

Montana SNOWMOBILE NEWS

ISSUE 3 • DECEMBER 2022

snowmobilemt.org

2022-2023



HAPPY
Holidays

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So, You're a Mountain Rider

and Don't Need Trails?

The facts are

- Groomed trails provide quick access to higher elevations & better snow.
- When you have sled issues, trails provide the safest return to your vehicle.
- Designated trails allow you to pass through private land that may otherwise be closed off.
- Trails allow you to ride with the family into the mountains (or anyone with lesser backcountry experience) while you dip off and play in the deep and steep while the other half of your crew can happily remain unstuck and enjoy their day as well.
- Injured? Trails are used by Search & Rescue to quickly access snowmobilers and non-motorized folks in need of help in the backcountry.

Snowmobilers in Montana enjoy and ride on over 4,000 miles of groomed trails. As you travel by snowmobile along trails or upon roadways open to snowmobiles there will be a variety of traffic signs that apply to all snowmobile operators. When on roads, remember that all traffic signs for automobiles also apply to snowmobiles, including highway speed limits if you are operating in a highway road ditch.

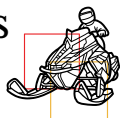


Snowmobile Trail Blazers

An orange diamond informs riders they are on a designated snowmobile trail or corridor.

MSA Officers and Clubs

Association Officers



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Big Sky Snowriders
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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
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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
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Butte, MT 59702
406-782-4613

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

Montana Nightriders
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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.ridecooky.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

*2021-2022 MSA Snowmobile Club of the Year



Montana Snowmobile Association Districts

DISTRICT 1

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DISTRICT 2

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DISTRICT 3

Colter Bickford
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DISTRICT 4

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DISTRICT 11

VACANT

DISTRICT 12

VACANT

DISTRICT 13

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NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING

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Ready to Groom!

Groomer Training Class Completed

It was a packed house as groomers from around the state attended the state mandatory groomer recertification class hosted at Montana Wild in Helena. This course is conducted every two years.

Special thanks to Seth, MT FWP snowmobile program for putting together this course; Rodney Alne, backcountry survival guide safety training, and Piston Bully representatives for their on-site support.



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Share your news and upcoming events!

Content deadline is the 15th of the month. Not sure what to say but still want to get your club in the newsletter? Let's talk!

Email: news@snowmobilemt.org



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Fred Bailey



Happy belated Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year. Wow, it seems way too early to be saying those words but they're here. It's great to spend time with family and friends and to catch up with what has happened during the past year or even longer with the COVID restrictions now gone.

While doing your Christmas shopping remember the business that supports our sport and likely suffered during the past several years and families that are still recovering.

I would like to thank all our volunteers that have donated so much time and energy and even money to keep snowmobiling alive and thriving, we truly would not be here without each and every one of you, it truly is great to be part of such a hardworking and caring community.

And last, I want to ask each of you to take part in fighting our land closures. We need your voice and comments to fight these closures, numbers do make a difference, and when you comment, you are added to the numbers that make us a strong and a unified group.

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

Snowmobiler profile

- The average age of a snowmobiler is 53 years old.
- The average snowmobiler spends \$2,500 each year on snowmobile-related recreation.
- 50% of snowmobilers trailer their snowmobiles to ride. 50% snowmobile from their primary residence or have a vacation home where they keep and use their snowmobiles.
- Snowmobilers are caring neighbors, they raised over \$3 million for charity annually.
- There are 3000+ snowmobile clubs worldwide, involved in trail grooming, charity fundraising, & family activities.
- There are over 42 registered non-profit associations representing snowmobilers in the US, Canada, Europe, and Russia.
- Snowmobiling is great exercise bringing people outdoors and interacting with nature and each other. It is an invigorating sport, great for stress release and good mental health.

Government Affairs



Your MSA Membership at Work

Kudos to you! We are a passionate group and belonging to an organized snowmobile club such as MSA is a key sticking point to help protect our snowmobiling interest. While MSA has a strong and effective grassroots organization powered by the collective voice of its 26 clubs and MSA members, there is no substitute for a professional "boots-on-the-ground" lobbying presence at the State Capitol to augment this effort.

Our Lobbyist

MSA has signed on with lobbyist Margaret Morgan to help advocate and protect our interests. The key to Margaret's job is to educate and advocate. "New legislatures do not know us. And we can't expect them to know our issues," said Morgan. "There is nobody to tell your story," and that's where Margaret jumps into action. Ultimately, advocacy is a "people" business, and the best advocates know not only who the key players are but also how to reach them. It's Margaret's job to tell our story and monitor over 1,200 bill drafts that may even remotely affect what we care about during this upcoming legislative session.

Simply put, without strong advocacy, our association has virtually no hope of protecting its interests. As the saying goes, 'If you're not at the table, you're probably on the menu.'

