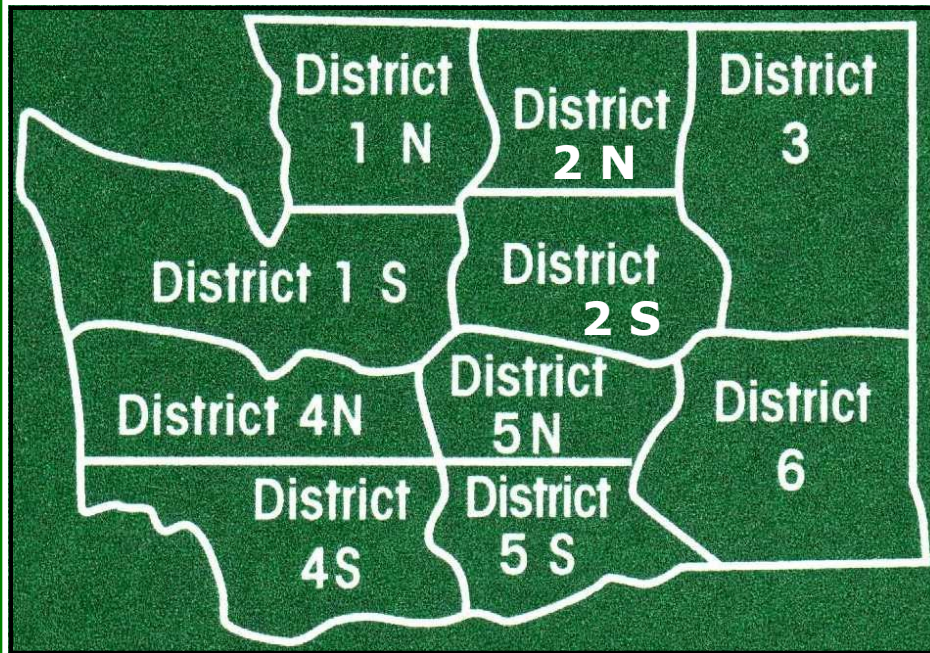
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Tracked ATV/UTV • Matt Mead
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Snowmobile Clubs



Note: Facebook addresses in blue

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

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[Northwest Glacier Cruisers](#)

Whatcom County Snowmobile Club

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whatcomsnowmobileclub@gmail.com
[Whatcom County Snowmobile Club](#)

District 1 South

(King County)

Cascade Drift Skippers

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[Cascade Drift Skippers](#)

District 2 North

(Okanogan/Ferry Counties)

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Bonaparte Snowmobile/ATV Club

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Butte Busters Snowmobile Club

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Crawfish Lake Snowmobile Club

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North Central ATV Club of WA

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

Tri-River Snowmobile Club

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[Tri-Rivers Snowmobile Club](#)

District 2 South

(Chelan/Douglas Counties)

Apple Country Snowmobile Club

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Bavarian Boondockers

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Lake Chelan Snowmobile Club

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[Lake Chelan Snowmobile Club](#)

Lake Wenatchee Recreation Club

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[SnoJammers](#)

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[Mt Adams Snowmobile Club](#)

Mt St Helens Trac Riders

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Reecer Creek Riders

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Drift-A-Way Snowmobile Club

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Yakima Ski-Benders

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Pacific Northwest

Pacific Northwest Vintage Snowmobile Club

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Vintage Snowmobiles of the Inland N.W.

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Club News

(Continued from page 11)

give a huge shout out to our local dealers **Owen's Cycle and Premier Power Sports**.

Our club has received their support for many years, so this year we bought from them and they gave to us; without them we could not put on the huge raffle we have every year.

Come join us December 14th at the Pamona Gun Club at 7pm. Tickets are \$35; contact a Ski-Bender to get one! (Buy early; this event will sell out!) Thank you Ron and Dee Alred, for coordinating this great event!

Look for all our other events on Facebook.

Heather Rockwell has started a very cool project collecting beanies (stocking caps). She is going to distribute them to local schools to help the kids stay warm. If you have a beanie you would like to donate, please call (509) 225-6681 or drop by Van Amburg Enterprises and I will get them to her. Thank you Heather, this is an awesome idea!

Leesha Fuller and Don Wolfe are going to co-host the Kids Ride with us. They are Seth and Sara's parents. Mike Van Amburg and I are trying to get the younger generation involved to keep growing the sport of snowmobiling and snowmobile clubs! Thank you both for jumping on board.

Seth Ahlbrecht is gearing up for the Scavenger Hunt, which we have decided to combine with the Kids Ride this year.

From our club to your family, Merry Christmas!



Methow Valley Snowmobile Association

By Craig Stahl, President

Hopefully by the time this article gets published we will have snow on our trails and we are riding our hearts out. As of right now, no snow yet but

we are all ready to go for the season.

The new Starvation Hut has been placed on the trailer. Due to snow at the permitted location, we are unable to get it on the trail system. We will get the inside all ready for next season this summer. Special thank you to our members for helping get the project completed and CenturyLink for the donated building.

In September we had reports of a trench across our trail system in the Whiteface drainage area. We contacted the Forest Service and they went up and covered up the trench. We did not know there was a second trench where Whiteface Creek crosses the trail. A culvert was removed and it would not be possible for the groomer to get through. Working with the Forest Service again, they went back up and made the creek crossing passable for a groomer. Although there is no future forecast of what the creek is going to do now that is not contained by a culvert, we are hopeful no future issues will come since this is a burned area and washouts are possible. Thank you Methow Valley Ranger District for your efforts to keep our trail open. Think snow!



Winter Knights

By Greg Figg, President

The Winter Knights have been very busy with our snow show just wrapping up. We had a great show with another jump in attendance this year!

We are also working on the 2020 Win-

ter Rendezvous which you will see a flyer for in this month's Snoflyer.

Lastly, we are working on a benefit auction and ride for the Idaho Panhandle Avalanche Center. I have attached some photos of our snow show and the September snow at Roman Nose.

(Continued on page 14)



Spokane Snowmobile & Power Sports Expo: A great show with another jump in attendance this year!



September snow at Roman Nose.

Club News



(Continued from page 13) Northwest Glacier Cruisers

By Jessica Ronhaar

The Lighted Christmas Parade is December 8th. We'll meet at

3pm to decorate. Parade starts at 5pm.

The Northwest Glacier Cruiser Christmas party is December 14th, 6pm, at La Conner Steak House. \$33.00 per person, \$16.50 for kids 7-12, under 7 are free. Register online at www.northwestglaciercruisers.com.

The annual Glacier Cruisers Highway 20 ride is January 11th.

The Luke Rhode Memorial Ride is March 14th on Mt. Baker. There will be a raffle for a sled wrap and avalanche training scholarships.

Our warming huts are set at Blue Lake and Anderson Watson and ready for us to ride this season.

This was a great snow show season! Thank you to everyone who helped and everyone who came to the snow shows.



Tri-River Snowmobile Club

By Kurt Hensley,
President

The Tri-River Snowmobile Club is celebrating their 50th year of being a Washington state snowmobile club. It was started in 1969 by Steve Laughtenslauger, Steve Varrelman, Bill Meadows and Betty Wagoner. We are one of the first WSSA clubs and continue to be an active club and would like to thank all the past and current members for their support!

We have had several meetings, are looking forward to snow and a fun year of riding.

*Clubs:
Show us your LOGOs!*



Bavarian Boondockers

By Matt Kensrud,
President

A great start to the season; the club's big event, Snowfest 8, was off the hook! Biggest attendance ever with 890 people through the door. The club would like to thank all the vendors and exhibitors for attending the biggest little snow show in the world! Thank you to everyone who donated to the drawing.

The warming hut is on the hill and stocked with wood. Thank you everyone who came up to help.

Don't forget we are hosting the American Alpine Institute's snowmobile avalanche specific class in Leavenworth. The dates are January 17th-19th, February 7th-9th, and February 21st-23rd. Go to their website and look for snowmobile specific and get signed up. Check the Facebook page and the website for our event calendar.

(Continued on page 15)

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Club News



(Continued from page 14)

Pacific Northwest Vintage Snowmobile Club

By Kevin Hancock, Webmaster

On the weekend of November 9th, our members teamed up with the Vintage Snowmobiles of the Inland Northwest Snowmobile Club to join their FANTASTIC display at the Winter Knights 2019 Snowmobile and Powersports Expo in Spokane. We traveled from Western and Central Washington, and Montana to show our sleds. The display had a nice assortment of different manufactures and designs. From front and rear engine antiques, to vintage trail sleds, and race sleds.

Members of the Inland Northwest Vintage Snowmobile Club asked the public visiting the display to vote for their favorite antique or vintage snowmobile. They chose Clayton and Joyce Busch's expertly restored and hard to find 1968 Herter's Snowmobile with a 372cc JLO engine. This sled is kind of special because there were so few of these sleds around in the day. Congratulations Clayton and Joyce for such a beautiful restoration!

For our next event, we plan on meeting between Christmas and New Year at Trout Lake to ride in the Pinchot-Gifford National Forest near Mt. Adams. We use the weekend to test ride the old sleds we got running and want to ride this coming season. We also take out our newer sleds to make sure they are also ready. Now we have to wait for mother-nature and the weather to cooperate.

