

Snoflyer

*The official publication of the
Washington State Snowmobile Association*

*April 2021
Volume 43*

Grooming is done for the season!

But that doesn't mean the riding is over!

Enjoy the high-elevation snow while you can!

Inside:

Van Epps Pass ski huts update

WSSA award winners announced

WSSA Trail Grant - Starvation Mountain hut

Cover photo: Perfect spring day in Section 3 on White Pass. Pic by Matt Mead



Click here for up-to-date grooming reports!

CLIMB TO NEW HEIGHTS

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

FAMILY/INDIVIDUAL: (\$25)

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Legislative District _____ Congressional District _____

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Name of Business or Club: _____

Owner/Business Contact or Club Contact: _____

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

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

Phone: _____ Email: _____ Website: _____

PAYMENT: Cash: _____ Check #: _____

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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 2020/2021

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 Meeting

October 4th, Zoom or October 2nd at ??

WSSA Snowmobile & Power Sports

Expo & Swap Meet

Puyallup Fairgrounds

October 16th-17th, 2021

The kick-off to the 21/22 snowmobile season! Don't miss out on great deals on snowmobiles, snowbikes, side-by-sides, ATVs, related parts, accessories, trailers, sled decks vacation destinations much more!

WSSA Meeting

November 8th, Zoom or November 6th at ??

WSSA Meeting

January 10th, Zoom or January 8th at ??

Winter Rendezvous & WSSA Meeting

February 18th-21st, 2022

March Budget Meeting

March 14th, Zoom or March 12th at ??

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Leadership

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



Ok, the snow is leaving rapidly! Now is when we need to be careful not to disturb the trails that are low and are muddy. Remember, it is a snowmobile and not a mud-mobile. We are environmentalists and we leave no trace!

Thank you to all the groomers who made this year a great one even though we had late snow and more traffic than ever before.

We had a successful March budget meeting and are ready to meet the 2021-2022 financial challenges. Our new Officers, District Reps and Committee Chairs are in place and have been charged to do the best they can do to further the cause of snowmobiling in Washington. Thank you to all of you. We still need help in filling some of the positions that became vacant. If you are interested in volunteering your time and talents for the cause, please let me know. Thank you to Christine Jourdain for hosting our Zoom meeting. I know the sun was about to come up where you live in Michigan.

WSSA Snowmobile Expo for 2021 is looking brighter since the fairgrounds had their first event open to the public since last March. Phase 3 is now in place and we are hoping to pick up speed towards phase 4. This phase would work great for show time. We would still practice social distancing and comply with the rules mandated by the State, County and Fairgrounds.

ACSA (American Council of Snowmobile Associations) Note: Please keep Scott Herzog's family in your prayers. His brother passed away in February and now his father has passed away just days ago.

The International Snowmobile Congress (ISC) 2021 is going to happen in Omaha, Nebraska, in June! Please **consider attending this as it is very informational and educational.** It doesn't look like the Canadian border will open up in time for ISC. More to follow.

In closing, I will see you all at the Summer Meeting held at the Blu-Shastin RV Park in August. Call Dee Alred to get your campsite reserved.

Please continue to keep safe and practice social distancing. The 2021-2022 challenge is still to keep 'building bridges and not walls'!

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



I can't believe our snowmobiling season is almost over! What a year! I hope next year is better. Looking forward to having face to face meetings again. I have really missed everyone!

Our Summer Meeting is scheduled for the weekend of August 13th-15th. It will be at the Blu-Shastin RV Park. WSSA has reserved 15 camping sites. The meeting on Saturday is held in the great outdoors. It is a time for all the WSSA families to get together on a more social level. The RV Park has a swimming pool, hiking paths, horse-shoe pits, volleyball net, and a small clubhouse with ping pong tables. There is a creek that runs along the back of the park for wading. WSSA furnishes breakfast, lunch, and steaks for Saturday at a cost of \$5 per meal. People are asked to bring side dishes on Saturday night. I will be in charge of campsites to ensure our group stays together. So, please contact me at (509) 654-2242 or rdalred1971@gmail.com.

I am looking forward to spending time with our newest board members. (Hans Brubaker in District 1N, Jason Holmes in District 5N, Ron Lind in District 5S, Tanner Hamlyn in District 4N, and Christina Markovits our new Recording Secretary.) I know they will have ideas and suggestions that will make our organization stronger. It seems new people always inspire us to do a better job.

I hope to see you in August.

Notes

WSSA's Associate Partnership Program

Tracy's Quality Painting, Gig Harbor, is 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,



Luft Trailer Sales in Ellensburg is offering a 10% discount on parts.



Are you next? Add your business name here!

With all the challenges facing everyone during this past year, we're starting a 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!



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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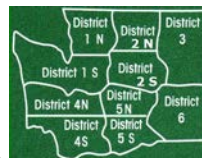
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Safety with Jon and Tharin

A changing of the guard

Tharin Huisman takes the lead on WSSA Safety

By Jon Ferrian & Tharin Huisman — wssasafety101@gmail.com

Hello Washington sledders!

I want to say the best way to keep our sport growing and healthy is to provide opportunity and embrace what comes!

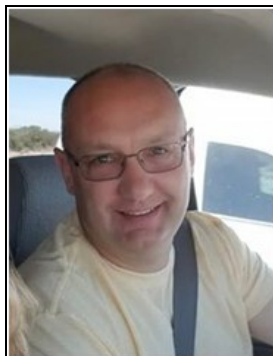
About five years ago I started as the WSSA Safety Committee Chair after being mentored and encouraged by the previous safety chair, Mick Steinman. I very sincerely believe it is up to us as leaders in this industry to work with our fellow sledders and volunteers and encourage them and support their goals. With that I want to introduce all of you to one of our long-term volunteers, Tharin Huisman! He has been volunteering and helping the safety committee each year at the WSSA Expo in Puyallup. Tharin mentioned to me he would be excited to take over the Safety Chair position if I was ever planning to step down. The reality is that I was not planning to step down, but I wanted to create an opportunity for Tharin to get more actively involved with WSSA and have him bring to our group some new and exciting ideas while I would be able to remain on the committee and continue to support him and the work of the safety committee.

I would like to officially introduce you to your new WSSA Safety Committee Chair, Tharin Huisman!

"Hello all, Tharin Huisman here! First off, thank you Jon for working for the sledders of Washington State and creating a culture of safety throughout. Both Jon and Mick worked tirelessly to promote safety in this wonderful sport. Thank you! I look forward to continuing their efforts and promoting safety within the Washington state snowmobile community.

"So, a little about me. I'm married to a wonderful woman, have two adult children, and seven grandkids. We currently live in Sequim. I've been a volunteer firefighter since 1988 and currently serve as a volunteer Lieutenant with Clallam County Fire District 3. I have been employed by the fire district since 1996, serving as their maintenance supervisor.

"I grew up at the base of Mt. Baker and was introduced to snowmobiling around 1990. A friend let me ride his 1983 Yamaha SS440. My first ride was an attempt to ride the North Cross Highway but ended up riding the south side of Baker at the National Recreation Area. Trial by fire and they



dropped me off the railroad grade on the 440 my first day out. Yep, I was hooked.

"Enough about me so here goes. I have four basic goals as your WSSA Safety Chairman for the upcoming year and

beyond.

- Build a team of like-minded individuals who want to promote safety throughout our community.
- Promote safety - Have a presence, work at making safety a common thought process, and make safety the norm.
- Network with snowmobile clubs throughout the state to assist with safety education as needed. Network with neighboring state snowmobile associations to promote safety.
- Use media to promote safety throughout WSSA.

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District Reports



District 1 North

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

Greetings District 1 North snowmobilers! As I look forward to representing WSSA in our area I want to thank our outgoing representative Aaron Doran for his inspired leadership. Aaron worked tirelessly raising awareness on many important issues for our members. He brings a passion for our sport which encourages others to get involved. For anyone who has ridden with Aaron, he is pretty inspired on his Cat also!

For many of us, a day out on the trail or alpine zone this winter was one of the few times things felt 'normal'. I guess we can say 'saved by snowmobiling'.

Our local clubs and groomers put in hard work keeping trails open after wind storms earlier in the winter. By keeping access open we have been able to take advantage of the significant February snow storms. Once again this was an example of snowmobilers volunteering time and equipment which benefited all winter recreationists.

I participated in a level-one motorized avalanche training class in February and it snowed so hard all weekend we had plenty of unstable snow to study. I encourage anyone who has an opportunity to take this training to do so.

The Mount Baker Ladies Ride organized by Kassi Leapers and Tina Shields was another success, with 24 gals attending and \$4,060 raised to be donated to Arlington Youth Dynamics. Congratulations to Kassi and Tina and all the ladies who were able to attend.

Spring riding conditions are excellent as I write this, and everyone is looking forward to the last club events and rides of the winter. I look forward to meeting more of our members and strengthening our organization and snowmobile community as we move forward. We have seen increased usage of winter recreation areas this season. This presents both challenges to address and opportunities to build membership and work with new partners. Some speculate after the pandemic we may see less use, though I think many will be hooked on what winter recreation offers and stay with us.

Please reach out if you have something to discuss. I wish everyone a great wrap-up to the snowmobile season and a wonderful summer.



District 1 South

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

Hello fellow snowmobilers! What a great snowmobile season it has been this year! I hope everyone has been out

taking advantage of the generous amount of snow we received later this season in February and March. We have had record breaking snow accumulations in the Cascades and this prolongs our snowmobile season well into the spring and even into the summer in some areas like Mt. Baker.