After Margaret identifies a potential item of interest, she communicates with the MSA leadership team. Based on the feedback she receives she will support, oppose, or amend the bill. To successfully perform her job, Morgan remains in constant contact with lawmakers, legislative aides, and advocates at peer organizations. As our lobbyist, she maintains pressure to shore up the association's position.

Grassroots Support

"Montana relies on a citizen legislature, they are your neighbors, they are you and me," states Morgan. "Grassroots is critical to our success and our legislatures like to hear from folks on the ground, those that groom and ride our trails," said Morgan.

When we need you, everybody will need to jump on board right away to help support or defend upcoming bills that may affect our sport. Look for upcoming posts on Facebook and email from MSA during the session that may ask club members to contact their legislatures either by phone or provide written feedback to help defend and support our status as a Montana snowmobiler.

Many Thanks

Your continued support and membership with MSA are greatly appreciated. It takes many people and hundreds of volunteer hours to make this a successful organization. Belonging to MSA helps us have a larger and more concentrated voice in the political process. Success comes from having a strong voice and many advocates among the state's leaders who deserve our support.



MSA Leaders Attending Upcoming Treasure State Resources Association Legislative Reception

The Montana Snowmobile Association has participated in this event for a number of sessions and is widely attended by legislators and other officials.

MSA has often been the "star of the show" for bringing in snow bikes or other "toys" that people like to see. MSA leaders use this opportunity to have engaging conversations with our legislatures who attend the reception. The impact? Our legislatures find out how snowmobiling deeply benefits their communities and how they can get involved to support us in return.

(This event is not open to the public.)



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WEST YELLOWSTONE, MT 59758
(406) 646-7656





Restoring the Tin Shack—Dawn of Its 50th Year Sweet Grass County Recreation Association

The Tin Shack at Yeager Mine and Million Dollar Basin is well known and used by winter and summer recreationists—hikers, snowmobilers, mountain-bike-, horse-, ATV-, and motorcycle riders. It is about 50 miles south of Big Timber in the Boulder River drainage of the Absaroka-Beartooth Mountains, maintained by the Sweet Grass County Recreation Association, Inc., (Recreation Association). The Tin Shack was once a shower house for area miners and sits on private land surrounded by Gallatin National Forest and is owned by the Cowles Mining Company. The Recreation Association entered into a perpetual occupancy agreement with Cowles mining in 1974. Our Recreation Association, founded in 1973, benefits outdoor users of all interests and persuasions. The founding members of the Recreation Association were avid snowmobilers and outdoor recreationists, stewards of the land, and proponents of multiple use and access. The tradition continues today with many active snowmobilers and ATVers attending events like the annual snowmobile family fun and poker run, held the last Saturday of February.

A workgroup of over a dozen volunteers made the trek for restoration work on the Tin Shack on August 28, unloading at the Natural Bridge Falls parking area 28 miles south of Big Timber. ATVs and UTVs transported workers, equipment, and materials across the rugged 20 miles. One of the bridges south of Box Canyon washed out due to the June flooding. No matter, users have created a crossing adjacent to the old bridge allowing our volunteers to easily cross the Main Boulder River. The final eight miles to the cabin require skilled maneuvering around and over boulders and debris left by the extreme runoff and deposits on the primitive road. The Tin Shack was in need of repairs and maintenance. Rock chucks invaded, chewing through the original flooring. It was nearly 50 years earlier that the founding members of the Recreation Association made the same trek with supplies and materials to improve the unoccupied and unused cabin for use as an emergency shelter.



Photo credits: Kathy and Lloyd Rue

Our volunteer work party cleaned the cabin, installed $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch treated plywood over the original flooring, sealed varmint holes, repaired the roof, fortified the table, installed a new bench, re-rocked the foundation, and cut and stocked firewood inside the shack. It was a full 12-hour day of work, adventure, camaraderie, a flat tire, and fine ale from our local brewery.

Our Tin Shack is once again restored to a better condition. The Recreation Association will groom the snow-covered trail to the Tin Shack this winter, a tradition entering its 50th year.