(Continued on page 16)



The PNWVSC and Inland Northwest Vintage Snowmobile Club teamed up and put on an outstanding vintage display at the Spokane Snowmobile and Power Sports Expo. We hope you enjoy the classic rides pictured on the next couple of pages.



Clayton and Joyce Busch's expertly restored and hard to find 1968 Herter's Snowmobile with a 372cc JLO engine.



Membership

Membership Matters

By Wayne & Florence Mohler, Membership Co-Chairs

Membership renewals and new sign-ups are continuing to come in with quite a bit of activity at both the Spokane Snowmobile and Power Sports Show and Snowfest in Leavenworth. Thanks to all who have renewed or signed up. For those who haven't joined WSSA or renewed yet, please do so right away.

We'll have several challenges facing us to keep our riding areas open with potential area closures related to the Over Snow Vehicle Rule and potential reintroduction of the Grizzly in the North Cascades. Maintaining adequate funding for the snowmobile program (for trail grooming, snow removal at sno-parks, etc) with the passage of I-976 and the proposed Road User Charge system that will probably do away with the fuel tax refund over time will also be a challenge. As snowmobilers, we will all have to be involved in coming up with ways to protect access and keep adequate funding for maintaining groomed trails and other infrastructure. Your membership and support are critically needed.

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 of our access to 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 under membership and do the renewal (or join as a new member) there.

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

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

Club News

(Continued from page 15)



(Continued on page 17)

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WSSA Rendezvous 2020

February 14th-17th

Guided Rides

Friday-Sunday

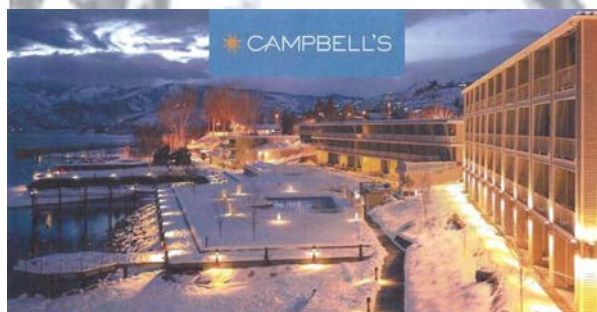
Information / Sign up @ Check-in

Rendezvous Pricing

Rooms From \$98

Use Code # 554541

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WSSA WINTER RENDEZVOUS 2020

FEBRUARY 14 - 16

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Sled Deck Raffle

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Awards Ceremony & Dinner (Fri & Sat Night)

Entertainment & Prizes

WSSA Rendezvous 2020

February 14th-17th

Registration Form

Last Name _____ First _____ Spouse _____

Children Names/Ages _____

Mailing Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # (____) _____ E-Mail? _____

Friday Night Dinner (Adults & Children 13+ @ \$40/each) (Children 7-12 @ \$15/each) Under 7 free

Adults _____ x \$40 = \$_____ + # Children _____ x \$15 = _____ Sub Total \$_____

Saturday Night Banquet (Adults & Children 13+ @ \$40/ea) (Children 7-12 @ \$15/ea) Under 7 free

#Adults _____ x \$40 = \$_____ + # Children _____ x \$15 = _____ Sub Total \$_____

Method of Payment: Check or Credit Card (Visa/Master Card only) TOTAL AMOUNT \$_____

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 _____

RENDEZVOUS PHOTO CONTEST

BRING YOUR BEST PHOTOS TO ENTER IN OUR ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST!

FIVE CATEGORIES INCLUDING:

WORST STUCK/SNAFU

VINTAGE

FAMILY

ACTION

SCENERY

PRINT THEM OUT AHEAD OF TIME OR WE CAN PRINT ON-SITE

JUDGED BY YOUR PEERS - GIFT CERTIFICATES TO YOUR FAVORITE RESTAURANTS AS PRIZES

(MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN)



WSSA Awards - Get your submissions in!

Every year WSSA presents awards to dedicated individuals in Washington's snowmobile community. The categories include 'Snowmobiler/Snowmobile Couple of the Year', 'Snowmobile Club President of the Year', 'Snowmobile Club of the Year', 'Snowmobile Dealer of the Year', and 'Snowmobile Groomer of the Year'.

Details and submission forms can be found at www.wssa.us under the 'Awards' tab on the left menu. Let's recognize these hardworking individuals!

Submission deadline is February 1st, 2020!

Safety with Jon

Riders, start your engines!

By Jon Ferrian — wssasafety101@gmail.com

Are you ready to rumble?!

Regardless of how you say it, it is time to get the final details of your sled season kicked off right! This month my lovely wife Edythe Ferrian recommended we talk about final preparations that should be considered before everyone goes out for their first ride!

Lets tackle all of this by category and provide some helpful tips that you might not have considered...

- Prepare your body!

- o You will enjoy sledding much more if you are eating right and exercising.

- ☐ Now might be the time to start a diet or exercise routine to get in shape for sled season! (This is one item that I definitely need to get kicked off quickly!)

- Prepare your mind!

- o Educate yourself.

- ☐ Take an avalanche awareness class and get in the right mindset before the season kicks off.

- ☐ Watch some great informational videos on YouTube or social media and start to learn riding techniques and safety tips so you can have a fun and safe sledding season!



☐ My favorite videos are some of Chris Burandt's and Bret Rasmussen's, and how can you not want to also binge watch some of my 'Jon Ferrian Live' safety and education videos!

- Prepare your team!

- o Have you joined a club?
 - o Who will you ride with this year?
 - o Have you and your fellow riding partners made any plans for sled trips yet?
 - o Have you and your team scheduled your avalanche training classes for this season yet?

- ☐ Visit www.nwac.us.

- ☐ Visit www.avtraining.org.

- ☐ Visit www.idahopanhandleavalanche.org.

- Prepare your sled!

- o Buy your sled registration and pick up your sno-park permit.

- o Bring your sled to your favorite local dealer for pre-season maintenance.

- o Do your own pre-season maintenance.

- ☐ Remove old fuel and add fresh fuel if not stabilized.

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THREE
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SALOON

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

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

Safety with Jon

(Continued from page 20)

- ☐ Check your belt for wear and replace if needed.
 ☐ Check your carbide runners and replace if needed.
 ☐ Check your lights and replace bulbs if needed.
 ☐ Check your throttle and brake operation.
 ☐ Check your track tension.
 ☐ Check your oil level and look for leaks.
 ☐ Check your chain case oil and replace if needed.
 ☐ Look for missing or broken exhaust springs.
 ☐ Clean your clutches and verify proper adjustment and alignment.
 ☐ Verify all of the bolts and nuts on your sled are tight and not missing. (Especially in your front and rear suspension components.)
 ☐ Verify your kill switch works properly.
 ☐ Check ski alignment.
 ☐ Check your springs and shocks for wear, breaks or leaks.
- **Prepare your trailer!**
 - o Service your axle hubs with grease.
 - o Inspect your tires for wear and dry rot.
 - o Inspect for missing or loose lug nuts.
 - o Inspect and lubricate your trailer in areas like door hinges, tilt hinges, ramp hinges or screw in ski tie downs.
 - o Inspect your lights and wiring to make sure all are working.
 - o Inspect your hitch coupler for snugness and function.
 - o Inspect roof and skylights for leaks or damage.
 - o Inspect and verify your generator is working properly and service as needed.
 - o Inspect and verify your furnace/heater is working properly.
 - o Verify your smoke or CO2 detectors are working and have fresh batteries.
- **Prepare your truck or tow rig.**
 - o Stick your sno-park permit in the window of your tow vehicle.
 - o Install or verify you have good winter tires for the season.
 - o Pack an emergency kit for your tow vehicle.
 - o Pack tools for your vehicle, trailer, and snowmobiles/snowbikes.
 - o Verify your trailer lights harness is operational.
 - o Inspect all lighting around your tow vehicle for operation and replace bulbs as needed.
 - o Verify your license plate tabs are up to date on your tow vehicle.
 - o Inspect your wheels for loose or missing lug nuts.
 - o Make sure you keep up on your oil changes before any big trips that you are planning!
- **Prepare your gear**
 - o Take inventory of all of your riding gear and inspect for wear and tear.
 - o Take a very close look at your safety gear, like your helmet, for damage that may compromise your safety.
 - o Are you still riding in older gear? You owe it to yourself to buy some newer gear that is waterproof and breathable. This will keep you safe and dry all winter.

o Don't forget the importance of a good base and mid-layer using modern materials that will wick away moisture and keep you warm and dry. Do not wear any cotton base layers as they hold moisture against your skin, causing you to get wet and cold.

- **Prepare your avalanche gear.**

- o Inspect your avalanche transceiver and test it to make sure it is working properly – put in new batteries to replace the ones you removed last spring.
- o Inspect your avalanche shovel to make sure it is in working order.
- o Inspect your avalanche probe to make sure it is in working order.
- o If you have an avalanche air bag backpack, inspect it for wear and repair or replace as needed.
- o Make sure you inspect your avalanche airbag air cylinder for proper air pressure and also make sure you test the operation of your air bag system by pulling your rip cord and checking to make sure the airbag inflates and works properly before the season starts. Repack your airbag back into the backpack per manufacturer instructions.
- o Inspect your emergency supplies in your backpack and on your sled to ensure nothing is outdated and every thing is in proper working order including flashlights, first aid kits and food and water supplies.



