

Snoflyer

*The official publication of the
Washington State Snowmobile Association*

March 2021
Volume 43

Past the Halfway Point for Most...

We hope you are exploring the trails and play areas around the state!



Inside:

Safety with Jon - You can still have fun on high avalanche danger days

Registration numbers up over last season

Club News - Check out what they are up to!

Cover photo: Old Scab Mountain and Bumping Lake on Chinook Pass. Pic by Matt Mead



Click here for up-to-date grooming reports!

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Photo Credit - Craig Hill

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WSSA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership valid until August 31, 2022

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

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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

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WSSA MEETINGS AND IMPORTANT EVENTS 2020/2021

WSSA Budget Meeting March 15th, 2021 Online

Season wrap up and setting the budget for the 2021/2022 season.
E-mail dean.meakinj@wssa.us for details.

International Snowmobile Congress Omaha, Nebraska June 9th-12th, 2021

Visit with snowmobilers from across the U.S. and Canada. Find out what goes on at the state, national and international level of organized snowmobiling. Details at <http://www.snowmobilers.org/isc>

WSSA Summer Meeting & Campout Blu-Shastin RV Park, Peshastin (Blewett Pass) August 13th-15th, 2021

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

D.C. Fly-In Fall - Date TBD

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

WSSA Snowmobile & Power Sports Expo & Swap Meet Puyallup Fairgrounds October 16th-17th, 2021

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Matt Mead, Publicity Secretary

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snoflyer@wssa.us

Leadership

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



Thank you to Wayne and Florence Mohler. Another online voting event went through without a hitch. Great job! Thank you to those who participated in voting online. Thank you Christina Markovits, for volunteering your services to be our Recording Secretary for the next two years. This position really helps the President get his or her planning together for the next WSSA meeting. Thank you to the new District Reps for stepping up to the plate. Thank you to the District Reps including Mike Ainslie, Jim Kingman and Jim Bauer; and past Recording Secretary, who have retired. We have other District Rep vacancies this year, however we are working hard to get the right person for these jobs. Thank you to all the officers who have continued on.

We are going to have another year of not knowing what is going on with our WSSA Snowmobile Expo. We are in Phase 2 right now which is at best 25% exhibitors and 25% attendees. This is providing the fairgrounds is up to speed with their property. We are GO until we are NOT. More to follow.

The new WSSA budget for 2021-2022 is coming up real soon in March. This means we need to pay close attention to what amount of income we project and then prioritize the mandatory expenses and work our way down the list to help minimize our losses. Thanks COVID-19! I am always optimistic we will have a solution everyone can live with.

Thank you goes to, Christine Jourdain of ACSA (American Council of Snowmobile Associations), Wayne Mohler of WSSA, and Craig Stahl, president of Methow Valley Snowmobile Association, for taking care of business! As you read last month, the U.S. Forest Service rescinded the closure along Highway 20. That is win for organized snowmobiling!

Western Chapter and ACSA Mountain Riding Areas had a great double meeting on February 19th! These were both face-to-face and Zoom meetings that worked out okay. The Canadian Provinces all logged in for the afternoon meeting without a hitch. Thank you to Bert Miller for leading in both meetings. Thank you to Jason Howell for leading our Western Chapter ride with 22 sleds in attendance. Keep the Herzog family in your prayers as they were unable to attend this event due to the loss of Scott's brother.

The 2021 International Snowmobile Congress is still a 'go until it is not' in Omaha, Nebraska, in June. Please consider attending this as it is very informational and educational. The Canadian border is still closed which will cause a problem with the ones that come down from there. More to follow.

In closing; I have had both of my COVID-19 vaccinations and am still here! What a shot in the arm! Please consider the options and make your decision. Please continue to keep safe and practice social distancing until it is safe. Keep building bridges and not walls!



Western Chapter group ride enjoyed the view from Two Top near West Yellowstone.



Double avalanches in view at Meadow Mountain, in British Columbia.



Leadership



Delia Alred, Vice President
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We are finally getting our much needed snowfall. I hope everyone has had an opportunity to get out and enjoy it. As I write this, I am in West Yellowstone and have just attended the Western Chapter and the American Council of Snowmobile Associations' (ACSA) Mountain Riding summit. Kim Rapp gave a report for ACSA and what's in the works.

ACSA is developing 10 memes for social media that will include making good choices, speed, youth training, youth riding, stay on snow, avalanche, ice safety, ice color, and trespassing. The states will be getting this info to share with our members.

Kim also talked about the OSV (over-snow vehicle) travel rule the Forest Service uses as a guideline for grooming the trails and riding snowmobiles. The rule is different in different states and needs to be more uniform. He was in Minnesota and Michigan studying the impact of a snowmobile and a quad/side-by-sides on the trail. A lot of the information out there is for non-snow vehicles. Some areas go by dates to determine when to start grooming, not by snow depth. The different snow depths were from 3" to 24". That doesn't account for the type of snow involved. We need to work with the Forest Service at the local level to determine the rules and how they meet our needs. Here in Washington, if there is enough snow, the local Forest Service can close the roads before grooming starts on December 15th. The take away here is to work closely with the local Forest Service and educate them on our needs as they have the most control.

Kim also reminded us to tell the truth about snowmobiling. The Oregon State Snowmobile Association (OSSA) also made a new board position titled an 'Avalanche Coordinator'. He will be trained to train people on avalanche safety and awareness. They want to have affordable classes several times a year throughout their state.

The spring D.C. Fly-In has been moved to the fall. The date is yet to be determined.

The International Snowmobile Congress is still on for June, however, Canada will be attending through ZOOM as they are on a travel ban due to COVID.

The next WSSA meeting will be online, March 15th at 6pm.

I hope to see you on the snow!

Washington State Parks

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COVID-19

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Warming huts & shelters are open this winter.

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Notes

WSSA's latest Associate member to join our new Partnership Program

With all the challenges facing everyone during this past year, we're starting a trial program with our Associate members to try to bring our snowmobile members together with our Associate members through an affinity or loyalty program. It's very simple and straightforward – As an Associate, just let us know how you would like to participate. WSSA will publicize the Associate members and what they are offering in the Snoflyer and on social media. Just contact membership@wssa.us to get signed up!

And announcing our second Associate member to sign up:

Tracy's Quality Painting, Gig Harbor, has been a WSSA member for over 15 years. They are offering a 10% discount on a painting job. Their primary service area is Gig Harbor, Tacoma, and University Place. Check them out at www.tracysqualitypainting.com,



And don't forget Luft Trailer Sales in Ellensburg. They are offering a 10% discount on parts.



Are you next? Add your business name here!



COVID-19 Message from WSSA

The Washington State Snowmobile Association encourages snowmobile clubs and individual snowmobilers to take precautions to avoid being infected by COVID and aiding in the spread of the disease. WSSA as an organization is doing our part; we have cancelled all in-person activities and moved our business online until further notice.

Please follow the guidelines set out by the state and take note of the current 'stage' your county or the area you ride is in. As we move through the snowmobile season, it is likely the guidelines will be changing, and we are hopeful it will mean an easing of restrictions. You can find the latest information and guidelines at <https://coronavirus.wa.gov>.

We believe snowmobiling is a legitimate activity to pursue during this crisis due to the nature of our sport which allows us to social distance and recreate isolated from large gatherings. With only minor changes to our usual habits, we can easily satisfy the safety guidelines in place.

We hope you have a fun and safe winter out on the snow in Washington this winter!

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Safety with Jon

AVALANCHE WARNING

High avalanche danger today

By Jon Ferrian — wssasafety101@gmail.com

Can you have a safe and fun day of snowmobiling on a high avalanche danger day and still feel good about your decision?

The short answer is yes... There are two ways you can get to "yes" in this situation.

The first way is if we simply do not know any better and out of ignorance and lack of training. We may have a false sense of security because we have not understood the real dangers of an avalanche in the backcountry where we ride. The 2020/2021 season has been one of the deadliest avalanche seasons in history and we are only approaching the end of February at the time that I am writing this article.

The second way to do this is to get avalanche education training and learn first-hand how to identify, read and avoid avalanche terrain all together. Once you have a good understanding of how avalanches work and how to identify the terrain that leaves you vulnerable to injury or death, you start to find ways to make good decisions and plan your routes and the types of terrain you will avoid as part of your day.

I recently attended rides on Saturday and Sunday while the avalanche danger was both considerable and high across most of the state. Our group had a very open and honest discussion about our original objectives for our ride early in the week and we left our final plans open to what we saw over the week in regard to

Choose your terrain to have a safe and fun ride during times of high avalanche danger.



weather, avalanche conditions and our riding partners who were available. Well, three out of three of our check points we had established all fell apart... The weather was heavy snow and windy conditions with a warming trend. The avalanche danger was HIGH and getting worse and ultimately the group we wanted to go out with, who had full avalanche training, couldn't come together that weekend. Ultimately the group we did have was still amazing and everyone had avalanche safety gear and collectively we all agreed to go to the sno-park we all agreed had virtually no avalanche terrain. We still had to deal with heavy snow and limited visibility, but we had two people in our group who were very familiar with the riding area and who had GPS trackers that allowed us to navigate safely even in limited visibility.

We were able to simply focus on our riding and having a good time in the fresh snow! Which option above do you want to make part of your plans and choices?

I hope you're having a fun and safe season!

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District Reports



District 1 South

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

Greetings snowmobilers!

I hope everyone has been out taking advantage of the generous amount of snow we received in mid-February; what a change from January! Epic snowfall all around Washington makes for some fantastic snowmobiling. But please remember the elevated avalanche risk that comes with big snowfall events which have taken some lives around the western states. I'm sorry to hear of the loss of fellow snowmobilers and I will keep their families in my prayers.

The Cascade Drift Skippers (CDS) have been busy hosting club rides every week throughout this winter snowmobile season. Several club members have been hosting rides in Washington, Idaho, and Montana. Thank you to all of the CDS club members who have stepped up and hosted club rides this season. People like Bill Yager, Tony Keys, Billy Sehmel, Jon Ferrian and several more who have taken the time and committed to host club rides and for making the Cascade Drift Skippers such an awesome club to be part of. They prioritize snowmobiling for their members and that equals fun!