The Cascade Drift Skippers (CDS) continue to host their monthly meetings via Facebook Live every second Tuesday of the month at 7pm and everyone is welcome to

(Continued on page 9)

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District Reports

(Continued from page 8)

join. As the state moves to COVID-19 Phase 3, it may be possible to have in-person meetings once again, however the last two restaurant venues the CDS club met at have gone out of business so it will probably continue to be virtual meetings via Facebook Live until we can find another viable locations.

As the season slowly winds down, we still have several members of the CDS club hosting rides wherever and whenever possible. We definitely want to take advantage of all the snowmobiling opportunities we can. Billy Sehmel hosted a great club ride out of Blewett Pass the weekend of March 20th and had a great turnout! Thanks Billy for the great ride!

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 voting in new board members at the April club meeting.

Please check back with the CDS website calendar and CDS Facebook event page for updated ride information as the season progresses and possibly a year-end club picnic if the state allows.

The new WSSA board members took over their positions at the March 15th meeting and congratulations to all the new board members and thank you to those previous board members who worked very hard for WSSA and the snowmobilers of the state of Washington. The new board did not waste any time as we already spent several hours coming up with our annual budget. With revenue still down and most likely will be down this year, the board voted to reduce our expenses substantially to save money. Almost every line item took a substantial cut

and some were completely eliminated. Although it was difficult to do, we had to make hard decisions to tighten our belt and run this next year on a slim budget.

If you have not joined WSSA, we ask you please join as we really need the support from all of you so we can help all the snowmobilers of Washington State to keep our land and trails open to motorized and snowmobile use. WSSA fights for all of our rights to continue to snowmobile, but we need all the help we can get from everyone as WSSA members.

WSSA is currently tackling an issue in which the Wenatchee National Forest office issued a special use permit to a non-motorized organization that will be setting up seasonal alpine huts/yurts for backcountry ski access in the vicinity of Van Epps Pass just outside of the Salmon La Sac Sno-Park. This will bring a substantial amount of non-motorized users to our already congested parking lots and trail system. The decision was arbitrarily made by the Forest Service to grant the permit without a public hearing or input. Furthermore, the Forest Service is resistant to considering WSSA and the snow-

(Continued on page 10)

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!



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Drinks until closing

District Reports

(Continued from page 9)

mobilers safety concerns. Therefore WSSA will need to take further action and this sometimes leads to legal action to protect our motorized land access. Thanks to Wayne Mohler who is an expert with these matters. WSSA will be working very hard to help all of us, but we need more members and more revenue to pay for these legal matters that arise every now and then to keep our access to public lands.

The next WSSA meeting will be held on August 14th during our annual WSSA Camp-out at the Blu-Shastin RV Park on Blewett pass near Leavenworth August 13th - 15th. Hopefully the state continues to do well with the COVID-19 issue and we can have our physical in-person meeting.

Stay safe out there and I hope to see you on the trail somewhere soon.



District 2 South

By Matt Kensrud
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 (509) 433-2100

Well, the season is coming to the end; now we start chasing the high country spring snow for those last few rides!

I would like to say the season in the district was great, the grooming top notch, and the snowpack up high looks good! Lower elevations lost the snow early in some areas which affected grooming, but all in all, an awesome season.

Not much in the way of business this report. I hope everyone enjoys their summer and I will see you next year on the mountain.



District 4 North

By Tanner Hamlyn
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 (253) 376-2739

Greetings fellow snowmobilers! What a great month March was here in the snowy Pacific Northwest!

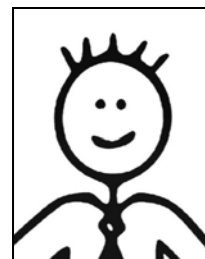
The Sno-Jammers had their 31st annual Fun Run early in March. Close to 300 attendees came to show their support, have fun, and hopefully win some prizes. The club had help from local dealers like I-90 Motorsports and Clem's Enumclaw Powersports. Several volunteers helped run checkpoints including members of the Northwest Avalanche Center and many of WSSA's own board members.

Regional Special Vehicles Unit was there to provide search and rescue demonstrations and help with any medical attention needed. Thank you to all the volunteers and fellow snowmobilers who all showed their support to make it the biggest turnout EVER.

During our winter season, a portion of Washington State Parks winter budget goes to sanitation which provides us with clean restrooms to use at the sno-parks throughout the state. But that doesn't include trash pick-up at a majority of the sno-parks. People are forced to make one of two choices; pack it out (like most of us responsible outdoorsman) and dispose of it in the correct way, or throw it into the ditch on the way out or kick it into a pile next to the restrooms. Because of those who decide to make the second choice, the Sno-Jammers are filled with many volunteers willing to donate their time to walk the forest roads to pick up the leftover trash. Follow the club on Facebook for more details on when they plan on scheduling their annual forest road clean up, or any of the wonderful clubs across the state who dedicate hundred of hours to our lands. You do not have to wait for them; in fact I encourage everyone to keep a spare bag in your vehicle when you go to a sno-park and do a walk around and pick up some of the trash. Or this summer, go for a drive into the mountains and pick up some of the garbage you see. Together we can keep our lands open and clean.

With the season coming to an end soon, grooming dollars are getting in short supply, and the contractors are preparing to end the season soon. I hope you all get a chance to explore our amazing public lands while you can. And I hope you are just as excited for next year's season as I am. Once the snow is gone, I hope you all continue to explore for new areas to ride and help prepare for next

year's season! Until we meet again on the snow, remember, summer SUCKS!



District 5 North

By Jason Holmes
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 (253) 226-4939

Hello everyone from District 5 North! We have definitely entered the 'spring sledding' portion of the season. The trails are holding up but definitely are 'bulletproof' in the morning and softening up as the day progresses. I have heard from multiple grooming operators they are finishing up the grooming season without any remaining funds in the grooming budget. I would like to thank them for maintaining the trails as best they can through the last few weeks of the grooming schedule.

Stepping into the District 5 North position I was welcomed by a ma-

(Continued on page 11)



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

District Reports

(Continued from page 10)

for hot potato. Just a couple weeks ago it was brought to our attention that an Alpine Outfitter Guiding Company was issued a permit by the Forest Service District Manager to allow three 'yurts' to be constructed in the Lake Anne/Van Epps snowmobiling area. This would introduce a significant amount of non-motorized users into an area that is heavily used by the motorized community. In addition, it creates numerous conflicts with ingress/egress accessing this area and many safety concerns for both user groups.

Wayne Mohler, WSSA's Land Use Chair, and I have been in communication with the Forest Service and the holder of the permit expressing our concerns of introducing more users to an area that is heavily used and under-funded as it is. We also expressed our concerns how the Forest Service issued the permit without community feedback and lack of consistency with the typical permitting process required by other commercial organizations in our community.

Meetings are continuing to take place. We have suggested the use of other areas that are currently designated as 'non-motorized' in the Salmon La Sac Valley. Our current approach is to work with this group and find a better solution, but, we are preparing other options for a proper resolution. Stay positive and stay tuned.



District 6

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

Winter is coming to a close, but there is still plenty of snow in the Blues, however, grooming has ended and spring riding conditions exist.

Both the Pomeroy and Dayton clubs had their annual bucket run events in the last few weeks. Both had great weather and a great turnout.

The Dayton club has elected new officers: Jeremy Nichols - President; LaRhonda McCauley - Vice President; David Carlton - Treasurer (no change); Dianne Patton - Secretary; and me, Chris Shires - Membership.

The Blue Mountain Snowmobile Club would like to thank Jake McNeal for his past five years of service to the club.



WSSA Awards

WSSA Award Winners announced

WSSA would like to congratulate our annual award winners for 2020/2021. Although we were unable to honor these folks at our annual Winter Rendezvous, they are as deserving as ever. We thank them all for their dedication to snowmobiling here in Washington State.



Snowmobiler of the Year

• **Chad Atkins**

Snowmobile Couple of the Year

• **Christina Markovits & Tanner Hamlyn**

Snowmobile Club President of the Year

• **Liz Van Amburg**

Snowmobile Club of the Year

• **Northwest Glacier Cruisers**

Snowmobile Trail Groomer of the Year

• **Pacific Mountain Services,
 Bill & Billy Burgess**

Snowmobile Groomer Coordinator of the Year

• **Marilyn Mylius**

Snowmobile Dealer of the Year

• **Mt. Baker Moto-Sports**



Liz Van Amburg presents the Snowmobiler of the Year award to Chad Atkins.



Christina Markovits & Tanner Hamlyn



Heather Rockwell presented Liz Van Amburg her award for Snowmobile Club President.



Billy holding the Groomer of the Year award presented to Pacific Mountain Services.



Groomer Coordinator of the Year recipient Marilyn Mylius.



The Northwest Glacier Cruisers - Snowmobile Club of the Year.



Dealer of the Year was awarded to Mt. Baker Moto-Sports.

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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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



Northwest Glacier Cruisers

By Tina Shields

On March 5th, the Mount Baker Ladies Ride took over the mountain. We stayed at Ovenell's Heritage Inn and our raffle raised \$4,060 for Stilly Valley Youth Dynamics. So proud of our ladies.

