

MONTANA SNOWMOBILE NEWS



NEWSLETTER

December 2021



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Support MSA
'Winter Wonderland'
Specialty Plates!

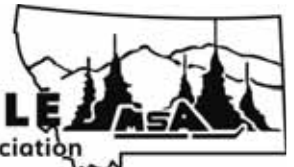


(Specialty plates may be temporarily unavailable due to aluminum shortage.)

Montana

SNOWMOBILE

Association



Become Part of the Driving Force Behind MSA

Did You Renew Your Montana Snowmobile Association Membership Yet?

You already know MSA is the state organization uniting the local snowmobile communities to promote safe and responsible snowmobiling. Are you aware of the many reasons why you should become a member of MSA? MSA employs a lobbyist to represent our interest during the legislative session held every two years. MSA helps fight for public land access and helps clubs financially in their pursuit of keeping riding access.

MSA works closely with the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks along with local clubs to develop and maintain a quality snowmobile trail system for all riders. But did you also know, these two parties help administer grooming funds, support costly repairs, administer grooming program insurance coverage for your local club as well as provide the required resource-environmental damage insurance, for three hosted events, per club?

MSA gives back to the communities of Montana in any way possible and also sponsors an annual scholarship program.

To support Montana, we need your support. Help defend your riding areas. If you are a member - THANK YOU! If you're not, we invite you to join online or by mailing in your Club, family, or business membership application today.

Visit: www.snowmobilemt.org.



SAFE RIDERS! SAFETY WEEK CAMPAIGN

January 15 - 23, 2022

The theme of the 28th annual International Snowmobile Safety has never been more appropriate than now. This event is a special event for the snowmobile community, including State Snowmobile Associations, Visitors and Convention Bureaus, Chambers of Commerce, Snowmobile Clubs, and local and state agencies joining together to recognize the importance of safe, responsible snowmobiling.

This year we are continuing our effort that all snowmobilers must respect private landowners and public land and the land managers. We highlight the need to protect land use privileges and to stay on the trail and if you don't know – don't go. Remember to Take the Pledge at <https://snowmobilerspledge.com>.

All snowmobile associations/federations, clubs, affiliates, government administrators, and enthusiasts are encouraged to participate in the program.

Safe Riders!

You make snowmobiling safe.

- Snowmobiling and alcohol don't mix - Don't drink and ride.
- Smart Riders are Safe Riders – Take a snowmobile safety training course.
- When night riding slow down – Expect the unexpected.
- Know before you go – Always check local ice conditions
- Cross with Care
- Know the risks and be prepared – Make every trip a round trip
- One is the loneliest number – Never ride alone.
- Ride safe, stay on the trail – Respect private property

The combined efforts of industry, government, and volunteers in this International Snowmobile Safety Week campaign is unprecedented; the assistance of the 3,000 + local clubs across the Snowbelt is critical to its success. YOU know what can work in your individual community better than anyone else, and your help is vital.

There are numerous activities that can be hosted to promote International Snowmobile Safety Week. For more information and ideas to help you promote the campaign visit snowmobile.org and download the action manual.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Montana Snowmobile Association

By Fred Bailey

Happy Holidays to everyone. This is the time for families and friends to get together and share joy and happiness. What a difference a year can make. I want to remind everyone to send in your nomination for the five annual MSA awards: Snowmobiler of the Year, Snowmobile Family of the Year, Snowmobile Club of the Year, Groomer of the Year, and Snowmobile Dealer of the Year. Please send your nominations to president@snowmobilemt.org or treasurer@snowmobilemt.org by **December 31, 2021**.

Please join us at the **MSA Riding Convention on Feb. 5, in Lolo, MT**. There is a block of rooms reserved by Mark Smolen for Feb. 4 at the Lolo Hotsprings -- rooms are limited and going fast! The MSA state ride will be in the Lolo area with the **Trans-Montana** riders guided by the **Missoula Snowgoers** on Saturday the Feb. 5, starting at 8 a.m. After the ride, we will head to Hamilton for the night. A block of rooms is also reserved by Mark Smolen at the Bitterroot Inn. The **MSA Awards dinner and banquet** will be held at the Victor Steakhouse in Victor that evening. The Trans-Montana riders will be riding in Hamilton, Sunday, the 6th. All MSA riders are welcome to join that day!