Along with weekly snowmobile rides, the Cascade Drift Skippers have been hosting their monthly virtual club meetings via Facebook Live every second Wednesday of the month. The Facebook Live meetings have been going very well with several live viewers and lots of viewer feedback.

Tony Keys will be stepping down next year as club president making room for someone else to take over the leadership of the Cascade Drift Skippers. Thank you Tony Keys for all your hard work and commitment to the CDS club and for doing a great job! CDS will be nominating new board members and voting to come soon.

CDS has several new members who have joined the club recently and that speaks volumes as to how many new snowmobilers are joining our sport. CDS will continue to have club meetings every second Wednesday of the month at 7pm via Facebook Live until COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

I recently spent a week in West Yellowstone and it was an epic snowmobile experience. I spent all week with family and great friends snowmobiling every day. A big thank

you to my daughter Christina Markovits and Tanner Hamlyn for hosting the ride in West Yellowstone in which they did a great job!

While there, I also attended the western conference of snowmobile associations. The meeting was a great experience and very educational. Hopefully the information will bring new ideas to WSSA and the snowmobile clubs of Washington.

Please check back with the CDS website calendar and CDS Facebook event page for

updated ride information as the season progresses. CDS is having rides every weekend and everyone is welcomed and encouraged to join in on a ride and hopefully join the club.

I would like to remind everyone there are many different snowmobile clubs throughout Washington State and I want to encourage you to visit some of the other areas and other club events happening in Washington. There are approximately 80 motorized snow-

(Continued on page 10)

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District Reports

(Continued from page 9)

parks in Washington and many have much less snowmobile traffic usage than some of the more popular areas.

I hope everyone had the opportunity to vote for the new WSSA board members as I know it's not always an easy job and I want to thank those new WSSA board members for stepping up and working very hard on our behalf and for helping us to keep snowmobiling alive in Washington state. Congratulations to the new WSSA board and thank you to all of the previous board members who volunteered their valuable time and dedication to WSSA.

The next WSSA meeting is March 15th and will be a virtual meeting in which the new board members take over their elected positions and this meeting is where the annual budget is worked out for next year.

Want to Volunteer?

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

Think snow and please be safe out there and I hope to see everyone out on the trail.



District 2 South

By Matt Kensrud
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 (509) 433-2100

Winter is in full swing in District 2 South! The snow is piling up, FINALLY! Groomers across the district are running at full bore, with the occasional down tree or 20!

On the business side of things I would like to talk about new riders. We are seeing more people riding by themselves, not having the proper gear, or just getting lost. We need to step up and let them know the best way to learn about snowmobiling is to join a club; interactions with seasoned riders will make there adventure way more fun! If you have any questions, feel free to e-mail me at



kustom509@aol.com or bavarianboondockers@gmail.com.

Thanks, be safe and have fun! See ya on the mountain!



District 4 North

By Tanner Hamlyn
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Happy snowmobiling everyone!

I would like to formally introduce myself, my name is Tanner Hamlyn. I have been an avid snowmobiler for 20 years now. I grew up a member of the Sno-Jammers from the age of five and have been a member of different clubs across the state of Washington and into Idaho. My girlfriend and I try to go riding every weekend of our short season and make the best out of the snow we are given. We ride all over the state, trying to discover new areas.

The reason I decided to step up and try my hand at the District 4 North Representa-

(Continued on page 11)

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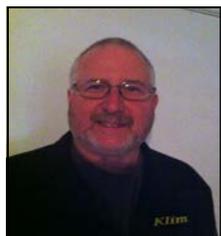
District Reports

(Continued from page 10)

tive is because the snowmobile community in Washington needs a younger voice. The younger generation needs to be heard and to get more involved in the local clubs and WSSA so we can continue to grow the sport across the state. I encourage everyone reading this to think about how you can make a positive impact on our beloved sport and to find new ways to get involved in the snowmobile community.

The Sno-Jammers have their 31st annual Fun-Run on March 6th. This is a family-friendly event so bring everyone you know! I encourage anyone who would like to play their luck at winning top hand or top prize, enjoy a great day in the snow, and meet other riders, to come attend. Follow the Sno-Jammers' Facebook page and website at www.snojammers.org for information.

I look forward to meeting many of you and learning new things in my journey as the WSSA District 4 North Rep. See you on the snow!



District 4 South

By Mike Ainslie
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 (360) 430-1494

Greetings everyone!

In District 4 South, we finally got some snow and I do believe everyone got snow. They have been grooming on St. Helens and they're working on getting all the trails groomed after the recent big snowfalls.

Sorry to say but over at Flat Top they've been having major problems with not just one snowcat but the backup cat too. I know it's been down for over three weeks now as they await parts from Tucker who is the manufacturer of the cats used over on that side of the mountain. I did speak with the owner of the cats and he said the second they are going he will have his guys running all the trails every day to get them opened back up for everyone to enjoy.

The Mt. Adams Snowmobile Club had to cancel their chili run for this month. Then boom! A ton of snow fell the next week...

The Mt. St. Helens Trac Riders don't have any rides or fundraisers going on at this time. They are still working with the Forest Service to try and keep our new warming shelter in prime condition with all the people who want to tear stuff apart. So sad. If they only knew how much work from our club went into it they may think twice...

This is my last article I will be writing for the Snoflyer because of my medical condition. I have not even ridden my snowmobile the last three years and I haven't been able to attend any of the WSSA meetings of late. So at this time I'm stepping back away from being involved with WSSA and being the Grooming Coordinator for the Mt. Adams snowmobile trail system out of Trout Lake.

I hope everyone is able to get out and enjoy this great bunch of snow we just received. Thanks for letting me be your District Rep and your Grooming Coordinator.



District 6

By Chris Shires

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Both Southeast Washington clubs (Pomeroy and Dayton) are riding, the groomers are grooming, and burger feeds are operational. There has been lots of snow over the last week to ten days, avalanche warnings are out so come out and enjoy but please be safe.

Parking areas in District 6 have been crowded. The Touchet Corral Sno-Park south of Dayton at the Blue-wood ski area turn off has been especially crowded. Eckler Mountain Sno-Park has been less crowded so plan accordingly.

The Dayton club has cancelled the bucket ride. They serve hamburgers on Saturday at their warming shelter.

Hamburgers are also being served on Saturday and Sunday at the Mt. Misery warming shelter.

The local Sheriff's department and the Forest Service ended a long-standing agreement on road enforce-

ment from the Forest Service line to the Touchet Corral Sno-Park December 31st, 2020. The Sheriff's Department removed all of 'their' speed limit signs and as a result the Forest Service or Fish and Game has installed their own and has now put in radar-controlled speed traps. So they appear to be concerned about speeders. We have also heard the Forest Service is at least writing warning tickets to vehicles without sno-park permits - not sure on their intent to actually write a ticket yet.

So, you're a mountain rider and don't need trails? RIGHT...

Facts Are:

- Groomed trails provide quick access to higher elevation & better snow.
- When you have sled issues, trails provide safest return to your vehicle.
- Injured? Yep, it's the trail they drag you out on.

SUPPORT GROOMERS, TRAILS & SNOWMOBILING BY JOINING A CLUB WHERE YOU RIDE.

ONE AT A TIME

ON THE SLOPES!