I hope this list was helpful! Have a FUN and SAFE season!

Make every trip a round rip!

#LiveLARGE
Jon Ferrian **LIVE**

Scholarship

Snowmobile Funding - Present & Future

By Ryan Mead, 2019 WSSA & Western Chapter Scholarship Recipient

(Editor's Note: Every year the Western Chapter of Snowmobile Associations provides an essay topic for their annual scholarship. WSSA uses the same topic for our scholarship. See the topic at the end of this essay.)

Snowmobiling is a big part of winter recreation in the states and provinces across the Snowbelt and the cost to build and maintain trails, sno-parks and related infrastructure has been increasing rapidly over the past couple of decades. Snowmobile program funding has lagged behind rising costs and the dollars received must be stretched in different ways in order to fit all of the needs of snowmobilers. I interviewed Pamela McConkey, the Washington State Parks Winter Recreation Program Manager, to find out key details about the current funding process for Washington State and what it pays for.

In our state, the funds that tend to the bulk of our snowmobiling needs come from snowmobile registrations and a portion of the **state's fuel tax**. Each snowmobile registration is \$50 and all but a small percentage held back for Department of Licensing services is put into our dedicated snowmobile account. The fuel tax portion received is determined by using a formula instituted by the State Legislature and results in approximately an additional \$45 added to our account for each snowmobile registered. The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is another funding source where Federal Government fuel tax money is provided to the states to be used for trail projects; these are dispersed through a matched grant process and must be **applied for and aren't guaranteed year to year**. Other states and provinces fund their snowmobile programs similarly, but no two are exactly alike.

Washington's Snowmobile Program mostly pays for contracted services including trail grooming, sno-park plowing and sanitation services. Money is also provided for safety and education, law enforcement, program management and some grooming equipment purchases.

In order to keep people riding, we need to be able to financially support the next generation of snowmobilers and here are my thoughts on how we can best accomplish this.

The most important way we can increase funding is to grow snowmobiling and get people involved. Our sport is stagnant and a growth spurt would do wonders, as well as put more money in the coffers to pay for snowmobiling. We can accomplish this with **increased emphasis and more participation in the 'Take a Friend Snowmobiling' campaign developed by the International Snowmobile Media Council and championed by the International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association**. Instagram, Facebook and Snapchat are great ways to share the fun and entice our friends and family.

While our Snowmobile Program currently receives a portion of the **fuel tax, we aren't getting our full share**. The Washington State Snowmobile Association (WSSA) has been working with legislators and lobbyists, trying to get our full fair share for many years. This **must remain a priority going forward and snowmobilers shouldn't rest until this is done**. With an average of 20,000 snowmobiles registered annually, our program would benefit with an additional

\$390,000+ per year with this change alone.

The Recreational Trails Program mentioned **above isn't fully utilized and should be**. There have been years where the motorized community has left money on the table due to the fact the **grants weren't written**. Writing grants is hard and it has fallen to our land-use agencies, be it Forest Service or State Parks, to get it done. Snowmobilers, snowmobile clubs, and the WSSA can and need to step in to ensure these grants get written annually. WSSA has had success in the past, proof being the WSSA safety trailer partially

funded by RTP. It should be noted too, RTP funding at the Federal level is low and there have been bills to increase it. It is imperative snowmobilers support these bills and help get them passed; RTP supports all trail users, motorized and non-motorized alike.

In an age of social media and the ability to reach a targeted audience quickly, online fundraising is here and popular! Here in Washington, the Whatcom County Snowmobile Association set up a GoFundMe account last fall in order to raise money for a new mobile warming shelter. The club was able to raise 75% of their goal in a matter of days purely through donations by promotion on Facebook. In years where our Snowmobile Program ran out of money before we ran out of snow, outreach through social media resulted in enough funds being raised to cover the cost of fuel to fire up groomers for a few more runs. This avenue of funding is only beginning to be exploited and it will take individuals with strong social media expertise to fully unlock.

Snowmobilers can also find funding outside of traditional snowmobile-related sources. One example is to leverage local existing taxing districts and Parks and Recreation Districts are a prime example. For example, the Kittitas County Parks and Recreation District 1 was instrumental in the creation of the Ev-

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Ryan Mead, excited she was accepted to Central Washington University, where she is pursuing a degree in Elementary Education.

(Continued from page 22)

ergreen Sno-Park in Cle Elum. This particular district has struggled to get off the ground, but it has proven what is possible; snowmobilers can benefit and the local community can be supportive.

While the Washington State Snowmobile Association mission isn't to directly fund the State's Snowmobile Program, there is currently a portion of the budget used to help with capital improvement-type projects. The WSSA Trail Grant Program is a simplified way clubs earn money for small projects they see that need to be done. Typically they have been used on projects such as trail maintenance and trailhead projects. When clubs take advantage of this opportunity, they take a little stress off of the State's Snowmobile Program, leaving more money for grooming and plowing instead of directing it towards infrastructure costs. This grant program is important and could be expanded within WSSA, but this money must come from somewhere so it would mean re-prioritizing budgets and/or grow WSSA membership which automatically grows WSSA's income.

Another idea, but likely controversial, would be to charge for overnight camping in sno-parks. It is quite popular for snowmobilers to spend the night but there is currently no fee associated with it. If a seasonal camping pass was implemented, it could boost income and logically the funds would be used to supplement sno-park plowing and sanitation budgets.

Let's better observe what other states and programs are doing in order for them to be successful. For example, Idaho has at least one region where an additional fee is required to ride their trails. Kootenai County requires a Groomer Sticker above and beyond the Idaho registration, meaning the fee collected stays in Kootenai County to provide more grooming and plowing. Washington currently has a similar program in place for skiers where they have a special Groomed Trail sticker that is required when they ski areas such as Crystal Springs.

Growing partnerships will be key to stretching dollars. We are finally seeing the Forest Service and other government land owners reaching out to local snowmobile clubs to help improve winter recreation experiences. This results in trail improvements through brushing and restoration and even the building of new trails. A lot of volunteer hours are required, but it relieves budgets for other things such as trailhead plowing, and a well-maintained trail allows groomers to run more efficiently thus saving fuel and labor costs. Partnerships can continue to grow, not only with landowning agencies, but other recreation groups with shared interests and goals for a particular area.

Maybe our entire Snowmobile Program needs an overhaul. Again looking at other snowmobile programs, just across the border in Oregon you'll find a completely different structure. Instead of contracted grooming, where private companies or other government agencies such as the Forest Service perform the operations here in Washington, the Oregon State Snowmobile Association buys the grooming equipment and pays for the fuel, while club volunteers do the driving, maintenance and all the associated trail work, saving the cost of labor associated with contracted operators.

There is no silver bullet to improving our funding outlook for the future and anything we do is going to require a lot of hard work. Snowmobiling as a recreation needs to begin to grow again and that alone is our best opportunity to increase overall funding. Other opportunities, be it GoFundMe pages, grant programs, and additional taxes or fees, are secondary to growing the sport. Improving partnerships will just be good business going forward, and studying

what other states are doing differently is an excellent management practice we can continue to embrace.

2019 Essay Challenge

Essay Topic: The cost of everything in winter recreation over the past ten years has skyrocketed. Snowmobiling is an expensive sport when you take into consideration all things connected to it. Groomers and all their attachments, the ones doing the grooming, a home for the groomer, sno-parks, plowing, administration, trail construction/maintenance, and the list goes on. Money does not grow on trees in the USA or Canada. Even when we find money to help our cause, we run into roadblocks because of the origin of the items we are trying to buy. There must be a better way.

Essay Challenge: In the USA and Canada, there is money available to support our needs in the snowmobile world. Finding it, qualifying it, and acquiring it is the beginning of your challenge. See list below:

1. Where traditionally do the funds come from for your local and State/Provincial snowmobile needs?
2. What are the funds available to be used on?
3. How do you petition for these funds?
4. Are there funds available that are not being petitioned for in your area?

Finally, can you share with us your thoughts and ideas of how to financially support our cause for the next generation of snowmobilers?

Interested in a chance to earn the WSSA Scholarship in 2020?

WSSA will be offering a scholarship to either a graduating high school senior or a person currently enrolled in a college, technical or vocational program. This will be a \$2,000.00 grant, and will be given to the winner regardless of other grants or scholarships that the student may also receive.

You can find the requirements at www.wssa.us under the 'Scholarship' menu item on the left margin.

Essays will be judged on depth of content, clarity, organization and persuasiveness. The essay requirement for 2020 is as follows:

Essay Topic: *Partnerships are a must in the snowmobile world! The more partners we have in our industry, the more successful we will be in every challenge we are faced with. Cooperative partnerships can be made at a Local, State, Provincial or even at a National level. It is better to have partners than opponents.*

Essay Challenge:

In your own words:

1. Why are partnerships so important to your Association/Federation?
2. Who are some of your current partners of your Association/Federation?
3. How are those partnerships working for your Association/Federation?
4. Can you share with us your thoughts of how and where we can go to find and develop new partnerships to further the cause of snowmobiling?

Scholarship

Engaging millennials in organized snowmobiling

By Ryan Mead, C.J. Ramstad
Memorial Scholarship Recipient

(Publisher's Note: The International Snowmobile Media Council awards an annual scholarship in memory of noted snowmobile author and photographer, C.J. Ramstad. An essay is required and the 2019 topic is the title above. For details on the 2020 scholarship, visit www.snowmobilemedia.org.)

