

**\$500  
MSA Scholarship  
Entry Deadline  
March 31, 2023  
See page 3**



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## How Many Areas in Montana Do You Ride Each Season?

By Mark Smolen

Maybe the question should be "Are you a member of those area's clubs?"

Do you ride in just one place all the time? My guess is no. Most of us enjoy going around and trying new places, seeing new areas and following the snow to the best areas for that epic pow.

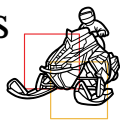
So I'd like to ask, have you joined that local club where you ride/rode?

That local club groomed those trails, applied for grants, paid operators, brushed the trails in the summer, cleared the downfall in the fall, and generally made it possible for you to have a good experience. Why not show your support by joining that club in addition to your local club? Every club fights for our rights to keep access and they need to show a number of members to make their claims relevant.

Why not join up and help them out?

# MSA Officers and Clubs

## Association Officers



### FRED BAILEY

President  
406-431-9402  
president@snowmobilemt.org

### JOHN ZELL

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

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406-590-0386  
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### PEGGY ALBEE

Secretary  
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### JASON HOWELL

Past President  
pastpres@snowmobilemt.org

### CLIFF WALTER

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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 Ridge Runners  
PO Box 265  
Hamilton, MT 59840  
406-363-3433  
www.bitterrootrr.org

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

Flathead Snowmobile Association  
PO Box 5041  
Kalispell, MT 59903  
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  
Haugan, MT 59842  
406-544-5416  
www.montananightriders.com

Ponderosa Snow Warriors  
PO Box 933  
Lincoln, MT 59639  
406-475-5786

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  
www.ridecookcity.com

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

[SnowmobileMT.org](http://SnowmobileMT.org)

\*2022-2023 MSA Snowmobile Club of the Year



### DISTRICT 1

Rick David  
dist-one@snowmobilemt.org

### DISTRICT 2

Mark Sverdsten  
dist-two@snowmobilemt.org

### DISTRICT 3

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### DISTRICT 4

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### DISTRICT 5

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### DISTRICT 6

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### DISTRICT 7

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### DISTRICT 8

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### DISTRICT 9

Ron Albee  
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### DISTRICT 10

Rowdy Yates  
dist-ten@snowmobilemt.org

### DISTRICT 11

VACANT

### DISTRICT 12

VACANT

### DISTRICT 13

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Margaret Morgan  
406-431-9836  
mgtmorgan@morganconsults.com

### NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING

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**Seth McArthur**  
Montana Fish, Wildlife,  
and Parks  
Snowmobile Program  
406-444-3753  
smcarthur@mt.gov

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Support MSA  
'Winter Wonderland'  
Specialty Plates!

The legislature is in full gear now, fortunately, snowmobiling has not been under attack so far. We have had some bills correcting issues from previous bills that have popped up in the last few years.

The first one was HB99 which did not include snow bikes, fat tire bikes, and dog sleds to be included under the winter trail pass. This required a change from the term snowmobile trail pass to winter trail pass.

Second was a bill that did not allow any data collected by the Montana state government to be used by outside entities, we are requesting a change to include access by universities to be used for research purposes. We are in dire need of a new economic impact statement since our last one was completed In 2014. The economic impact studies are important as much of our funding is based on the number.

Thank you to all who took the time to submit MSA award nominations this year. We have many deserving individuals, families, and clubs who have worked so hard, we truly wish we could provide an award to all. Thank you for all you do. Our sincerest thanks to **Otto Johnson** and **Ron Albee** for creating these beautiful awards. Truly outstanding! A big congratulations to this year's recipients!

**Fred**  
Montana Snowmobile Association  
406-431-9402  
president@snowmobilemt.org





\$500  
Scholarship

## Montana Snowmobile Association Scholarship

The Montana Snowmobile Association is offering a scholarship to either a graduating high school senior or a person enrolled in a college, technical or vocational program. Must be a MSA member.