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

Supporting Businesses

Washington State Supporting Businesses

| | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|--------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Cycle Barn Smokey Point | P.O. Box 3338 | Arlington | WA | 98223 | www.cyclebarn.com | 360-530-7800 |
| Mt Baker Moto-Sports LLC | 2111 Iowa St | Bellingham | WA | 98229 | www.mtbakermoto.com | 360-676-4096 |
| LLUMIN8 Lighting | 18715 95 th St E | Bonney Lake | WA | 98391 | www.llumin8.com | 253-233-7547 |
| Jay's Snowmobile Service | 1325 Hanson Loop | Burbank | WA | 99323 | | 509-845-2089 |
| Evans Marine | 1058 E Woodin Ave | Chelan | WA | 98816 | www.evansmarine.com | 509-682-4402 |
| Mountain Addiction | 362 Porcupine Ln | Chelan | WA | 98816 | www.mountainaddiction.com | 509-881-8016 |
| High Country Outfitters & Camp Wahoo! | 1780 Nelson Siding Rd | Cle Elum | WA | 98922 | www.campwahoo.com | 509-674-8331 |
| MotorToys Snowmobile Sales, Svc, Rentals | 1313 Spansky Way | Cle Elum | WA | 98922 | | 509-674-6807 |
| Sportland Yamaha Inc | 4402 Bullfrog Rd | Cle Elum | WA | 98922 | www.sportlandyamaha.com | 508-649-2259 |
| The Cottage Cafe | 911 East First St | Cle Elum | WA | 98922 | www.cottagecafecleelum.com | 509-674-2922 |
| Twisted Tunnel | 82 Osprey Dr. | Cle Elum | WA | 98922 | www.twistedtunnelparts.com | 425-652-9622 |
| Bennys Colville Inn | 915 S Main St | Colville | WA | 99114 | www.colvilleinn.com | 509-684-2517 |
| Clark's Marine & Powersports | 192 DeGrief Rd | Colville | WA | 99114 | www.clarkspowersports.com | 509-684-4581 |
| Colville Motor Sports | 165 W Birch Ave | Colville | WA | 99114 | www.colvillemotorsports.com | 509-684-5540 |
| Gibsons North Fork Lodge | 100 West Boone | Conconully | WA | 98819 | www.gibsonsnorthforklodge | 509-826-1475 |
| Kozy Kabins & RV Park | 111 East Broadway | Conconully | WA | 98819 | | 509-826-6780 |
| Shady Pines Resort | 125 West Fork Rd | Conconully | WA | 98819 | www.shadypinesresort.com | 509-826-2287 |
| Sit'N'Bull Bar & Grill | PO Box 322 | Conconully | WA | 98819 | | 509-826-2947 |
| Bob Feil Boats & Motors | 2131 Sunset Hwy | E Wenatchee | WA | 98802 | www.bobfeil.com | 509-884-3558 |
| The Fab Shop | 10315 16th St E | Edgewood | WA | 98372 | www.thefabshop.com | 253-568-9124 |
| Central Powersports | 2310 W. Dolarway Rd | Ellensburg | WA | 98926 | www.centralpowersports.com | 509-933-1737 |
| Ellensburg Powersports | 309 S. Main St | Ellensburg | WA | 98926 | | 509-925-9330 |
| Ellensburg Tire Center | 400 W. University Way | Ellensburg | WA | 98926 | | 509-925-1044 |
| Luft Trailer Sales | 907 N Hibbs Rd | Ellensburg | WA | 98926 | www.lufttrailers.com | 509-962-5445 |
| Clem's Enumclaw Powersports | 408 Roosevelt Ave | Enumclaw | WA | 98022 | www.enumclawsuzuki.com | 360-825-4502 |
| Jet Chevrolet - RV Inc. | 35700 Enchanted Pkwy S | Federal Way | WA | 98063 | www.jetchevrolet.com | 877-538-2438 |
| Soundview Consultants LLC | 2907 Harborview Dr | Gig Harbor | WA | 98335 | www.soundviewconsultants.com | 253-514-8952 |
| Tracy's Quality Painting Inc. | 3008 14th Ave NW | Gig Harbor | WA | 98335 | | 253-858-8242 |
| Pacific Logging LLC | 9823 163 rd Ave NE | Ganite Falls | WA | 98252 | | 425-508-9150 |
| I-90 Motorsports | 200 NE Gilman Blvd | Issaquah | WA | 98027 | www.I-90motorsports.com | 425-391-4490 |
| Pierre's Polaris | 7504 NE 175th St Ste 8 | Kenmore | WA | 98028 | www.pierrespolaris.com | 425-488-8600 |
| Ridenow Powersports Tri-Cities | 3305 W 19th Ave | Kennewick | WA | 99338 | www.ridenowtricity.com | 509-735-1117 |
| Bob's Lift Trucks & Equipment | 426 Naden Ave S | Kent | WA | 98032 | | 253-872-0401 |
| Greg's Motorsports | 5817 184 th Ave Ct E | Lake Tapps | WA | 98391 | | 253-380-0558 |
| 59er Diner and Cabins | 15361 US Hwy 2 | Leavenworth | WA | 98826 | www.59erdiner.com | 509-763-2267 |
| Dan's Food Market | 1329 US Hwy 2 | Leavenworth | WA | 98826 | www.dansfoodmarket.com | 509-548-5611 |
| Leavenworth Snowmobile Rentals | 15361 US Hwy 2 | Leavenworth | WA | 98826 | www.leavenworthsnowmobilerentals.com | 509-763-0333 |
| Mountain Springs Lodge | 19115 Chiwawa Loop Rd | Leavenworth | WA | 98826 | www.mtsprings.com | 509-763-2713 |
| Pacific Mountain Services | 22745 Brown Rd | Leavenworth | WA | 98826 | | 509-670-6665 |
| Loon Lake Marina | 41080 Marina Rd | Loon Lake | WA | 99148 | | 509-233-2303 |
| Premier Polaris | 122 Charles St | Monroe | WA | 98272 | www.premierpolaris.com | 360-794-8669 |

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Denotes an Associate who offers a WSSA membership discount!

Supporting Businesses

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|--------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Levi's Auto Parts | 500 E 3rd Ave | Moses Lake | WA | 98837 | | 509-765-4567 |
| Moses Lake Collision Repair Inc | 1006 W Marina Dr | Moses Lake | WA | 98837 | | 509-764-8001 |
| Lifestyles Honda Skidoo | 3302 Cedardale Rd Ste E100 | Mount Vernon | WA | 98274 | www.lifestyleshonda.com | 360-416-3950 |
| Elk Ridge Campground | 13880 SR 410 | Naches | WA | 98397 | www.elkridgecampground.com | 509-658-2093 |
| Gold Creek Station | 18431 SR 410 | Naches | WA | 98937 | | 509-658-2583 |
| Pape Machinery/Washington Tractor | 1 Patrol St | Okanogan | WA | 98840 | www.papemachinery.com | 877-422-3030 |
| Xtreme Powersports | 1930 2 nd Ave N | Okanogan | WA | 98840 | www.shopxtremepowersports.net | 509-826-5771 |
| WA State Parks Winter Rec Program | 1111 Israel Rd SW | Olympia | WA | 98504 | www.state.parks.wa.us | 360-902-8595 |
| Backcountry Plowing & Grooming | 23616 154 th St E | Orting | WA | 98360 | | 253-722-4123 |
| Blu-Shastin RV Park | 3300 US Hwy 97 | Peshastin | WA | 98847 | www.blushastin.com | 509-548-4184 |
| Chet's Honda/Polaris | 17 H Street SW | Quincy | WA | 98848 | www.chetshonda.com | 509-787-3617 |
| Sundance Landscaping | 11609 172nd Ave NE | Redmond | WA | 98052 | | 425-533-6008 |
| Anderson's Grocery | 711 S Clark Ave | Republic | WA | 99166 | | 509-775-3378 |
| Earthworks, Inc | PO Box 111 | Ronald | WA | 98940 | | |
| Roadhouse @ The Last Resort | 14254 Salmon LaSac Rd | Ronald | WA | 98940 | | 509-649-3125 |
| The Last Resort Operations | 14254 Salmon LaSac Rd | Ronald | WA | 98940 | www.thelastresort.us | 509-649-2222 |
| J & B Enterprises | PO Box 440 | Roslyn | WA | 98941 | | 206-484-0204 |
| Repin Construction LLC | PO Box 541 | Roslyn | WA | 98941 | | 509-649-3323 |
| Life Support | 808 Lincoln St | S. Cle Elum | WA | 98943 | www.lifesupport.com | 509-674-2968 |
| Dianes Tank Removal Services LLC | PO Box 77738 | Seattle | WA | 98177 | www.dianestankremoval.com | 206-510-9497 |
| Empire Cycle & Powersports | 7807 E Sprague Ave | Spokane Valley | WA | 98212 | www.empire-cycle.com | 509-892-6368 |
| Kart-O-Rama Inc | 13701 24 th St E Unit A4 | Sumner | WA | 98390 | www.kartoramainc.com | 253-891-3490 |
| Old Cannery Furniture | 13608 Old Cannery Way | Sumner | WA | 98390 | www.oldcanneryfurniture.com | 253-863-0422 |
| Hank's Harvest Foods | 412 E Methow Hwy | Twisp | WA | 98856 | | 509-997-7711 |
| Twisp NAPA Auto Parts | 214 S Methow Valley Hwy | Twisp | WA | 98856 | www.napaonline.com | 509-997-2461 |
| Independent Trailer & Equip Co | 1602 Rudkin Rd | Union Gap | WA | 98903 | www.itec-inc.com | 509-452-3672 |
| Premier Power Sports | 2615 Main St | Union Gap | WA | 98903 | www.premierpowersportswa.com | 509-965-9889 |
| G & G Automotive Machine | 34 S Palouse | Walla Walla | WA | 99362 | | 509-525-2890 |
| Wenatchee Power Sports | 3031 G.S. Center Rd | Wenatchee | WA | 98801 | www.wenpow.com | 509-665-6686 |
| Radcomp Technologies | 136 N Main St | White Salmon | WA | 98672 | www.gorad.com | 509-493-2221 |
| Three Fingered Jacks | 176 Riverside Ave | Winthrop | WA | 98862 | www.3fingeredjacks.com | 509-996-2411 |
| Nob Hill Auto Wrecking | 2609 West Birchfield Rd | Yakima | WA | 98901 | www.nobhillautowrecking.com | 509-452-2803 |
| Owen's Yamaha-Suzuki Polaris | 1707 N 1st St | Yakima | WA | 98901 | | 509-575-1916 |
| VanAmburg Enterprises Inc | 2920 River Rd Ste 1 | Yakima | WA | 98902 | www.vanamburgent.com | 509-225-6681 |

Out of State Supporting Businesses

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

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Club News



Tollgate Trail Finders

By Brandon Christensen, President

Hi snowmobile friends!
What a difference a few weeks can make. New snow throughout the West has improved riding conditions at most areas including Tollgate. While it has been a bumpy ride (literally) for a couple weeks, the forecast over the next week looks incredible. Time to get out there and enjoy the pow.

Unfortunately, with all this new snow comes dangerous avalanche conditions. Please read the Wallowa Avalanche Center Forecast and adjust your riding area a bit so you come home to your loved ones. We usually say "pray for snow" but this time, pray for the families who have lost loved ones!

Kids' Ride Led By Kolby Christensen – by Kolby Christensen

"It was fun to host another Kids' Ride. We had 30 riders attend with 15 of them being under the age of 18. We rode together to the Chapman Bone Springs Warming Shelter and held a couple events for the riders. Thanks to the grooming crew for making sure the trails were smooth and even made a nice pad for our events at Bone Springs. We all had fun and even had a couple folks get stuck. This year we were excited to have the



event sponsored by JMC Motorsports. The crew at JMC made us some super cool T-shirts which we handed out to the junior rid-

The crew. 30 riders with 15 of them 18 years old.



ers. JMC has locations in Pasco and at Tollgate to serve you. JMC markets Arctic Cat, Honda, Husqvarna, Gas Gas as well as Yeti Snowbike kits."

Open House – TTF Clubhouse – Hosts Needed

With the number of new snowmobilers on the mountain, we would like to introduce them to the Tollgate Trail Finders (TTF). One way to do this is hosting an Open House at the TTF clubhouse. We are looking for hosts who would like to staff the TTF clubhouse on an upcoming Saturday or Sunday for a few hours. If you or someone you know would like to volunteer, e-mail Dewayne Harvill at averyd@gmail.com or Dottie Carrell at dcarr12@aol.com so we can get it scheduled.

Recent Avalanches

The past few days have been the deadliest week of U.S. avalanches on record. Recently, there have been avalanche-related deaths in Alaska, California, Colorado, Utah,



Avalanche on Feb 6th, Uintah Mountains, Utah.

