

Snoflyer

*The official publication of the
Washington State Snowmobile Association*

***April 2022**
Volume 44*

Guess we are done...

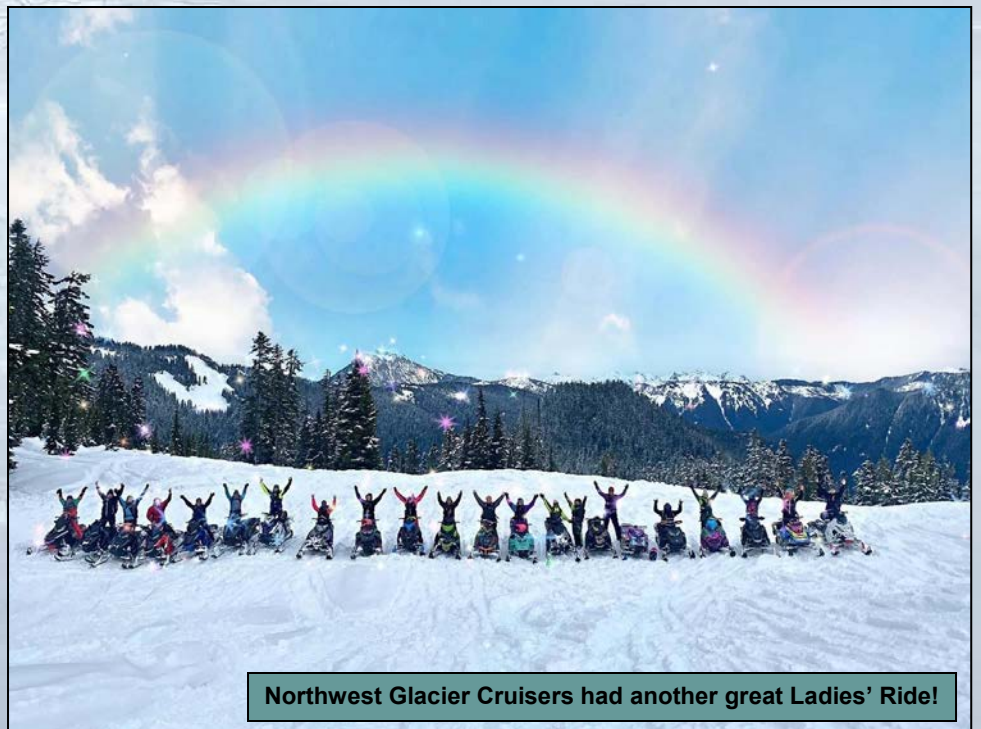
Lackluster end to a mediocre season



WSSA President Dee Alred enjoying a break with Mt. Rainier in the background.

Inside:

- ***New Director announced for State Parks***
- ***ACSA Mountain Riding Committee Winter Summit Update***
- ***Club News***



Northwest Glacier Cruisers had another great Ladies' Ride!



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UPDATED DAILY



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WSSA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership valid until August 31, 2023

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

FAMILY/INDIVIDUAL: (\$25)

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Mailing Address: _____

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

Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____

of Registered Sleds: _____ Number of Riders: _____

Legislative District _____ Congressional District _____

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

Name of Business or Club: _____

Owner/Business Contact or Club Contact: _____

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

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

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

Phone: _____ Email: _____ Website: _____

PAYMENT: Cash: _____ Check #: _____

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

Membership Dues: \$ _____

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

TOTAL: \$ _____

Mail Application and Payment to: WSSA Membership
2130 Lower Peah 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: Dee Alred, President
9104 Wide Hollow Rd.
Yakima, WA 98908
E-mail: deea.alred@wssa.us
(509) 965-8305

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING YOUR SPORT

WSSA MEETINGS AND IMPORTANT EVENTS 2022/2023

International Snowmobile Congress

Dubuque, Iowa

June 8th-11th, 2022

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

August 19th - 21st, 2022

Join us for a weekend of fun and information. Chili dinner on Friday night. Saturday breakfast and then our meeting, followed by fun fundraisers and a potluck dinner. (Lunch served too!) Final breakfast on Sunday morning. Spend the weekend with snowmobilers and learn what's in store for the 22/23 snowmobile season.

WSSA Meeting

October 10th 2022

Zoom meeting, 7pm to 8:30pm. Get the latest details on the upcoming snowmobile season.

WSSA Expo & Swap Meet

October 14th & 15th 2022

Big changes with this 30th anniversary event! Now a Friday/Saturday show! Open 3pm to 9pm on Friday and 9am to 6pm on Saturday. Stay tuned for further details!

WSSA Meeting

November 15th 2022

Zoom meeting, 7pm to 8:30pm. Get the latest details on the upcoming snowmobile season.

WSSA Meeting

January 12th 2023

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

Winter Rendezvous & WSSA Meeting

In Yakima

February 17th - 20th, 2023

Join us over Presidents' Day Weekend for three days of riding and evening entertainment. We'll announce newly elected officers, WSSA award winners, and the winner of the Legal Action Fund Sled Deck Raffle. Family-friendly and separate rides for beginners to advanced!

WSSA Meeting at the Lake Wenatchee Rec Club

March 11th 2023

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

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Matt Mead, Publicity Secretary

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

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Selah, WA 98942

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Leadership

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



We had our March budget meeting in person this year as last year's meeting lasted from 6pm until midnight. Members have lots of questions we need to address when making our budget. This year however, we went through it fairly quickly.

Some of the changes we made as a group were to have most of our meetings on Zoom and in the middle of the week. This help in two ways. First, it doesn't interfere with a weekend ride or outing. Second, the association saves money on travel reimbursements.

We are also going to print and mail out our Snoflyer to our members. This is our main way of getting our information out to all of you. Matt Mead will still have it available online for anyone who wants it in a digital format.

The 2023 Winter Rendezvous will be held in Yakima on February 17th - 20th. I am hoping to blast Facebook with videos and pictures of the different rides here in the Yakima area. We are 45 to 60 minutes from three different riding areas. (Chinook Pass, White Pass, and the Ahtanum State Forest.) I hope we have a good snow year!

Our next WSSA meeting is August 20th during our Summer Campout, August 19th - 21st. This is an informal meeting as our families come and enjoy the Blu-Shastin RV Park (3300 Highway 97, Peshastin, phone [888] 548-4184). The vice president provides meals for usually \$5 per meal. Friday we have hot dogs and chili provided by Matt Mead. This chili is the bomb! Breakfast and lunch are provided by the vice president. Saturday after the meeting we have root beer floats (\$5) provided by Wayne and Florence Mohler in support of the Snomobile WA Political Action Committee. Then we have a duck race where you can buy a duck for prizes. The ducks are thrown into the river and we catch them downstream. The prizes are awarded according to how your duck did in the race. Then we have a potluck with WSSA providing the main course. If you haven't attended a WSSA Summer Meeting you are missing out on a great weekend for the whole family. I hope to see everyone there!

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



Well, it looks like the season is wrapping up very quickly! However, there is still much work to be done.

Our March budget meeting went well in Cle Elum. The location worked out great as it was just about the right size and we could speak without the need of our PA system. I did miss the half-time music though. Thank you to all who were in attendance as it makes the business go smoother, but not necessarily shorter. When we have the full board, the committee chairs, and any outgoing persons at this meeting, it will last about five hours or so. Thank you to all who brought reports as it was very informational and educational! A special thanks to Jason Holmes for making the arrangements for our meeting place.

As a follow up, I have received the minutes from the American Council of Snowmobile Association's (ACSA) Mountain Riding Area Super Committee meeting in West Yellowstone in February. Check them out in this Snoflyer. Their next meeting will be held at the International Snowmobile Congress in June. They have also scheduled the next Summit meeting for February 23rd - 26th, 2023, in Alpine, Wyoming. Rooms are blocked for this event. Please let me know if you are interested in attending.

Please consider attending ISC 2022: The 54th Annual International Snowmobile Congress (ISC), Dubuque, Iowa, June 8th - 11th, 2022. Please follow this link for more information: www.snowmobilers.org.

The WSSA Snowmobile and Power Sports Expo 2022 is just around the corner and has lots of changes in the works. First thing is we are going to setup on Thursday this year for the big exhibitors and part of Friday for the rest. We are planning to open Expo at 3pm on Friday and running til 9pm with hopefully other things happening in the back rooms. We will then open Expo at 9am on Saturday and close at 6pm. Following the close we will tear down and go home Saturday night. No more Sunday show. This was at the request of all the exhibitors. Many of the snowmobile shows have already gone to Friday/Saturday all across the country. We will have more information for you as it comes in. Please plan on still using this event as a fundraiser for you clubs. More to follow.

Our next meeting is during our Summer Campout. If you need a space at Blu-Shastin, please contact me now and I will do my best to secure it for you. Please do not contact Blu-Shastin as I have the sites reserved for our use.

I am working on a program that might help get more people involved in leadership for WSSA called 'The Shadow Knows'. Please stay tuned for more in our next Snoflyer.

Please continue to talk to business owners, dealers and individual snowmobilers about joining WSSA and our cause which is to 'keep the gates open'. Please continue 'building bridges' for the snowmobilers.

District Reports



District 1 North

By Hans Brubaker
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(360) 922-8296

Greetings everyone and happy spring! In February, Whatcom and Skagit riders were doing snow dances, worried the season may have been over. Fortunately wishes were answered from above and March has brought a series of storms to power local events and riding opportunities. There is nothing like March powder and some sunshine to bring back the excitement again, at least for a few more weeks.

In the midst of early spring-like conditions, sledders have enjoyed the sunshine during club and family rides to rekindle friendships and keep traditions alive. District 1 North sledders have enjoyed rides with other districts, the Northwest Avalanche Center (NWAC), and hosted a fantastic Youth Snowmobile Day at the new Mount Baker Memorial Hut. It's hard to beat watching a fleet of 120cc sleds and all the kids' smiling faces. The 24 youth in attendance are the future of our sport, and it is great to see snowmobiling carry on as a family affair.

Next, congratulations to organizers and those who attended the fantastic 6th annual Mt. Baker Ladies Ride and charity fundraiser, held this year in Glacier. This popular event always books early for lodging, but is open to all ladies who can make the weekend's events. The pictures and smiles tell the story and both indicate another successful event. Thank you to all the dealers and individuals who supported this very worthy event and cause.

The Northwest Glacier Cruisers held their premier event, the Mt. Baker Shootout, March 19th. The forecast was for heavy snow on the mountain and rain at the campground which may have deterred some from going. Big mistake - the sun came out on two-plus feet of powder and the game was on. Plenty of stucks fueled demand for hamburgers and hotdogs at the lunch in Schriebers Meadow provided by the club. Three local dealers brought demo sleds and snowbikes. NWAC provided a booth and staff to teach snow safety. What a great opportunity to learn about the latest equipment on the snow and talk to experts.

I wish everyone a safe and fun spring riding season. This is also a great time to remember local land-use issues and partnerships that might need some attention for

next year. We look forward to meeting our new District Ranger, and continuing to work with local Forest Service staff on the Glacier Creek Road washout and other road projects. Please contribute your ideas and look for ways to protect our riding areas at the local level.