Think snow and hope to see you out there. ~ Fred
president@snowmobilemt.org

Take the Pledge to Save Our Trails

Snowmobilers enjoy over 120,000 miles of trails located on public and private land and have been built and maintained by snowmobile volunteers for over 40 years. Snowmobilers are joined in this effort by snowmobile clubs, snowmobile dealers, lodges, local chambers of commerce – all of whom have a vested interest in maintaining responsible access.

The pledge was created to make snowmobilers aware of the importance of recognizing the ownership of the land we ride on, and the impact we have on the landowners, their pets, and their livestock. The record level of interest in enjoying the great winter outdoors demands our attention to the awareness of legal riding areas and making sure everyone with us knows the rules. Take the pledge at www.snowmobilerspledge.com.

- I Pledge** to ride off-trail only where I know it's legal and accepted.
- I Pledge** to check before going off-trail if I don't know.
- I Pledge** to protect access for future generations by doing the right thing.
- I Pledge** to protect access by encouraging those I ride with to take the pledge also.





MONTANA SNOWMOBILE PROGRAM UPDATE

By Seth McArthur

Wise River received their 2020 PB 100 groomer and Ford F550 in time for the grooming season. This machine is a vast improvement to their mid-2000's model groomer the Club has been using. The club also found a 2011 F550 truck that will be used to pull their groomer to designated trails.

We've seen equipment costs increase every year. New equipment manufacturers have to meet much tougher governmental emission standards which have raised the costs to us. As the cost of new machines has increased, the availability of good quality, used groomers has shrunk. More and more owners are holding on to their equipment longer, which also raises the cost of replacement.



The rising cost of trail grooming is a challenge for Clubs. This year all Snowmobile Clubs received an increase in grooming grant funds. Without the help of the many volunteers in the grooming program, Montana would not be able to groom half the miles of trail we currently do. If you are not involved in a club or a member of the Montana Snowmobile Association, please consider joining. Your time and talents will be greatly appreciated.

The Resident Trail Pass has boosted our equipment replacement program. The pass has been instrumental in offsetting the rising costs of trail grooming and I want to thank those of you who are getting the word out concerning the benefits of the Trail Pass. **Seventeen of the twenty dollars goes back to the grooming grants and equipment purchasing program.**

Please be safe this holiday season and cherish your time with friends and family. You can contact me with any questions or comments

Sincerely,
Seth

Montana Snowmobile Program Manager
Montana FWP | 406-444-3753

Montana Snowmobile Trail Pass & Permit

Snowmobiles operating on public land must purchase a trail pass. This pass is required for all mechanized equipment to include fat tire and e-bikes. Trail Passes are available through fwp.mt.gov online licensing system or can be purchased from a participating vendor. Passes are valid for two seasons.





SOME GOOD NEWS FOR SNOWMOBILERS!

How Does Snowmobiling Impact the Outdoors?

Everything we do has some effect on the environment. When a hiker steps on a flower, he affects the environment. When land is paved over for a bicycle path, it affects the environment. Many of the footpaths man has used for centuries still exist and are clearly visible throughout the world.

However, it's a fact that a snowmobile and rider exert dramatically less pressure on the earth's surface than other recreational activities (i.e., just one-tenth the pressure of a hiker and one-sixteenth the pressure of a horseback rider). Average pounds of pressure per square inch exerted on earth's surface:

Object	Lbs. of Pressure
Four Wheel Drive Vehicle 30
Horse 8
Man 5
All-Terrain Vehicle 1.5
SNOWMOBILE 0.5

In many jurisdictions, snowmobiles are not classified as off-road vehicles. By both definition and management policies, these jurisdictions have completely separated

snowmobiles from off-road vehicles. As the U.S. Department of the Interior concluded in an environmental statement: "A major distinction is warranted between snowmobiles and other types of off-road vehicles. Snowmobiles operated on an adequate snow cover have little effect on soils - and hence cause less severe indirect impacts on air and water quality, and on soil -dependent biotic communities, than other ORV's do."