Montana, New Hampshire and Washington. One of the avalanches occurred near Cle Elum involving an off duty Washington State Patrol (WSP) Trooper. Trooper Steve Houle was a 28-year veteran of the WSP. Houle was riding his snowbike near French Cabin Creek around 11am when the slide happened, burying him and his riding partner. Fortunately his partner was able to dig himself out and notify authorities. Unfortunately, Houle was not found until 7pm which was much too late. This is a stark reminder of why each of us should get avalanche training and avalanche gear. The gear does us no good if we do not know how to use it.

All of us are itching to hit the powder. This is especially the case this year due to the erratic snow season we've had. Time to use our avalanche training or get some ASAP.

January 2021 Grooming Summary Provided by Jess Thompson - TTF grooming Chairman

- 551 miles groomed
- 95 hours spent grooming
- 634 gallons of fuel burned
- 10 hours maintenance on snowcats
- 24 trees removed from the trail
- 848 miles driven to/from mountain
- 19 hours driving time to/from mountain

Upcoming Events

March 6th, 5pm – TTF Elections and Membership Meeting at TTF Clubhouse and via Teams Link. Link available soon.

March 13th – AIARE Avalanche Class by Wallowa Avalanche Center – Fee to attend.

March 13th, 10am – Wallowa County Gambler's Jr. Sledder Day – Salt Creek Summit.

Club Elections!

At our February 6th membership meeting, we held nominations for our upcoming election on March 6th. We have numerous open board member and officer positions.

Below is a current list of nominations:

- President – Dewayne Harvill
- Vice President – Doug Moenke
- Treasurer – Alex Moenke

Nominations were open until Feb 28th. Ballots will be available soon. We are working on logistics of how it will work this year since COVID restrictions currently prohibit us from having more than 20 individuals inside the clubhouse at one time. More to come so watch our Facebook Page, our website www.tollgatetrailfinders.org, and your e-mail inbox for updates on the 2021 election. Your voice is important to us!



Pacific Northwest Vintage Snowmobile Club

By Kevin Hancock, Webmaster

Our Montana group managed to put together an eleven-mile one-way antique and vintage ride to the ghost town Garnet, Montana. For a special treat the local snowmobile club hosted a full meal barbeque. They had an epic powder day for their annual 'Don Phillips Memorial Ride'.

(Continued on page 15)

Club News

(Continued from page 14) There were over thirty vintage and classic sleds that showed up to participate. The day was filled with old sleds, old buildings, beer brats, and great friends. It was an awesome, unique day ride to the ghost town!

While our club has cancelled all our riding events for this season because of the pandemic, that has not stopped our members from getting together to play with their antique, vintage, and classic sleds. This is also a great time to see if the machines we repaired or restored are now in original running condition.

We expect more of these the rest of this snowmobile season. If you have an old sled that's been sitting in storage, or one you've just got running and interested in testing, let us know. We can be reached at our e-mail: pnwvsc@gmail.com. (Continued on page 16)



Members of the Montana wing of the PNWVSC participated in the Don Phillips Memorial Ride to the ghost town of Garnet, MT.



Club News

(Continued from page 15)



PNWVSC members enjoyed a bit of time on the snow at Mt. St. Helens.



Yakima Ski-Benders

By Liz Van Amburg, President

Hi Ski-Bender Nation!
 How about all this beautiful white stuff?! I have been out enjoying it for sure. I actually can ride from our temporary house to the trails! I love that! This has been a crazy winter on the trails. I have never come around a corner and faced off with vehicles that are not supposed to be there. I came around a corner and saw three side-by-sides. I just want everyone, especially families with kids, to keep this in mind. I was startled by it on two separate weekends. We as riders have to assume they are there. I have ridden for years and never have experienced this, so to have it happen two weekends in a row has made me very aware.

I have noticed on my Facebook all the Yakima Ski-Benders have been out enjoying the snow as well. It is deep! Huge shout out to all the kids out riding their own sleds; I love all the pictures.

Speaking of pictures, Paula Hiatt submitted the

group shot from last years Kids Ride to the PNW Snowmobilers Facebook page and they used it for their cover! Thank you, that was awesome!

The Lady Ski-Benders were invited to join The Sno-Jammers Ladies Ride on February 6th. Shannon Lawler-Lind helped me rally a group to meet at Government Meadows and continued on to Raven's Roost. We had 9-year-old to 70+ yrs-old in our group. Thank you to all who joined; it was a fun day! Thank you Sno-Jammers for hosting!

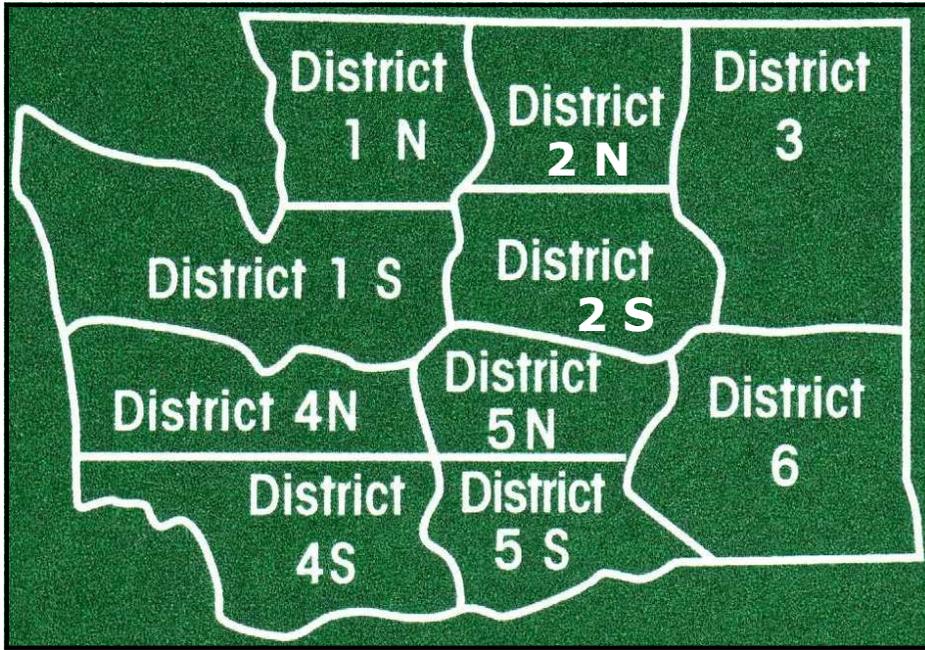
The Ski-Benders had their Chinook Pass SnowFest (Poker Ride) on January 31st. COVID did not stop anyone from joining us this year as we had as many as we always do! Thank you, Paul and Ronna (Continued on page 18)



Gals from the Ski-Benders participated in the Sno-Jammers' Ladies Ride at Government Meadows.



Snowmobile Clubs



Note: Facebook addresses in blue

District 1 North

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

Northwest Glacier Cruisers

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



Whatcom County Snowmobile Club

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



District 1 South

(King County)

Cascade Drift Skippers

Tony Keys
(208) 880-1096
tjkrash@gmail.com
www.cds.clubexpress.com
[Cascade Drift Skippers](#)



District 2 North

(Okanogan/Ferry Counties)

Assoc. of Okanogan County Snowmobile Clubs

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

Bonaparte Snowmobile/ATV Club

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



Butte Busters Snowmobile Club

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

Crawfish Lake Snowmobile Club

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

Methow Valley Snowmobile Assoc.

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



Mountain Trails Grooming Assoc.

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



North Central ATV Club of WA

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

Republic Tree Benders

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

Tri-River Snowmobile Club

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



District 2 South

(Chelan/Douglas Counties)

Apple Country Snowmobile Club

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



Bavarian Boondockers

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



Lake Chelan Snowmobile Club

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



Lake Wenatchee Recreation Club

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



District 3

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

Chewelah Sno Posse

Howard Justice
509-233-8027

Colville Driftriders

Steve Fogle
(509) 684-3601

Selkirk Trailblazers

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

Spokane Winter Knights

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



District 4 North

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

Junco Snowmobile Club

Tom Imm
(253) 370-6145
tombimm@gmail.com
[Junco Snowmobile Club](#)



Lewis County Drift Skippers

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

Northwest Boondockers

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

Sno-Jammers Snowmobile Club

Chris Sutton
253-224-8806
snowkingsutton79@gmail.com
www.snojammers.org
[SnoJammers](#)



District 4 South

(Clark/Cowlitz/Skamania/Wahkiakum Counties)

Mt Adams Snowmobile Club

Shay Smith
(541) 490-0891
mtadamssnowmobileclub@gmail.com
[Mt Adams Snowmobile Club](#)

Mt St Helens Trac Riders

Doug Wick
(360) 751-8250
dwick@entekvac.com
[Mt. St. Helens Trac Riders](#)

District 5 North

(Kittitas County)

Hi Country Beelers

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



Reecer Creek Riders

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



Snomads

BJ Oswald
(206) 227-2912
bjoswald21@gmail.com
[Snomads of Easton](#)



Stampede Summit Seekers

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

Teanaway Snowmobile Club

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

District 5 South

(Benton/Klickitat/Yakima Counties)

Cascade Snow Drifters

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

Chinook Pass Snowmobile Club

Bob Jump
(509) 966-5074

Drift-A-Way Snowmobile Club

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



Yakima Ski-Benders

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



District 6

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

Blue Mountain Snowmobile Club

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

Mt. Misery Snow Drifters

Kent Flynn
(509) 566-7012 • klflynn@msn.com
[Mt Misery Snowdrifters](#)

Tollgate Trail-Finders

Brandon Christensen
(509) 830-3706
tollgatetraifinders@gmail.com
www.tollgatetraifinders.org
[Tollgate Trail Finders Snowmobile Club](#)



Pacific Northwest

Pacific Northwest Vintage Snowmobile Club

Stephen Phillips
(603) 203-5344 • pnwvsc@gmail.com
pacificnorthwestvintagesnowmobileclub.org
[Pacific Northwest Vintage Snowmobile Club](#)