Wikipedia defines millennials as people born between 1981 and 1996, putting them in their mid-20s and 30s. This is a tough group to recruit as they are busy with their careers and starting families, but with club and state/provincial organization's leadership pushing through senior citizenship, younger bodies are desperately needed to fill the void. To attract millennials, they need to be enticed with exciting and original events they want to fit into their busy schedules. Part of this equation includes social media as there is no better way to interact and grab the attention of a younger snowmobiling audience.

My local club, the Yakima Ski-Benders, started a new scavenger hunt event. It is unique in that instead of being a group ride, snowmobilers ride with friends of their choosing, and ride at the pace and style they are accustomed to. The goal is to find colored plates placed in the forest with some placed close to the trail while others are located in more difficult to reach locations. (Maps are provided to show riders the general area to search.) At the end of the day, riders gather in the sno-park around a fire and enjoy a meal prepared by the club. Everyone is eligible for a raffle drawing and anyone finding a plate is entered into a larger cash raffle. This type of event has just enough structure to showcase a club, yet offers a lot of freedom for sledders to enjoy their style of riding and not something directed by others; it will help convince them to come back and join other clubs events and hopefully join the club. This event is promoted via the club's Facebook page and is shared out by many members. Participants are encouraged to share pictures and comments after the hunt is over in an effort



Ryan Mead, enjoying a ride on White Pass during the 2018/2019 season.

to pique the curiosity of others who didn't join in this time.

How about a 'Family Fun Ride', with the 'family' definition expanded beyond blood and marriage? I'm not talking a club-sponsored event, but something that better falls under the 'Take a Friend Snowmobiling' campaign. A member of the Cascade Drift Skippers, a club in the western part of Washington, takes his rides to the next level. These rides are very structured and tailored to the group invited along. They may be newbies who just bought their first sled, or friends who have never ridden before. In addition to having fun, the rides focus on safety, trail etiquette, and how organized snowmobiling fits into the picture. One of the goals is to encourage these snowmobilers to become more involved in our organizations. There is always an invitation to attend the next Drift Skippers meeting where they are assured of a good time hanging out with like-minded people. Facebook and Instagram help drive the excitement of these rides with pre-event posts and tons of pic-

tures and comments by participants after the fact. What started as a ride with a handful of participants has grown into an outing now needing multiple leaders to handle all the snowmobilers who want to join in!

Although it is important to bring in millennials, our focus should also include their Gen Z and Gen Alpha children. (By bringing in kids, their parents will be there by default!) With this in mind, another great Ski-Benders' success is the annual 'Little Kids Ride'. This one-day event is a part of a weekend gathering filling a large sno-park to capacity with motorhomes and campers from all over Washington, and a few from neighboring states and a province. All kids are invited, newborn to late teens, and activities are tailored to age and abilities. An oval track is set up in a nearby meadow with small sleds available for all the young and inexperienced. Children with some experience are taken on an easy trail ride where they will practice their trail manners. More advanced teens are taken on an off-trail ride to hone their riding skills. What makes this event unique is the support received from professional riders (as seen in the extreme riding videos) who volunteer to lead rides and perform for the crowd, bringing a level

of excitement not normally seen at a club event. At the end of the day a meal is catered for everyone in the sno-park at no charge and goodie bags and T-shirts are provided to the kids. The end result is a showcase of the club and the value organized snowmobiling offers. Social media again plays a major role leading up to the event with updates and plenty of positive comments and awesome pictures after the weekend is over. To attract the younger generations, it is important for children to grow up riding and doing activities with their local clubs/associations. (I am a product of such an environment!)

Clubs and state/provincial organizations need to offer fun and excitement that will entice millennials. Offer them new events tailored to their idea of 'fun' and ones they are going to find a way to work into their busy schedules. Once they become regular participants and are at ease with the club environment, they will see the need and be more willing to take on assignments and leadership roles.

WSSA Trail Grant

Wakepish Sno-Park Upgrades Continue

By Jim Bauer, District 4 South Representative

On October 11th and 12th, the Junco Snowmobile Club put to good use funds from the WSSA Trail Grant, in addition to a generous \$500 donation from the Sno-Jammer Snowmobile Club, by installing a concrete floor in the hut at the Wakepish Sno-Park. This project was phase two of a previous grant received from WSSA.

In 2014-15, the road to the Orr Creek Sno-Park washed out, leaving the club without a location for its annual Charity on the Snow event. When Junco looked to the Wakepish Sno-Park as an alternate location, it had a hut that was not much more than a picnic shelter with a wood stove that had long ago been vandalized. However, Junco looked at this as an opportunity to revitalize the sno-park and generate new interest in this optimal riding area. The sno-park has a large lot for parking or camping, generally has a good amount of snow, and is the gateway to the beautiful Mt. St. Helens riding area. If you have not viewed Spirit Lake covered in snow, you are missing out!

In 2016, Junco received a WSSA Trail Grant and held a work party to install a new stovepipe, insert Plexiglas windows, and enclose the front of the hut complete with a sliding barn door. Our club also successfully sought to restore grooming funds to make the riding area more accessible. The club believed that installing a concrete floor would complete the improvements to the hut, but this would require a sizeable capital investment.



A 'before' pic; back when the hut was still a glorified picnic shelter.



This past October, through joint funding of WSSA and the Sno-Jammer and Junco snowmobile clubs, Junco was able to complete installation of the concrete floor as well as complete some necessary maintenance repairs. Having concrete delivered almost a hundred miles up **a forest road isn't exactly** an easy matter. Junco was fortunate for the services of Apex Mobile Mix out of Napavine who provides ready mix concrete that can be mixed directly on site. Junco member Matt Simpson of Simpson Contracting LLC supervised the concrete finishing effort for a beautifully smooth new concrete floor.

Junco invites all snowmobilers to come check out the new facilities! Look for a dedication event later on this season.

(Continued on page 26)



WSSA Trail Grant

(Continued from page 25)



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.)



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO! - Avalanche Forecasts

Cascades (Canadian border to Mt. Hood) - www.nwac.us
Idaho Panhandle - www.idahopanhandleavalanche.org
WA/OR Blues - www.wallowaavalanchecenter.org/forecast/blues

News

Initiative I-976 and Snowmobiling

By Matt Mead, with info
provided by WSSA
lobbyists

The recent passage of I-976 was hailed as a victory by a bit more than half of Washington voters, and a loss by just under half of the same group. This is a controversial issue among Washington residents, no doubt.

WSSA's interest is purely from the standpoint of how it affects the funding of our Snowmobile Account administered by Washington State Parks Winter Recreation.

The passage effectively took snowmobile registration fees from \$50 back down to \$30, a potential annual loss of \$460,000 (based on the registration of 23,000 number of sleds annually.)

Since passage, an injunction has been put in place to stop the initiative from taking effect until the lawsuits filed against it have played out. We don't know how long that will be, nor the outcome.

Over the next couple of pages is info provided by our lobbyists to keep you informed.

(Continued on page 28)



INITIATIVE 976 - \$30 CAR TABS INJUNCTION GRANTED

Dear WSSA Members:

King County judge Marshall Ferguson just announced an **injunction on Initiative 976** (\$30 tabs) while legal challenges move forward.

This injunction basically **delays the implementation of I-976**, until a final decision is rendered through appeals in Washington State Superior and likely Supreme Court.

The plaintiffs include Garfield County Transportation Authority, Intercity Transit, City of Seattle, Port of Seattle, King County, Amalgamated Transit Legislative Council of Washington, the Washington State Council Association, the Association of Washington Cities and Michal Rodgers, an individual with cerebral palsy who relies heavily on transit, have argued that the way the initiative appeared on ballot was unconstitutional and that "each would be harmed directly, or indirectly if I-976 were to take effect on December 5, 2019." Judge Marshall Ferguson agreed that there would be immediate harm to the state of Washington if the initiative took effect.

While in this process it's highly unlikely that special interest groups will try to make changes in the 2020 legislative session and that a decision will be rendered by the end of the 2020 legislative session.

You can view the actual injunction at the following link for your further review:

<https://assets.documentcloud.org/documents/6561920/I976-Order-Granting-Injunction.pdf>

We will keep you further updated on the court case and I-976.