Given adequate snowfall and responsible operation, all evidence of snowmobile operation disappears when the season changes and the snow melts.

(All vehicle weights considered include 210 lbs. estimated weight of one person and gear.) Moreover, the snowmobile's 1/2 pound of pressure is further reduced by an intervening blanket of snow.

To learn more, visit [ISMA Snowmobiling Fact Book](#).

To avoid damaging the environment, use your snowmobile only when there's at least **four** inches of snow on the ground.



SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



\$500 Annual MSA Scholarship
\$2,000 Western Chapter Snowmobile Associations, Inc.
 Get your essay in early! Download the application at snowmobilemt.org. **Entry Deadline: March 1, 2022.**

MONTANA LAW

In Montana, anyone 16 and under without a valid driver's license riding on a multi-purpose municipal roadway in Lincoln, Seeley, or West Yellowstone for example, is required to take a Montana-approved Snowmobile Safety Course and obtain a Snowmobile Safety Certificate. Riders under the age of 16 are also required to be under the direct supervision of a licensed adult. For more information, visit www.snowmobilecourse.com/usa/montana/snowmobile-laws.aspx.



Join online - www.snowmobilemt.org
 or complete the form below.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2021/2022

Name(s): _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: MT Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ + _____ Email: _____
 Club: _____

Membership Type

- New Individual/Family: \$22 _____ Number of Family Members
 Renewal Club/Business: \$35

Newsletter Preference: _____ Send via Email _____ Mail Print Copy

Mail completed application with payment to:

Montana Snowmobile Association

P.O. Box 56

Black Eagle, MT 59414

JOIN MSA THIS COMING FEBRUARY

Trans-Montana Charity Ride

Trans-Montana Charity Ride is a snowmobile ride through "Big Sky Country"! Come "Ride the Rockies" with us and raise money for the National Alliance on Mental Illness Montana (NAMI), sponsored by the Montana Snowmobile Association. This is a unique outdoor adventure and all fundraising goes to a good cause.

The ride is a week-long (6 days), but you don't have to do it all--come ride some or enjoy the whole week with us!

- Ride any or all areas
- Experience the beauty of Montana
- Enjoy the camaraderie of fellow riders



The Route

Feb 4 (Fri): TMR Riders Arrive in Lolo or Missoula (One night)

Feb 5 (Sat): TMR Day 1

- Ride the Lolo area guided by the Missoula Snowgoers (MSA State Ride)
- Travel to Hamilton for the night (Bitterroot River Inn) TWO NIGHTS
- **MSA Awards Dinner and Banquet** Victor Steakhouse (Victor, MT)

Feb 6 (Sunday): TMR Day 2

- Ride the Skalkaho Ridge area guided by the Bitterroot Ridge Runners
- Stay a second night in Hamilton (Bitterroot River Inn) the second night

Feb 7 (Monday): TMR Day 3

- Ride the Placer Creek Area guided by the Big Hole Snowmobile Club
- Travel to Butte for the night (Best Western Plus) TWO NIGHTS

Feb 8 (Tue): TMR Day 4

- Ride the Butte/Wise River area guided by the Jackpine Savages and the Mining City Trail Riders
- Return to Butte for the evening (Best Western Plus) the second night

Feb 9 (Wed): TMR Day 5

- Travel to Cooke City, stay in Cooke City (Super 8 Cooke City) THREE NIGHTS

Feb 10 (Thurs): TMR Day 6

- Ride Cooke City with the Upper Yellowstone Snowmobile Club
- Stay in Cooke City (Super 8 Cooke City) the second night

Feb 11 (Fri): TMR Day 7

- Ride Cooke City with the Upper Yellowstone Snowmobile Club
- Stay in Cooke City (Super 8 Cooke City) third night
- Rider Dinner and Awards

Feb 12 (Sat): TMR Ride is over - Time to head home (or stay and ride more!)