ENTRY DEADLINE \_\_\_\_\_

# March 31, 2023

SUBMIT \_\_\_\_\_

Video Upload or  
Written Essay



APPLY TODAY
[www.snowmobileMT.org](http://www.snowmobileMT.org)


# THANK YOU

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**Please Support Those That Support Our Interests.**



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**Gardiner**  
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**Helena**  
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**Seeley Lake**  
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**Spokane, WA**  
Glasgow Construction, LLC

**White Sulphur Springs**  
Menard Construction

**West Yellowstone**  
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=====  
**Thank you Newsletter Advertisers!**

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- Hi-Country, Lincoln
- Scenic Mountain Trails, Seeley Lake
- Kurt's Polaris, Seeley Lake
- H Bar J Saloon and Cafe, Wise River
- Friends of the GNFAC



# Avalanche Safety



## SHARE AVALANCHE AND SNOWPACK INFORMATION, SAVE LIVES

**Alex Marienthal, Avalanche Forecaster, Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Center**

At avalanche centers, we travel around the backcountry to gather data about snow stability and avalanche danger in popular recreational areas. We want to know how the snowpack is layered throughout the backcountry, where weak layers exist and how much new snow or wind-drifted snow it might take to produce an avalanche. The snowpack and weather patterns can differ a lot across the large areas that avalanche centers cover. We cannot travel to all corners of the forecast area every day, so we use observations from the public to help us figure out where the snow is unstable. You can help your nearby avalanche centers by submitting observations through their websites, email, or social media.

After a day riding in the backcountry, donate 10-20 minutes of your time to share what you saw, especially if there were avalanches or if you triggered an avalanche. We often dig into the snowpack and do "snowpack tests" to find where the snow is unstable, as you may have seen in our videos and forecasts, but the most obvious sign that the snowpack is unstable is seeing recent avalanche activity or triggering avalanches. When we know about recent avalanches, we don't have to dig to look for instability. We are familiar with the difficulty of reporting avalanche involvements due to feeling embarrassed, but mistakes happen, and others can learn and live by knowing about recent avalanches. We will keep your identity anonymous if desired, and we can mention vague locations to keep top secret powder stashes safe.

You do not have to submit highly detailed or technical reports. Simple information can be the most useful. Share the estimated depth and width of avalanches, and the slope aspect and elevation where they occurred, if possible. If you are inclined to dig into the snow, we like to hear about how deep the snowpack is and how deep weak layers are buried, or if you notice a different amount of new snow than what we reported.

Many areas do not have an avalanche center, but nearby avalanche centers can facilitate sharing observations. Riders in areas without an avalanche center should consider sharing observations through social media networks, such as snowmobile club pages or a Facebook group that has members who ride in similar or nearby areas.

Letting other riders know about recent avalanches or unstable snow can help them plan to avoid potentially dangerous areas. Go to [www.avalanche.org](http://www.avalanche.org) to find the nearest avalanche center to your riding area and share your observations. Each avalanche center has a place where you can submit observations to their website, email, social media or call and leave a message. You can also go to avalanche center websites to find recent avalanche activity and snowpack data for areas you plan to ride. This information can prevent accidents and save lives. Thank you for your support and sharing observations!

# MSA UPDATES



## MSA makes a debut at the Treasure State Resources Association Legislative Reception

Several MSA board members were on hand to represent MSA during this year's legislative meet and greet event. Legislatures had an opportunity to visit our MSA booth and talk about all things snowmobiling and how it affects Montana and its communities. Representatives were interested in what MSA had to offer and in learning what our biggest issues were and how they can support MSA. It was a win-win well attended event.

**Treasure State Resources Association strives to bring together industry groups, labor organizations, and recreation groups to work towards advancing policies. The Mission of the Treasure State Resources Association is to promote and enhance the Montana Way of Life through responsible resource development.**

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### The 2023 ACSA Raffle Calendars are in!

For only a \$20 donation to ACSA, the 2023 calendar offers you 365 chances to win! Check with your District Representative to pick up your calendar today!

### Prize Summary (365 chances to win / monthly drawing)

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



## MONTANA SNOWMOBILE PROGRAM UPDATE

By Seth McArthur

I had the opportunity to attend the Montana Snowmobile Association's annual awards banquet. It was nice to see all those that received awards and were in attendance. I appreciate the clubs and all they do to make grooming possible. Please join a club if you are not a member.