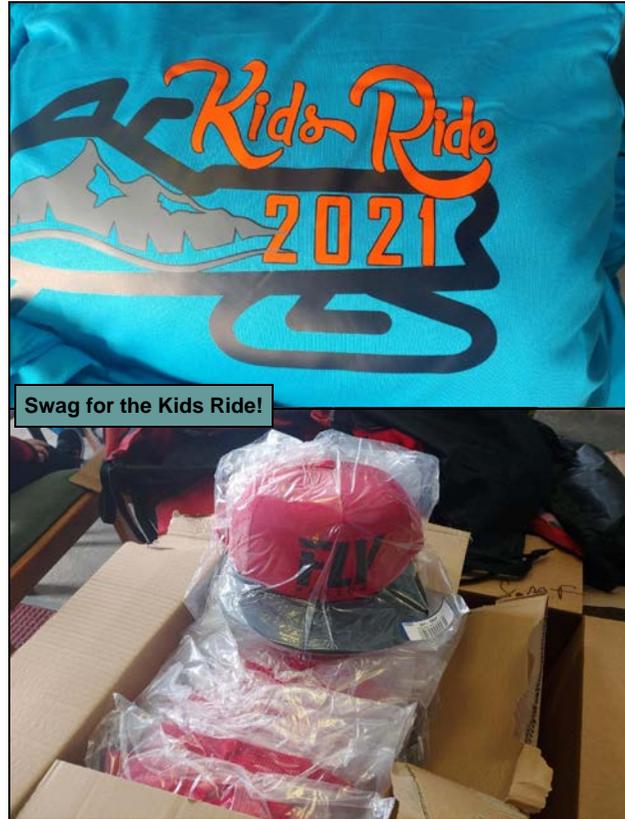
Vintage Snowmobiles of the Inland N.W.

Dave Brummer
(208) 755-8334 • dbrummer@stimsonlumber.com
www.wsvsa.com/VSTOTINW.html

Club News

(Continued from page 16) Younie for chairing, and Dee Alred for all your help. Leesha Fuller and Heather Rockwell worked with me in the club trailer selling and counting hands and slinging hot dogs and chili. I must say thank you to both of them for making me laugh all day long! We did have a royal flush winner! We gave out cash and prizes and everything felt like the old normal if only for a day! Our club has the best volunteers; everyone jumped in at the end of the day and we were cleaned up, packed up and on our way in no time flat!

By the time you read this Snoflyer, we'll have just concluded the Yakima Ski-Benders 9th annual Kids Ride! With 12 days to go as I write this, we already have 79 Kids pre-registered. Fly Racing donated goodie bags for the first 100 kids! FXR is donating 100 beanies and the Yakima Ski-Benders are picking up the tab for the rest. The Club is able to do this event free from a list of private donations given at the Snowmobilers Protest held last December. If any attending parents read this, I would love to hear



Swag for the Kids Ride!

your feedback on your kid's experience at this year's ride. Please e-mail me at vanamburgent@aol.com! There are so many to thank for making this event what it has become to date. We started with an idea to have some great backcountry riders like Brandy Floyd and the North West Free Riders come teach kids about snowmobiling! The first year we had 13 young ladies; the past two years we have had 73 kids and it is growing again! I love we are growing our sport!

COVID definitely made this past year a challenge, however, the Yakima Ski-Benders were very creative and raised more money this past year than we ever have. I felt like we grew our club with younger members learning from the older ones and put on several safe and amazing events!

See you on snow soon! (Continued on page 19)

Clubs:
Show us your LOGOs!

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Club News



(Continued from page 18)

Sno-Jammers Snowmobile Club

By Chris Sutton,
President

Our 31st annual Fun Run is just around the corner and we are busy getting ready for an eventful weekend! We hope to see everyone on Saturday, March 6th, at Government Meadows for a fun, prize-filled day on the snow.

A HUGE thank you goes out to ALL of our sponsors and donors from this year and last year when we were not allowed to have this event. This means we have even more to give away... What are you going to win?

Registration begins at the Government Meadows Cabin at 10am. CASH ONLY. A T-shirt is included with every TWO hands purchased! The top three hands WIN CASH!

*We will still need to (Continued on page 20)

SNO-JAMMERS 31st Annual Fun Run

Saturday, March 6th
(Tentative)
Government Meadows Cabin
(Take Hwy 410 through Greenwater and 1/4 mile after the Fire Station turn left onto Forest Service Rd 70)

Registration 10AM—1PM
Prizes & Raffle start at 2PM
Food available for purchase

More information can be found at
www.snojammers.org or
www.facebook.com/Sno-Jammers-Snowmobile-Club

Sponsors this year include:

- Clem's Enumclaw PowerSports
- The Old Cannery Furniture
- BackCountry Access
- McCallum License Agency
- Stafford Excavating
- Gold Creek Station
- I-90 Motorsports
- C&E Solutions NW
- Tiny's Tire Center
- Western Power Sports
- Jet Chevrolet
- NWAC
- WSSA
- Orting Towing

Sno-Jammers are expecting a spectacular event on March 6th!



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polaris.com/snowmobiles



Club News

(Continued from page 19)

abide by the COVID-19 restrictions that may be in place at that time. Masks and social distancing are REQUIRED. Hand sanitizer stations will be displayed at each checkpoint and the cabin for everyone to use.*

Pyramid Creek Sno-Park has finally received enough snow to ride out of and we are hopeful it will only get better.

Other upcoming club events include:

- **March 3rd** – General club meeting via ZOOM.
- **March 14th** - Clem's KIDS RIDE at Government Meadows.

We are deeply saddened by all of the recent avalanche fatalities and we pray everyone is using caution when in the backcountry! We have had a lot of snow in the past few weeks and still have a persistent weak layer to be concerned about... Please practice safe terrain choices when out riding and know how to effectively use your equipment! Efficiency with your avy equipment is an essential skill that every snowmobiler should have... Stay safe everyone!

Please make sure to update your calendars and watch for more details! Also, do not forget to follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1302044879815501>, or on our website at <http://www.snojammers.org>, for all of our club ride info and updates!



Lake Wenatchee Rec Club

By Marilyn Mylius, Vice President

Hi all! We're so excited about all the new snow we've received in the past few days! Winter lives on!

As with most areas, we are definitely seeing an increase in riders on our trails system. Overall a good thing; more sleds, more funds! But it also increases the challenges of maintaining the trails for all those users!

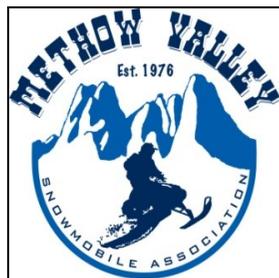
The Lake Wenatchee Rec Club currently has a snowmobile event happening; the 'COVID-19 Beat the Boredom Geocache Snowmobile Challenge'. The event has been well received so far, and continues on until March 15th. There are 12 geocaches on our trails system in the Lake Wenatchee and Entiat Ridge areas. Entry fee is \$25 per person to play, with 50% of the entry fees going to the top winners and lots of local business swag for other prizes. It's a lot of fun and



Boys will be boys!

there's plenty of time left to play! Check out our Facebook page, or contact lakewenatcheerecclub@gmail.com or mmylius@nwi.net for more info on how to play.

Hope to see you all out on the trails! And BE SAFE OUT THERE!



Methow Valley Snowmobile Association

By Craig Stahl, President

Hey Riders! We are excited to announce we now have barbecues at our Sweetgrass hut and Black Pine hut. It is BYOB; bring your own (propane) bottle. Ha, ha! The stoves require the small green propane bottles and we have provided two at the huts for this season. We have also provided a foldable table, so please use the barbecues outside.

If you use it inside than you might need to use the new first-aid kits we provided in the huts. Please only use the items inside the first-aid kits for emergency events.

The huts are well stocked with wood because of our volunteer members; thank you team!

Oh, and yes, the riding has been really good up here in the Methow! We are still waiting on some end-of-the year funds to help plow Harts Pass road for some late season riding. The Methow Valley Snowmobile Association (MVSA) has always taken the lead to make sure the job gets

done. I have talked to the local contractor and they are on board and ready to go. Stay tuned for updates, or join MVSA and you can get first-hand info about the Methow.

(Continued on page 21)



The MVSA has done an outstanding job of making their area welcoming to snowmobilers. Check them out when you get the chance!



Club News

(Continued from page 20)



Tri-Rivers Snowmobile Club

By Kurt Hensley, President

The Tri-Rivers Snowmobile Club joined up with the Butte Busters Snowmobile Club for a great ride



Bavarian Boondockers

By Matt Kensrud, President

Hey sledders, hope your season is going good!

The club has two rides under our belt; both had good turnout.

the Apple Country Snowmobile Club's joint ride in Ellensburg. It was a great day with riders from the Northwest Glacier Cruisers (NWGC), Apple Country, Bavarian Boondockers and Yakima Ski-Benders clubs, with about 50 people total.

On February 6th we had a work party at the Ploeg's Place warming hut to dig out the toilet that was collapsed and covered with eight-feet of snow and put (Continued on page 22)



Join the Tri-Rivers club for a ride in District 2 North.



A trip in to Hunters Meadow Cabin.



You never know what kind of wildlife you'll see in Okanogan Country!

out of Conconully. We had some great snow, saw some beautiful wildlife and took some chairs in to Hunters Meadow Cabin. The chairs were donated by the Okanogan County Association of Snowmobile Clubs.

We have been enjoying the great fresh snow and spending time with great friends and the beautiful outdoors!

Come ride with us!

This year to promote membership we have started a club-members-only give-away at the club rides. This consists of the person being a club member, signing up at the warming hut the day of the ride, and we then give them a drawing ticket. With the support of our local dealers and the club we have collected items such as gloves, goggles, sun glasses, safety gear, and etc. to be raffled to club members! Its been a big hit; I strongly encourage other clubs struggling with membership to try this! Its working for us!

Enjoy your season!



Northwest Glacier Cruisers

By Jessica Ronhaar

On January 30th the members of the Northwest Glacier Cruisers participated in



NWGC joined with several clubs for a family ride out of Ellensburg.



Members dealing with a poopy situation at Ploeg's Place...



Club News

(Continued from page 21)

the Beacon Check signs at NRA. It wasn't all work though, we enjoyed riding as well.