District 1 South

By Glenn Markovits
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(253) 297-1774

Greetings fellow snowmobilers!

What a great snowmobile season it has been this year. I hope eve-

(Continued on page 8)

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LLUMIN8 Lighting	18715 95 th St E	Bonney Lake	WA	98391	www.llumin8.com	253-233-7547
Mission Outdoors	PO Box 7530	Bonney Lake	WA	9391	www.missionoutdoors.org	253-831-8309
Jay's Snowmobile Service	1325 Hanson Loop	Burbank	WA	99323		509-845-2089
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Mountain Addiction	362 Porcupine Ln	Chelan	WA	98816	www.mountainaddiction.com	509-881-8016
High Country Outfitters & Camp Wahoo!	1780 Nelson Siding Rd	Cle Elum	WA	98922	www.campwahoo.com	509-674-8331
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The Cottage Cafe	911 East First St	Cle Elum	WA	98922	www.cottagecafecleelum.com	509-674-2922
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Clark's Marine & Powersports	192 DeGrief Rd	Colville	WA	99114	www.clarkspowersports.com	509-684-4581
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WA State Parks Winter Rec Program	1111 Israel Rd SW	Olympia	WA	98504	www.state.parks.wa.us	360-902-8595
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District Reports Continued

(Continued from page 5)

ryone has been out taking advantage of the snow we received later this season in March. We had some pretty cold temperatures that helped retain a lot of the snow on the trails and in the backcountry. Though trail grooming has officially ended as of March 31st, there are still some great spring riding opportunities, so take advantage of the snow while it last and keep riding.

As the season slowly winds down, we still have several members of the Cascade Drift Skippers (CDS) club hosting rides wherever and whenever possible well into late April. We definitely want to take advantage of all the snowmobiling opportunities we can. The CDS had a great club Steak Ride out of the Crystal Springs Sno-Park on Saturday, March 12th. The snow was good and the club finished the day by having a steak dinner barbecue in the parking lot. Thank you Darren King, John Ferrian, Alex Cropley, Edythe Ferrian and all the others who made this great event happen. Though I was at the WSSA meeting all day in Cle Elum and could not ride on the snow with the club, I was fortunate enough to be able to stop by the snowpark at the end of the day and join the club



CDS annual Steak Ride at Crystal Springs. Photo provided by Jon Ferrian.

for dinner. Thank you Darren King for firing up the barbecue for us late arrivals so we could enjoy dinner with the club.

The Cascade Drift Skippers continue to host their monthly meetings at the Iron Duck Restaurant in North Bend every second Tuesday of the month at 7pm from October to May and everyone is welcome to attend these great club meetings.

CDS will be voting in new board members at the April club meeting this month. Darren King (current club president) is running un-

challenged for club president once again and he will be leading the Cascade Drift Skippers for another year, along with Edythe Ferrian as club treasurer and Bill Sehmel as the club secretary. However it is unfortunate we must say goodbye to Alex Cropley who is the current club vice president and has done a fantastic job! Alex is moving back to the East Coast (for now) and this is opening up the vice president position for someone else to take over for next season. We will miss you Alex and hope to see you return in the near future.



Alex Cropley, CDS VP leaving for the East Coast.

(Continued on page 9)

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Lunch & Dinner 11:30 am - 9:00 pm
Drinks until closing

District Reports

(Continued from page 8)

Thank you to the current and past board for leading CDS through and into another great season. Thank you for all your hard work and commitment to the CDS club and for doing a great job!

Please check back with the CDS website calendar and CDS Facebook event page for updated ride information as the season progresses and possibly a yearend club picnic coming soon.

The new WSSA board members took over their positions at the March 12th 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.

If you have not joined WSSA yet, we ask that you please join as we really need the support from all the snowmobilers in Washington State so we can help 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.

The next WSSA meeting will be held August 20th at our annual WSSA Campout at the Blu-Shastin RV Park on Blewett pass near Leavenworth on the weekend of August 19th-21st. Everyone is welcomed to join us as we always invite and encourage members of WSSA to express your concerns and ideas that can help us make snowmobiling in Washington better.

Something to think about... I would like to address something we often forget about and that is the need to accommodate snowmobilers with special needs so they too can enjoy the snowmobiling experience equally as everyone else does. We are often reminded we need to treat everyone fairly by accommodating ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) access to restroom facilities, parking spots, elevators, ramps, etc, etc, etc in our everyday lives, and it is required we provide ADA access to all of our state

grooming meetings. Therefore, I think we should equally make sure we provide ADA parking, restroom access and adequate trail grooming to all state-funded groomed trails and sno-parks to allow everyone adequate access to enjoy snowmobiling. We often forget we have snowmobilers who have suffered accidents, whether it is a veteran fighting for our country and our freedom, others who have been born with special needs, or those who have faced trauma in their life that has left them as an amputee or with other special needs. Contrary to popular belief that only fully able-bodied persons can own and operate a snowmobile, there are many who have special needs and have spent thousands of dollars for a new snowmobile to enjoy snowmobiling as much as everyone else. They pay the same license fees and deserve to have trail grooming on all mapped groomed trails, along with cleared sno-park parking and unobstructed bathroom access in the sno-parks. There was a popular sno-park this season that the bathroom was fully obstructed and encapsulated in an eight-foot wall of snow by way of snow removal equipment that left it impossible for someone with special needs to access. It was the great efforts of the local snowmobile club who cleared the wall of snow to allow everyone to have access to **the bathrooms. Let's all be mindful of everyone's needs so we all can have a great time snowmobiling in Washington State.** Off-season preparations for your sleds and trailers; it's getting that time of year when some begin to put their snowmobilers and trailers away for the spring and summer. Please remember to take those preventative measures to ensure your sleds and trailers perform well at the beginning of next season. Grease those fittings on your suspension to keep the moisture out. Grease those bearing buddies on your trailer wheels to prevent corrosion and moisture. Top off your sled with non-ethanol fuel and add fuel stabilizer. Fog your engines to prevent rust and corrosion. Empty your cookers of all food to keep rodents from having a summer time buffet under your hood. Wax your sled to keep the finish protected, and elevate your sled off its suspension or at least off your track.

It's not too late... I encourage you to register your sleds if you have not done so this season. Though you might feel it's not necessary at this point, it is necessary in order to keep our trails groomed and snow removed from the parking lots next year. We are down snowmobile registrations for this

year, which equates to less grooming next year. So please take the time and register your sleds!

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



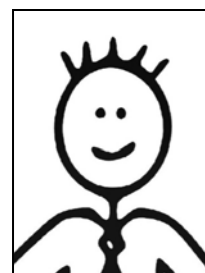
District 2 South

By Matt Kensrud
 matt.kensrud@wssa.us
 (509) 433-2100

As the season comes to the end some riders are on the search for **spring snow; most of the upper valley 'Lake Wenatchee area' trails are still hanging in there but going fast.** Grooming ended in March.

I will be working on some projects over the summer that will hopefully benefit our sport. If you have any questions, feel free to e-mail me at kustom509@aol.com or call (509) 433-2100.

Enjoy your summer!



District 5 North

By Jason Holmes
 jason.holmes@wssa.us
 (253) 226-4939

Hello from Kittitas County! Since our massive snowmageddon in January its been slim pickings for new snow in the area. From reports at the recent Kittitas County Grooming Council meeting it appears typical late season higher elevation riding is your best bet moving forward. Scheduled grooming ended on March 31st. Thank you to all our partners who have kept the trails in Kittitas County maintained and groomed all season (LandTek, R & R, Boulder Creek and the U.S. Forest Service); having each of you participate at our monthly grooming council meetings shows having a healthy relationship goes a long way for our recreational users.

All of the law enforcement organizations have been enforcing sno-park registrations, parking enforcement, and etc. in the county this year. The number of violations in Kittitas County are staggering. Thousands of violations have been written and with technology, users are able to buy a day pass online rather than receive a ticket which helps fund our programs for grooming, sno-park plowing, and sanita-

(Continued on page 10)



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

District Reports News

(Continued from page 9)

tion services. You have heard this a million times but we really need all recreational users to register their sleds and purchase snowpark passes. This is what directly funds our programs and it's apparent we are losing out on a lot of funding.

May 21st will be the Salmon La Sac Sno-Park Cleanup. We encourage all outdoor recreational users to help pick up trash in the Salmon La Sac, Cooper, French Cabin and the 903 corridor. The plan is to meet at the Salmon La Sac Sno-Park at 10am and go from there. If you live near the Easton Re-Load you can help the Snomads with their efforts as well.

Wishing everyone success in their late season riding and hope to see you on the snow next year.



District 6

By Chris Shires

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

The Blue Mountain Snowmobile Club had their bucket run in early March. Snow conditions were not great but they had a good turnout and raised over \$2,100 for charity. Saturday burger feeds at Godman were ongoing.

The Pomeroy club also had their bucket run and had a nice turnout. Snow conditions weren't great there either. Weekend burger feeds there were ongoing as well.

It was great to see Glen Warren out and about and up to his old tricks.

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WSSA Annual Award Winners

Last month we announced the annual award winners, but hadn't received any pictures of the winners. We still haven't received all the pics, but here are the ones we do have. Again, congrats to our winners!



Matt Kensrud

Club President of the Year

President of the Bavarian Boondockers



Yakima Ski-Benders

Club of the Year

Presented to President Liz Van Amburg
by Dee Alred (left)



Mike and Kim Borman

Snowmobile Couple of the Year



Lee Olive

Groomer Operator of the Year

Presented by Duane Warren (right)



Lifestyles Honda Ski-Doo

Snowmobile Dealer of the Year

Presented to owner Gregg Hecht by Tom & Tina
Shields (left) and Shay Hipkind (right)



Matt Mead

Snowmobiler of the Year

Presented by Liz Van Amburg

News

State Parks appoints new agency director

Nationwide recruitment efforts lead to internal talent

Media contact: Amanda McCarthy, Interim Communications Director, media@parks.wa.gov



The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission recently announced the appointment of Diana Dupuis as the agency's new director. Dupuis will be the first female director since the agency was established more than 100 years ago.

"Diana is a strategic leader with extensive experience in parks. She has dedicated more than 14 years to our agency," said Parks Commission chairman, Mark O. Brown. "I am pleased to welcome Diana as the new director. She has a deep understanding of our agency, and I am confident that her expertise will help us achieve our goals."

As director, Dupuis will serve as the leader for one of the country's most beautiful and diverse park systems that includes more than 120,000 acres, 124 developed parks, numerous properties and heritage sites and a team of nearly 1,000 dedicated staff.

Dupuis' first day as director will be April 1st.

Dupuis is currently the region manager in Spokane. Previously, she served as a park ranger, LEAN practitioner, area manager and operations manager. Prior to joining Parks, Dupuis worked as an adjunct faculty member at Green River Community College in the Department of Anthropology and the Department of Criminal Justice. Dupuis also served on the special operations response team with the Los Angeles County Medical Examiner-Coroner office.

"I am honored to serve as the next director for the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission and am grateful for the confidence the Commission has placed in me," said Dupuis. "I'm excited to work with the Commission, staff, partners, elected officials and members of the public to continue growing our agency and creating welcoming recreational opportunities for all visitors."