- Roger Presentin
- Jack Davis
- Doug Orkney
- Westley Vomenici
- Chris Ward
- Mike Hayes
- Kenzie Kratzer

All the proceeds from the Luke Rhode custom wrap raffle funds the avalanche training scholarships. So awesome to keep Luke's name alive in teaching our community avalanche safety.

Mt. Baker Ladies' Ride raised over \$4,000 for Stilly Valley Youth Dynamics.



Sled deck winners: Jace and Lisa Montgomery

We had a work party on March 13th to fill pot holes in preparation of our finale weekend with the Mt. Baker Shoot Out and Luke's

Work party spent a day filling pot holes in mid-March.



Memorial Ride scheduled for March 20th and 21st.

The biggest event in Northwest Washington was on March 20th. Dealers brought demos and we hauled the barbecue up for a great day and great food. A North Cascade sled deck was raffled off and congratulations to Jace and Lisa Montgomery, the lucky winners!

The next day on the 21st was the Luke Memorial Ride. Part of this event included a raffle of some great prizes. Congrats to the winners!

- Arctic FX Sled Wrap - Glen Wilkinson
- Mountain Lab flashlight - Lisa Skillman
- Mountain Lab Tow kit - Tom Shields
- \$250.00 Polaris Certificate from Chris Ward and Polaris - Ryan Verbarene
- \$500 AIARE Level 1 Three-Day Avalanche Scholarships



Methow Valley Snowmobile Association

By Craig Stahl, President

Hey Riders!
Recap on our season - we hope you had an amazing season of riding! We scored a great La Nina year and had many epic powder days up here in the Methow.
We are so happy the sport of snowmobiling remains mostly unaffected by pandemic-related issues. What a great way to socially

distance out on in the hills. We are happy we were able to put together socially distanced groups rides. A big thank you to anyone who stepped up to be a group ride leader. We hope you were able to join us on some of the group rides this season and hope you got a chance to utilize our huts.

I'm proud to mention the Methow Valley Snowmobile Association's (MVSA) involvement in getting the Highway 20 closure rescinded. We are overwhelmed with the amount of support we got from our snowmobile family, especially WSSA and other state associations as well as from the motorized community nationally. This is a huge win for our sport going forwards and we are looking forward to maintaining our good relationship with the Forest Service.

MVSA was excited to finally complete Silver star Sno-Park up on Highway 20. Thank you Don Fitzpatrick for all your hard work and the other user groups in getting the job done.

Thank you to all who helped with the huts this season! Our new

(Continued on page 15)



Great snow all season in the Methow!

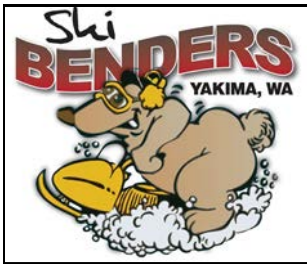


Club News

(Continued from page 14) Starvation Mountain hut was completed and set up; an extra thank you to those individuals who made the project happen including the Tri-Rivers Snowmobile Club members who helped with the project and now maintain the hut and call it home.

MVSA is excited about the future of our Association. Our newly elected officers and board members have great new things planned for our members. We are putting **our association's focus back onto the sport** of snowmobiling and our community of riders including the youth. We are looking forward to continuing our relationship with non-motorized groups to educate the importance of working together. After a great response to some of the group rides this season, we will be incorporating more of what people liked about them for our next season.

Until Next time!



Yakima Ski-Benders

By Liz Van Amburg,
President

Hey Ski-Benders, what an awesome February and March we had!

Kids Ride 2021 is in the books. This was the ninth year and we had 92 Kids; I lost count of how many adults! There were several clubs and three states represented at **this year's event**. Thank you to Audeena Smith and Leesha Fuller for getting this



A successful Ski-Benders' Kids Ride with 92 youngsters in attendance!

year's ride organized; it ran so much smoother than in years past. This event takes so many volunteers and I personally can not tell each and everyone of you how much Mike Van Amburg and I appreciate your support, time, sleds and money donated to this event. I always say it takes a village! Most importantly thank



Kids Ride 2021

you to the parents who make the effort to bring your kids; some traveled through a huge storm to get there. Look for info coming soon for 2022.

On March 6th a group of us rode out to Government Meadows to join the Sno-Jammers for their poker ride. If I were to guess there had to have been 40 to 50 people from the east side. Great job to all their vol-

(Continued on
page 16)



Cleaning up at the Sno-Jammers' Poker Ride. Some people have all the luck!

Club News

(Continued from page 15)

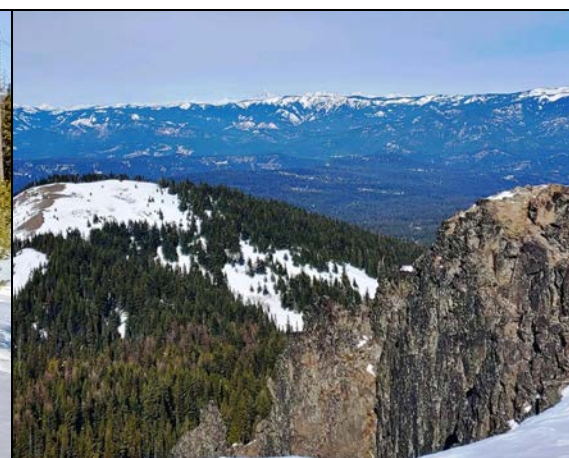
unteers; the event was super fun and had a huge turnout.

On March 12th a group of Ski-Benders joined in on the WSSA Military Appreciation Ride led by Matt Mead. The weather was picture perfect. This is always one of my favorite rides; you just never know how the day will go. My sled over-heated in the morning and I missed their morning adven-

ture, however I hung out at the cabin while Joe Whitehouse cooked up home-made chili and dogs. We then adventured out to the edge and took in the views of Little Canada and the Stewart Range. The afternoon ride did not disappoint, Matt always has an adventure planned. Thank you to all who have severed; because of you we are the land of the free, because of the brave.

Thank you WSSA for selecting me as Club President of the Year! It has been a huge honor representing the Yakima Ski-Benders through these challenging times. I had a very strong board and the best volunteers making my job easy. I want to congratulate **Chad Atkins for winning WSSA's Snowmobiler of the Year.** Chad is a fellow Ski-Bender and was a huge

(Continued on page 18)



Ski-Bender members assisted with and enjoyed participating in the annual WSSA Military Appreciation Ride.

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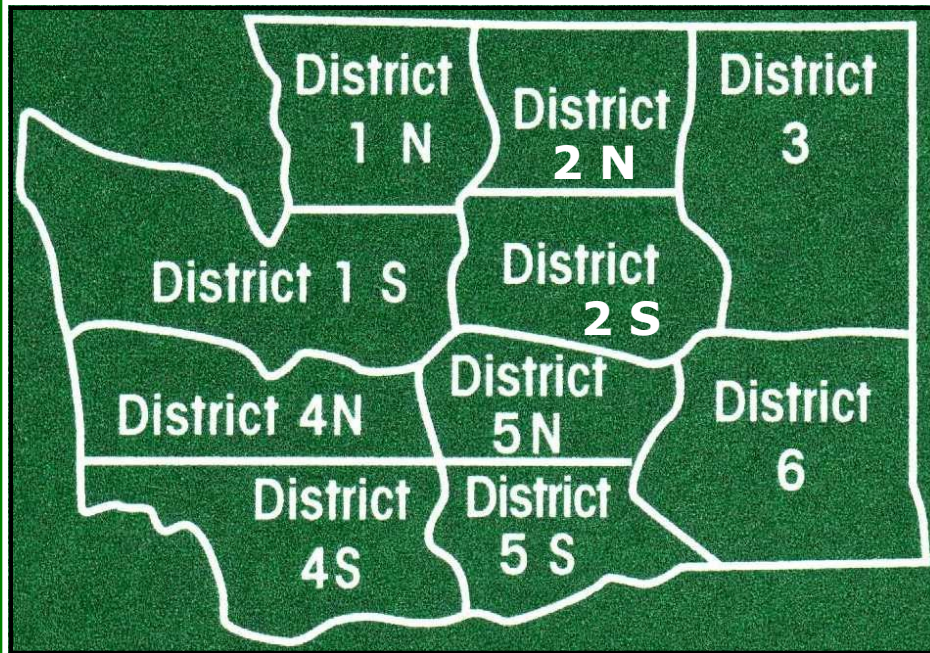


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Snowmobile Clubs



Note: Facebook addresses in blue

District 1 North

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

Northwest Glacier Cruisers

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

Whatcom County Snowmobile Club

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

Mountain Trails Grooming Assoc.

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

North Central ATV Club of WA

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

Republic Tree Benders

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

Tri-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

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)

Barnyard Racing

Eric Clark
fj55@comcast.net

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
tollgatetrailfinders@gmail.com
www.tollgatetrailfinders.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/VISOTINW.html

Club News

(Continued from page 16) asset in helping the Ski-Benders raise \$14,000 to keep our club moving in a positive direction through COVID. Chad also is the quiet volunteer out there fighting to keep your mountains open, putting in the time it takes to repair trails, build bridges and fix what needs to be fixed.

That is a wrap for my riding season; my husband Mike mentioned this morning about summarizing the sleds. I hate seeing all the snow melt, but do look forward to spring and new adventures.



Lake Wenatchee Rec Club

By Marilyn Mylius,
Vice President

As the season winds down, I have to say we have had an amazing winter! Great snow, and LOTS of users on the trails.