Our upcoming events include:

- March 20th - Mt. Baker Shootout
- March 21st - Luke's Memorial Ride



Drift-A-Way Snowmobile Club

By Matt Mead, Secretary

Wow, the weather had gone from one extreme to the other! About a week ago snow was DUMPING in the mountains and then for a few days it poured rain. While the powder may be compacting, we should now have snow depth to carry us through for awhile. Sure hope so!

Drift-A-Way held their second meeting mid-February and conducted a bit of business.

The club voted in a 'club radio channel' which we will be advertising to members and non-members alike. We hope to be posting signs in our riding areas soon to let people know. The idea is if riders are out and about in our area and need help or info, they may have a chance of reaching a Drift-A-Way member. No guarantees, obviously, but it is one more thing that *might* make a bad situation better. Oh, you want to know the channel? Channel 7, sub-channel/privacy 29 (7.29).

Another noteworthy event at the recent meeting: We welcomed the Watkins family to the club! A great addition and they have been riding with us since last season.

Our weekday riders have been pretty active on Wednesdays. While most of this group is retired, we have a couple of regulars who have the luxury of taking a mid-week day to go and play. It sure is nice to beat the weekend crowds when we can!

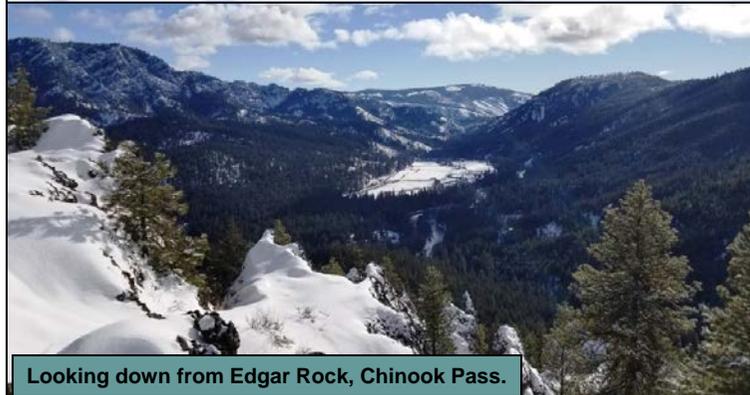
A few members were helping out WSSA and the Yakima Ski-Benders during the annual Kids Ride at Little Naches on a recent weekend. My daughter Ryan and I manned the WSSA safety trailer,



That didn't quite go as planned...



Taking a break along a secret ridge on Chinook Pass.



Looking down from Edgar Rock, Chinook Pass.



But they make it look so easy in the videos...

offering up avalanche awareness and other safety info, handing out activity books and crayons, and answering any questions snowmobilers had. Drift-A-Way members will also be representing WSSA at the upcoming Sno-Jammers' Fun Run on March 6th.

Numerous club members recently converged on a recent Saturday at Boulder Cave for a day of snowmobiling. Riders ranged from about 12-years-old to... we'll just say 65+! The snow was DEEP and the stucks were MANY... although most were by a single young rider who's name isn't important, eh Justin? We enjoyed un-tracked meadows, spectacular views, and even a warm fire in the hut on top of Little Bald.

If you'd like to ride with a family-friendly club in the Yakima area and explore the less frequented roads and trails, get in touch with myself or our president, Jim Kingman. (Our info is listed on the WSSA Contacts page.)

PUT KIDS ON SLEDS THAT FIT

- SMALLER ENGINES AND SLED SIZE
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SNOFLYER

State Parks Update

By Pamela McConkey, Winter Recreation Program Manager

Wow, What a Winter it Has Been so Far!

It's an interesting winter to say the least, and I think that sometimes... maybe even most of the time... we don't think about the folks that are selling the sno-park permits, cleaning the restrooms, plowing the roads and parking lots, clearing the downed trees and other debris, grooming the trails, directing traffic, maintaining equipment, going out on search and rescue calls, and working in the cold and wet conditions. We just know when we arrive at a place called a sno-park, our expectations are for plowed roads and parking lots, clean restrooms, perfectly groomed corduroy trails and the anticipation of making wonderful memories while enjoying our favorite recreational sport of snowmobiling.

So next time you see one of the many workers that make this all happen, give a wave of thanks to the Department of Transportation, county, public and private contractors that are plowing; we all know that without the countless hours of plowing, the roads would be a mess and the sno-parks inaccessible. This holds true for everyone; law enforcement officers, park aides, sanitation workers, trail groomer operators, volunteers and the lists go on. All this and more happen during the daylight hours and well after dark to that make your snowmobile trip a fun and memorable adventure. Yes, I know it's 'their job', but I also know a simple moment to wave thanks can really make a difference in person's day.

During this crazy 2020/2021 season, I've received many photos and videos from visitors, our partners (U.S. Forest Service, Department of Transportation, Washington State Patrol, Department of Natural Resources, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife) and staff showing the huge number of people, trash piles and long lines of cars. Although we are all trying to maneuver through this unprecedented winter, the one thing that really stood out to me in the videos I received was not just the vast number of skiers, snowmobilers, snowshoers and people with children and pets simply looking for a place to play in the snow, but when I closed my eyes and listened to the audio of the video... that's what really got me. There was so much laughter and joy in the voices I heard, friends and families discovering and embracing winter recreation. I know some of you are probably thinking

that 'Pamela has finally lost it...' but listening to those wonderful sounds made me forget, if only for a moment, about all the complaints we receive, the demands for refunds because they got a flat tire on the way to the sno-park, or complaints the snowmobile trail wasn't a perfectly flat



stretch of corduroy, why the restrooms aren't cleaned, etc., and it reminded me of why we spend our time outdoors and are part of the great big snow- (Continued on page 24)

#RecreateResponsibly *Winter Edition*

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Some areas can become dangerous with winter conditions. Research your destination, as roads and facilities may be closed in winter.

PRACTICE PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Be prepared to cover your nose and mouth. When possible, opt to eat and rest outside. If you feel sick, stay home.

PLAN AHEAD

Check local conditions and prepare for the elements, packing extra layers, waterproof clothing, and avalanche safety gear for the backcountry.

PLAY IT SAFE

Know your limits and your gear. Slow down and choose lower-risk activities to reduce your risk of injury.

EXPLORE LOCALLY

Consider exploring locally, as driving and parking may be more challenging in winter. If you travel, be mindful of your impact on Native and local communities.

LEAVE NO TRACE

Did you know that the snow is our water supply? Keep our winter playgrounds clean. Pack out any human or pet waste. Be respectful of the land.

BUILD AN INCLUSIVE OUTDOORS

Everyone deserves to experience a winter wonderland. Be an active part of making the outdoors safe, accessible, and welcoming for all identities and abilities.

State Parks Update

(Continued from page 23) mobile community.

I hope you will be safe and thankful we have such amazing mountains covered with snow to play in and enjoy.

Winter Recreation Grooming Map: Pilot Project Public Release

Reminder - Washington State Parks Winter Recreation Program has released a public winter Grooming Map. It displays data received from GPS receivers located on snowcats statewide. Every morning around 6am, new data will display the last seven days of grooming in different colors. Colors depict: Groomed today, groomed yesterday, groomed day before yesterday, and groomed with # of days since grooming. (Note the colors have not been finalized and may be changed for better clarity.) This winter is a pilot project and we will use this it to make adjustments and improve the map's usefulness and reliability for future winters. Check it out, we would love to hear from you!

We don't have GPS receivers on all statewide equipment just yet but hope to soon. We also only collect GPS data every five minutes and only if satellite reception is good; valleys and tree cover often limit reception intervals longer than five minutes. Some trails may show gaps; that's okay and assume it's most likely groomed between the gaps, but a GPS data point did not fall within the time interval.

The map has other advantages too: The user can select different base maps; turn on ownership; allows a quick zoom to a particular sno-park if you type in a sno-park name in the search box; allows selection of SNOTEL snowpack depth at weather stations throughout the state - the blue points on the map; plus many other improvements such as the addition of drone photos of sno-park parking layouts (we will add more aerials over time).

We encourage users to report back to us via e-mail at winter@parks.wa.gov and let us know how we can make this product even better.

The map can be found on our main winter recreation webpage; scroll down and select on the left hand side 'Winter Recreation Grooming Map'.

Main winter page: <https://parks.state.wa.us/130/Winter-recreation>

Tip: Open the map on your PC or mobile phone and save the link to your home screen so you can check it daily over the winter.

Direct link to map: [https://wa-stateparks.maps.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?](https://wa-stateparks.maps.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?webmap=8203a133191e4b3ba1bb081e939881f4)

[webmap=8203a133191e4b3ba1bb081e939881f4](https://wa-stateparks.maps.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?webmap=8203a133191e4b3ba1bb081e939881f4)

Sno-Park Permit Fees to Increase in Fall 2021!

In order to stay in line with the non-motorized programs sno-park permit fees, both programs will be increasing the seasonal sno-park permit fee from \$40 currently to \$50 beginning October 2021. This will NOT have any impact on your sno-park permit which you receive at NO additional cost when you register your snowmobile. However, people visiting from out-of-state or out-of-country, will need this sno-park permit to park at snowmobile sno-parks in Washington. Again, when you register your snowmobile and/or snow bike, there is no additional cost to you for your seasonal sno-park permit. Questions? Send us an e-mail winter@parks.wa.gov.