The legislative session is moving right along. Please look to the Montana Snowmobile Association for any updates on bills associated with snowmobile use. They are testifying and working with a lobbyist to improve snowmobile laws in Montana. Your support is greatly needed.



Please be safe this winter season and cherish your time with friends and family. You can contact me with any questions or comments at [smcarthur@mt.gov](mailto:smcarthur@mt.gov) or 406-444-3753.

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

**Purchase Your  
 Trail Pass or Get a Ticket!**



## Montana Trail Pass and Registration

### Resident Trail Pass

Snowmobiles operating on public land must be registered and display decals placed in a conspicuous space on the left side of the cowling. Registration is different for Montana residents and nonresidents. Montana FWP maintains a complete site with all the rules and regulations.

### Resident Registration

Montana residents must register their snowmobiles at the County Treasurer's office in the county where the owner resides. This is a one-time registration and valid until the current owner sells the snowmobile.

# 2023 MSA BANQUET & NAMI FUNDRAISER

Thank you, **Helena Snowdrifters**, for hosting this year's banquet! This event was not possible without our many volunteers and supporting businesses. Our thanks to **Helena Cycle Center** and **Mount Helena Motor Sports** for your contributions. Many thanks to **Pate Auction** of Helena for dedicating your time to manage our live and silent auction with proceeds supporting **Nami Montana**. Interested in hosting next year's banquet and MSA Ride? Contact Fred Bailey today.







# MSA Annual Awards

The great sport of snowmobiling is only possible due to the many great, behind-the-scenes volunteers who work tirelessly to create, maintain and protect the places where we ride. Every year MSA recognizes volunteers who go above and beyond the call of duty. The awards were presented on February 4, 2023, at the MSA Awards Banquet in Helena.



**Club of the Year**  
**Cabinet Ridge Riders**  
**Trout Creek**



**Snowmobile Family of the Year**  
**Rowdy & Kristen Yates, Upper Yellowstone Snowmobile Club**



**Snowmobiler of the Year**  
**Cliff Walter, Great Falls Snowmobile Club**



**Groomer of the Year**  
**Rick David, Flathead Snowmobile Association**



**Dealer of the Year**  
**Paulsen's Power Sports, Great Falls**

MSA recognizes Connie Pollard, Newsletter Editor & Graphic Designer.

"Thank you for your appreciation and recognition! It means a lot coming from this great group!" Connie P.





## DID YOU KNOW?

Following behind a groomer may not be the best idea. It can take 2 - 6 hours (or possibly more) for a trail to set up after a groomer has passed through depending upon the temperature and moisture content of the snow.

Trail setup can be similar to freezing a tray of ice cubes - after an hour you may have a crust on the surface of the ice cube but the center isn't frozen, so you have to wait a few more hours for the ice cube or the trail to fully freeze solid.

Source: snowmobilers.org



## 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](http://www.snowmobilecourse.com).

### Support MSA!

Pick up a Montana Winter Wonderland specialty license plate this year.





## MSA RECOGNIZES REBRANDED SEELEY CLUB

### Making a Difference, Seeley Lake Groups Unite

Seeley Lake Driftriders was formed in 1967. It supported outdoor recreation, primarily snowmobiling, in the Seeley Lake and Swan Valleys of Western Montana. In early 2021, the Seeley Lake Driftriders merged with Seeley Swan ATV Club and Seeley E-Bikers to foster a new vision for managed trail systems. This newly formed non-profit group is now recognized as Scenic Montana Trails (SMT).

Think of SMT as all things motorized/mechanized. By joining forces, we have a larger voice as we represent area interests with state and federal agencies that provide funding for trail development and control access to our public lands.

Combining the three user groups into one provides a single organization to apply for funds and provide the manpower necessary to build and maintain trails for all mechanized sports.