Dupuis holds a master's degree in Anthropology from California State University, Los Angeles and a bachelor's degree from Indiana University. She grew up in Indiana and Michigan and spent her childhood immersed in the outdoors year-round. Dupuis enjoys snowshoeing, hiking, running, bird watching and camping with her wife, daughter and stepson.



Membership

Membership Matters

By Wayne and Florence Mohler, Membership co-chairs

As we approach the end of the 2021-22 snowmobile season it's a good time to recap our membership for the past year. Our membership year runs from September 1st through August 31st; however, our fiscal or budget year runs from March 1st through the end of February. It has been a longstanding practice that anyone joining after March 1st gets the remainder of the current year as well as the following full year of membership for \$25. If you've been thinking about joining, this is a good time to go ahead and do it. Overall, there was a 3.5% increase in membership this past year. Our current membership, as of March 1st, was 946 primary members (Family/Individual, Clubs, and Associate members) as compared with 913 last year. The good news is there were 119 new Family/Individual memberships. When you consider there are over 24,000 snowmobiles registered in Washington, which probably represents 10,000 to 11,000 households, it's pretty easy to see we have a lot of room to grow as our paid membership only represents about 8 to 9% of the snowmobilers in Washington. To be effective in representing the interests of snowmobilers we need more members. With maintaining access to riding areas being our most important priority, we need snowmobilers to get involved with WSSA and to represent snowmobilers' interests on a wide variety of committees, councils, boards, and clubs. Various agencies, land managers, and legislators are making decisions that will impact whether or not we will have riding areas in the future. As snowmobilers, we need to be involved in those decisions. No one will do this for us.

A big 'thank you' to all our members, from those who joined this year to those who joined in 1972. Remember, this is our 50th year!



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO! - Avalanche Forecasts

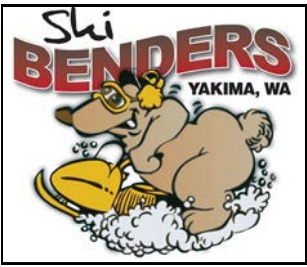


Cascades (Canadian border to Mt. Hood) - www.nwac.us

Idaho Panhandle - www.idahopanhandleavalanche.org

WA/OR Blues - www.wallowaavalanchecenter.org/forecast/blues

Club News



Yakima Ski-Benders

By Liz Van Amburg,
President

Another season comes to end. I am sad to report I did not ride one time this year. I think my snowmobile misses me. Life events and poor snow conditions. However our Yakima Ski-Benders' events were off the hook. We had an amazing Crab Feed where we made lots of money for our events. We had an awesome Poker Ride/Family Fun Day, followed by our Kids' Ride. This earned our club 'WSSA Snowmobile Club of the Year'. Thank you to all of our amazing members and volunteers. Last event for us will be Chinook Fest in June where we host the beverage garden. I still have room for more volunteers if you are interested. The event is June 9th-12th; call me at (509) 225-6681, Monday-Thursday, if you want to volunteer.

Our next meeting will be April 5th at Magic's Pizza in Selah. Social at 5:30pm and meeting starts at 6:30pm.

Let us hope for no fires this summer and an amazing Winter 2022-2023. Thank you everyone for another great year as your President.



Pacific Northwest Vintage Snowmobile Club

By Kevin Hancock,
Webmaster

It was a wonderful sunny day at The Last Resort during our annual antique, vintage, and classic snowmobile show and trail ride. On that Saturday there were approximately 20 antique, vintage, and classic snowmobiles in the display area. Throughout the day our members enjoyed showing, and riding, their original and restored sleds. We had a great time trying out some of the other machines members brought. As a special treat we could ride a race proven vintage modified snowmobile. The show had several trophy vintage race sleds to run on the short track in the display area.

On Sunday Stephen rode his Ski-doo Formula MXLT, and I rode my vintage Wheel
(Text continued on page 14)



The PNWVSC had a great show and ride at the Last Resort in Ronald with 20 antique, vintage and classic snowmobiles.

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Club News *Continued...*

(Continued from page 12) Horse 309 Safari on the trails around the resort. The trails were groomed and frozen in the morning and in great shape. We road to what has become a favorite destination with a lake overlook, then back.

On the same weekend we had another event in Lincoln, Montana. About 35 sleds graced the grounds of the Ponderosa Snow Warrior's Vintage Rendezvous. Some beautiful sleds showed up and the town of Lincoln was a wonderful host. The poker walk was a lot of fun and it was great to see friends and visit! Many thanks to the entire Ponderosa Snow Warriors for their hard work putting this on!



PNWVSC members enjoyed a great time at the Ponderosa Snow Warrior's Vintage Rendezvous in Lincoln, MT

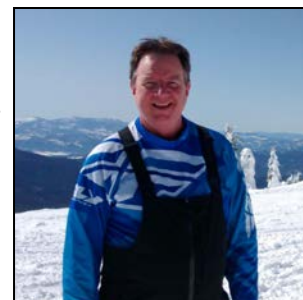


Winter Knights

By Al McCarty,
President

Since this is my first submission to the **Snoflyer**, I thought I'd tell a little bit about myself in lieu of the typical ride-related stories of our club. I promise my next article will be more inline by including various club events and antics.

As the newly elected president of the Spokane Winter Knights, I'm compelled to focus heavily on the various aspects of my duties by absorbing every little bit of information from those who have been there and by rallying the willing and able troops to begin the march forward. It seems like I've always



Al McCarty, new President of the Winter Knights.

taken my leadership responsibilities very seriously, and in doing so, have been able to accomplish much. However, through honest reflection, these types of accomplishments are mostly found documented in hanging plaques on a rarely looked at wall. While such things are important, and they certainly have their rightful place in the organization, I've been encouraged by those closest to me to not forget the fundamental reason why we joined the club so many years ago. It wasn't originally about wrestling the myriad of administrative duties my wife and I now find ourselves in the midst of. It was actually about finding other like-minded enthusiasts who shared the same passion to get out into the mountains and ride. Keeping that fundamental ideal in focus needs to be what guides me in making decisions instead of wasted time spent on wrangling loose bookends.

This has been a very enlightening winter riding season for us in the Spokane/Northern Idaho area. We set out with a robust club ride schedule that involved a variety of hosts and leaders. Most every Saturday was filled with at least one ride planned and even had some impromptu rides during the week. Our ride coordinator worked diligently to make sure it all flowed seamlessly, and with a few exceptions based on weather and snow conditions, those plans went off flawlessly. Our rides averaged 15-20 people each Saturday with a particular group of dedicated riders at each and every ride. Things (Continued on page 15)

Club News *Continued...*

(Continued from page 14) went as expected for the first couple of rides until we had an eye-opening experience when a family with small children showed up one Saturday. Prior to

this, it had always been us older folks trying to regain our youth. The youngsters were very excited and anxious to go, but as the potential 70-mile trek hit just about the half-



The Winter Knights have discovered the need to accommodate younger riders on rides and are making the change for a better balanced club.

way point, these same rambunctious tots grew weary, forcing the parents to turn back in early retreat to the parking lot. We hadn't thought about this in any of our planning. We always rode until either our hands badly cramped or the fuel gauges shone on the dangerous side of thin. The concept of modifying a ride to accommodate all age levels hadn't occurred to us until that day. We are very thankful and indebted to this family for showing up and providing us with

another way to organize and plan our rides that truly reflects the motto on our website.

I feel a healthy club needs to recognize when to change course and embrace what has been put in front for all to see. Effective leadership is a delicate balance between the many ever-changing factors and stimuli found within any group of members and the will of those wishing to lead the masses forward. I hope to be the type of leader who sees what is out there and adjusts to meet the needs of those served. I know there will be challenges, some easy, some hard.

Truthfully, that doesn't frighten me. In fact, it motivates me. It's like when you stare up at a hill climb covered in deep powder and pick a line to the top. You have to be ready to veer from the intended path in order to avoid unforeseen obstacles. If you're not resilient enough to change course, your trip to the top may be cut short. Look where you want to go and adapt to what you see, and the top of the hill will be yours. Hopefully your efforts will pave the way for others to follow.

(Continued on page 16)



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Club News *Continued...*



(Continued from page 15)

Sno-Jammers Snowmobile Club

By
Christina Markovits

The Sno-Jammers had a successful season once again! We are grateful for all the new members and families who joined our club this year and we are excited to have you all join us for the fun again next season! I would also like to give a huge shout out to all of our dedicated members who hosted rides, attended work parties, and joined us on the snow this year. Without you all this club would not be as amazing as it is. THANK YOU!

On March 5th we had our 32nd Annual Fun Run. This event has been very popular for many years, and this year was one of our best! The club decided to make some big changes to how the event operated this year which we found to be quite successful! The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) informed us there were close to 300 snowmobiles present that day! We gave away \$1,500 in cash to our top three 'hand' winners and thousands of dollars in raffle prizes to many of our participants. Our top raffle winner walked away with a brand new BCA avalanche backpack and bottle worth over \$700, courtesy of Clem's Enumclaw Powersports. A huge THANK YOU goes out to our T-shirt sponsors, checkpoint sponsors (WSSA, I-90 Motorsports, Clem's Enumclaw Powersports, and Sno-Jammers members), King County SAR (Search and Rescue), Bill Yager with Kittitas SAR, Regional Special Vehicles Unit, and the USFS for being present on the mountain with us that day. We heard wonderful things from a multitude of riders who appreciated your presence. Another huge THANK YOU goes out to all of our club volunteers who truly made this event a success! An event this large takes a lot of behind the

The Fun Run as seen from above.



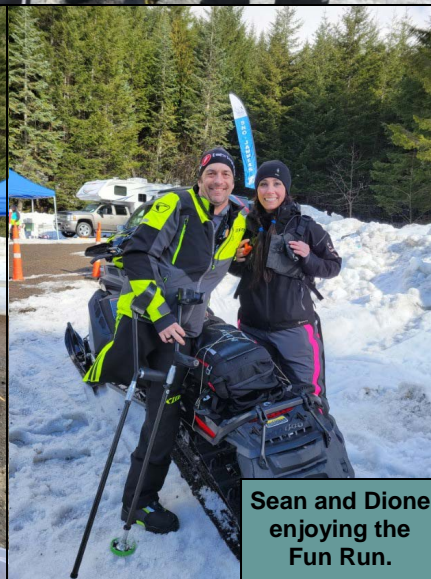
Christina and Kim helping with raffle sales.



Participants enjoying the Fun Run.



Tanner H. presents the BCA avy backpack to the winner.



Sean and Dione enjoying the Fun Run.



Glenn M. marking the Fun Run course.