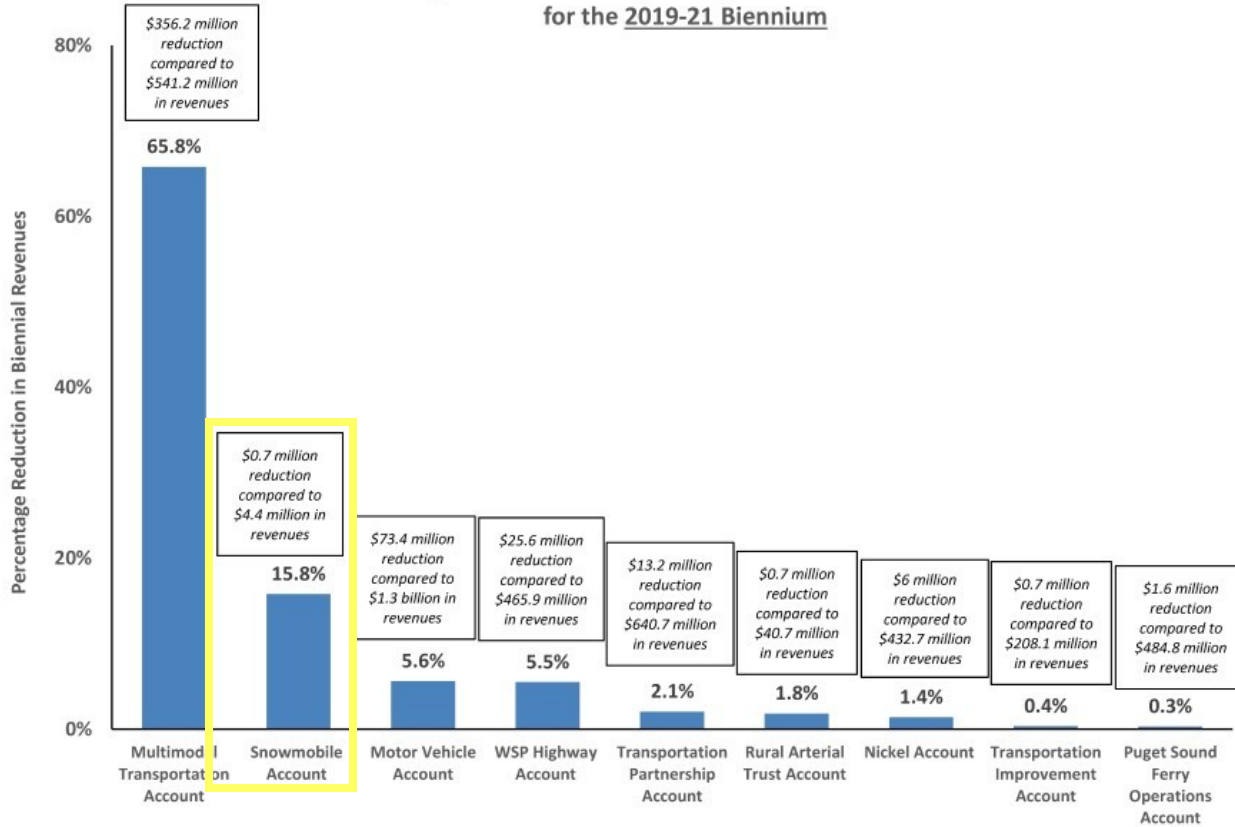
Terry Kohl
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Chester Baldwin
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(360) 688-4588

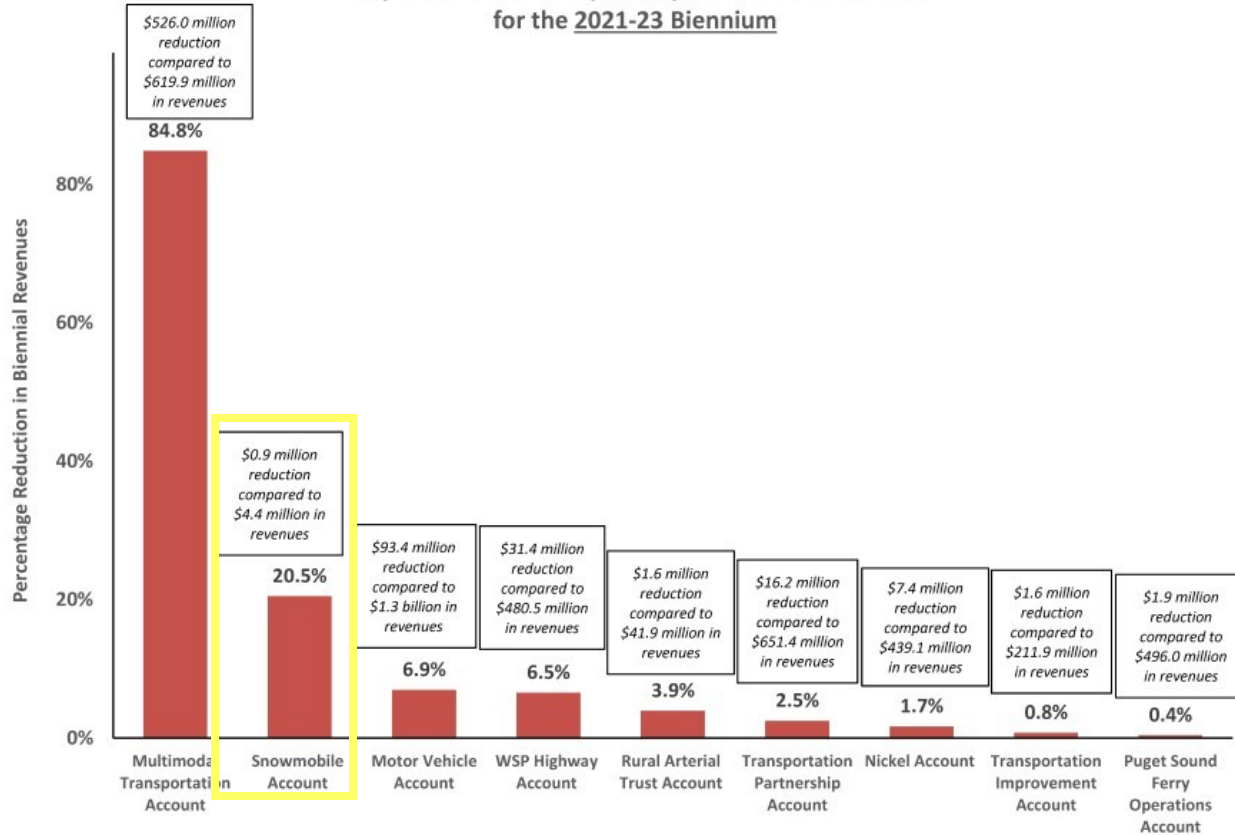
(Continued from page 27)

Projected Revenue Impacts By Fund of Initiative 976
for the 2019-21 Biennium



* Information reflects the 2019-21 biennium revenue reductions from the OFM fiscal impact statement regarding I-976 compared to projected biennial revenues for each account based on the June 2019 revenue forecast.

Projected Revenue Impacts By Fund of Initiative 976
for the 2021-23 Biennium



* Information reflects the 2021-23 biennium revenue reductions from the OFM fiscal impact statement regarding I-976 compared to projected biennial revenues for each account based on the June 2019 revenue forecast.

Estimated Revenue Impacts of Initiative 976

(Dollars in Millions)

State Fund Breakout	2019-21	2021-23	2023-25	2025-27	2027-29	10 Years
Multimodal Transportation Account (218)	(\$356.2)	(\$526.0)	(\$602.0)	(\$619.5)	(\$636.6)	(\$2,740.3)
Motor Vehicle Account (108)	(\$73.4)	(\$93.4)	(\$98.7)	(\$105.1)	(\$111.6)	(\$482.2)
WSP Highway Account (081)	(\$25.6)	(\$31.4)	(\$31.6)	(\$32.0)	(\$32.5)	(\$153.1)
Transportation Partnership Account (09H)	(\$13.2)	(\$16.2)	(\$16.3)	(\$16.5)	(\$16.8)	(\$79.0)
Nickel Account (550)	(\$6.0)	(\$7.4)	(\$7.4)	(\$7.5)	(\$7.6)	(\$35.9)
Puget Sound Ferry Operations (109)	(\$1.6)	(\$1.9)	(\$1.9)	(\$2.0)	(\$2.0)	(\$9.4)
Snowmobile Account (01M)	(\$0.7)	(\$0.9)	(\$0.9)	(\$0.9)	(\$0.9)	(\$4.3)
Rural Arterial Trust Account (102)	(\$0.7)	(\$1.6)	(\$2.6)	(\$3.7)	(\$4.7)	(\$13.4)
Transportation Improvement Account (144)	(\$0.7)	(\$1.6)	(\$2.6)	(\$3.7)	(\$4.7)	(\$13.4)
Total State Funds	(\$478.1)	(\$680.5)	(\$764.0)	(\$790.9)	(\$817.5)	(\$3,531.0)

(Continued on page 29)

News

Notes

(Continued from page 28)

Estimated Revenue Impacts of Initiative 976*						
(Dollars in Millions)						
State Revenue Impacts	2019-21	2021-23	2023-25	2025-27	2027-29	10 Years
Passenger & Other Vehicle Weight Fees - \$25-\$72 Fee & FY 2023 \$10 Increase, Both Eliminated	(\$267.1)	(\$403.2)	(\$474.1)	(\$487.0)	(\$499.7)	(\$2,131.2)
License Fee by Weight for Light Duty Trucks - \$53-\$93 Fees to \$30	(\$113.7)	(\$139.7)	(\$140.4)	(\$142.1)	(\$144.7)	(\$680.7)
Sales and Use Tax on Vehicles - 0.3% Additional Tax Eliminated	(\$80.8)	(\$112.4)	(\$117.4)	(\$122.0)	(\$126.4)	(\$558.9)
Electric Vehicle Fees - \$150 Fees to \$30	(\$6.8)	(\$13.1)	(\$19.9)	(\$27.5)	(\$34.4)	(\$101.7)
Motor Home Vehicle Weight Fee - \$75 Fee Eliminated	(\$8.2)	(\$10.4)	(\$10.5)	(\$10.5)	(\$10.6)	(\$50.2)
Snowmobile Registration Fees - \$50 Fee to \$30	(\$0.7)	(\$0.9)	(\$0.9)	(\$0.9)	(\$0.9)	(\$4.4)
Commercial Trailers Registration Fee - \$34 Initial Fee to \$30	(\$0.6)	(\$0.8)	(\$0.8)	(\$0.8)	(\$0.8)	(\$3.9)
TOTAL STATE REVENUE IMPACTS	(\$478.1)	(\$680.5)	(\$764.0)	(\$790.9)	(\$817.5)	(\$3,531.0)

To WSSA Snowmobile Clubs:

This coming February at WSSA's Rendezvous at Campbell's Resort in Chelan, we will continue with the tradition of the past eighteen years of a silent and live auction benefitting the Legal Action Fund. These auctions have been a huge success; last year we raised \$5005. We would like to see more clubs participate to help strengthen our funding to protect our access to public lands. The short live auction is for our big ticket items and this has become a big hit with the audience. The auctions will take place at the banquet on Saturday night, February 15th. The dates for Rendezvous 2020 are over President's Day weekend: Friday, February 14th through Monday, February 17th. There will be scheduled guided rides Friday through Sunday and short business meetings on Friday and Saturday nights.