If you're a snowmobiler, ATV/UTV/Dirt-biker, or Mountain/E-biker, we have you covered. We have 430 miles of groomed trails, countless miles of secondary trails, and great areas for off-trail riding, not to mention views that can restart your heart. In the winter months, we keep these trails groomed with three Piston Bully groomers using a mixture of pull-behind drags, mogul masters or a tiller. Each Groomer is equipped with a spot GPS tracking device and can be tracked online to maximize your day of riding. In the non-winter months, we use good old manual labor to keep the trails fun.

Scenic Montana Trails is the club that serves the needs and interests of everyone interested in outdoor recreation in the Seeley Lake area.

### Make A Difference

Our valley is known for its scenic views. If you're not yet a member, please join the club. We welcome your support as we continue to advocate for outdoor recreation opportunities. Support the areas you ride!

Scenic Montana Trails' annual **Snowball Dinner is February 18, 2023**, in Seeley Lake. To learn more, visit [scenicmontanatrails.org](http://scenicmontanatrails.org).

### Scenic Montana Trails Leadership

President - Mike Kent

VP Snowmobile - Gary Enger

VP OHV/ATV - Ken Kronsperger

VP Mountain/E-Bike - Ken Brochu

Secretary - Tom Stanley

Treasurer - Ron Hundtofte

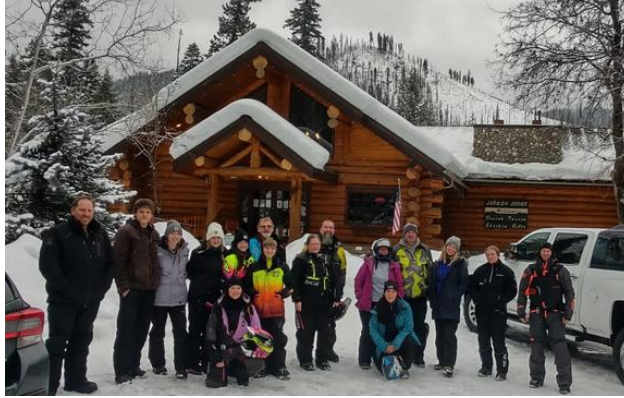
Board Member - Bruce Friede

Board Member - Jeff McLean



See page 13 and learn how you can win a Fantic eBike from Scenic Mountain Trails!

# CLUB NEWS



## Missoula Snowgoers - Annual Lochsa Loop Ride

Recently the Missoula Snowgoers held their annual Lochsa Loop ride. This is an 80-mile groomed loop club ride that is always very well attended by one and all. The loop takes riders to the Lochsa Lodge for lunch and fuel, and then back to Lolo Hot Springs. If you missed this fun ride, watch the Snowgoer's Facebook page for another upcoming ride in the planning stages for this season. You'll want to add this ride to your sledding bucket list!

**BECOME A MEMBER OF SCENIC  
MONTANA TRAILS AND BE  
ENTERED TO WIN A FANTIC  
ELECTRIC BIKE!**



All persons paying for a membership to Scenic Montana Trails from April 1, 2022 to May 5, 2023, will be entered to win a Fantic Electric Bike. Drawing to be held May 11, 2023 at the SMT Membership Meeting. One entry per membership fee paid.

To become a member of SMT go to:  
[www.scenicmontanatrails.org](http://www.scenicmontanatrails.org)  
And get entered today!

## Helena Snowdrifters Annual Fun Run

Boy was it cold! But for those that braved the cold January temps, the Snowdrifter's Club delivered a fun-filled frosty day for riders with stops along the way to warm up fingers and toes. The Annual Fun run helps provide funding support for our grooming efforts and club activities. Thanks to all the volunteers and riders who attended and braved the sub-zero conditions! Anytime we can get out on our sleds with friends and family is a good day in the Snowdrifters' books.





## Upper Yellowstone Snowmobile Club Promoting Rider Safety First and Foremost

The Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Center, Cooke City Community, and the Upper Yellowstone Snowmobile Club continue to work diligently to bring avalanche awareness to the Cooke City area and across the state of Montana.