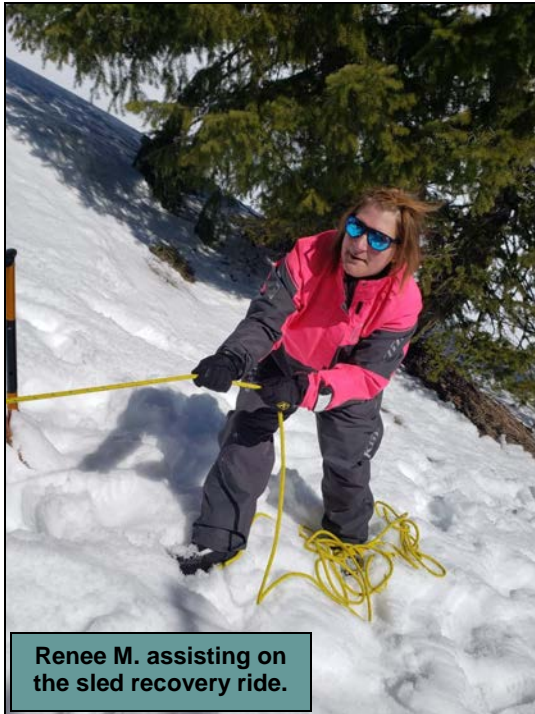
scenes work and planning all year long, but it is always exciting to see the final product. To the snowmobile community, thank you for your support year after year and we hope to see you all again in March 2023 for our 33rd Annual Fun Run!

On March 6th, several members from the Sno-Jammers assisted with recovering two snowmobiles near Raven's Roost. This was an all-day event and very challenging to conquer, however, the sled owners were very appreciative of our support and willingness to help. On March 13th Clem hosted his annual Kid's Ride out of the Government Meadows Cabin. There were approximately 20 kids and their families present enjoying a fun-filled day on the snow.

The Sno-Jammers will continue to have club meetings through May and then take a break for the summer. On April 6th we will have our next club meeting where we will vote for the 2022/23 season board of directors. During that meeting we will also hold our 'End of Season Raffle' where we reward our members for their participation this season. With that said, we will be giving away cash to our top THREE members with the most participation points earned this year along with several other raffle items and free memberships. Our goal is to encourage participation throughout the season and in return reward members for their efforts. Members earned points for participating in rides, hosting

(Continued on page 17)

Club News Continued...



Renee M. assisting on the sled recovery ride.



Sled Recovery ride.



Clem's Kid's Ride.



Bavarian Boondockers

By Matt Kensrud,
President

Hello everyone! The club had its last club ride on March 19th. The weather was rainy and with the low snow we rode out of the Fish Lake Sno-Park.

We will be having meetings over the summer to get ready for the upcoming snow shows and of course SNOW-FEST 10! Can you believe its been 10 years?! WOW!

The club has big plans for this year's show and it will be on November 19th.

On April 30th we will be having an end-of-the-season barbecue with the Lake Wenatchee Rec Club at the rec club; hope to see you there!

The warming hut will be moved back down to the bottom of Eagle Creek as weather permits. If you have any questions, please e-mail me at bavarianboondockers@gmail.com.

Thanks for all your support of the club over the season!



Junco Snowmobile Club

By Chris Sutton

We are sad to see this season coming to an end... This was one of our BIGGEST and BEST seasons to date! We are so honored to have such thoughtful and outgoing members who care about our club, our grooming, and our 'Charity on the Snow' event! Over the years we have been able to donate OVER \$100,000 to the Make-A-Wish Foundation and have helped make an impact on many children's lives. We are proud of ALL our members over the years who helped us achieve this HUGE milestone and we look forward to continuing this tradition for many more years to come! We'll see you next season...



Lee Olive (left) receiving his Groomer Operator of the Year award from Mt. Adam's club president, Duane Warren.

(Continued from page 16) rides, attending work parties and meetings, assisting at the WSSA Snow Show and our Fun Run, and participating in safety awareness courses. All current paid members are eligible for the raffle. Social hour will begin at 6pm at the Round Table Pizza in Puyallup and the meeting/raffle will begin at 7pm. Everyone is welcome to attend!

The first meeting of the 2022/23 season will be September 7th.

Even though winter may be over, it doesn't mean the fun stops there. As a club we will continue to do fun, family-friendly events throughout the summer like go-karting and outdoor movie nights. In August we will also host our annual rafting trip near Ellensburg. Be sure to follow us on Facebook or check out our website at www.snojammers.org for updates on all of our events. #SupportTheSport

Congratulations to Lee Olive with Back Country Plowing & Grooming for winning WSSA's 'Groomer Operator of the Year' award! His hard work and dedication to our sport really showed as he kept the south side of St. Helens and Mt. Adams looking great! The whole crew did an amazing job this season and this award was well deserved! We can't wait to work with Kim, Lee, Travis, and Staci next season and want to thank them for

(Continued on page 18)

Club News *Continued...*

(Continued from page 17) making our area so AWE-SOME to ride in!

The Junco Snowmobile Club meets monthly at Godfather's Pizza near Spanaway at 15709 Pacific Ave. S. in Tacoma. We



Mt Adams & Takhlakh Lake from Orr Creek Sno-Park!



Haley showing the adults how it's done!

meet on the 1st Monday of each month at 7pm, September through April, with a social hour beginning at 6pm. We are a small informal club with a lot of young families, and we are always looking for new friends to ride with. Our membership is only \$20 a year per family, and we welcome yours to come join us! If you would like to be a member and support our club but cannot make it to our meetings, you can mail a \$20 check to our Treasurer, Kristal Simpson, at 14404 50th Ave. E. Tacoma, WA 98446; please include your e-mail on the check!

You can also follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/318085678333978/ for more information about our club, our rides, and our 'Charity on the Snow' event, or send us an e-mail at JuncoSnowmobileClub@gmail.com if you have any questions about our club and what we do!

Want to Volunteer?

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



Tri-Rivers Snowmobile Club

By Kurt Hensley, President

The Tri-Rivers Snowmobile Club is winding down the snow year with our last meeting on April 1. There are a few still out there hitting the trails and get-



Club members enjoying the ride, despite imperfect weather.



Kurt and Julie above Duck Lake Pass.



Returning from the Hazard Lakes area.



J.J. with a friendly deer.

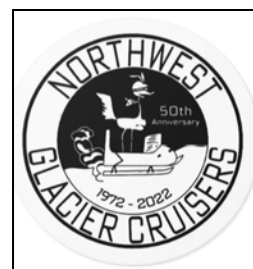
ting the last of the snow even if getting out of sno-park is getting a bit muddy.

Several groups went to McCall and had a great time but found the snow wasn't much better in the Idaho mountains.

We are looking for-

ward to summer for some trail cleaning, hiking, side-by-siding and riding horses. Seems like once loving the mountains you have to get back to them for every season.

Happy trails!



Northwest Glacier Cruisers

By Tina Shields, Secretary

The Northwest Glacier Cruisers (NWGC) had a busy March!

The Mt. Baker Ladies' Ride was awesome; we had 23 girls in a VRBO lodge for the weekend. We had a great ride on Saturday



The Mt. Baker Shootout was a success! Those who braved the conditions were rewarded with deep, fresh snow.



and we raised \$1,980 for Stilly Valley Youth Dynamics. Lifestyles Honda Ski-Doo paid for all our food for the weekend for the 6th year in a row. Off-Road Vixens, Skagit Valley Polaris and Mt. Baker Moto-

(Continued on page 19)

Club News *Continued...*

(Continued from page 18) sports donated great raffle prizes. We had an awesome ride number six!

On March 19th we had a great Mt. Baker Shootout/Luke Rohde Memorial Ride. Weather, trail and parking challenges made for a smaller event this year but we still had an awesome time with the #sledfam.

We set up in Schreiber's Meadow and had a great barbecue. It cleared off after three days of snowing on the mountain and it was deep! Erik Nelson won the Klim avalanche bag. We gave away five Luke Rohde Avalanche Scholarships. Thank you to everyone who came and dealt with the parking and trail issues.

March 22nd was the airing of our King 5 Evening Magazine segment. Check for a link on our Facebook and Instagram pages.

April 7th is the year-end meeting and pizza party.

It has been a challenging season with cancelled rides and unexpected road blocks but we had a great season! Thanks to all our great members and community!

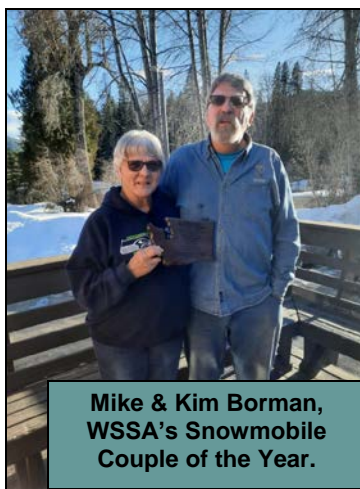


Lake Wenatchee Rec Club

By Marilyn Mylius,
Vice President

Hi all! We had a great March at the Lake Wenatchee Rec Club

(LWRC) with a joint Movie Night/Potluck at the clubhouse with the Bavarian Boondockers. We all watched the latest in the '509' movie editions and it was awesome! The food and friends were great as well! Also, our 'Tour the Twelve' geo-



Mike & Kim Borman,
WSSA's Snowmobile
Couple of the Year.

cache event ended and prizes handed out. We had approx 45 folks who played the game, and the first place prize winner got \$378. Our participation prize winner won \$245 and everyone who turned in their game sheet won a prize!

We also had a very good turn-out for our 'Bob Melson Poker Run' in February, with almost 100 riders.

Coming up we have another joint gathering with the Boondockers; an 'End of the Season Barbecue' on April 30th to gather and thank the groomer guys!

And lastly, congrats to our own Mike and Kim Borman who won the WSSA 'Snowmobile Couple of the Year' award. It was VERY MUCH DESERVED!

Have a great summer!

(Continued on page 20)

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3 WAYS TO CONNECT RIDE COMMAND technology is built into select sleds and you can access it on your favorite device.

7S DISPLAY WITH RIDE COMMAND Available on the all-new Matryx platform, the 7S Display features touch screen technology with integrated RIDE COMMAND GPS.

RIDE COMMAND APP Bring RIDE COMMAND on the go on your smartphone or tablet with the free app.

RIDE COMMAND WEBSITE Download and utilize the most up to date RIDE COMMAND data, plan your rides, and manage all of your tracks, waypoints, and more. You can even follow ride groups from home if you can't make the trip!

POLARIS

©2021 Polaris Industries Inc. Polaris recommends that all riders take a training course. Do not attempt maneuvers beyond your capability. Always wear a helmet and other safety apparel. Never drink and ride.

Club News *Continued...*



(Continued from page 19) **Methow Valley Snowmobile Association**

**By Evie Johnson,
Secretary**

Hey riders!

It sure has been an interesting year up here in the Methow. We have had big snow days with lots of riding and many days where it was hard to find fresh powder. This last month we have had a few fresh powder days but not like a normal season. We had a great monthly ride where we had attendance from the Butte Busters and Tri-Rivers Snow-

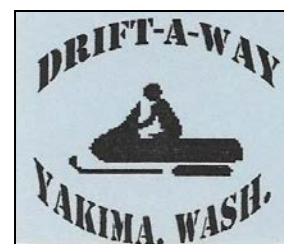
mobile clubs at the Tiffany Springs hut. Everyone had a wonderful time riding and those hot dogs sure did taste good at the hut!

We also had a Avalanche Awareness Course at our Black Pine hut. Everyone enjoyed the instruction from Graham who conducted the course. A special thank you to the Northwest Avalanche Center for making the trip out to the Methow and sharing their knowledge of avalanche safety. The feedback was wonderful from members after the course and we did get to ride powder that day.