Our Snowmobile Geocache event went

great and had lots of riders participate. We will most likely make this an annual event.

The Rec Club has recently launched a new website at www.lakewenatcheerecclub.org so check it out! We are still making some adjustments to the website, with upgrades including the ability to pay membership and event dues online.

Upcoming events to note: Our annual Dual Sport Ride is scheduled for June 19th. For more info on that event and registration, visit the website.

We have had a very active Facebook winter with our daily grooming updates and lots of great ride photos posted, so if you don't already, follow us on Facebook.

Congrats to our groomers, Pacific Mountain Services, for winning the coveted WSSA 'Groomer of the Year' award! We love our groomers!

Have a GREAT SUMMER everyone!

Clubs:
Show us your LOGOs!



Junco Snowmobile Club

By Chris Sutton

The Junco Snowmobile Club is one of the oldest snowmobile clubs in Washington. We manage both the Orr Creek and Wakepish Sno-Parks in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest! You may have met a few of us over the years at the WSSA Expo collecting donations for the Legal Action Fund in the Blue Lot; we proudly volunteer to manage the parking and Blue Lot Swap Meet when we are able to have it. We would like to thank everyone who has donated their time and/or money for the protection of our sport over the years!

Every January we host an event we call 'Charity on the Snow' at the Orr Creek Sno-Park. This is a family-friendly weekend of camping, snowmobiling, and

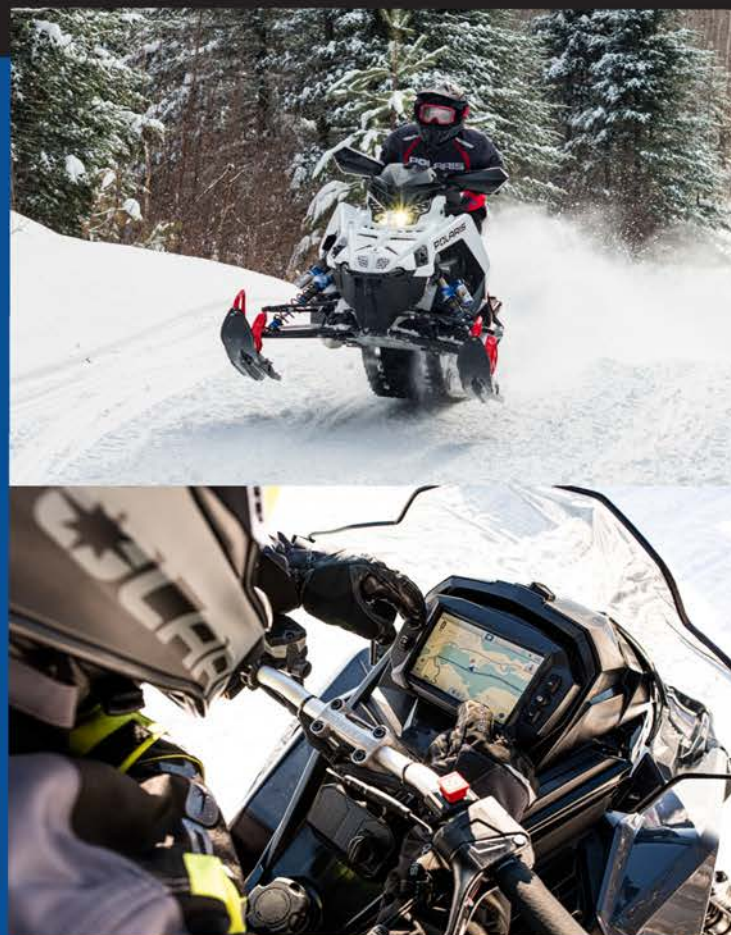
(Continued on page 19)

POLARIS

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polaris.com/snowmobiles



Club News

(Continued from page 18) other activities with a charity auction for the Make-A-Wish Foundation! Since 2002 we have been donating 100% of the money raised, totaling over



Craig Miller and Jim Martinek posing with the sleds that were donated for Charity on the Snow



Kim Olive and Jan Martinek setting up for the night's fundraising festivities!

\$80,000, from this event directly to Make-A-Wish, Alaska and Washington! This year alone we raised just over \$7,000 with a re-

cord turn-out thanks to all the hard work from Jim and Jan Martinek, Craig Miller, Jimmy Bauer, and EVERYONE else who helped organize this fun event!

A huge THANK YOU also goes out to Back Country Plowing and Grooming for keeping the trails as smooth as possible considering



Back Country Plowing and Grooming taking a break to watch the sunset!

all the Jeep traffic we saw this season! The roads alone can present quite a challenge due to the number of trees that come down every year. Lee and Kim Olive, along with Travis Martinek and the rest of the crew, all put in a lot of hours and hard work to keep the miles and miles of roads plowed and cleared for safe travel. We love working with them and look forward to many more years of smooth trails! They are very responsive on social media, so follow them for daily updates on Facebook at www.facebook.com/backcountryplowingandgrooming.

This last year we decided to 'Adopt-a-Shelter' in our area called the Midway Garage. This garage is located outside of Orr Creek Sno-Park, by Four Corners if you are familiar with the area. In doing so, we prevented this building from being torn down by the U.S. Forest Service due to 'deferred maintenance'. Our club plans on resur-



Midway Garage



recting this neglected building into a warming shelter for everyone to use. We are planning a work party this September to do some reinforcing and replace the roof; please see the pictures provided and stay tuned for more details to come!

The Junco Snowmobile Club meets monthly at Godfather's Pizza near Spanaway at 15709 Pacific Ave S. in Tacoma. We meet on the first Monday of each month at 7pm, October through April, with a social hour beginning at 6 pm. We are a small informal club that is family oriented and always looking for new friends to ride with. Membership is only \$20 a year per family and we welcome you to come join us! You can follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/junco-snowmobile-club-693699857309032 for updates and information about our events!



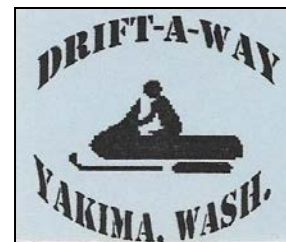
Bavarian Boondockers

By Matt Kensrud, President

The Bavarian Boondockers had a great season and the club was over a hundred members strong! Club rides to the warming hut this year were top notch and we had tons of snow around our area.

The club is looking forward to next season and hopefully having Snow Fest again; keep your fingers crossed.

See you all next season!



Drift-A-Way Snowmobile Club

By Matt Mead, Secretary

The season is winding down and Drift-A-Way members are getting in their last rides of the season. There is still plenty of snow at higher elevations; now the challenge is getting to it... without dealing long sections of bare ground and/or the 4x4 ruts that start the day grooming stops.

Drift-A-Way members who are also WSSA board members, manned a checkpoint between Government Meadows and Little Naches during the Sno-Jammers' Fun Run. A huge crowd with about 300 participants!

Our members were also (Continued on page 20)

Club News

(Continued from page 19)

instrumental in hosting the annual WSSA Military Appreciation Ride. A handful of Army personnel were treated to a day on the snow with WSSA providing the gear, and local club members (including Drift-A-Way, Ski-Benders and Chinook Pass Snowmobile Club) donating snowmobiles and a chili lunch. It was a bluebird day!

Mid-week and weekend rides have continued with adventures aplenty. We've had a few stuck... and few minor dings... but everyone has a great time and makes it back safely!

The club recently held their last official meeting of the season. We didn't set any dates, but upcoming events will include snowpark and road clean-up in the Rimrock Lake area and a summer campout.

During the meeting, samples of a couple



Club members only ventured up on Bethel Ridge a couple of times this season due to a lack of snow down low. A shame due to the great riding up there!



There is a common theme with Drift-A-Way rides...

We don't cover a lot of miles, but we find plenty of hidden play areas!



of updated club logos were passed around for review; nothing was decided and this is an ongoing project.

And the club has grown again with the addition of another family, the Knights. Dennis has been riding with us pretty regularly, and his wife Allison has joined in on a couple as well. Welcome to the club!

While it may be too late to join in on a ride this season, keep us in mind for next. Or, if you like to play in the hills during the summer and are looking for low-key, like-minded folks, get in touch; snow may go, but our members stay in touch year round.

ARE YOU A SAFE RIDER?



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DRINKING AND RIDING PUTS YOUR FAMILY AT RISK

DON'T DO IT

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



WSSA Trail Grant

Another new hut in the Okanogan County region!

Submitted by Craig Stahl, MVSA Country

Dear Washington State Snowmobile Association,

The Methow Valley Snowmobile Association (MVSA), Butte Busters Snowmobile Club, Tri-Rivers Snowmobile Club, Mountain Trails Grooming and Okanogan County of All Snowmobile Associations

would like to thank the Washington State Snowmobile Association (WSSA) for the grants to complete the Starvation Mountain safety hut. It was a collaborative effort to raise funds to complete the project.



As president of MVSA, I had an idea to build a mobile warming safety shelter for our trail users in the Okanogan Wenatchee Methow National Forest. Some people said it could not be done. After years of planning and working towards this goal, an idea became a reality for MVSA with the Sweetgrass Hut. For years the hut has become a huge success and is greatly appreciated by its users. Due to the overwhelming support for the hut, another idea came along; why not do it again?