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



Snowmobile Registrations

| | FY2015 | FY2016 | FY2017 | FY2018 | FY2019 | FY2020 | FY2021 | FY 20-21 Difference |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|
| July | 166 | 149 | 145 | 134 | 148 | 166 | 151 | (15) |
| August | 1,142 | 531 | 676 | 782 | 2,307 | 222 | 249 | 27 |
| September | 3,546 | 2,968 | 3,145 | 2,946 | 1,682 | 2,974 | 3,220 | 246 |
| October | 2,544 | 1,662 | 2,139 | 2,489 | 1,882 | 3,357 | 3,189 | (168) |
| November | 2,870 | 3,129 | 3,362 | 4,360 | 2,960 | 2,372 | 5,009 | 2,637 |
| December | 6,656 | 11,575 | 13,170 | 6,973 | 8,320 | 6,726 | 7,229 | 503 |
| January | 2,741 | 3,528 | 3,196 | 3,358 | 3,433 | 4,514 | 3,295 | (1,219) |
| February | 381 | 1,164 | 1,513 | 1,166 | 1,602 | 1,293 | | |
| March | 68 | 298 | 686 | 674 | 958 | 355 | | |
| April | 42 | 82 | 181 | 175 | 258 | 89 | | |
| May | 22 | 32 | 93 | 93 | 90 | 135 | | |
| June | 23 | 30 | 84 | 71 | 83 | 126 | | |
| Total: | 20,201 | 25,148 | 28,390 | 23,221 | 23,723 | 22,329 | 22,342 | 2,011 |

Membership

Membership Matters

By Wayne & Florence Mohler,
Membership Co-Chairs

As we approach the end of WSSA's business year, (March 1st through February 28th), this is a good time to mention our membership year runs from September 1st through August 31st. The reason this is important is that you can join after March 1st and receive the remainder of this year and next years' membership - 18 months - for \$25. This applies to new memberships only. If you've been thinking about joining, this is a good time to go ahead and do it. Overall, our membership has remained fairly level over the past several years at approximately 1,000, which includes clubs, family/individual, and associates. When you consider there are approximately 23,000 to 24,000 snowmobiles registered in Washington, it's pretty easy to see we have a lot of room to grow so we can better represent snowmobiling in Washington. There are continuing challenges to keep riding areas open, and we can do a better job with greater numbers.

After a year of cancelled events, too many Zoom meetings, and social distancing, we're all looking forward to resuming more of what are considered 'normal' activities in 2021. And there is some good news for snowmobiling, snowmobile clubs, and state associations. With social distancing, closed dining establishments and malls, and limited sports activities, snowmobile sales are reportedly up over 15% in some parts of the country. Snowmobile registrations in WA are up nearly 10% from last year. People are seeking outdoor experiences and there are many 'new' snowmobilers who want to discover what snowmobiling is all about. That's where the clubs, dealers, and our association can really help out the new snowmobiler by hosting events, social media posts, etc. to get in touch with the new snowmobilers, and help them figure out where to go, what to wear, and how to have a safe and enjoyable snowmobiling experience and most of all to make new friends. There are a lot of clubs that already have effective outreach to bring in new members, and for others, this is a chance to help make those first experiences good experiences.

We do not know, yet, if the increase in sales is just a one-year blip, or if it will continue; however, this is our opportunity to help the new snowmobilers have a great experience - and if they have a great experience, we're pretty sure they will be back next year, and the next.

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



Check out these interactive online training modules on your schedule and at your pace!

Avalanche Prevention Information

Review facts that will keep you safe this winter.

<https://nwac.us/backcountry-basics/>

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(Leavenworth/Wenatchee)
(509) 423-3828
www.cascadeonsiterentals.com

Chewack River Guest Ranch
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(509) 996-2497
www.chewackranch.com

CJ Marine
(Lake Wenatchee Area)
(Lake Wenatchee Area)
(206) 878-8668
www.cj-rentals.net

Leavenworth Snowmobile Rentals
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(509) 763-0333
www.leavenworthsnowmobilerentals.com

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(509) 674-6807
www.motortoysofcleelum.com

Mountain Springs Lodge
(Lake Wenatchee/Leavenworth)
Tours Only
(800) 858-2276
www.mtsprings.com

Ride Finesse
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www.ridefinesse.com

Sharkey's Watercraft & Snowmobile Rentals
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(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.

ACSA E-News

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



Fox Business News

Thanks to the Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Associations and the Twin Runners Snowmobile Club, Fox Business News was able to promote snowmobiling and the recent sales increase.

Fox Business Reporter Grady Trimble had never had the opportunity to snowmobile before filming several segments recently in southern Wisconsin. Several segments were aired live throughout the day.

Not only did these segments run on the national Fox Business News, but segments were also shared with all local Fox affiliate stations across the U.S. Several newspapers across the country also picked up the story.

You can view one of the segments here: <https://www.foxbusiness.com/lifestyle/snowmobile-sales-surge-amid-coronavirus-pandemic>

Avalanche Fatalities

The winter of 2021 has been tragic with avalanche fatalities. Towards the end of February, at least 27 people have died as a result of an avalanche in the U.S.

This year's avalanche season has likely been more active because of a 'persistent weak layer' of snow according to the Utah Avalanche Center (UAC). It could be more people are enjoying the outdoors in the wilder parts of the West or the result of a 'really dangerous snow pack', explained the UAC spokesperson.

Taiga Electric Sleds

Electric snowmobiler and watercraft maker Taiga is going public through a SPAC (Special Purpose Acquisition Company) deal and it is raising \$100 million in the process.

The company spun out of McGill's racing team in 2015 where the founders worked on development of electric powertrains at the Canadian University.

Many New Chairmen Lead D.C. Committees

With many retirements and the takeover of the Senate by the Democrats, many new faces have become committee chairmen. Nine of 12 subcommittee chairs will be new party leaders. They include Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR), who will lead the Interior and Environment Appropriations Subcommittee; Sen. John Kennedy (R-LA) will now serve as the ranking member on the Energy and Water Development Subcommittee. Joe Manchin (D-WV) is now chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Taking the helm of the Senate Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Subcommittee is Brian Schatz (D-HI), a progressive on environmental issues and an electrical vehicle booster.

As a divided Congress has struggled to pass major legislation in recent years, spending bills have taken on increased importance. They have become the venue for high-profile fights over climate change and the boundaries of energy exploration.

Unfortunately many of the new Chairman are not from snow states -- so our work will be cut out for us!

Victory for Idaho Snowmobilers!

The Idaho State Snowmobile Association (ISSA) scored a VIC-

TORY in a court decision. The Judge agreed with the ISSA that the Forest Service Fairfield Closure was not supported by evidence.

The Forest Service's decision will be vacated and remanded back to the agency for further analysis.

Be SNOW SMART!

With all of the recent headlines -- please be smart, be safe and know before you go!

We want it to be a fun round trip for you and your riding buddies.

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

Only ONE AT A TIME on the slopes!



Visit snowmobileinfo.org for avalanche safety information.

Interview with BRP CEO Jose Boisjoli

In a Bloomberg interview with Jose Boisjoli, the discussion revolved around how the virus brought BRP Inc. an unexpected wind-fall, with throngs of first-time customers riding out the pandemic on Sea-Doos, snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles.

BRP is part of a group of manufacturers that have benefited from a run on leisure goods fit for having fun while socially distancing, like pools and campers and watercraft. Shares of companies such as Pool Corp., Winnebago Industries Inc. and BRP rival Polaris Inc. have doubled or more since bottoming out last spring.

In several surveys last year, BRP found that about one-third of its buyers were new to the industry. The number is usually 20%, said Jose Boisjoli.

"We have a surge of new customers that we never dreamed of", he said. "We see that as an opportunity, as a positive thing. And right now we are focusing a lot to talk to new customers to make sure we make them lifetime customers."

For the full interview, visit: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-01-29/sea-doo-maker-seeks-growth-beyond-fan-base-after-pandemic-boom>

Climate Change Will Touch Every Piece of Biden Budget

President Biden's two top climate advisers promised a whole-of-government approach to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to a warmer planet, with an effort extending beyond the

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traditional environmental agencies.

"We want every single piece of the federal budget to be looked at", Gina McCarthy, the former EPA Chief and Biden's Domestic Climate Czar, said during a virtual meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors' Winter Meeting.

The next round of COVID-19 relief, and a potential infrastructure bill in the coming months, will offer opportunities to sell green investments as a job creator, said John Kerry.

BLM

Discussions are taking place on the location of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) headquarters. As you'll recall, last year the headquarters was moved from Washington, D.C. to Colorado. At that time, 87% of the Washington-based headquarters staff chose to leave the BLM rather than make the move west.

A key argument in moving the leadership out West, where the vast majority of the 245 million acres of Federal lands are located, would help improve the management of these resources.

The Biden administration has not made any announcements about reversing the BLM relocation to Grand Junction or the other positions being moved out West. The Department of Interior has been evaluating the relocation for weeks. And New Mexico Rep. Deb Haaland, nominee for Interior secretary, has been a vocal critic of the move, accusing the Trump administration of dismantling the Bureau.

Time will tell if they make the move back to D.C. and make the Colorado office a Regional Office or if they continue to have the BLM headquarters located in the western lands they manage.

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www.facebook.com/AmericanCouncilofSnowmobileAssociations

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



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



Follow the State Parks Winter Recreation Program on Twitter @ WaStatePks_WNTR

Notes

2021 WSSA Scholarship



The Washington State Snowmobile Association will again be offering a scholarship to either a graduating high school senior or a person currently enrolled in college. This scholarship will be given to the winner regardless of other grants or scholarships the student may also receive.

Requirements are as follows:

1. The applicant must be a member of the Washington State Snowmobile Association.
2. The applicant must submit the completed application form.
3. The applicant must submit a resume detailing his/her involvement in snowmobiling as well as extra-curricular activities.
4. The applicant must include an essay (see subject below). The essay should be a minimum of two pages double-space and typed. Keep in mind a well-researched, comprehensive essay will undoubtedly be significantly longer and we certainly encourage that.
5. The application must be received by WSSA by March 31st, 2021. Please mail or e-mail application to:

Shami Ruggles, WSSA Scholarship Chair
2505 W. Waikiki Rd.
Spokane, WA 99218
(509) 979-4852
sixruggs@gmail.com

WSSA will send the winning submission to the Western Chapter Scholarship Chair no later than April 30th. The winner of the Western Chapter Scholarship will be announced at the International Snowmobile Congress in June, 2021.

The winner of the WSSA Scholarship will also have the opportunity to compete for the C.J. Ramstad Scholarship offered by the International Snowmobile Media Council.

An alternate will be picked if the winner should decide not to enroll in a college, technical or vocational program.

2021 Essay Topic: In the U.S. and Canada, many of our snowmobile parking areas (sno-parks) and warming huts/shelters are being abused, littered in and vandalized by the public as well as our very own snowmobilers.

Essay Challenge: What can we do to fix this?