We are hopeful to plow Harts Pass this year to Cache Creek to extend our riding season, so stay tuned. We asked Mountain Trails Grooming to save a day of grooming for Harts since the lower trails are getting

pretty thin. We are hopeful we can get the road plowed before the end of the month so Winter Recreation Program funds can be used for the grooming at Hart's Pass.

Stay tuned and always follow our Facebook page for up-to-date information. Happy riding!



Drift-A-Way Snowmobile Club

**By Matt Mead,
Secretary**

Members of the Drift-A-Way club look to be wrapping up the season early this year. Although grooming stops at the end of March, we usually get a few more rides before the wheeled vehicles rut up all the snow. With no significant new snow in the forecast and mountain temps hitting the 60s, we are likely done. But that isn't all bad. We are already looking forward to a weekend campout and sno-park cleanup this spring.

March was a busy month for Drift-A-Way members. We kicked it off with several members hosting WSSA's annual Military Appreciation Ride. This event is made possible with support from the Yakima Ski-Benders and the Chinook Pass Snowmobile

Club members enjoyed an avalanche awareness day with a guest from the Northwest Avalanche Center.



Hmm. Snow. Too little, too late...



Snowmobilers were 'mooned'...



Taking a break at Raven's Roost on the Military Appreciation Ride.

Club as well. This year's event was another success and moved to Little Naches and Government Meadows due to a lack of snow at Boulder Cave, the usual location.

Two days after the Military Ride, members again were working on behalf of WSSA and manned a checkpoint near Government Meadows for the Sno-Jammers. We had a fire pit set up to warm bodies and also served up snacks and hot chocolate. While our location was in the shade and a bit cool, the skies were blue and the winds light.

On the same day we were manning the Sno-Jammers' checkpoint, *(Continued on page 21)*

Club News *Continued...*

(Continued from page 20) one of our younger members, Justin Adamson, was get-



Young member Justin Adamson spent a day in the groomer; he's hoping to groom in the future.



Mid-week means picking the best weather and snow days!



We'll just call this a mid-week misjudgment...

ting to spend a day in the groomer. With luck, we'll see him smoothing trails in the near future!

At the March meeting, it was suggested we have a club ride with a trailside hotdog and chili feed. Not only was this thought to be a great idea, it was decided to make it a overnight camping event as well.

On the selected weekend, most members arrived on Saturday morning and set up camp. A short ride followed, and then members spent the afternoon and evening around the campfire. While we didn't really have a shared dinner plan, thanks to Dee Alred for providing everyone with a main course... and brownies!

The trailside feed was scheduled for Sunday and riders met up at a pre-determined spot at noon. The cooking crew had arrived before 11am and had gotten a warm fire going, as well as getting the chili heated up. Snowmobilers were on there own to roast a dog, but we did have sticks available for them. Cookies and chips rounded out the meal. The event was a success and will happen again next season with a couple of minor improvements.

Of course members had their usual mid-week rides during March as well. We rode the Ahtanum, Little Naches and Cold Creek, since these were the areas with the most snow.

The Drift-A-Way club has one final meeting of the season coming up on April 4th. Join us at Round Table Pizza at 6pm if you'd like to check us out.

Trailside hot dog and chili feed was enjoyed by members up on White Pass; part of a club camping weekend. Photo by Ryan Mead.

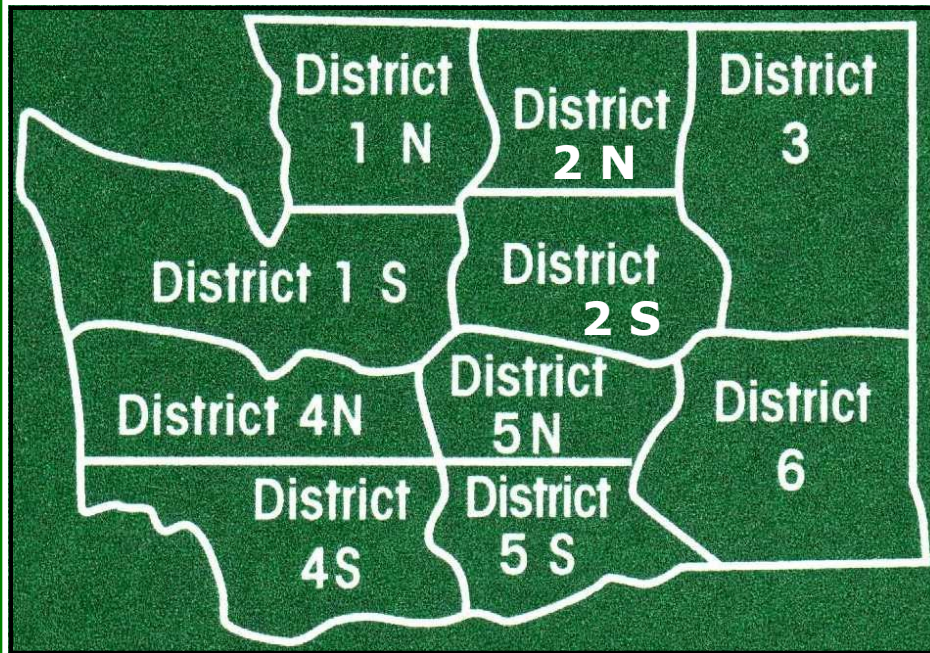


Join WSSA and help support snowmobiling in Washington State!

What Does WSSA Do For YOU?

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

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

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

District 1 South

(King County)

Cascade Drift Skippers

Darren King
(360) 224-5411
darren.j.king@hotmail.com
www.cds.clubexpress.com
[Cascade Drift Skippers](#)

District 2 North

(Okanogan/Ferry Counties)

Bonaparte Snowmobile/ATV Club

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



Butte Busters Snowmobile Club

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



Methow Valley Snowmobile Assoc.

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



Mountain Trails Grooming Assoc.

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



North Central ATV Club of WA

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



Republic Tree Benders

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



Tri-Rivers Snowmobile Club

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



District 2 South

(Chelan/Douglas Counties)

Apple Country Snowmobile Club

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



Bavarian Boondockers

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



Lake Chelan Snowmobile Club

Devon Griffith
(509) 679-9704
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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
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selkirktrailblazers@gmail.com
[Selkirk Trailblazers Club](#)

Spokane Winter Knights

Al McCarty
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www.winterknights.com
[Spokane Winter Knights Snowmobile Club](#)



District 4 North (Grays Harbor/Lewis/Mason/Pacific/Pierce/Thurston Counties)

Barnyard Racing

Eric Clark
fj55@comcast.net

Junco Snowmobile Club

Joshua Simpson
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[Junco Snowmobile Club](#)



Lewis County Drift Skippers

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

Northwest Boondockers

Mike Eveler
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Sno-Jammers Snowmobile Club

Tanner Hamlyn
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www.snojammers.org
[SnoJammers](#)



District 4 South

(Clark/Cowlitz/Skamania/Wahkiakum Counties)

Mt Adams Snowmobile Club

Duane Warren
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[Mt Adams Snowmobile Club](#)

Mt St Helens Trac Riders

Dan Frazier
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jwatson98626@gmail.com
[Mt. St. Helens Trac Riders](#)

District 5 North

(Kittitas County)

Hi Country Beelers

Dan Johnson
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Snomads

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[Snomads of Easton](#)



Stampede Summit Seekers

Jim Sternod
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stampedesummitseekers@gmail.com
[Stampede Summit Seekers](#)



District 5 South

(Benton/Klickitat/Yakima Counties)

Cascade Snow Drifters

Nina Gottschalk
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Chinook Pass Snowmobile Club

Roxanne Brittain
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Drift-A-Way Snowmobile Club

Jim Kingman
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mtmax777@yahoo.com



Yakima Ski-Benders

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yakimaskibenders@hotmail.com
www.yakimaskibenders.net
[Yakima SkiBenders](#)



District 6

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

Blue Mountain Snowmobile Club

Jeremy Nichols
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www.BMSCWA.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

Notes

American Council of Snowmobile Associations Mountain Riding Area Committee Winter Summit Meeting Minutes

**West Yellowstone, Montana,
February 25th, 2022**



This ACSA (American Council of Snowmobile Associations) Mountain Riding Area Committee meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM by Facilitator Bert Miller.

Roll Call: Facilitator Bert Miller, Co-Facilitator Dennis Jordan (OR), ACSA Executive Director Christine Jourdain, Scott Chapman (ID), Fred Bailey (MT), Daryl Holmberg (NE), Duane Duerr (SD), Cal Taylor (UT), Dean Meakin (WA), Brenda Miller (WY), Lisa Mahoney – Recorder.

Also present: Jason Howell, Kevin Bazar, Dennis Troy, Andrea Willey, Chris Willey, Jack Welch, Greg Hiles, Diane Hiles, Brian Erickson, Tracey Erickson, Taylor Jones, TJ Reilly, Connie Walter, and Forrest Kamminga, Brett Slaughter (aide to Senator Steve Daines - MT), Cliff Walter, Seth MacArthur, and Mason Long.

Opening remarks: Bert Miller visited about the direction of the Riding Areas Committees. We hope to have our Riding Summits meet in Washington D.C. and then a Riding Areas full group meeting at the International Snowmobile Congress (ISC). Our meetings are open forum concept; please raise your hand and you will be recognized. The Riding Area Committees report to the ACSA board; we are your voice.

Christine Jourdain talked about the D.C. Fly-In. We are not going to the Fly-In. In order to attend, a vaccination status survey must be filled out before you can get an appointment for some legislators. Christine recommended we continue to work within our Districts in the meantime.

Jason Howell asked about the RTP (Recreational Trails Program). Christine explained some legislators are recommending changes to the RTP. She is concerned about the introduction of electric vehicles and how that affects the gas tax/RTP.

Calendar sales are up. The No Trespassing campaign has been fun and educational. We are still looking for a 2024 host for ISC. Christine talked about 30 X 30 legislation; thirty percent of land and waters restricted by 2030. No changes in legislation.

Brett Slaughter, aide to Senator Daines, talked about what is going on with 30 X 30. Christine said that a big issue is constant rotation of people in the Forest Service and Washington.

BLM (Bureau of Land Management) is back in D.C. It should be in the West where the land is. We need to be vigilant in watching bills that get introduced.

Bert stressed the importance of every state snowmobile representative to stay current with legislators and Forest Service Rangers. Christine warned about major changes, omnibus bills, and midnight sessions after elections.

ISC 2022 is in 102 days. Chris Willey (IA) talked about all of the exciting things happening at ISC 2022. Hotel is at half capacity. **CALL, don't go online, for reservations.**

Christine stated all topics talked about so far affect all snowmobilers. The Mountain Riding and Trail Riding groups need to converge. Bert talked about how successful this meeting has been. This is an open forum, so ideas are talked about freely. He also talked about how much alike both riding groups are.

Brian Erickson talked about the ACSA Survey. He talked about the UTV/ATV aspect. We got positive results from the survey. ACSA is not a recognizable brand. ACSA was given a 4.2 approval rating out of 5 score. Every state should be sharing the ACSA E-news. There was a recommendation to **share Facebook posts for ACSA's E-news** in Instagram. Dean Meakin recommended sending out surveys more often. A big thank you to Len Nesler for putting together the survey with Survey Monkey.