Where should we have another hut? It only made sense to have a hut to the south of our riding area in the Methow. Starvation Mountain was the chosen spot by the input from many people. At this point the Tri-Rivers club stepped in and were excited to have a hut they could call home. MVSA has our hut at Sweetgrass and the Butte Busters have their hut at Tiffany Springs Campground. Tri-Rivers agreed to maintain, help with annual funds for operation and haul the hut up and down the mountain for our users. With a permit in hand, we had the green light to go on the project.

At the time, I worked for CenturyLink for ten years. I knew CenturyLink was going to be abandoning an office full of electronic equipment in Mazama. I thought the building would be a great size for a warming shelter. As the Sweetgrass hut was constructed from the ground up, MVSA thought the idea of an already constructed building would be a quick way to making a second hut happen. The problem was this future hut had another building built around the 14' x 7.5' fiberglass building. MVSA members under-

stood removing the old building around the fiberglass building was going to be cheaper and faster than starting from the ground up. Thirty-two man and woman hours later the old building was removed and we had an intact hut ready to be fastened on a trailer. With MVSA volunteers, MVSA funds and 2019 WSSA grants, it was time for purchasing a trailer and attaching the hut to it.

Due to the timeline of the release of the building from CenturyLink and snow up on Starvation Mountain, we were not able to get the hut out on the trail system in 2019.

WSSA 2020 grant funding allowed us to finish the inside of the hut. Volunteers from MVSA and Tri-Rivers stepped in to install a wood stove, two windows, new floor, wood box, a cabinet, hanging hooks and wrap-around benches. There were many donations from the local community, both snowmobile riders and non-snowmobile users. It was so great to see a whole community step in and make an idea happen. Thank you CenturyLink and volunteers from our snowmobile family! Special thank you to WSSA

for supporting our Starvation Hut project. WSSA support was key to completing our goal.

Come check out the hut and look for the big banner of thanks from MVSA, Tri-Rivers, WSSA and the Butte Busters.

Greatly Appreciated,

**Craig Stahl - President MVSA
and on behalf of
Tri-Rivers Snowmobile Club
Butte Busters Snowmobile Club
Okanogan County of All Snowmobile
Associations
Mountain Trails Grooming Association**



State Parks Update

By Pamela McConkey, Winter Recreation Program Manager

Snowmobile Program Funding - For Next Season

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

Did you know when you register your snowmobile your registration payment (-3% to DOL) and a portion of the fuel tax goes into a dedicated account for the Snowmobile Program? It does, and that revenue is then **spent on the next year's services such as** trail grooming, snow removal, sanitation, education, enforcement and equipment. Did you know because 2019/2020 snowmobile registrations were down the Snowmobile Program had to take budget cuts for the **2020/2021 winter services?** It's true, snowmobile trail grooming took a 10% cut, snow removal took a 6% cut, and education, and enforcement took a 6% cut.

Did you know unless snowmobile registration numbers increase the Program could **take more cuts or remain flat?** Again, that's true. The Program is solely dependent on snowmobile registrations and fuel tax in order to provide the services we all want. So, **if you haven't registered your snowmobile, it's not too late to contribute to next year's funding;** register before June 30th, 2021, to help fund the 2021/2022 winter.

Sno-Park Clean-Up Events

Did you know most of the clubs and WSSA coordinate a Volunteer Sno-Park Clean-Up day? Volunteers from local area clubs and WSSA join forces with landowners (the U.S. Forest Service in most areas) to clean up the trash and debris left behind by winter users. Much of the trash is covered by snow, however, once the snow melts away, the trash is abounding. A typical Sno-Park Clean-Up date is the Saturday before **Memorial Day weekend.** So, if you're wondering what to do to help, join the volunteers, grab your gloves and a trash picker and head to your favorite sno-park to lend a helping hand. (In most cases the Forest Service brings a big truck and trailer to haul off the trash). Check with your local club for

specific dates in your area.

It's Not Notoriety - It's Just Who They Are!

Did you know many of the snowmobile trail grooming contractors ran out of funds before the March 30th end date? This is due

to many factors, primarily because of the 10% reduction in grooming funds this year, but also the great snow season we had.

Did you know in many (Continued on page 23)



#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 22) areas snowmobilers won't know if the contractor ran out of money or not? How is that you may ask? Many of the snowmobile trail groomers are dedicated snowmobilers themselves and they will continue to groom (although less frequently) using their own funds. This is not for the notoriety, it's because they love the sport and want to provide the best service they can to fellow snowmobilers.

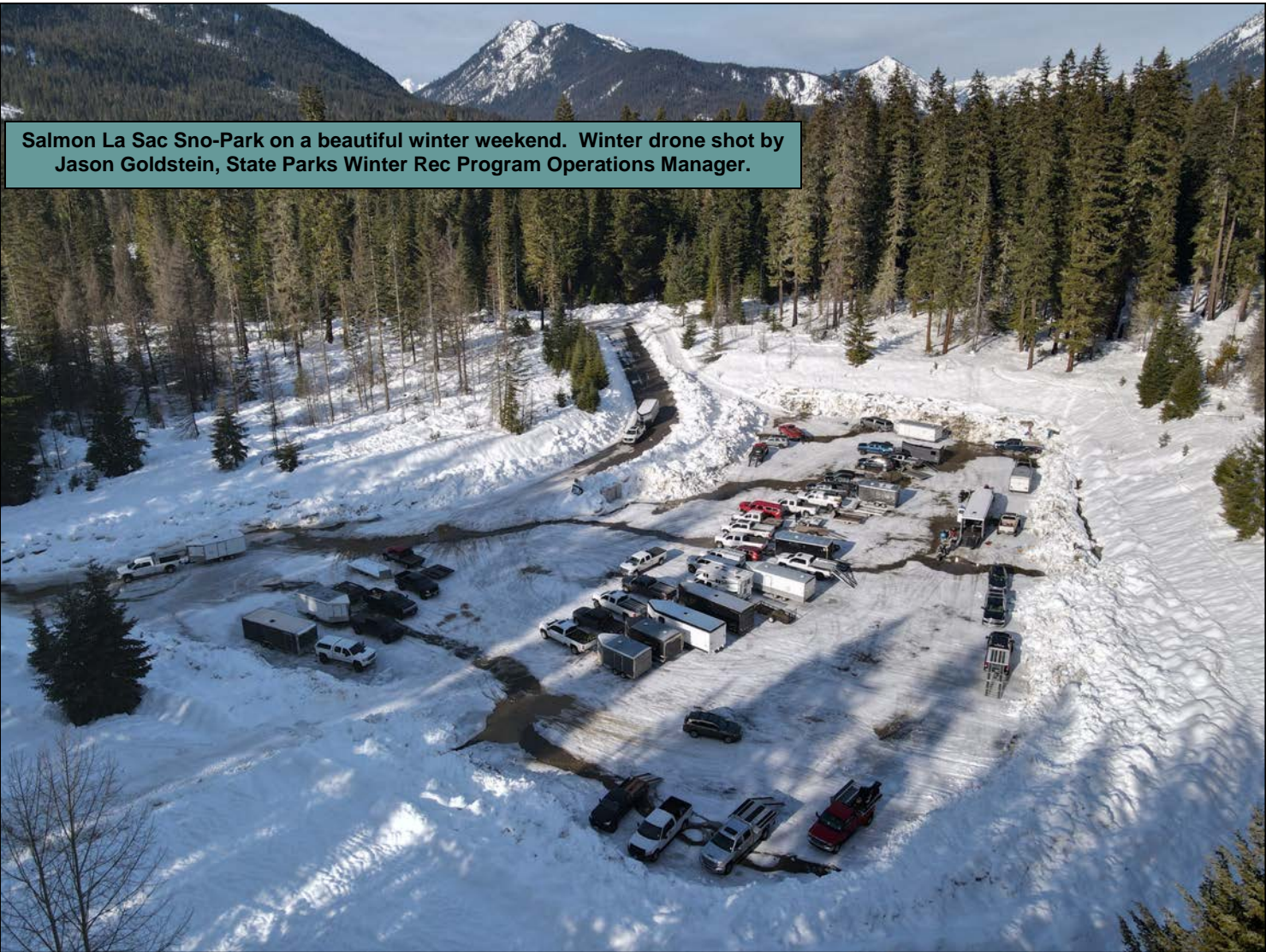
Did you know it's just as easy to compliment your grooming contractor as it is to complain about them? It is, give it a try!

Sno-Park Permit Fees to Increase in Fall of 2021!

In order to stay in line with the non-motorized program's 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 (free) 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 snowbike, there is no additional cost to you for your seasonal sno-park permit. Questions? Send us an email winter@parks.wa.gov



Salmon La Sac Sno-Park on a beautiful winter weekend. Winter drone shot by Jason Goldstein, State Parks Winter Rec Program Operations Manager.

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	1,541	248
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	23,883	2,259

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



News

State Parks Commission appoints new Agency Director



NEWS RELEASE

Nationwide search reveals home-grown talent

News media contact:

Anna Gill, Communications Director, (360) 902-8562 or media@parks.wa.gov

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission announced the appointment of Peter Mayer as the agency's new director.

"Peter is a proven leader with a wide range of experience in parks and recreation," said Parks Commission Chairman, Mike Latimer. "His background and expertise will help lead State Parks toward a bright future."

As director, Mayer will be responsible for leading one of the country's most beautiful and diverse park systems encompassing more than 120,000 acres with 124 developed parks, numerous properties and heritage sites, and a team of 1,000 dedicated staff.