The items the clubs donated have become very popular and certainly add a 'sparkle' to the auction. All the clubs participating have come up with great ideas. Each club is again being asked to contribute something for the auction that represents the area the club meets in. The item does not have to be snowmobile related. A few ideas or suggestions are: specialty product items from your area of the State such as apples or wine from Chelan, wine from Walla Walla, Chuckar Cherries or wine from Yakima, Boehm's chocolate or Fischer's Meats beef jerky from Issaquah, smoked salmon from Bellingham. Other ideas: gift certificates for stays or restaurants anyplace, guided snowmobile rides from anyplace. You could possibly work with your local Chamber of Commerce to come up with an idea to promote your area of the State. Crafts would be fine also. I think you get the idea.

I would very much appreciate knowing what you are going to donate ahead of Rendezvous. That way I can get the bid sheets ready before I arrive at Chelan. It saves a lot of time during set up of the auction on Saturday. Please e-mail me the description of your item and the value.

Sincerely,

Ron Alred
WSSA Auction Chairman
rdalred1971@gmail.com
(509) 965-8305

Notes



Reader's Pics

WSSA members participated in Cle Elum's annual 'Boo Elum', a Halloween parade and trick or treating event.



Photos submitted by Ron Alred

2019/2020
Snowmobile Registration Update

As we went to print, the latest registration numbers available were through October. The good news is we were leading in registrations over last year at this time!

Snowmobile Registrations							
	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY 19-20 Difference
July	166	149	145	134	148	166	18
August	1,142	531	676	782	2,307	222	(2,085)
September	3,546	2,968	3,145	2,946	1,682	2,974	1,292
October	2,544	1,662	2,139	2,489	1,882	3,357	1,475
November	2,870	3,129	3,362	4,360	2,960		
December	6,656	11,575	13,170	6,973	8,320		
January	2,741	3,528	3,196	3,358	3,433		
February	381	1,164	1,513	1,166	1,602		
March	68	298	686	674	958		
April	42	82	181	175	258		
May	22	32	93	93	90		
June	23	30	84	71	83		
Total:	20,201	25,148	28,390	23,221	23,723	6,719	700

As a reminder, the calculation for how much each registered snowmobile brings to the Snowmobile Program is seen here to the right. Your \$50 is nearly doubled when the fuel tax rebate is factored in.

The money raised from registrations this 2019/2020 season is for the 2020/2021 season. Snowmobilers are optimists; we are betting on a great season NEXT year when we register this year. (Don't let a bad season keep you from registering since the money you pay is not for this snow season!)

135.00	gallons per snowmobile
0.349	per gallon Tax
47.12	Fuel Tax per Sled
1.41	less 3% retained by DOL
45.70	Net Fuel Tax per Sled
50.00	Registration Per Sled
1.50	less 3% retained by DOL
48.50	Net Registration per sled
94.20	Total Revenue per sled

Upper Yakima Basin
Recreation Survey

The survey is here:

www.gis.cwu.edu/geog/ecrp

It is imperative for all snowmobilers who ride in the Central Cascades to participate in this survey. The results will guide future recreation opportunities in the project area. (Failure to participate could result in lost riding areas in the future.)

Here is the blurb from the survey website:

"Welcome to the East Cascades Recreation Partnership (ECRP). Land managers in Kittitas and Yakima County want to know more about where you recreate and the natural resources you value. This survey will inform recreation and restoration project planning between land management agencies, collaboratives, and partner groups. The survey will ask you to identify places that are important to you, and will take about 5-10 minutes to complete depending on the number of places you map. You must be 18 years or older to participate. Your decision to participate is strictly voluntary. You are free to answer all, some, or none of the questions. Your responses are completely confidential and anonymous and you may stop the survey at any point. If you have questions about this survey, please contact: Ethan Lockwood, Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, (509) 862-9123, ethan.lockwood@mtsgreenway.org or Jennifer Lipton, PhD at CWU-Ellensburg, (509) 963-1164, jennifer.lipton@cwu.edu. If you have questions about your rights as a participant, you may also contact the CWU Human Protections Administrator at (509) 963-3115. The Upper Yakima Basin runs from the Stuart Range to the North, the Yakama Indian Reservation to the South, the Cascade Crest to the West, and the western extents of the cities of Ellensburg and Yakima to the East. If you recreate in or value this area, please tell us about the places that are important to you using the Upper Yakima Basin Survey. The Naches Ranger District on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest is particularly interested in hearing from those who recreate in the Little Naches Watershed. If you are familiar with this area, please tell us specifically where you recreate in this area using the Little Naches Watershed Survey."

The survey is open through January. Please don't delay. Take the survey!

ISMA Update

Safe Riders! safety campaign reaches out and expands service

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

The Safe Riders! You Make Snowmobiling Safe campaign, initiated in 1995 by the Snowmobile Manufacturers in conjunction with state and provincial snowmobile associations and snowmobile government administrators, continues to serve as a foundation of snowmobile safety training related activities in North America. This year the collateral safety materials continue to be available, free of charge. Those materials include: A safety brochure, the Snowmobiling Fact Book, decals, posters, and the safety video segment series – available online. The Snowmobile Safety Week Campaign Action Manual can be found at www.snowmobile.org/docs/snowmobile-safety-week-manual-2020.pdf and is available to assist in organizing Snowmobile Safety Week activities. The International Snowmobile Safety Week will be held January 18th-26th, 2020. If you have conflicting plans during those dates but still plan on holding a Safety Week during a different time, you are always welcome, and the Campaign Action Manual will help guide you and we can make available the information that you need.

The Safe Riders! program continues to highlight the main safety issues riders need to follow while snowmobiling. The key points are all highlighted in our poster series. Hundreds of thousands of Safe Rider! posters have been distributed through the years to the snowmobile community. The posters are used by snowmobile safety instructors who display them in the classroom and are also placed in schools throughout the Snowbelt. Many are on display in warming huts and snowmobile clubhouses across North America. The key positions presented on the posters include:

1. Alcohol and snowmobiling don't mix - Don't drink and ride.
2. Know before you go - Always check local ice conditions.
3. When night riding, slow down - Expect the unexpected.
4. Respect private property - Stay on the trail.
5. Avalanche awareness.
6. Cross roads with care.
7. Never ride alone - Always ride with a friend.
8. Stay in control - Always ride within your limits.
9. Take a safety course.

All of these key points are contained in the information supported by the Safe Riders! campaign and are used by many safety experts to ensure that snowmobilers are aware of the key issues.

The campaign continues to offer the Safe Riders! You Make Snowmobiling Safe reflective decals and the Take a Friend Snowmobiling reflective decals. These are available for placement on helmets or snowmobiles.

We have a safety brochure that contains the key messages and safety guidelines that should be followed.

Last year we announced the Safety Campaign had 13 new separate video chapters that had been created and placed on the website for free downloading at: www.snowmobile.org/safe-riders-videos.html. They can be viewed on YouTube or downloaded so they can be played on your computer or television. We invite everyone to watch and download the video chapters. They are very effective tools for use in your clubhouse and warming hut and many organizations are now showing them prior to association meetings and functions across North America. They provide great background information and are short in duration.

If you would like to order any of the Safe Riders! collateral materials you can contact us at ISMASue@aol.com and we can send you a copy of the order form. Just fill it out and e-mail it back and we will try to send you what you need for a safety class, or to be made available for your clubhouse or warming hut. They can be displayed at local dealerships, schools, convention and visitor bureaus, etc.

Here's to a great snowmobiling season and stay safe by keeping safety issues at the top of your mind.

If you haven't done so, like us on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/GoSnowmobiling.

ISMA
International
Snowmobile
Manufacturers
Association



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

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

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



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

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



**PUT KIDS
ON SLEDS
THAT FIT**

- SMALLER ENGINES
AND SLED SIZE
- MUST BE ABLE TO
STEER AND CONTROL

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



ACSA E-News

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



Federal Budget Did Not Expire on November 21st

The Senate and House leaders agreed to extend funding for the federal government, including its land management agencies so the government did not shut down. The President signed this bill before midnight. This move kicks the can down the road until December 20th, when both chambers will once again have the opportunity to extend funding or shut down government.