Chris Willey, ACSA Delegate at Large, **talked about the ACSA 'No Trespassing' and 'Who Is ACSA' videos. He asked for 15-30 second video clips of what ACSA means to you or what ACSA does for you.** These videos will be shared with Facebook, TikTok, and Instagram for marketing of ACSA. It is important to know where you are when riding. Send the videos to Chris Willey at kioti79@gmail.com.

We don't have a TikTok account, but Chris will look into it. We need to harness social media. Jason Howell recommended a state level TikTok Challenge or a blooper videos. We need to put a face to ACSA. He recommended sharing organization information through e-mail from President instead of treasurer/secretary. Also need to drive home the need for club presidents/secretaries/treasurers to share with their clubs. Many times information stops at the

club rep level. Cal Taylor recommended having club members sign up for e-mails directly from ACSA to avoid the lag in information or dead end on club rep level. Christine recommended QR codes. Chris Willey recommended coming up with a hashtag for ACSA.

Bert discussed Yellowstone Park follow-up. He talked about getting an increase in snowmobile traffic in the Park. Jack Welch talked about stats for the Park. We are working to get more non-guided snowmobile rides through the Park.

State Reports:

- **Idaho** – Scott Chapman, Vice President - Donated \$5k to Sierra Snowmobile Foundation. Snowmobile trails are an issue. Tracked vehicles on snowmobile trails may go away. Gained land in lawsuit on Forest Service land. Wolves are a problem for caribou population. Climate change has contributed to it. The riding area is closed until the population comes back. March 12th is a disabled veteran ride in McCall.

- **Montana** – Fred Bailey, President - **It's been a good year for snow.** Jason Howell and Connie are staying on to help with a smooth transition. They have a new website. They can mass mail, print reports, and newsletter with new website. MSA (Montana Snowmobile Association) convention had 47 riders and the snow was great at Lolo. The banquet was in Hamilton. Handed out five MSA awards. Highlight was the Governor attended the dedication of a brand-new groomer. He came in by helicopter. He is supportive of motorized access. Two potential lawsuits coming up. Clearwater - Senator Tester to grab land. MSA filing lawsuit against the Forest Service Travel Plan to close trails.

- **Nebraska** – Daryl Holmberg - Not much going on in NE. It has affected enthusiasm for snowmobiling. ISC in Nebraska has helped. Thank you for everyone that attended. State ride going on next week in the Big Horns. New person running for Senate. Not sure if he is familiar with snowmobiling.

- **Oregon** – Dennis Jordan, President - This year is our 50th year anniversary. Dennis talked about how OSSA was started. TJ Reilly is new Vice President. Lisa Burt is new Assistant Executive Director.

(Continued on page 24)

Notes

(Continued from page 23)

New avalanche safety coordinator Chuck Ehler. He is working with the state avalanche forecasting. Brand new website which is hosted by **GrowthZone**. RTP grant for 'Are You Beeping?' boards for 24 locations around the state. RTP grant for new Tucker Sno-Cat. Over 42k miles groomed in 2020-2021 by our volunteer groomers. Membership is up 20% to just over 1,300 family memberships.

- **South Dakota** – Duane Duerr, President - New Sno-Plainsman went to magazine style from newspaper style. Working on a phone app to pull up trail maps and other state snowmobile information. Membership is good. UTVs and ATVs are being left alone. No snow has been a challenge. Early membership has helped with membership. Looking forward to next year to make up membership.

Governor's Ride has been cancelled. Mission statement listed on a sheet. Legislators like coffee mugs engraved with their name and our logo and snowmobile info. Hand-delivered preferred. Using it as a tool to build relationships with legislators. Clubs are still active. New online safety course. South Dakota Convention in Aberdeen, SD, next year. Introduced trail cams to look at snow conditions.

- **Utah** – Cal Taylor, President - Michael Davis, Public Lands Director, doing a fantastic job. Low snow has hindered many activities. Poker Ride coming up March 5th. Kids Day is March 19th. This is the last year for Cal. Chris Howler took an early retirement. No replacement for his position.

- **Washington** – Dean Meakin, President - 50th Anniversary for WSSA. Washington still on lockdown. Mandatory vax cards have really put a stop to many activities for the organization. March 12th meeting is coming up. Hopefully it will be face-to-face instead of Zoom. Lawsuit threatened in Okanogan NF regarding outfitters; permit for installation of alpine huts in highly used snowmobile area (Van Epps Pass). Cost (legal fees) to WSSA was \$30k. WSSA dropped going forward with lawsuit as the remedy they were seeking was provided, for now... Hoping for spring snow.

Nothing legislative. Snow show expo at 50% last fall. Conflict with the Utah show. Their venue got pushed back. Next year WA show is October 14th and 15th. Membership up 3%. Snowmobile registrations up 2.3%. Winter Rendezvous cancelled. WSSA Board elections are March 12th. Snowmobile Program Manager, Pamela McConkey, is retiring. She will be missed. Kay Lloyd, first ACSA President, passed away January 19th, 2022. A memorial service will be held in Cle Elum, WA. Contributions to be made to ISHOF (International Snowmobile Hall of Fame).

- **Wyoming** – Brenda Miller, President - State convention in Rock Springs next weekend. No snow so there will be rides on sand dunes. Jackson Hill Climb will be back to normal capacity. Keeping an eye on 30 X 30. Great working relationship with District Ranger. Selling Wyoming raffle tickets. Proceeds go to the scholarship and ACSA. ACSA calendars for sale. Forrest talked about the state of Wyoming partnering with WSA to carry **BCA radios for SAR campaign. 'Be 307 aware'**.

Sierra Snowmobile Foundation – Dennis Troy and Kevin Bazar - Dennis Troy talked about the Foundation which is based out of Reno, NV. Organized for California/Nevada snowmobilers. Mission is to keep land open for snowmobiling.

Kevin Bazar is land-use advocacy guru for the organization. He gave a PowerPoint Presentation on how the Travel Management Rule for over-snow vehicles got its start. The over-the-snow plan being introduced is **calling for a 12" minimum to groom**.

Lawsuits cited:

- **Case No. 1:11-CV-586-REB**
- **Case No. 2:11-CV-02921-MCE-DAD**

Kevin stated Winter Wildlands uses anything to limit or eliminate snowmobiling.

Case No: 2:21-cv-01913 was filed on October 13, 2021, by Sierra Snowmobile Foundation, Jeff Wittman, ACSA, John Watts, Mary Krupka, and BlueRibbon Coalition against the U.S. Forest Service, Jason Kuiken, and the USDA (U.S. Department of Agriculture).

Skidoo gave a grant to help with the lawsuit. Sierra Snowmobile Foundation, et al., v. United States Forest Service, et al., (2:21-cv-01913), California Eastern District Court (pacemonitor.com)

Facilitator Bert Miller asked Past President Greg Hiles for his closing thoughts. Greg closed the meeting with his thoughts of the value that ACSA has to all of us. The ACSA organization serves all snowmobilers alike by bringing us together. Without ACSA we would lose our public lands to snowmobile on, thank you all.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Mahoney, Recorder



WSSA Grant Program

**Info submitted by Jim Kingman,
Grants Chair**

The WSSA Trail/Trail Head Grant Program is a quick and easy way for a club to receive help with small projects. Grants are limited to \$1,000 per club, but clubs can team together on one project, increasing the total funding. (Each club must submit a separate application.)

The grant process is simple. The clubs applying for a grant must have current membership in WSSA. The deadline to apply is April 15th. The grants will be awarded by June 15th. This will allow the clubs to perform the work in the prime summer and fall months. (Projects must be completed by December 31st, upon which time photos and an article on the project are to go to the Snoflyer for publication. If this trail grant is being used for matching an NRTP grant, please state that and the grant will have the same completion date as the NRTP grant.)

Please be sure to read the grant application carefully as there are two items that must be attached to it--a map of the project site, and landowner permission. Grant applications without these two items will not be considered for funds.

Grant applications can be found on the WSSA website, www.wssa.us, under the 'Grants' menu item.

Contact Jim Kingman, Trail Grant Chairman, at jk.nytro@yahoo.com or (509) 961-1122 with any questions you may have.

State Parks Update



State Parks Winter Recreation Program

By Pamela McConkey, Winter Recreation Program Manager
& Jason Goldstein, Operations Manager



Wrapping up the season

The 2021/2022 winter season has definitely had it's issues. Lot's of snow, then no snow, lots of trees down, volunteer hours, and then an atmospheric river bringing unrelenting rain... oh, and then more snow.

Many of your snowplow operators struggled with keeping up with the heavy snow in December and early January, some even expending their entire budget during those snow events. The good news is the Snowmobile Advisory Committee (SMAC) released some emergency funds to keep those contractors going to keep the sno-parks open. Trail grooming also had it's struggles with the many trees that continually came down on the trails and needed to be cut up and pushed off so the grooming could occur. On a positive note, more and more areas are singing the praises of the law enforcement happening in the sno-parks and on the trails, educating people and turning many 'warnings' into registered snowmobiles. Unfortunately there were still some that ignored the warnings and ended up with citations. Hopefully, people will begin to understand those registrations are what pay for the snow to be moved, groomed, sanitation, etc. Remind your friends and family to get registered and don't have your outing interrupted or ruined because of a citation.

New Winter Recreation Program Manager

By the time you read this Snoflyer, you will have a new Winter Recreation Program Manager. I hope you will give the new manager the same cooperative efforts, guidance and friendship you have given to me. When I came into the program in 2008, I had no idea how complex the Winter Recreation Program really is. I came to depend on so many of you, individually, clubs, and of course the State Snowmobile Association, to learn the many facets of the program. You are all such amazing people; dedicated to your sport, willing to jump in and help someone in trouble whether you know them or not, volunteer countless hours to trail brushing,

tree removal in the cold snow-covered trails, participating in grooming councils, snow shows and international events. The contractors I have had the pleasure of working with are some of the most dedicated hard-working people I've encountered in my 43-year career. Their working conditions are typically the darkest, coldest and extremely challenging of conditions. They take pride in their work and more often than not, donate time and equipment for their local clubs throughout the year for the betterment of snowmobiling. I will never be able to thank you all individually; I hope you know how much I respect and appreciate the snowmobile community. Don't get me wrong, it wasn't all fun in the sun/snow... there were some trying times dealing with budget cuts, personality conflicts, new partners, washouts, road closures and of course the list goes on... still at the end of the day, a great job and great folks. Some of you will continue to hear from me from time to time because I consider you my friends. I thank you for the last 14 years you have allowed me to work for you as your Winter Recreation Program Manager. As I move into retirement, I will remember the experience fondly. Be safe, take care, hope for snow... and of course, register your snowmobiles!