Mayer's first day with State Parks was March 15th.

"State parks has played an important role in the lives of many Washingtonians – especially over the past year," said Commission Secretary Diana Perez. "Peter will honor and protect that legacy for the people of this state."

Mayer currently serves as the Deputy Executive Director of Metro Parks Tacoma, where he is responsible for governance, strategic direction and overall business operations. During his time there, the organization received the prestigious National Recreation and Park Association's Gold Medal award.

Prior to joining Metro Parks, Mayer helped lead Snohomish Health District, Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation, and Mercer Island Parks and Recreation. He even spent time as a seasonal park aide and interpretive assistant at Fort Casey Historical State Park and former state park, Chief Timothy.

Mayer has also served on a number of boards and commissions, including the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board and the Vancouver USA Regional Sports Commission.

Mayer, 52, holds a master's degree in parks and recreation administration from Washington State University, where he also earned his undergraduate degree. He completed the Cascade Public Executive Program through the University of Washington's Daniel J. Evans School of Public Affairs.

Mayer, a native of Anacortes, and his wife Jen have two children — Zack, age 18, and Isabel, age 14. The Mayer family lives in Issaquah.



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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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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(Lake Wenatchee/Leavenworth)

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www.mtsprings.com

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(Ravensdale)

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www.ridefinesse.com

Sharkey's Watercraft & Snowmobile Rentals

(Chelan)

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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.

Forest Service issues permit for rental huts on Van Epps Pass

By Wayne Mohler, Land Use Chairs

On March 7th, several WSSA members and sled-skiers obtained information that the Cle Elum Ranger District, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, had issued a permit for the placement of three 30 ft x 20 ft rental huts which would sleep up to eight persons each, on Van Epps Pass. As is common knowledge in the snowmobile community, the Van Epps – Gallagher, Ingalls, Upper Fortune Creek, Scatter Peaks, is a highly desirable and intensely used snowmobile area – and has been for the past 30+ years. Immediately, yellow and red lights began to flash - No green lights showing! Many questions and no answers. The topic came up at the Kittitas County Grooming Council meeting on March 8th. Again – more questions and concerns with no answers.

The conclusion was there was a need to convene a meeting with the Forest Service to find out what had been approved and seek appropriate mitigation. On March 11th a meeting was held with representation from the following: U.S. Forest Service, the permit holder, State Parks Winter Recreation Program, the sled-skier community, Cascade Drift Skippers, Teanaway Snowmobile Club, the grooming contractor, Kittitas County Grooming Council, and WSSA. A wide range of concerns were expressed and the Forest Service indicated they would review those concerns with the permit holder and provide response to the concerns on the following Friday. The group, along with several additional representatives of the sled-skier community convened on Friday March 19th. While sympathetic with the concerns (“we hear you”), it basically came down to the fact little change was being proposed and the permit would stand, as issued. WSSA representatives indicated the concerns of the snowmobilers would be elevated to a higher level within the Forest Service, which is currently being done.

In the permit application (Form 299), the applicant spoke to a perceived need to provide remote overnight accommodations for backcountry skiers, snowboarders and **snowshoers**. Notice there’s no mention of snowmobiling, other than the applicant indicated he would reach out to stakeholder groups (snowmobilers were mentioned) to align on areas of overlapping interest, and mitigate any potential conflicts. The permit holder has an active website and is currently taking reservations for the 2021-2022 season. None of the publicly available materials acknowledge the current heavy snowmobile use and the marketing materials are NOT directed toward snowmobilers. We do not know what is actually in the permit, however, we do know that attempting to have meaningful dialog after a permit is issued is basically useless and indicative of a flawed process. Basically, what has been proposed and likely permitted, is flawed from nearly every angle, including potential user conflict, operational, safety, communications, location of the huts, etc.

Hopefully we will have success in preventing what will otherwise be a bad experience for the Forest Service, the snowmobilers, the permit holder, and the target clientele.



Margaret Scofield
Acting FOIA Officer
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Yates Building
Stop 1150
Washington, DC 2025

SM.FS.WOFOIA@USDA.GOV

Ms. Scofield,

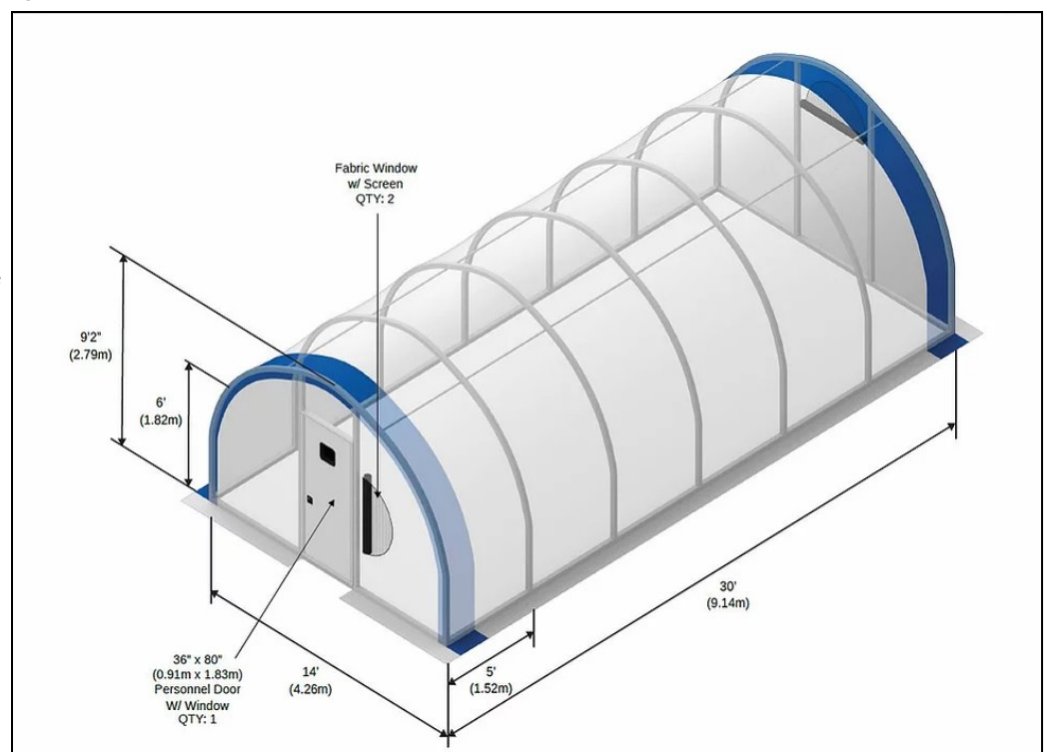
Please accept this as a records request under FOIA. We are requesting all public records regarding the decision by the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest to issue a permit or other authorization to the Wenatchee Mountains Alpine Huts to construct alpine huts in the Van Epps Pass area, including but not limited to public records related to the permit application and the permit decision. This request relates to, but is not limited to, the Supplemental Response Package (Standard Form 299), dated October 2020, submitted by the Wenatchee Mountains Alpine Huts to the U.S. Forest Service. The permit or other authorization that is the subject of this request may have been issued by District Ranger Michelle Capp.

To our knowledge, there is no exemption from fees applicable to this request, and we are authorizing costs up to \$300 in relation to this request. If you have questions or we can provide additional information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Veronica M. Keithley

Veronica M. Keithley | Attorney
STOEL RIVES LLP | 600 University Street, Suite 3600 | Seattle, WA 98101



ACSA E-News

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



BRP To Introduce Electric

Bombardier Recreational Products (BRP) announced its five-year plan where it will offer electric models in each of its product lines by the end of 2026. To achieve this, BRP plans to invest \$300M over five years in product development, specialized equipment, infrastructure, production tooling and facilities.

In early 2019, BRP acquired assets of Alta Motors, an electric motorcycle manufacturer, and commercialized the Rotax Sonic E-Kart.

Check out BRP's press release here: [http://news.brp.com/news-releases/news-release-details/brp-introduce-electric-models-each-its-product-lines-end-2026-0?](http://news.brp.com/news-releases/news-release-details/brp-introduce-electric-models-each-its-product-lines-end-2026-0?_ga=2.259712265.246342839.1616702452-1721913464.1616702452&fbclid=IwAR3eb6DrQTnIoS2t-UIpe4mY-f5zz8HNGtf4zzOa27zR2ZFuNyNq-ZALSgY)

[_ga=2.259712265.246342839.1616702452-](http://news.brp.com/news-releases/news-release-details/brp-introduce-electric-models-each-its-product-lines-end-2026-0?_ga=2.259712265.246342839.1616702452-1721913464.1616702452&fbclid=IwAR3eb6DrQTnIoS2t-UIpe4mY-f5zz8HNGtf4zzOa27zR2ZFuNyNq-ZALSgY)

[1721913464.1616702452&fbclid=IwAR3eb6DrQTnIoS2t-UIpe4mY-f5zz8HNGtf4zzOa27zR2ZFuNyNq-ZALSgY](http://news.brp.com/news-releases/news-release-details/brp-introduce-electric-models-each-its-product-lines-end-2026-0?_ga=2.259712265.246342839.1616702452-1721913464.1616702452&fbclid=IwAR3eb6DrQTnIoS2t-UIpe4mY-f5zz8HNGtf4zzOa27zR2ZFuNyNq-ZALSgY)

Taiga Electric Snowmobiles Coming?