Visit: www.trans-montana.org for complete details.





Ponderosa Snow Warriors (Lincoln)

Black plastic trash bags lined Highway 200 as high school members of Lincoln School's chapter of the Business Professionals of America joined the Ponderosa Snow Warriors to clean up the roadway along Highway 200. Kudos to Ponderosa Snow Warriors for organizing and taking care of their community!

PSW Upcoming Events:

- Dec 11 - Christmas Membership Dinner
- Jan 22 - Pancake Breakfast and Fun Run
- Feb 19 - Disabled American Veteran's Moonlight Fun Run
- Mar 5 - Vintage Snowmobile/Scholarship Fun Run

Check Ponderosa Snow Warriors Facebook page for details!

Little Belt Snowmobile Club (Lewistown)

The following is the schedule for this year. Please watch Facebook for any additions.

You can still pay local dues, \$20 and state dues \$22. Send a check for \$42 to Little Belt Snowmobile Club Box 213 Hobson, MT 59452

Little Belt Upcoming Events:

- Dec 13 - American Legion, Lewistown -Potluck-6:30 p.m. Bring a donation for the community cupboard.
- Jan 10 - American Legion, Lewistown-7:00
- Feb 12 - Dinner Meeting - Location TBA
- Mar 14 - American Legion, Lewistown-7:00p.m.
- Apr 11 - Highway Cleanup-BBQ and meeting to follow at Taylors

Little Belt will host the **3Club Cookout**. A tentative date of March 6 or 13, 2022 has been set.



Share your Club News!

Email: news@snowmobilemt.org
Deadline: 22nd of the month

American Council of Snowmobile Associations

2022 Raffle Calendars Are Here!

To request your free raffle calendar contact your local Club, District Representative, or MSA Board Member.

Raffle Entry: \$20 donation, payable to ACSA.

Visit www.snowmobilers.org for more information.

Prize Summary (365 chances to win / monthly drawing)

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 - \$3,000 winner | 4 - \$40 winners |
| 9 - \$300 winners | 306 - \$20 winners |
| 3 - \$200 winners | 1 - KLIM Jacket (value \$250) |





MSA LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE AND MEMBERSHIP SYSTEM

If you have been online in the last month, you may have seen our new website! If you haven't, please go to <https://www.snowmobilemt.org> and check it out our new and improved site!

Along with the new website, we've installed a new membership management system called MembershipWorks. With this new system, we are asking everyone for their email address. We need your email address for the system to work properly. If you absolutely do not have one, never fear, you can still send in a form and check. But we promise to never share your info for non-MSA related activity and we will not fill your inbox with useless email. If you've been a member, please send us a note with your email address. If you're a new member, just sign up online and we are good to go!

For those of you where we had your email, we have entered your account info and you should have already seen at least one email from MSA MEMBERSHIP (members@snowmobilemt.org). Check your Spam/Social/Promotions folders for an email from us. That email gives you instructions for first-time password-request and login.

What does this new system allow us to do?

1. Centralized repository/database of all members that we can use for all communication,
2. Member-updatable database; you can update and change your own email, password, mailing address, payment method, etc.
3. Automated renewal updates and payments (we can automatically collect your dues Oct 1).

For you this means: no more filling out a form every year, writing a check, stamping an envelope, mailing, etc.

For the MSA: we don't have to worry about lost mail, deciphering handwriting, typing info into a spreadsheet, cashing checks, etc.

You may think, how hard is it to get my form and check? It's not that hard, but think about doing this hundreds of times over many months. We don't get them all at once and it takes a lot of time to record and type things in...and every step can have errors, causing more issues down the line.