New for 2023, guests entering Cooke City will find a series of attention-grabbing brochures, coasters, and tabletop cards displayed throughout the community reminding all to keep avalanche safety top of mind. Restaurants, hotels, and gas stations have all eagerly pitched in to do their part to help promote awareness and safety.

Cooke City offers five beacon check stations with a beacon park area. GNFAAC hosts a Friday night Avalanche Awareness talk and a Saturday beacon search. Check the club's website and Facebook page for more details! **Beacon/Probe/Shovel-ALWAYS**



IT'S ALMOST HERE!

27th Annual HOG ROAST Event - March 10 & 11, 2023  
Join UYSC for their biggest fundraiser of the year.

This is a family fun event, please come support your local snowmobile club.

# Get Your Local Avalanche Forecast

[www.mtavalanche.com](http://www.mtavalanche.com) - [www.missoulaavalanche.org](http://www.missoulaavalanche.org) - [www.flatheadavalanche.org](http://www.flatheadavalanche.org)

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## AROUND THE STATE

**February 12, 2023** - Annual Super Bowl Sunday AM Charity Ride, Helena Snowdrifters, Helena

**February 10-14, 2023** - Race to the Sky - racetothetky.org

**February 11-20, 2023** - "Take a Friend Snowmobiling" Campaign

**February 18, 2023** - Poker Run, Upper Yellowstone Snowmobile Club, Cooke City

**February 18, 2023** - Annual Snowball Dinner, Scenic Montana Trails, Seeley Lake

**February 25, 2023** - Annual Family Fun Run, Sweet Grass County Recreation Assoc - Big Timber

**February 25 - 26, 2023** - Vintage Fun Run, Ponderosa Snow Warriors - Lincoln

**February 28, 2023** - OHV Grant Application Deadline

**March 5, 2023** - 3 Club Cookout, Little Belt, Great Falls, Meager County Little Belters, Ant Park - Little Belt Mountains

**March 10-11, 2023** - 27th Annual Hog Roast Fundraiser, Upper Yellowstone, Cooke City

**March 31, 2023** - Deadline, MSA Scholarship Entry (See page 3)

**May 5, 2023** - Deadline to win an eBike from Scenic Trails Montana (See page 13)

**May 10, 2023** - Highway Cleanup, Great Falls Snowmobile Club

## AROUND THE REGION

**March 23-26, 2023** - Jackson Hole Snowmobile Hill Climb - Jackson, WY

## AVALANCHE EDUCATION

Visit [Avalanche.org](http://Avalanche.org) to find an upcoming class!

Share your Club News and Events!

Email: [news@snowmobilemt.org](mailto:news@snowmobilemt.org)

Event Deadline: 15th of the month

## Can't Get Enough of All Things Snowmobiling?

Here are a few national snowmobile publications to consider.



[American Snowmobiler Magazine](#)

[Maximum Sled Magazine](#)

[On Snow Magazine](#)

[SnowTech Magazine](#)

[SnoWest Magazine](#)

[Snow Goer Magazine](#)

[Snow Rider Magazine](#)

[Supertrax International Magazine](#)

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# MSA Membership

## Why Join MSA?

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](http://www.snowmobilemt.org).

**It's never too late to join!**

## Montana Snowmobile Association

### Membership Application 2022/23

Join online [snowmobilemt.org](http://snowmobilemt.org) or complete the application below.



**Membership Type**  New  Club /Business: \$40  
 *Renewal*  Individual/Family: \$25

**Do you belong to a local Snowmobile Club?** List Club: \_\_\_\_\_

**Full Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Business / Club Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Family Members:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Newsletter Preference:**

Send via Email  Mail Print Copy

Mail completed application with payment  
**Montana Snowmobile Association**  
**P.O. Box 56 | Black Eagle, MT 59414**



**Montana Snowmobile Association**

snowmobilemt.org  
P.O. Box 56  
Black Eagle, MT 59414

# BRANDIN' IRON INN

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info@brandiniron.com

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- Over 150 inches of snow annually
- Ride The New Whiskey Loop Trail
- Park tours available with epic scenery



- Premium Bed Package - Ample Truck/Trailer Parking
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- Ride from our front door to the trail head