Larger issues for resolving full FY 2020 funding remain as congressional appropriators have not yet agreed to the allocations each federal agency will receive this year.

BLM Relocation Effort Continues

Recently 159 Bureau of Land Management (BLM) employees received relocation letters and now have 30 days to decide whether to accept reassignment, with 40 jobs going to the new headquarters in Grand Junction, CO, including the Bureau Director, Deputy Director for Operations and all assistant directors.

Remaining in DC will be at least 60 headquarters positions performing functions in congressional and regulatory affairs as well as the agency's Budget office. BLM has given itself the option of firing employees who do not accept their relocation.

Endangered Species

New legislation was introduced that encourages Endangered Species Act delisting. The five republicans who introduced the legislation in the House would have the Fish and Wildlife Service review the need for endangered species listing every five years. Congressional republicans complain listed species remain on the imperiled lists for too long. One of the co-sponsors said, "we have long seen gross misuse of the Endangered Species Act. While it is easy to have a species added to the endangered or threatened species list, once it has recovered, it is nearly impossible to delist."

From Oxford Dictionaries.....

The Oxford Word of the Year is ... CLIMATE EMERGENCY. The New York Times reports 'climate emergency' was chosen from a shortlist of entirely environmental-themed terms. The others on the list were 'climate action', 'climate denial', 'eco-anxiety', 'extinction' and 'flight shame'.

'Climate emergency' is defined as "a situation in which urgent action is required to reduce or halt climate change and avoid potentially irreversible environmental damage resulting from it".

Recreation Advisory Panel Disbanded

The Department of Interior appointed a Recreation Advisory Panel in July, 2018. The 15-member panel was made up of individuals from the outdoor recreation community.

The panel was challenged from the inception, and later a suit was filed by Democracy Forward Foundation, alleging conflict of interest, as well as then Secretary of Interior Ryan Zinke, was "a vocal proponent of privatizing large swaths of services provided to the public". Suggestions that had been submitted by the panel included enhancing data, partnerships, and modernizing campgrounds.

House Committee Approves Four Wilderness Bills

The House Natural Resources Committee recently approved four

Wilderness bills that would protect over one million acres. The lands would include National Forests and BLM lands in California, Colorado and Washington.

The senators from California and Washington are strong proponents of Wilderness and stand a decent chance in the Senate. Colorado is divided with one Democrat and one Republican Senator.

The proposed designation would include over 675,000 acres in Colorado, more than 125,000 acres in Washington and at least 374,000 acres in California.

Did You Know?

For every Pink Ribbon Rider special edition sled Snow-Checked, Polaris donates to breast cancer patient support.

Over the past two years they have raised over \$50,000, thanks to your support! Thanks Polaris -- for making a difference!



Around Washington

Forest Service EIS (Environmental Impact Statement): A Forest Service proposal to expand categorical exclusions of timber harvest projects from environmental review has received over 100,000 comments. The June 13th proposal aimed to modernize Forest Service National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations for a broad range of uses - from hazardous fuels projects to recreation permitting. Among other things the proposal would categorically exclude from environmental review projects of up to 7,300 acres. The exclusion for timber sale projects would be limited to 4,200 acres.

Fires: The calendar year 2019 wildfire season, which through August had been relatively mild, exploded in October with the fires in California. At press time the National Interagency Fire Center reported more than 45,000 wildfires covering more than 4.6 million acres.

Patagonia's Interest in ESA

Patagonia is heading to court over changes to how the federal government protects vulnerable plants and animals under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). They will challenge a new package of ESA regulations that, among other changes, removes some automatic protections for species designated as listed rather than threatened and the greater emphasis now considered on economic impact analysis.

Did You Know?

Military forces around the world have to work, and sometimes fight, in any and every condition and environment

(Continued on page 33)

(Continued from page 32)

imaginable, from hot dry deserts to frigid arctic tundra. Special operators have long integrated snowmobiles into the mix, especially



for covert military operations. Having specialized and high tech gear is of little value if you cannot effectively transport it. A new feature to lift, load and move special operation snowmobiles on the CV-22 Osprey tilt-rotor was added.

Be Respectful

Unfortunately this warming hut in Utah will be closed this winter. Litter, vandalism, and disrespect shown by a few -- will now impact an entire community. Remember to always be respectful. Leave the trails, parking areas, and facilities as nice as they were when you arrived!

Are You Following Us?

www.facebook.com/AmericanCouncilofSnowmobileAssociations

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



Trespassing Poster Design Challenge

#Know Where To Go

#Know Where To Go.....Or There Will be No Where To Go!!

Trespassing is the #1 complaint against snowmobilers

Trespassing is the leading cause of lost snowmobiling access!

We are looking for trespassing poster ideas from you. You know the issue. You know the behavior of fellow riders.

We have designed this Challenge to bring awareness to riders.

GIVE US YOUR BEST IDEAS!



The Poster Challenge is open to all original Trespass Ideas and Designs. No Copyrighted information is allowed.

Poster Challenge is open to ALL ages!

Submit your original poster design by January 15, 2020.

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

Prizes will be awarded to the top 3 ideas and designs. Prize Winners will be notified by February 4, 2020.

Submit designs to:
info@snowmobilers.org

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



Matt's Misc.

By Matt Mead, Publicity Secretary



Severe funding challenges for Snowmobile Program?


First up is I-976, the \$30 car tab initiative that just passed. Not only does this take car tabs back to \$30, but snowmobile registrations too. Raising snowmobile registrations was a controversial issue a few years ago when WSSA worked with the legislature to get it done, but it is hard to argue with the impact it has had on the grooming program; revenue overall has been up since it came to be. Losing \$20 per sled means an annual hit of \$460,000, (assuming 23,000 sleds registered which is a touch less than we saw in 2017/18 and 2018/19). That is going to hurt. Because of the controversial nature of the initiative, WSSA didn't take a position on it, but our lobbyists were watching and are currently looking to see what we do. With King County and Seattle currently suing to stop the initiative from taking effect, it seems likely we have a little breathing room as this is hashed out in court.

The other issue is regarding the fuel tax. There is a push to eliminate the state fuel tax and impose a per-mile road tax instead. From a strictly fairness point of view, the pay-by-the-mile is a good idea. Implementation though may prove problematic. There are privacy issues, and how do we get out-of-state drivers to pay when they visit the state? If I-976 stands though, legislators are going to need a way to supplement the highway funding coffers and they may push this plan through. So if this plan is put in place and the state fuel tax is removed, how do snowmobilers get their fair share? Nobody has an answer to that! Worst case is we lose about \$45 per registered sled. (That's \$1,035,000 gone from our program.)

If you are following along with the math, in theory, our program could lose just shy of \$1.5 million dollars per year. What's left is a bit less than \$690,000... how do we run a snowmobile program on that? (Basically we could plow sno-parks and nothing else.) Is it time to panic? I'm not sure. It certainly is time to be paying attention. WSSA and our lobbyists, not to mention the staff in the State Parks Winter Recreation office, are following all of this closely and keeping in touch with key legislators. We will keep all of you in the loop as well. Updates will be posted in the Snoflyer and anything critical will be e-mailed out and posted to our Facebook page. Please watch for this info.

Tracked ATVs/UTVs legislation update. WSSA has been working with our lobbyists and the Washington Code Reviser's Office on legislation to legalize tracked ATVs/UTVs on our snowmobile trails. (If you missed this in the last Snoflyer, check my article from November.) As I type this, we

have the draft back from the Code Reviser's Office and WSSA's Tracked ATV/UTV Committee is going over it to ensure it accomplishes what we want. (Basically to ensure we limiting registration to tracked ATVs/UTVs and not tracked pickups and SUVs, and that the registration dollars for these machines will go into our dedicated snowmobile account.) (Continued on page 35)




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WE ARE THE TRAILER AND SLED DECK EXPERTS

2020 Marlon Pro II Sled Decks




SALE \$4,299

Marlon UTV Side x Side Decks




SALE \$2,850

ELITE 5'X12' TILT TRAILER




\$2,099

AUT853 UTILITY TRAILER




\$2,199

KAYAK/CANOE TRAILER




STARTING AT \$1,499

TC 128 ENCLOSED




\$6,799

LT-WCI SINGLE WATERCRAFT TRAILER




\$1,499

TILT 1282 UTV TRAILER



\$3,899

ELITE WCII 2-PLACE WATERCRAFT TRAILER




\$2,599

XT 4.5 10'X53" W TRAILER




\$1,899

2019 Triton T1482



Was \$4,499
SAVE \$800
Sale Price \$3,899

2019 Triton AUT853 Bi-Fold



Was \$2,999
SAVE \$800
Sale Price \$2,499

2019 Triton AUT1483-1




Was \$4,799
SAVE \$800
Sale Price \$3,999

2019 Triton XT12VR-101-QP



Was \$3,999
SAVE \$800
Sale Price \$3,199

LARGEST TRITON DEALER IN THE WEST!

(Continued from page 34) The next step is to find legislators willing to sponsor this legislation, and then to have it introduced in the 2020 legislative session starting in January. Pretty ambitious goal, but we are on schedule to get it done. If you have any questions about this, feel free to get in touch with me **as I'm the Chair of the Tracked ATV/UTV Committee.**

Bavarian Boondockers' Snowfest 8!