By using our online system, you can check our work (correct any errors) and utilize our secure payment system (Stripe) which processes your payment and the money is automatically transferred to our bank. No mail, no lost checks, no illegible forms, no mis-typed email addresses. In the end, it allows us to concentrate on the important stuff that the MSA wants to do! So please, give it a try. If you have questions, Mark Smolen has volunteered to help anyone with any questions, issues or step by step hand-holding. Just send an email to the address listed above.

Again, if you don't have access to the internet, just send it in...we still love you. If you sign up with your club each year, you can continue to do so or you can use the online system directly. Also be aware that it takes time for those club memberships to get to us; so you may see a renewal email as the two ships pass in the night.

Finally, questions, thoughts or input, please let us know. We're bound to suffer a few growing pains, but overall, this is worth the effort. We hope you'll take five minutes to get a password, login and give it a try and if you would, sign up for auto-renewal which makes your life (and ours) so much easier!

UPCOMING EVENTS...

December 31, 2021 - MSA Award Nominations Due (Contact Fred Bailey, see page 3)

January 15-23, 2022 - International Snowmobile Safety Week

January 22, 2022 - Pancake Breakfast and Fun Run, Lincoln

February 4-12, 2022 - MSA Trans-Montana Charity Ride, Lolo Hot Springs - Cooke City

February 5, 2022 - MSA Annual Club Ride, Lolo (Open to all members)

February 5, 2022 - MSA Annual Riding Convention Banquet, Hamilton

February 12-21, 2022 - "Take a Friend Snowmobiling" Campaign

February 19, 2022 - Disabled American Veteran's Moonlight Fun Run, Lincoln

February 24-25, 2022 - Western Chapter Summit, West Yellowstone

February 26, 2022 - Western Chapter Summit Ride, West Yellowstone (Open to all members)

March 1, 2022 - MSA Scholarship Entry Deadline (see page 6)

March 5, 2022 - Vintage Snowmobile/Scholarship Fun Run, Lincoln

March 17, 2022 - Western States Scholarship, MSA Award Winner, Submission Deadline

REGIONAL EVENTS

January 13-16, 2022 - World Championship Snowmobile Derby, Eagle River, WI

February 5-6, 2022 - World Series of Snowmobile Racing, Eagle River, WI

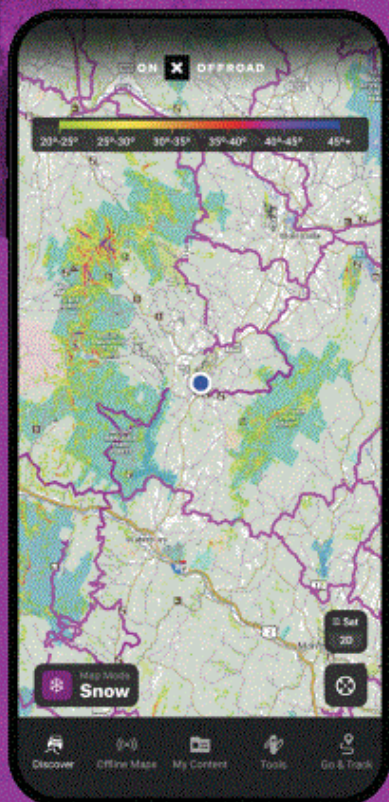
March 24-27, 2022 - 45th Annual World Championship Snowmobile Hill Climb - Jackson Hole, WY

October 7-8, 2022 - Rocky Mountain Snowmobile Expo - Denver, CO

AVALANCHE EDUCATION

Avalanche Classes fill up fast. Visit Avalanche.org to find a course near you.