1. In your own words explain why this is happening.
2. Is there a plan in place right now in your area to address this problem?
3. Develop a plan/program that could virtually eliminate or at least reduce the problems that we are experiencing in our sno-parks and warming huts/shelters.
4. Share with us how you would implement your solution and involve other snowmobilers to reach your goal.

Scholarship application available under the 'Scholarship' tab at www.wssa.us.

Matt's Misc.

Snowmobile Advisory Committee (SMAC) Meeting. Was held on the evening of February 25th and I Zoomed along with them to see what was going on state-wide in regards to grooming, plowing, and all things snowmobile-related in Washington. If you have never been to one, it can be eye-opening.

The committee is made up of concerned snowmobilers in various parts of the state, a couple of non-motorized members, and representatives from the Department of Natural Resources/Fish and Wildlife, Department of Licensing, and maybe a couple of others. They help set the budget during the summer meeting, and work to overcome issues that arise during the rest of the year. While **anyone can sit in on the meetings, you'll usually find local grooming coordinators, groomer contractors and WSSA representatives in attendance.**

So what interesting things were covered? While I support the SMAC members and call most of them friends, I was disappointed in one vote that came down. That was to **remove from the SOPs the 'requirement' for nighttime grooming.** I use the word **'requirement' loosely as it hasn't truly been a requirement for years.** But it was listed as the preferred practice. The decision to strike it was based on the premise the groomer operators know when it is the best time to groom based on the current weather situation and should be allowed to do what they think is best. I have issue with that as studies show the trails last longest when the temps are coldest and they have time to set up undisturbed. And the most likely time they will be coldest and untouched is overnight. I think it is in the best interest of our funding-challenged program to groom when **it will be most beneficial. I won't argue grooming at night is always practical; but it should remain the preferred alternative.**

Moving on to other things... Registration and sno-park permit enforcement was an important topic. While it is agreed we need it, **it isn't clear how we improve it.** The Fish and Wildlife representative seemed to believe his peers would be happy to step up enforcement, but said they needed more direction and snowmobile training. While the discussion has previously been around funding for law enforcement, he believed that **aspect wasn't nearly as important as them having the equipment and training to patrol.** There was concern the amount of traffic we are seeing in the sno-parks and on the trail **don't match up with snowmobile registration**

numbers; through January, registration numbers are only about 2,000 higher than last year and nowhere near our benchmark year of 2017 with 28,000 for the season. (With January being a bit lean on snow and February shaping up to be much better, it will be interesting to see if the numbers rebound; we hope!)

Grooming and plowing funds were discussed and plowing money has pretty much been spent and the program has dipped into the reserves. Grooming funds are likely to run thin in a few areas, but are in better shape than plowing funds. (There are NO reserve funds available for grooming.)

The new grooming map posted on the State Parks Winter Recreation website was a topic of discussion. This is an outstanding tool and will only get better. One thing noted was the programming is set up to connect sections of trail where there may be a gap in data coverage. While this makes the line smooth on the map, there might be an instance where a section is shown as **groomed but really wasn't.** This is likely to occur where two trails intersect or are really close together. If you find an example of this while you are out riding, let Jason Goldstein at State Parks Winter Recreation know. This can be fixed, but if not reported, may not be identified.

Are you part of the problem? I'm talking about keeping our trails smooth for as long as possible. Warm temperatures, big tracks and high traffic will destroy a trail. And it can happen pretty quick. But a careless rider will destroy the trail even quicker. Do you ever:

- Spin your track when you first start out?
- Lock your track when coming to a stop?
- Continually jump on and off the gas as you ride down the trail?
- Power off the trail to climb a hill?

If so, STOP! Anytime you leave a hole or pile of snow in the trail, you have just started the rapid decline in the quality of said trail. Even if the next guy is riding responsibly, his track is likely going to amplify what you did. And same with the guy behind him, and the guy behind him. This has been an extremely tough year as the temps are warm and the groomed trail is quickly torn up even **with careful riders. Please don't make things worse. I'm guessing I'm preaching to the choir regarding most of you, and for that, I thank you!**

**By Matt Mead,
Publicity Secretary**



Tracked ATV/UTV legislation update.

A couple of days before this issue was published, SB 5016, our tracked ATV/UTV legislation made it out of the Rules Committee and is in need of a vote on the Senate floor. We have until March 9th to get it voted out of the Senate and dropped in the House.

Time to step up the peer pressure. I'm going to assume your sleds are registered. But how about your friends? If not, have you reminded them? If not, are you still riding with them? Do you think it is fair that some of us pay for the trail grooming and sno-park plowing while others don't? (I don't.) **You are certainly encouraged to talk to those you see in the sno-park and on the trail who aren't properly registered, but be careful and tactful. Don't invite a confrontation.**

And on a related note... You wouldn't sell your extra motorized sno-park permit(s) would you?... It was reported someone had **seen one on 'Offer Up' or a similar site.** Anybody who needs a motorized sno-park permit will already have one since it was free when they purchased their registration. With rare exception, anyone seeking a motorized sno-park permit is either trying to avoid registering a sled or is an out-of-state rider who needs one and should buy it through State Parks to help contribute something to our Snowmobile Program.

One more must-have tool for getting un-stuck... And I don't own one. Yet. I'm talking about a Snobunje Rattler. A couple of guys in my riding group have them and it



makes that all-important ski tug a lot easier. For one, stretching out the Snobunje puts potential energy at the ready, so as soon as

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Matt's Misc.

(Continued from page 28) the sled starts to move, it will come right along. Maybe just as importantly, the Rattler lets you stand more upright and lean back, giving you better leverage on top of the stretching of the bunje. **Put one of these on each ski, and you'll be amazed how easily a sled comes out!** Note they also make a version called the Cobra which is longer and has a hook on both ends and is designed for sled to sled use. It comes with a small strap to wrap around your hand if you want to use it like the Rattler, or the strap can be used to loop around objects the hook won't fit around. One downside of the hooks on either version is they don't fit well around the ski loop on my Ski-Doo; they ought to be just a tad bit bigger. (When I buy one, I'm liable to thin down my plastic ski loops with a Dremel to make for a better fit.) Why don't I already have one? I haven't figured out how I'm going to store it on my machine; my PowderKeg storage box is already FULL!

Please don't die in an avalanche. By this I mean stay out of avalanche danger. Period. Check out the video linked below, put out by the Sawtooth Avalanche Center,



in regards to a recent avalanche fatality in Montana. The victim had the gear, deployed his airbag, and stayed on top. A miracle given the snow piled up 20-30 feet in the drainage below. But the victim was swept through the trees and died of trauma, his helmet ripped from his head. We talk about 'having the gear' and 'knowing how to use it', but if you want to live, you need to not get caught in an avalanche to begin with. One of my concerns is people thinking with the right gear they will live. Odds are they won't. Check out the video here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DppMB6VYZOo&feature=emb_logo

Over-Snow Vehicle Travel Management and snow wheelers. I've mentioned before Over-Snow Vehicle Travel Management is coming to a Forest near you. The Forest Service was mandated by the courts a few years back to perform this on all For-

ests. Luckily for us the bureaucracy moves at a snails pace so it hasn't happened, and the outcome is still likely years away. In the past I've warned we have to be ready to get involved as the anti-motorized crowd will see this as an opportunity to restrict our access. **What I hadn't considered... until this winter season... is we are likely to have other competition for motorized access.** I'm talking about 'snow wheelers', the guys with the light-weight 4x4s with oversize tires, some of whom have been tearing up our trails this season. I'm not knocking these guys for wanting to get out and play, (as long as it isn't on a groomed trail), and frankly, they are quite limited in where they can play. I expect we'll have to work together and find a solution we all agree on. If nothing else, the conversation may allow both sides to better understand each other.

Did you buy an ACSA raffle calendar?

These calendars, sold by the American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA), offer cash prizes daily throughout the year. Minimum prize is \$20, which is also the price of the calendar. Over the course of the year, more than \$14,000 in prizes will be given away. **It's not too late to get one.** Contact president Dean Meakin or Vice President Delia Alred and they can point you in the right direction. We've already had one winner here in Washington this year!

The Lynx are here! Did you hear? Bombardier Recreational Products (BRP) is importing the Lynx brand of snowmobiles for the '22 season. Snowmobilers have believed the grass is greener on the other side of the fence, knowing the Lynx brand was in Europe and they weren't able to own one. The fact BRP has owned Lynx for a good many years and the brand is now not a lot more than a Ski-Doo in Lynx clothing makes me wonder if un-

educated buyers will be disappointed. **It's not to**

say this is purely badge-engineering; the Lynx brand has been developed to meet the challenges of riding where trails are mostly non-existent, meaning over-engineered chassis and suspensions able to take the toughest abuse. BRP is billing the Lynx as 'built for advanced riders' and 'bringing the Nordic sledding heritage and entirely new and exhilarating riding style to North America'. **Two models are headed our way; one**

for trail and one for off-trail. In comparing the off-trail

'Boondocker' to the newest Ski-Doo

Freeride, it appears the biggest differences are in the rear suspension (totally different design on the Boondocker) and a very small Lynx seat. **At first glance you'll know Ski-Doo and Lynx are siblings as the overall chassis, stubby front-end styling and drivetrains are shared.** I'm not knocking the Lynx or even BRP's marketing strategy. But this is less a new snowmobile manufacturer introduction and more like GM introducing the Cadillac line-up next to Chevrolet. You'll pay more, receive an upscale product that isn't your typical Chevy, but know underneath it all is still a familiar BRP snowmobile.

Having a bad day? Not like this guy...

The River Road Covered Bridge in Troy, Vermont, the only one left in town, caught fire when a snowmobile stalled and burst into flames. It was a freak accident. Although the fire was knocked down within 20 minutes, it was too late for the 121-year-old structure's support beams. **Of course the 94-foot-long bridge built in 1910 was on the National Register of Historic Places and was unique because it used external lateral bracing.** The snowmobile was in a group of four and was last to cross; it stalled and the owner discovered it was on fire; the group tried to extinguish with snow from outside the bridge but the fire grew too quickly. When firefighters arrived, the bridge was engulfed and flames were coming out both ends of the bridge.



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