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commissions Winter Recreation Program is Proud to Partner with:



Snowmobile Registrations

	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY 21-22 Difference
July	149	145	134	148	166	151	186	35
August	531	676	782	2,307	222	249	1,291	1,042
September	2,968	3,145	2,946	1,682	2,974	3,220	3,418	198
October	1,662	2,139	2,489	1,882	3,357	3,189	2,274	(915)
November	3,129	3,362	4,360	2,960	2,372	5,009	2,860	(2,149)
December	11,575	13,170	6,973	8,320	6,726	7,229	7,681	452
January	3,528	3,196	3,358	3,433	4,514	3,295	3,337	42
February	1,164	1,513	1,166	1,602	1,293	1,541	1,072	(469)
March	298	686	674	958	355	636		
April	82	181	175	258	89	219		
May	32	93	93	90	135	108		
June	30	84	71	83	126	179		
Total:	25,148	28,390	23,221	23,723	22,329	25,025	22,119	(1,764)



Notes



WSSA's Associate Partnership Program

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



Are you next? Add your business name here!

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



Charity & Volunteering Reporting

**By Ron Alred,
Charity & Volunteer Chair**

From reading the Snoflyer and the posts placed on Facebook, it is clear most of the clubs are doing a lot of work keeping our areas cleaned, brushed and a lot more. I want to help you get credit for all the hard work you do by collecting your charity and volunteer accomplishments to share with fellow snowmobilers, national snowmobile organizations, and land managers at all levels.

Feel free to contact me with any help you need in reporting. I have redone the reporting form to make it easier to fill out and can provide a copy at your request. If you don't want to use the form, e-mail me your information and I will fill it out for you.

If you have any questions or need/want to talk to me, you can e-mail me at rdalred1971@gmail.com or call me at (509) 961-2806.

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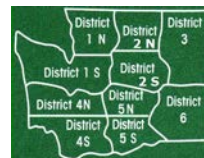
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ACSA E-News

**Contact: Christine Jourdain, Executive Director,
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Enviro Community Intervenes in Snowmobile Lawsuit on Behalf of the U.S. Forest Service Citing Red Fox

WildEarth Guardians and the California Wilderness Coalition have intervened in a lawsuit brought by snowmobiling interests against the Forest Service for decisions made in their over-snow-vehicle (OSV) trails and areas plan on the Stanislaus National Forest in California's Sierra Nevada.

They "intervened in the lawsuit because the Forest Service hasn't properly considered the impacts snowmobiling will have on an isolated remnant population of 18 to 39 Sierra Nevada red fox, which live within the Stanislaus National Forest in the vicinity of Sonora Pass (elevation 9628)".

You may recall the Sierra Snowmobile Foundation, along with the American Council of Snowmobile Associations and other parties, filed suit against the Forest Service in October because of the restrictions in the over-snow-vehicle designations in the Forest Plan. Among the restrictions are a 12-inch snow depth minimum for snowmobile grooming as well as many land closures.

The Sierra Snowmobile Foundation has a fundraiser for their legal fund with all proceeds going directly to the Sierra Snowmobile Foundations legal fund. Tickets for the 2022 Ski-Doo Summit SP 154 E-TEC start at \$25 for 10 tickets. The drawing will be May 1st. Information for the Sweepstakes Fundraiser can be found here. <https://www.tapkat.org/sierra-snowmobile-foundation/y5O2b9>

The Wolverine and the Endangered Species Act

Environmentalists and the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) are at odds over whether a Trump Administration rule should remain in place while the federal agency reconsiders protections for the wolverine.

Pressed by litigation, the FWS has already relented on one front and agreed to take another look at the prior administration's decision not to list the wolverine under the Endangered Species Act.

But in the meantime, the FWS insists the Trump Administration rule concerning the wolverine should remain, technically at least, on the books.

"Many other courts have recognized that even 'a flawed rule need not be vacated' and when equity demands, the regulation can be left in place while the agency follows the necessary procedures to correct its action," the Justice Department stated in a recent court filing.

FWS has committed to completing a new assessment within 18 months of the court's ruling on this motion.

Did You Know?

Hardwood plywood is used in many U.S. finished goods including kitchen cabinets, recreational vehicles, mobile homes, flooring, and furniture, and a source of that plywood might be cut off due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

TimberCheck, a website covering the timber industry, estimates that 10% of its hardwood plywood in the U.S. originates directly from Russia. In addition to sanctions by the European Union (EU) banning lumber from Russia and Belarus, other groups are asking the U.S. and other countries to ban lumber imports. In the Ukraine, more than 120 environmental rights groups have called for a ban on Russian and Belarussian timber in response to Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine.

Russia recently sought to retaliate against Western sanctions imposed over its invasion of Ukraine by banning exports of certain goods and agricultural commodities. The list of products includes forestry products and equipment, as well as telecom, medical, auto, agricultural, electric and tech equipment, according to Reuters. Containers and railway cars also made the list. These products will be banned until the end of 2022.

Nearly a third of the top leaders in the nation's 99 state legislative chambers will quit their posts this year, signaling a wave of turnover that will hand power to a new generation.

At least 30 state House Speakers, Senate Presidents and majority leaders have either resigned or said they will retire at the end of their current terms, according to a tracker maintained by the National Conference of State Legislatures.

It's a great time to get to know the candidates that may be Friends of Snowmobiling!

Congressional negotiators reached a bipartisan \$1.5 Trillion deal to fund the government as pressure mounted to wrap up spending talks amid the ongoing crisis in Ukraine.

In addition to a \$42 Billion increase for nondefense discretionary spending in four years and a \$42 Billion increase for defense spending in the package, the bill also includes \$14 Billion in emergency funding to boost humanitarian, security and economic assistance for Ukraine and central European allies. Interesting that the proposed \$15 Billion in COVID supplemental funding offset by an earlier rescission of funds was removed.

The U.S. Senate voted 79-19 to provide the Postal Service (USPS) with about \$50 billion in financial relief over a decade and requiring future retirees to enroll in a government health insurance plan.

The action, after the U.S. House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved the measure in early February, sent the bill to the President for his signature. USPS has reported net losses of more than \$90 billion since 2007, and recently reported a net loss of \$1.5 billion for the quarter ending Dec. 31th.

Russia is a commodities giant. In addition to being a major oil, natural gas and potash producer, it is also a major exporter of logs, lumber, pulp and pellets.

Yellowstone National Park captured 37 bison that were migrating outside the park as officials began an annual program to cull the animals to prevent them from spreading disease to cattle in neighboring Montana, a park official recently stated. Twenty-seven of the bison captured were sent to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes for slaughter and will provide food for tribal members.

Officials are aiming to remove up to 900 of Yellowstone's 5,000 bison this winter through slaughter, relocations and hunting. The goal is to keep the park's herds from growing and prevent the spread of the disease brucellosis, under an agreement between state, federal and tribal officials.

In Case You Missed This...

No '30 by 30' in Montana: Governor Greg Gianforte announced the state of Montana declines to participate in the U.S. Department of the Interior's (DOI) efforts to advance President Biden's '30 by 30' initiative, calling it "long on philosophy and short on detail."

President Biden's '30 by 30' initiative aims to conserve 30% of America's lands and waters by 2030. The U.S. Geological Survey indicates 12% of U.S. land is in conservation status. To achieve 30% by 2030, another 440 million acres would need to be put into conservation, an

(Continued on page 28)

**SLOW DOWN WHEN
RIDING WITH KIDS**
**KEEP THEM SAFE.
MAKE IT FUN.**

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



ACSA E-News *Continued...*



(Continued from page 27) area nearly five times the size of Montana.

Surging diesel prices... Diesel prices in recent days passed \$5 a gallon nationally, and there are some areas that are even higher. That's a big increase from the \$3.08 national average a year ago according to AAA.

While the talk of diesel prices is directed at the farming community, it will also impact the snowmobile community with the increased cost of grooming.

In a job posting that's gone viral, the Fish and Wildlife Service invited applicants to coordinate grizzly bear conflict management in Montana, Idaho, Wyoming and Washington state.

On the one hand, the pay is good, with the salary as high as \$103,176 a year. On the other hand, adult male grizzly bears average upward of 600 pounds and can sprint up to 35 mph.

"He/she may need to carry a firearm for personal protection from wild-life," FWS cautioned potential applicants in the job posting.

It is estimated there are fewer than 2,000 grizzlies found in the Northern Rocky Mountains, mostly around Yellowstone and Glacier.

The conflict manager job includes working with states, tribes and others in making bear relocation and removal decisions and coordinating trapping efforts, monitoring and what the agency calls 'conflict prevention'.

Free Posters, Tools and Resources

As a reminder, ACSA partnered with the Federal Highway Administration to develop many safety and access tools and resources. These are all available for your use!

Please check out all of the tools and resources available at snowmobileinfo.org.

EPA Truck Emissions

At a recent White House ceremony, EPA Administrator Michael Regan hailed a planned tightening of heavy-duty truck emission standards as a step toward slashing smog-forming pollution on the road and ushering in even cleaner alternatives.

Immediately, there were calls to either proceed more cautiously or act more aggressively.

'EPA's New Trucks Rule Fails to Deliver' was the title of an Earthjustice news release urging the agency to push the trucking industry toward electric rigs.

"For the sake of our lungs, our health and our climate, the future of trucking in this country has got to be zero emissions," said Paul Cort, director of the group's 'Right to Zero' campaign.

But at the Diesel Technology Forum, a trade group whose members include engine manufacturers, Executive Director Allen Schaeffer suggested moving too quickly on the electrification front could lead truckers to hold on to older, higher-polluting vehicles longer.

Under the newly issued proposal, EPA is floating two options to cut heavy-duty trucks' releases of smog-forming nitrogen oxides (NOx). The first would take a two-stage approach by successively tightening standards for model year 2027 vehicles and again for the 2031 models. The second would make a one-time tightening only, starting in model year 2027.

ACSA Calendar Winners

Calendar winners continue to be drawn. *(Editor's Note: Are you in the running? There were recently a couple of \$20 winners from Washington including Mark Reeves and Steve Lyons. So now they have recouped the \$20 calendar donation and have a chance to win again. Yes, you are re-entered into the drawing for future draws. -Matt Mead)*

Science Says Thinned Forests = Healthy Forests

Forest Service science shows thinning and fuels treatments work. Historically, many Western forests were far less dense and extremely vari-

able. Trees often grew in clusters of two to 20, interspersed with several small gaps.

A Research Ecologist, Eric Knapp, studies the ecology of forests in relation to disturbance, particularly fire. As part of this research, he evaluated the results of forest management alternatives designed to reverse some of these changes, including mechanical thinning and prescribed fire.

Waters of the U.S.

Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) hosted EPA's top water official last week for a conversation about the fate of 'waters of the U.S.', or WOTUS.

Murkowski has joined other Senate republicans in calling on the EPA to halt its rulemaking until the Supreme Court weighs in on a precedent-setting case involving the reach of the Clean Water Act.

The senator and her republican colleagues in a February 3rd letter warned the EPA and the Army Corps that it would be "irresponsible ... to proceed down a regulatory path that could be invalidated or significantly altered as early as this summer."

The senators expressed concern with the EPA's proposed rule, calling it a "land grab".

"The proposed rule seeks to federalize waters in a land grab that arguably surpasses its 2015 predecessor, improperly encompassing water features traditionally within the sole purview of states, while reverting from the comparative straightforward application of the 2020 Navigable Waters Protection Rule ... and interjecting new uncertainties for nearly every private sector stakeholder," they wrote.