Taiga Motors, a leading developer of electric off-road vehicles, announced plans to build a mass-production assembly facility in Québec. The first phase of construction, scheduled for completion in 2022, represents an investment to accelerate the mass-production of Taiga electric snowmobiles and personal watercrafts, as well as Taiga's side-by-side vehicles, which are expected to be ready for production in 2022.

"This facility, a part of the \$185M in recently announced funding, will bolster Taiga into becoming a globally leading OEM for powersports vehicles," said Samuel Bruneau, CEO of Taiga.

The facility is expected to increase Taiga's production capacity to 80,000 units by 2025.

Recreational Trails Program

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) utilizes funds collected from federal gas taxes to pay for trail construction, maintenance and education for both motorized and non-motorized recreation, greatly affecting the availability of trail access in many areas.

Bipartisan legislation has again been introduced which requires the Federal Highway Administration to conduct a fuel usage study and increases the funding from the current \$84 Million to at least \$250 Million. It is estimated users pay more than \$270 Million in federal gas taxes each year on their non-highway vehicles.

RTP money has been very important to the snowmobile trails program through the years. If this is something you support, you should contact your Congressman and ask them to sign on to HR 1864 as a co-sponsor.

Transportation Discussions

Democrats' push for a big transportation bill could help restore the biggest federal road system — the network that winds through National Forests. Proponents of repairing those roads say they're looking to a forthcoming infrastructure and transportation measure to whittle away at the Service's \$3 Billion road project backlog.

Forest roads are rarely considered part of the Nation's transportation network, but they provide millions of visitors access to public land and help wildfire crews get closer to blazes. They're necessary for logging, a use that has declined in recent years but remains a key part of the economy in some areas.

Conservation groups have been trying for a few years to sell Congress on the idea that the 370,359 miles of Forest roads — and in some cases, the trees, too — belong in any infrastructure and transportation overhaul — at least to maintain what's already in use. By contrast, the Interstate Highway System totals 46,876 miles, according to the Federal Highway Administration.

Did You Know?

There are many costs incurred by manufacturing; some are easy to understand like the pieces and parts, but there are other costs that are not so widely known.

As many of you know, there has been a problem in manufacturing across the board with receiving many needed and necessary components delivered. One manufacturer recently shared some interesting costs that have drastically increased and have also increased the timelines.

For instance, what used to cost them \$1,700 for a 40-foot container now costs them \$5,000. In addition, they are also facing significant delays at the ports and in order to land their product early there can be added costs of \$14,000 or more.

Two Colorado backcountry snowboarders who set off an avalanche last March were charged with 'reckless endangerment' and are also being held responsible for the \$168,000 in damages.

Populations of the American bald eagle have quadrupled since 2009, according to a new report by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Bald eagles once teetered on the brink of extinction, reaching an all-time low of 417 known nesting pairs in 1963 in the lower 48 states. However, after decades of protection, the banning of the pesticide DDT, and conservation efforts with numerous partners, the bald eagle population has flourished, growing to more than 71,400 nesting pairs.

International Snowmobile Congress

The 53rd Annual Snowmobile Congress will be held in Omaha, Nebraska, June 9th-12th.

Register now! Visit <https://www.snowmobilers.org/isc/>

Continuing Effort for New Wilderness

Since the early 1990s, Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) has introduced and reintroduced her legislation for Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act. This session she has 40 Democratic co-sponsors.

This legislation would designate Wilderness as well as hundreds of miles of rivers and streams as Wild and Scenic in five western states.

If this passes, all inventoried Roadless Areas in the Northern Rockies would be designated as Wilderness, accounting for 23 million acres in Montana, Washington, Idaho, Oregon and Wyoming.

This new Wilderness would encompass nearly 6.4 million acres in Montana and around 9 million acres in Idaho.

Mike Garrity, executive director of the Alliance for the Wild Rockies, said it has a better chance of passing due to both houses being controlled by Democrats and "we have a president who is concerned about the environment". Garrity also added, "this would create

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ACSA E-News

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thousands of new jobs, as heavy equipment operators and other laborers would be needed to restore old clear cuts and remove logging roads."

USDA To Invest \$285 Million

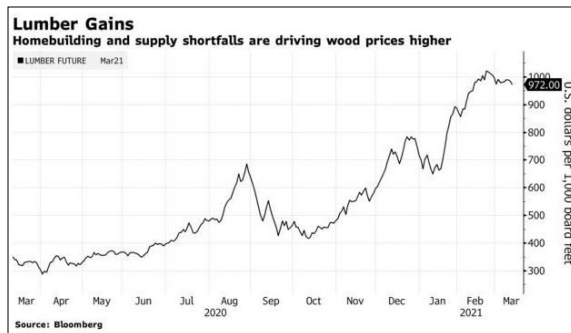
Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced this week the U.S. Department of Agriculture will invest \$285 million to help the Forest Service address critical deferred maintenance and improve transportation and recreation infrastructure on National Forests and Grasslands.

This \$285 million investment is made possible by the newly created National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund, established in 2020 by the Great American Outdoors Act. These funds will allow the Forest Service to implement more than 500 infrastructure improvement projects essential to the continued use and enjoyment of National Forests and Grasslands.

Applications for future projects will be available this summer. Now is a good time to make a list of projects that could be used for this funding.

Lumber Prices Continue to Escalate

According to a Bloomberg story, the price of lumber continues to rise as the demand exceeds production. Lumber futures rallied to record highs above \$1,000 per 1,000 board feet in February, driven in part by low supplies of wood products. The contract, which averaged around \$456 in 2020, was at \$972 yesterday.



North America's lumber deficit will mean that more wood product needs to be imported from Central Europe, where a beetle infestation has killed trees and led to increased logging, according to Paul Jannke, the Forest Economic Advisors' principal of lumber.

Unlike the U.S., European lumber production is expected to exceed consumption, allowing Europe to boost its exports, he said.

Will we see an increase in timber harvesting to meet demand?

New Video PSAs!!

Each of these are a 30-second Video PSA that can be used in your communications as well as in your social media circles and websites.

Groomers: Visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PqxmrycFDmQ>

Stay on the Snow: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=90G8Og63mb8>



No Trespass Poster Contest!

Thanks to all of the snowmobilers who submitted posters for our contest! Trespassing continues to be a challenge -- and having the discussion at the dinner table and the club meetings is a good reminder for all of us -- and a reminder to remind those that we ride with that there zero tolerance for trespassing!

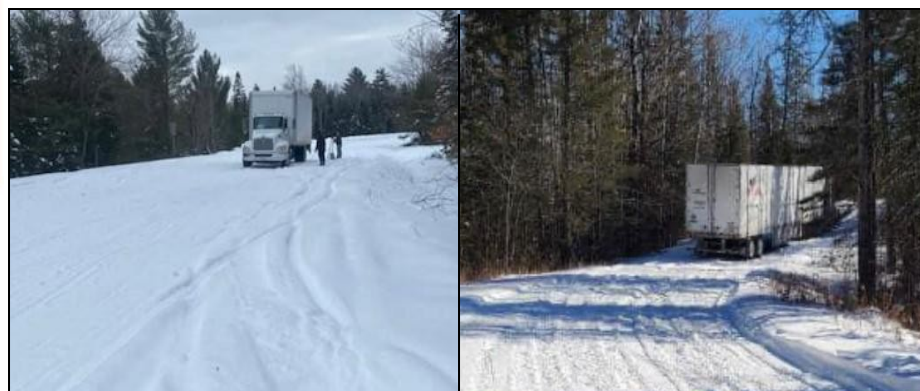
The 1st place winner was designed by Lauren Levey from WI.

The 2nd place prize goes to Steve Bethke from WI.

And 3rd place goes to Lindsey Dale, also from WI.

Just for Fun!

What a crazy season we had with trespassing -- and it wasn't just snowmobilers! They came in all shapes and sizes all across the country! There were so many incidents like this that we had to share a couple!



Are You Following Us?

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

Matt's Misc.

Wrapping up my best season ever! As I type this, I've ridden 32 times this season and our first trip out was on November 19th! And there is still pretty good snow, so we'll ride at least one more time. But as we wind down, I'm excited to bring the side-by-side out of hibernation this month. Make sure you get out in the woods to play all year!

Rest in Peace Richard 'Dick' Elkins.

Our past Membership Chair and friend Gary Harris called me the other day to let me know Dick had passed away; he and Dick were good friends and kept in touch long after they both left the WSSA board. For those who didn't know Dick, he was the District 1 South Representative for many years. He was passionate about snowmobiling and a STRONG supporter of WSSA. He was our best membership salesman ever; if he decided you should have a WSSA membership, he wouldn't stop until you'd pulled the \$20 bill out of your wallet. The funny thing is, as persistent as he was, he had such a charm you wouldn't even realize he'd put the hustle on you. When I first joined the WSSA board, Dick, as well as Gary, were quick to make me feel welcome and I truly appreciated that. Our condolences to Dick's family and friends.