This was the first year I attended Snowfest. My daughter and I had talked about it before, but after helping at Expo in Puyallup and visiting the Spokane show, we are usually ready for a break from shows when Snowfest rolls around. This year we decided to skip Spokane and hit Leavenworth instead. Wow, what a great event! No, size-wise it doesn't compare with Expo or Spokane, but that isn't the intent. Snowfest is more of a party; an event where a bunch of sled-heads get together and visit. All the local clubs were there and talking about their area and events. Local dealers were on hand too, ready to sell you a new ride. And there were other exhibitors selling gear as well with snow show deal pricing. As it turned out, I spent more in Leavenworth on gear than I did in Puyallup this year! One **big draw to Snowfest are the raffles. I'm not sure if you needed to be present to win for all of them, but I know some required it; because of that, we didn't partake as we didn't plan on being around late in the afternoon.** I got to thinking about it later though and if a person planned their day right, it would be easy to do. Leavenworth has a lot to offer and the key would be to enter the raffles, bug out and check out the town, and then come back at drawing time. (You get a wristband to prove you paid the entrance fee already.) Maybe next year. Congrats to the **Boondockers; I see in Matt Kensrud's club article they had an all-time record attendance this year.**

Exhibitors' sales. While at Snowfest, I talked to one of the exhibitors and asked how his day was going. He said they were doing very well. During the course of our conversation he noted his sales at the Puyallup Expo exceeded last year. And then he put it into context; last year had been their **best year ever... This is awesome news!** What makes a successful show? Happy customers and happy exhibitors, and those two go hand in hand. **Here's hoping for an even better, stronger show in 2020!**

Arctic Cat 2021. I know I've questioned Cat's commitment, even future viability, but

it's hard to argue with their new sled introductions. They have stepped outside the box by introducing 2021 models before the 2019/2020 season has even begun. Taking it even further though is the new 2021 mid-size snowmobile line called the Blast. All are based around a chassis containing a brand-new liquid-cooled 400cc single cylinder 2-stroke claiming 65 hp. That horsepower rating is on par with the fan-cooled twins of Ski-Doo and Polaris, but is lighter weight and riding in a smaller (lighter) chassis. Cat is spreading the Blast across all the important categories; ZR for trails, LT for a utility cross-over, and the one we care about, M for mountain, even including the single beam Alpha rear suspension. This is the perfect sized machine for the kids who have outgrown the pint-sized ZR 200 but aren't ready for a heavy full-size machine. (I'm guessing a few not-so-hard-core adults, women and men, might be interested too.) Color me impressed! Like the 2020 line-up, the only way to get one is to pre-order.

Urban Legend! That's what they call him. Urban Rahoi. A 100 year-old snowmobiler, pilot, and jack of all trades. Urban turned 100 last January and has led an amazing life. He was a bomber pilot in WWII and an Alaskan bush pilot for most of his life. He caught my attention in a write-up in The Antique Snowmobile Club of America's Iron Dog Tracks where it was mentioned he participates in the annual Tired Iron Vintage Sled Race in Fairbanks. Search **his name on YouTube and you'll find video** from that event, as well as other exploits on sleds and in planes. Impressive!

Need a quick brush up... On your avalanche rescue skills? **I've been getting e-mails from BCA (Backcountry Access) and a recent one included links to three YouTube videos; 'Beacon Searching 101', 'Probing 101', and 'Shoveling 101'.** A great refresher; check them out!

My daughter is famous! Okay, that might be a stretch. I was excited though to see her winning scholarship essay for the C.J. Ramstad Memorial Scholarship was printed in the November issue of South Dakota Sno-Plainsman, the publication of the South Dakota Snowmobile Association. If you missed it, her essay is also included in **this Snoflyer; check it out.** If you'd like to check out the Sno-Plainsman, it is available online, although the issues run about a month behind for non-members. Visit www.snowmobilesd.com/sno-plainsman to read them.

Remember the old days? I'm talking back when a day on the snow was a family event with mom and the kids, grandma and grandpa. Some still do it this way, but so many make it a day of endurance. Want to make your day more family-friendly? How about taking along a sled or two. I found



this large inflatable online at www.funboy.com. From their website: "The downhill Funboy Snowmobile Sled pays homage to classic snowmobile vibes and the colors of 1970's retro ski era." The company claims it is made with ultra-thick material with a reinforced rubber base with directional grooves for straight tracking and can hold two people and/or 250 lbs. Take a ride, find a nice hill, and let the sledding commence!

Gonna cost you more to ride Montana this year. Last spring the Montana legislature passed a bill increasing fees on the Montana Snowmobile Trail Pass and Non-resident Snowmobile Temporary Use Permit and designated a new Non-resident Groomed Trail Pass. Out-of-state visitors riding snowmobiles or snow-bikes are required to purchase a Non-resident Temporary Use Permit for \$35, up from \$25 last year. Revenue generated goes to the Snowmobile Program to be used for trail grooming as well as the purchase and maintenance of grooming equipment. In addition, \$.50 from each Non-resident Temporary Use Permit goes to support Search

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Matt's Misc.

(Continued from page 35) and Rescue efforts across Montana. You can purchase a permit online at <https://app.mt.gov/als/index/index.html>.

The Ten Commandments. For staying alive in avalanche terrain I mean. Check out Bruce Temper's blog at www.mountaineers.org/blog/ten-commandments-for-staying-alive-in-avalanche-terrain. What should be an obvious goal is to stay away from dangerous conditions. He lists his commandments and then goes into more detail. A couple of commandments include "thou shalt go one at a time - and leave someone in a safe spot to perform the rescue" and "thou shalt carry the right equipment and know how to use it". Just remember, you can have the latest and greatest avalanche gear and your avalanche rescue skills can be top notch, but the goal is to stay out of an avalanche.

How about another spendy snowmobile va-ca? Head to Svalbard, a Norwegian archipelago (group of islands) between Norway and the North Pole. With 24 hours of darkness in January, this place is

drawing a crowd for viewing the Northern Lights. 'Off the Map Travel' based out of England, is offering up eco-friendly trips using electric snowmo-



bard's dark skies and extended aurora viewing are due to the sun's being at least six degrees below the horizon, meaning the northern lights can appear at any time. Years ago when I lived in Northern Maine, I used to see the aurora borealis fairly frequently and it really cool!

Evaluate sno-parks and trails this winter! I mentioned this last month, but since many will be riding about the time this Snoflyer arrives, I wanted to mention it again. Make it a goal to evaluate the areas you ride this season. I'm going to try! State Parks has an online evaluation form to rate the condition of sno-parks and the local trail system. We are all more inclined to comment when we find a problem, but it is just as important to comment when we find spectacular conditions. Check out the form before the season starts so you'll have an idea of what items to evaluate. You can find the form at www.parks.state.wa.us/FormCenter/Winter-Recreation-9/SnoPark-Onsite-Evaluation-Form-68.

Facebook, Twitter and Instagram! Facebook followers are over 3,165! Find us on Twitter at @wssaus and on Instagram at WSSA.US (not WSSA_US)!

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



SNOWMOBILE RENTALS IN WASHINGTON

Adventure Powersports Rentals

(Ronald/Roslyn)

(509) 933-1737

www.adventurepowersportsrentals.com

Chewack River Guest Ranch

(Methow Valley/Winthrop)

(509) 996-2497

www.chewackranch.com

CJ Marine

(Lake Wenatchee Area)

(Lake Wenatchee Area)

(206) 878-8668

www.cj-rentals.net

Leavenworth Snowmobile Rentals

(Leavenworth)

(509) 763-0333

www.leavenworthsnowmobilerentals.com

Motor Toys

(Cle Elum)

(509) 674-6807

www.motortoysofcleelum.com

Mountain Springs Lodge

(Lake Wenatchee/Leavenworth)

Tours Only

(800) 858-2276

www.mtsprings.com

Sharkey's Watercraft & Snowmobile Rentals

(Chelan)

(509) 687-2312/9819

www.lakechelanonline.com/rentals.html

The Last Resort

(Ronald/Roslyn/Cle Elum)

(509) 649-2222

www.thelastresortwa.com

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

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



Yakima Ski-Benders

Whether you are looking for a fun club to join or a great family event to attend, the Yakima Ski-Benders have you covered!

Find us on Facebook
"Yakima SkiBenders"



Join our club!

Join us on January 26 For our Chinook Pass Snow Fest. Participate in our Bucket Run, stand around a hot fire, enjoy lunch served up in the Little Naches Sno-Park, and maybe even walk away with one of the many raffle prizes available. Details on our Facebook Event Page at www.facebook.com/events/513198542574953.



Our Little Kids' Ride is scheduled for February 29th at the Little Naches Sno-Park. Riding available for kids of all ages and abilities, toddlers to teens! Professional riders on hand to lead rides and perform for the kids. Avalanche safety and trail etiquette a prime focus. A tasty lunch will be catered for participating families. Camp for the weekend! Details on our Facebook Event Page at www.facebook.com/events/2626625574027359.



The Ski-Benders' Scavenger Hunt will be held in conjunction with the Little Kids' Ride at the Little Naches Sno-Park on Chinook Pass. Find one of our hidden plates and be entered for a cash drawing. Raffle tickets available for all with a chance to win other great prizes. Lunch available! Details on our Facebook Event Page at www.facebook.com/events/484186338799879.