The EPA and the Army Corps are setting up 10 regional roundtables to gather input; dates/location to be announced. There will be two meetings in the Southwest, Southeast, and West, three meetings in the Midwest and one in the Northeast.

Clean Snowmobile Challenge

The SAE (Society of Automotive Engineers) Clean Snowmobile Challenge was back to being a face to face event this year, after cutting the 2020 CSC short and holding a virtual event last year.



Clean Snowmobile Challenge participants waiting at the starting line for the endurance run.

There were 17 schools that participated at the Eagle River event.

- Best Spark Ignition (SI) Design: Michigan Technological University
- Best Compression Ignition (CI) Design: Clarkson Diesel Snowmobile
- Quietest Snowmobile SI: University of Wisconsin Platteville (Gas)
- Quietest Snowmobile CI: University of Wisconsin Platteville (Diesel)
- Overall Top Class SI Class: University of Wisconsin Platteville (Gas)
- Overall top Class CI Class: Clarkson Diesel Snowmobile

Congratulations to all of the students and colleges that participated! We appreciate your efforts and look forward to seeing and hearing of your accomplishments in the future!

Are You Following Us?

www.facebook.com/AmericanCouncilofSnowmobileAssociations

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

Matt's Misc.

Happy retirement Pamela; don't be a stranger! If you read the State Parks article, you know Pamela McConkey, our long-time Winter Recreation Program Manager, has retired. While I'm happy for her, I'm pretty sad overall. Just about anyone who has worked with her knows she was a perfect match to be our Program Manager. She always made our needs a priority and unlike many state-run programs, worked hard to stretch our dollars. She had to make hard decision, and they didn't always please snowmobilers, but it wasn't for a lack of trying. Pamela is also a friend to many of us in WSSA. I really got to know her when we both attended the International Snowmobile Congress for many years; she always hung with the WSSA crowd during the off hours. If you've been to WSSA's Winter Rendezvous, you have likely had a chance to meet her as she always felt it was important to be there and represent State Parks... and it gave her a chance to snowmobile with us as well!

Many know Pamela was planning to retire last fall. Due to an upheaval at the Director level, she was asked if she would stay a few months to keep our program steady. The fact she stayed shows great integrity and concern for our Program and snowmobilers. (It should be noted she faced the wrath of snowmobilers during that time due to the huge snow early in the season when plowing dollars were exhausted in a matter of days and trees were blocking trails across the state.)

Farewell Pamela! Don't forget you are welcome to ride with my daughter Ryan and I anytime!

Car & Driver's initial take on the Taiga electric snowmobile. Check out the article at the link below if you are interested. Nothing earth-shattering, but shows these machines are starting to hit the snow and the press is getting some seat time. While they may not suit every snowmobiler's need, they certainly have a place. With range improvements, I think they will be more common sooner than many think. <https://www.caranddriver.com/reviews/a39411899/2022-taiga-nomad-electric-snowmobile-drive/>

Polaris isn't going to be left behind in the electric vehicle market. Polaris has already unveiled its next-gen electric UTV and shown prototypes for ATVs and snowmobiles too. They are working through a partnership with Zero Motorcycles, a company specializing in electric cycles. Polaris' new Ranger XP electric UTV is going to be the

most powerful machine on the market with deliveries starting this year. Polaris hasn't fully committed to building a production electric snowmobile, but they are testing them. Their goal seems to be bringing to market vehicles that 'improves the customer experience'. If Taiga machines prove to be a success, it appears Polaris will be positioned to bring something to market fairly quickly.

It's here!... Over-Snow-Vehicle Travel Planning. WSSA has been warning snowmobilers for several years this was coming and it has finally hit in Washington State. Right now it is just a minor incursion as the rule-making process has started in the Panhandle National Forest which just brushes the north-east corner of the state. The plan is called the 'Kaniksu Over-Snow-Vehicle Travel Plan'. Two

things are very important though. First, all of these new over-snow plans will set precedent. If something is included we don't like in one, it will likely appear in an upcoming Washington plan. And second, even though it barely applies to Washington, it does apply to Washington, meaning we need to have standing in the planning process in case legal remedies are sought in the future. A couple of items of concern with this plan include caribou habitat, where snowmobilers have been banned from in the past and an area where the caribou no longer exist (as they were relocated to British Columbia), and now wolverine habitat. Regardless of validity, you can count on the extreme environmental groups using anything they can to limit or eliminate snowmobile use from this area. WSSA is engaged on this Panhandle plan and we ask you to participate in the rule-making process by submitting comments when the time comes. It is reported the Forest Service will be seeking public feedback on a draft proposal this year. You can track the planning process here: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/ipnf/landmanagement/projects/?cid=fseprd572569>

Some positive press for the Northwest Glacier Cruisers (NWGC) and snowmobiling! KING 5 spent the day on Mt. Baker with the NWGC during their Youth

By Matt Mead, Publicity Secretary



Snowmobiling Day and took 'Extreme Jose' on an adventure. Looks like everyone had a great time! Check the YouTube video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VGpt7Kkcd1k>

Stupid people do stupid things. Okay, maybe this guy isn't always stupid, but he was trying to pet a moose. How many times do we have to see how unpredictable wild animals (especially moose) are before we learn. He is lucky the moose didn't kill him. Watch the Instagram video here: https://www.instagram.com/p/CalfFqAjmLu/?utm_source=ig_embed&utm_campaign=embed_video_watch_again

How about a heartwarming story of a groomer operator rescuing a lost dog? I won't ruin the story, but will say a groomer in Maine found a dog while grooming and did the right thing. Read the story yourself here: <https://thecounty.me/2022/03/22/pets/a-groomers-story/>

Forward thinking state agency. No, not in Washington, but in Michigan. In partnership with Lyme Great Lakes Timberlands, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) purchased 103 miles of snowmobile trail easements for \$1.8 million with funds from the DNR's 'permanent snowmobile easement fund'. It was noted by Bill O'Brien, general manager of Lyme Great Lakes Timberlands, "Trail networks are integral to the economy of the Upper Peninsula and enjoy year-round use." Eight of the trail miles will be designated as multi-use, including off-road vehicle use, with the remainder for snowmobiles only. The DNR's 'permanent snowmobile easement fund' was developed to provide a funding source to ensure snowmobile trails would be available for current and future generations to enjoy.

Fundraising idea... Trail groomer Eric Robbins from Northern Maine is a good sport. A cut-out of him is posted along local trails and snowmobilers are encouraged to stop and take a pic with Eric and post them to social media with the hashtag #findRobbins. There is also an option to scan a QR code And make a (Continued on page30)



Matt's Misc. Continued...

(Continued from page 29)

donation to the local club to support trail grooming. As of the date of the article, \$3,000 had been raised. When the snowmobiling season ends, one person who shared a photo with the cutout will receive a prize. The cut-out is moved around by the groomer and staged in different areas. So why a cut-out of a half-naked Eric? Seems he is well known and respected in the community for his contributions to snowmobiling.

Snowmobiling Funding Applications due by June 1st. Applications can be mailed or e-mailed to State Parks. Please ensure they are either postmarked or e-mailed to by June 1st; late applications will not be considered. If you'd like more information on this process, check the State Parks website at this address: <https://parks.wa.gov/148/Sports-Funding-Program>

Bride surprises groom; snowmobiles to mountaintop in big white dress. Brittany and McKabe Memmel were married in a mountaintop ceremony in Michigan with about a dozen of their friends. About two miles from the destination, Brittany donned her dress; never mind the 10-degree temp. She claimed it was her "dream dress" and everything she wanted it to be. The couple joked for years about getting married on snowmobiles on a Tuesday. And that is what they did! They first found the location while off-roading, but they couldn't get to the top of the hill. They dropped a GPS pin so they could visit on snowmobiles. When they reached the top during winter 2021, they found themselves looking out over the surrounding forest and all the way to Lake Superior. The event was no frills with no flowers or a photographer. One of the friends was ordained to perform the ceremony. They had one celebratory drink on the mountaintop before heading home for a taco bar dinner. The couple is originally from south-



ern Wisconsin but moved to the Upper Peninsula for better snowmobile seasons. When the couple first met, McCabe told Brittany "I'll always snowmobile every weekend, it doesn't matter if I'm married or have kids".

Apparently Brittany was okay with that!

Widescape WS250. Okay, where do I sign up?! Actually, that information is below... But check this out, a stand-up four-stroke EFI (electronic fuel injection) snowbike/snowscooter! I can see myself riding this. No, I'm not getting rid of my Summit, but how about having this in addition to? And the price isn't really out of line... at least in today's wacky world. \$6,500. This thing has a small 242cc engine, but only weighs 250 lbs. In addition to the EFI, it has electric start and is liquid cooled. Full gauges and



handwarmers too. On the downside, the company is Canadian and pre-orders are only offered in Canada, and Eastern Canada at that. More info can be found on their website here: <https://widescape.co/>

Raffle time - May 1st deadline! It was mentioned in the ACSA E-News. The Sierra Snowmobile Foundation is raffling off a '22 Ski-Doo Summit 850 to raise funds for lawsuits in the Sierras in regards to the Over-Snow-Vehicle Travel Plan. Donating is a good thing, but you could win a sled! Visit <https://www.tapkat.org/sierra-snowmobile-foundation/y502b9>

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.

News

BlueRibbon Coalition Unveils New Logo



Affirms Commitment to Protecting Adventure on Public Lands throughout the United States

BLUERIBBON COALITION

BlueRibbon Coalition (BRC), the national nonprofit leading the fight for access to recreation on public lands, recently unveiled a new logo. At the heart of this logo campaign was a desire to reflect BRC's 35-year-standing as the guardians of recreational access throughout the United States. The new logo solidifies the organization's desire to protect and defend the pursuit of happiness via the public's right to explore and adventure on public lands.

The chosen logo is not just a cosmetic change for the organization, it reflects a renewed commitment to what makes BRC a unique and necessary arm in the coalition of non-profits committed to keeping public lands open and accessible for all. Since BRC's inception, the organization has been pivotal in legal battles, legislative action, and grassroots advocacy. BRC has a proven history of taking on and overcoming challenges to public access in the most beloved parts of this country. These wins include legal battles in Yellowstone and Lake Mead, and ongoing challenges in areas such as Moab and Lake Powell. BRC is one of the only land use organizations to win a U.S. Supreme Court case in defense of recreational use of public land. The organization represents over 700,000 recreationists from every state in the nation.

The goal of the new logo is to create something proudly displayed and easily recognized when used legislatively, legally, and via grassroots efforts. The staff and the board of BRC also sought to create a logo that reflected the strength of the organization and members would proudly represent on their vehicles and wear with confidence. After evaluating more than 140 proposed logos presented by dozens of professional designers, the BlueRibbon Shield was chosen as a strong, simple, and easily recognizable symbol to represent BRC in their ongoing role as guardians of our right to recreate.

Look for this logo on BRC's social media channels, website, and in their current campaigns, which include 'Defend Your Ground' and 'Fight for Every Inch'. With the current National administration's goal of '30 by 30', protecting 30% of U.S. Lands from the public by 2030, the fight for our right to public lands has never been more volatile and BRC's cause never clearer and more necessary than right now.

For those wishing to learn more about BRC, or contribute to their efforts, please visit: <https://sharetrails.org/join>