Forest Plan revisions. Want to get involved? I came across an e-mail Wayne Mohler, our land-use chair, sent out awhile back. He said WSSA was contacted by Amy Granat, Managing Director, California Off-Road Vehicle Association (CORVA). She would like for several snowmobilers to be involved in these planning efforts as they move forward. Revisions are underway in 19 Forests in California, Oregon and Washington and six are in our state including the Gifford Pinchot, Wenatchee – Okanogan, Mt Baker-Snoqualmie, and Olympic. If you are interested in participating or know someone who is, get in touch with Wayne and let him know. For a bit of info on the revision process, visit <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detailfull/r6/landmanagement/planning/?cid=fseprd677501&width=full>

Do you like to play with vintage sleds? Especially old Yamaha machines? If so, you probably already know Howard Briggs in Cle Elum. If not, now might be the time to get in touch. Howard ran his own sled shop for many years and built up a

pretty good inventory of parts. He retired and closed the business several years ago, but still has a ton of parts. He called me the other day and asked if I'd put the word out to let people know he has **VINTAGE SLED PARTS** parts and some of them he'd be happy to just give away. If you know somebody who might be interested to see what he's got, pass them Howard's number. You can reach him at (509) 656-4084.

While I'm talking about Howard, I'd be remiss if I didn't mention he was our Legislative Chair for many years and spent much of the session wandering the halls in the Capitol talking to legislators about our cause. This is doubly impressive since he was living in Cle Elum!

How to (not) win friends and influence people! Actually, it turns out to be pretty easy on Facebook. A few weeks back I noticed a bunch of vehicles without sno-park permits parked in one of our local sno-parks. I noticed it as our group was heading out in the morning, and I stewed over it for all of the ride. Upon returning, a few vehicles had left, but there were still nine trucks left in the park and five of them didn't have sno-park permits. One group was camped and they had two motorhomes, two pickups and one snowmobile trailer. I couldn't see the windshield of one motorhome, but the other had no sno-park permit, and one of the trucks was lacking as well. There were two guys hanging around a campfire so I went and asked them why they didn't have permits. Blank stares and mumbled answers were the response. I explained why it was important and moved over to a couple of cars with tents set up and a large group of teen boys and a couple of adult women. It was clear in talking to them they weren't snowmobilers, had no clue what a sno-park was, and had just come up for a couple of nights of winter camping. I explained the issue and they were responsive, although I don't know what they ultimately did. As I was driving out, I noticed there were still three unoccupied trucks, two with trailers and one with a sled deck, that didn't have sno-park permits. So I stopped. Grabbed my phone. Took pictures of their trucks sans permits. And when I got home, I posted them to the Facebook page 'PNW Snowmobilers' with a note saying I was tired of people not obeying the rules and if you know these people, let them know they need to have sno-park permits. Based on several

By Matt Mead, Publicity Secretary



comments, you'd think I was the law-breaker! I was called 'Karen', a 'snitch' and even threatened. Never mind I didn't do anything wrong. Nothing illegal about snapping pictures in a sno-park. I was amazed at the people who took issue with my posting pics while at the same time giving the law-breakers a pass. AMAZING! So it makes one wonder... Were those complaining and threatening also lawbreakers themselves? If not, why do they not have a problem paying for plowing and grooming while the ones they defended are not? Hmm...

A few final comments. First, I looked close at the windshields to ensure the permit wasn't laying on the dash or otherwise obscured before calling them out. Second, in addition to my Facebook post, I did talk to a Forest Service law enforcement officer and told him of the violators. And third, do you know what a missing sno-park permit indicates? No sled registration. Since the permit comes free with the registration, most folks who register put them in the window like they are supposed to.

What's your solution? To the illegals in our sno-parks I mean? Me, I'll take and post more pics next season as needed. I'll also try and have one-on-one chats with the scofflaws when possible. I hope you'll join me and do the same. If you do approach these people, be smart. Don't be overbearing and start a fight. If it looks the least bit dangerous, don't confront at all. Take pics when you can... again without confrontation. Notify law enforcement about the lawbreakers and ask them to do more enforcement. Why should us law abiding snowmobilers put up with those who don't think they need to pay?

Hey mister, can you spare a new brake handle? I don't consider myself an aggressive rider. (Some may disagree...) But I am somewhat hard on my equipment and a fun day of riding means fighting lots of tree branches and even a few trunks throughout the day. My sled looks a bit beat up because of it too! But until the other day, I never seriously thought about carrying an extra brake handle. Even after one of my friends broke his on a recent ride. It took an article in SnoWest to make me really think about it. My friend didn't have a spare and

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Matt's Misc.

(Continued from page 28) ended up cutting his ride short that day. Hmm, I don't like that idea at all!

Tracked ATV/UTV legislation update.

As I type this, SB 5016 has been pulled out of the Rules Committee and is sitting on the House Floor waiting for a vote. The legislation has gone farther this year than last, but it isn't a done deal yet. We'll see.

An interesting aside; while reading 'PNW Snowmobilers' on Facebook, the question was asked if snowmobilers support this legislation or not. I was happy to see the vast majority did; many times on Facebook, you only get negative comments no matter the topic. Those who didn't had the same concerns we've seen all along; destroyed trails and safety regarding meeting a large tracked UTV on the trail. I don't see a problem with destroyed trails, but safety will always be a valid concern, and it will take both UTV and snowmobilers to do the right thing... kind of like it does today too. The interesting thing is, 10 years ago, or maybe even five, this legislation wouldn't have even been considered. Snowmobilers, groomer operators, WSSA board members, and local clubs have all changed their minds on this issue as new information has come about. Nice.

Snowmobile fees on the rise in

Idaho? A bill passed the Idaho House to increase snowmobile registration fees from \$31 to \$35.50 for residents and to \$59.50 for non-residents.

The original increase proposed was to \$49.50 for both resident and non-resident and it was supported by the Idaho State Snowmobile Association. I'm not sure why it was changed to the fees listed above and I don't know whether the state association still supports it; hopefully they are driving the bus on this as we do here in WA.

Best I can tell this bill is dead for this year as I'm not seeing any activity in the Idaho Senate since March 11th. (Not that I'm an expert!)

Levi LaVallee banged up while shooting video.

The professional snowmobile stunt rider was quickly rescued after he ended up in Lake Superior while filming a video in Duluth recently. Levi said when he landed a jump the throttle cable fell off and he had to hit the brakes but was going to fast to stop so he bailed and bounced off the next ramp and flipped into the water. Except there was ice 12' down he landed on first; no cushion and he hurt his ribs and hips. Couldn't have been too bad since he only took one day off of filming. I think the

video debuts in just a few days; watch for it on YouTube. Probably the Red Bull channel.

When did grooming begin for snowmobiles? 60s? 70s? How about 20s?! Going back to the early 1900s, it seems roads were actually rolled (a big roller dragged along) and compacted to make it easier for horses with sleighs to get around. Who



knew? I came across this info while checking out a story on Model T snowmobiles. Back when you could buy a new Model T for about \$400, a company in New Hampshire was making a \$500 kit to turn them into snowmobiles. Yep, pretty spendy, but if you were a mail carrier, doctor, or whoever else who had to get around in the snow, this was a good choice. If you'd like to check out the video, visit <https://cbs6albany.com/community/positively-upstate/a-page-in-history-restoration-of-a-model-t-snowmobile>

A bit of OSSA history... That's Oregon State Snowmobile Association for the acronym-impaired. I came across this info buried in an online article talking about this season's over-crowded sno-parks. I'll let you read it for yourself, but what caught my eye was the organization was formed to counter a push to outlaw snowmobiles by a state republican lawmaker. While I'm not going to dive into politics, it is a common the left tends to lean more towards quiet, non-motorized recreation while the right is way more tolerant of motorized. Apparently back in the 70s, the Oregon republican lawmakers were actually more extreme environmentalists than the democrats. Interesting.

Touching on the over-crowded sno-park issue, it seems this was a problem everywhere this season where large crowds were trying to escape the city and play in the snow. We saw it on Snoqualmie Pass, Blewett Pass and at Mt. St. Helens where there was absolutely no place to park trucks with trailers. Even the lesser-used sno-parks



were filling up this winter. Hopefully with a break in quarantine, many of these folks will return to their normal activities next winter and relieve some of the over-crowding. That and hopefully better enforcement so those who aren't wearing the proper pass will be removed to make room for those who follow the rules.

Oh, here's the link; the article is very long, but touches on the overcrowding problem and how sno-parks come to be and the effort it takes to build a new one or expand an existing one. (Again, the article is talking about Oregon, but it is the same for Washington.) Check it out: <https://www.statesmanjournal.com/story/news/2021/03/17/oregon-sno-parks-crowds-covid-19-limited-ski-snowboarding/4629099001/>

The rest of the story... Last month I highlighted a wooden bridge in Vermont that burned due to a snowmobile catching fire while crossing it.

Turns out maybe it didn't need to happen... Snowmobilers contacted 911 and said they thought they could remove the snowmobile from the bridge and the dispatcher told them not to. ARHG! In the dispatcher's defense, that person was following rules where they tell bystanders to stay away from danger. I don't know about you, but if I was a snowmobiler and thought I could have moved the sled, I wouldn't have even called 911. But I've always subscribed to Admiral Grace's motto, "it's easier to ask forgiveness than it is to get permission".

Watch those cornices! A snowmobiler recently died in California after falling off of a ridge and landing 900 feet below. A group of snowmobilers arrived at the top of Frog Lake Cliffs and one rider close to the edge stepped off his machine and the cornice broke under him. People down below saw it happen and were able to get to the victim quickly, but he had died from trauma of falling over cliffs and through rocks and chutes.

Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!

Facebook followers are over 3,560! Find us on Twitter at @wssaus and on Instagram at 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. Call (509) 424-1575 or e-mail to snoflyer@wssa.us.