Seasonal - Free Avalance Safety Training - Cooke City (Every Friday/Saturday)



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MSA Officers and Clubs

Association Officers



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president@snowmobilemt.org

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Vice President
406-450-2335
vp@snowmobilemt.org

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Treasurer
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treasurer@snowmobilemt.org

PEGGY ALBEE
Secretary
secretary@snowmobilemt.org

JASON HOWELL
Past President
pastpres@snowmobilemt.org

LAURA MEHRER
Membership Chair
406-788-6027
members@snowmobilemt.org

CLIFF WALTER
Charity Chair
406-750-6282
charity@snowmobilemt.org

Anaconda Snowmobile Club
45 Fire Lane
Anaconda, MT 59711
406-563-7789

Beaverhead Sno-Riders
PO Box 867
Dillon, MT 59725
406-925-0501

Big Hole Snowmobile Club
PO Box 141
Wisdom, MT 59761
406-370-2587

Big Sky Snowriders
PO Box 365
Livingston, MT 59047
406-220-0803

Bitterroot Ridgerunners
PO Box 265
Hamilton, MT 59840
406-363-3224
www.ridgerunners.org

Cabinet Ridge Riders
PO Box 1577
Trout Creek, MT 59874
406-827-3226

Flathead Snowmobile Association
PO Box 5041
Kalispell, MT 599-3
406-871-4606
www.flatheadsnowmobiler.com

Gallatin Valley Snowmobile Association
PO Box 3164
Bozeman, MT 59772
406-600-6063

Great Falls Snowmobile Club
PO Box 70
Black Eagle, MT 59414
406-899-5126
www.great-falls-snowmobile.org

Helena Snowdrifters
PO Box 5505
Helena, MT 59624
406-202-2044
www.helenasnowdrifters.org

Jackpine Savages Snowmobile Club
PO Box 65
Wise River, MT 59762
406-267-3389

Lincoln County Sno-Kat Club
PO Box 1180
Libby, MT 59923
406-827-0524

Little Belt Snowmobile Club
PO Box 213
Hobson, MT 59452
406-366-8924

Meagher County Little Belters
PO Box 315
White Sulphur Springs, MT 59645
406-547-3966

Mining City Trail Riders, Inc
P.O. Box 4885
Butte, MT 59702
406-782-4613

Missoula Snowgoers
PO Box 2441
Missoula, MT 59806
406-370-8819
www.missoulasnowgoers.org

Montana Nightriders
PO Box 420242
Haugen, MT 59842
406-544-5416
www.montananightriders.com

Ponderosa Snow Warriors
PO Box 933
Lincoln, MT 59639
406-362-3334

Seeley Lake Driftriders
PO Box 174
Seeley Lake, MT 59868
406-677-7777
www.driftriders.org

Summit Snowgoers
PO Box 301
Cut Bank, MT 59427
406-229-0665

Sweet Grass County Recreation Association
PO Box 922
Big Timber, MT 59011
406-930-1396

Ten Lakes Snowmobile Club
PO Box 404
Eureka, MT 59917
406-297-3377

Troy Snowmobile Club
PO Box 1002
Troy, MT 59935
406-295-4322
www.troysnowmobileclub.org

Upper Yellowstone Snowmobile Club
PO Box 1111
Cooke City, MT 59020
406-838-2207

Vigilante Snowmobilers
PO Box 145
Virginia City, MT 59755
406-581-1776

West Yellowstone Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 458
West Yellowstone, MT 59758
406-646-7701
www.destinationyellowstone.com



Montana Snowmobile Association Districts

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dist-one@snowmobilemt.org

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dist-two@snowmobilemt.org

DISTRICT 3
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DISTRICT 4
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DISTRICT 5
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DISTRICT 8
Kevin Horne
dist-eight@snowmobilemt.org

DISTRICT 9
Ron Albee
dist-nine@snowmobilemt.org

DISTRICT 10
Kemp O'Neill
dist-ten@snowmobilemt.org

DISTRICT 11
VACANT

DISTRICT 12
VACANT

DISTRICT 13
VACANT

FWP Trails Coordinator
Open

Legislative Lobbyist
Margaret Morgan
406-431-9836
mgtmorgan@consults.com

Join MSA online by going to
snowmobilemt.org

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING
NEWS@SNOWMOBILEMT.ORG



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