AVALANCHE SAFETY

'Low Danger' is ALWAYS Danger

By Ian Hoyer

Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Center

North American Public Avalanche Danger Scale			
<i>Avalanche danger is determined by the likelihood, size, and distribution of avalanches. Safe backcountry travel requires training and experience. You control your risk by choosing when, where, and how you travel.</i>			
Danger Level	Travel Advice	Likelihood	Size and Distribution
5 - Extreme	 Extraordinarily dangerous avalanche conditions. Avoid all avalanche terrain.	Natural and human-triggered avalanches certain.	Very large avalanches in many areas.
4 - High	 Very dangerous avalanche conditions. Travel in avalanche terrain not recommended.	Natural avalanches likely; human-triggered avalanches very likely.	Large avalanches in many areas; or very large avalanches in specific areas.
3 - Considerable	 Dangerous avalanche conditions. Careful snowpack evaluation, cautious route-finding, and conservative decision-making essential.	Natural avalanches possible; human-triggered avalanches likely.	Small avalanches in many areas; or large avalanches in specific areas; or very large avalanches in isolated areas.
2 - Moderate	 Heightened avalanche conditions on specific terrain features. Evaluate snow and terrain carefully; identify features of concern.	Natural avalanches unlikely; human-triggered avalanches possible.	Small avalanches in specific areas; or large avalanches in isolated areas.
1 - Low	 Generally safe avalanche conditions. Watch for unstable snow on isolated terrain features.	Natural and human-triggered avalanches unlikely.	Small avalanches in isolated areas or extreme terrain.

A "Low" avalanche danger rating does not mean no avalanche danger. When snow is on the ground there is always risk of getting caught in a slide. While conditions are less dangerous during Low danger, each danger rating holds its own perils.

The possibility of very small avalanches fits within any danger rating. Small slides generally won't bury you on most slopes but can cause trouble if you're riding above rocks, trees, or gullies. Even a few inches of moving snow is dangerous in the wrong place. Think about the consequences of an avalanche before riding a slope.

It is also possible to have larger slides when the danger is rated Low. Sometimes forecasters are missing information that conditions are more dangerous. If it snows 6 inches at our weather station and 2 ft in the next valley over, there is no way for us to know when we're writing the forecast at 6 in the morning. There may be a buried weak layer that we haven't found out about yet in less-used areas where forecasters receive fewer observations. Keep your senses tuned. If you see conditions that seem more dangerous than the forecast (e.g. more new snow, more wind, an unexpected weak layer), back off slopes you might have otherwise ridden. When you get home contact your local avalanche center and let them know what you saw. You can also trigger a slide on a weak layer that was almost (but not quite) unreactive weeks after the last snowfall.

Last season, a rider near West Yellowstone died in an avalanche on a Low danger day. It was a steep slope, rolling over to 45 degrees (what does 'unassuming' mean in this context?) just off the trail and surrounded by trees. The slide, less than a foot deep and 75 ft wide, carried him into a tree and partially buried him. Unfortunately, while they all had rescue gear his partners weren't watching him while he side-hilled this steep slope. Once they realized he was missing they found and dug him out, but it took an extra 10-15 minutes because they didn't know there had been an avalanche.

Don't let your guard down during low danger. Be prepared for avalanches, regardless of the danger rating. That means wearing an avalanche beacon and *always* having a shovel and probe in your backpack, having partners watching when you ride steep slopes, and only stopping in areas that don't have steep slopes above. If someone gets caught, being dug out by a partner within 10 minutes gives the best chance of surviving.

MSA DECEMBER BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

- **Groomer training** was a huge success with nearly 60 attendees present from around the state.
- **MSA Annual Awards nominations** are due December 31, 2022. Entry forms are available online.
- **The MSA scholarship competition** has kicked off. Encourage your students to enter. See page 10
- **MSA SOP** updates have been drafted. This guideline will make it easy for the new regime onboarding process.
- **Attention Clubs: Grant applications** available - Visit Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks. Three very important grants are available for clubs! Get your applications in before the upcoming deadlines.
 - **Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Deadline: January 31, 2023**
 - **Trail Stewardship Deadline: January 31, 2023**
 - **Off-Highway Vehicle Program Deadline: February 28, 2023**
- **Margaret Morgan** is ready for the upcoming session - stay tuned for updates.
- **2023 Trans-Montana Ride** - almost all past riders will be returning for another great adventure. Get signed up today for part or all of the ride!
- The **MSA Ride and Annual Banquet** will be held in February in Helena. Details coming soon!
- **District Rep Membership Challenge!** Get the word out about why it's important to be part of MSA. It's not only important for your local club to hold membership, but individual members should join as well.



The Little Belt Snowmobile Club had a fun float in the Lewistown Christmas Stroll Parade and passed out candy down Lewistown's Main Street. The truck was driven by Matt Helm and candy was passed out by Thomas Helm. Photo credit Bethany Helm.



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ATTENTION CLUBS



MSA Annual Award Nominations

Submission Deadline
December 31, 2022

1. Snowmobiler of the year
2. Youth snowmobiler of the year
3. Snowmobiling family of the year
4. Snowmobiler dealer of the year
5. Snowmobile club of the year
6. Groomer of the year

Nomination forms are available on
www.snowmobileMT.org



\$500 Annual MSA Scholarship Competition

Question: What is the beneficial impact snowmobiling has had on you? Give us some tips that you would tell your peers or fellow club members

Entry Deadline: March 31, 2023

Open to high school seniors who are going to college or trade school, post-college, continuing their education.

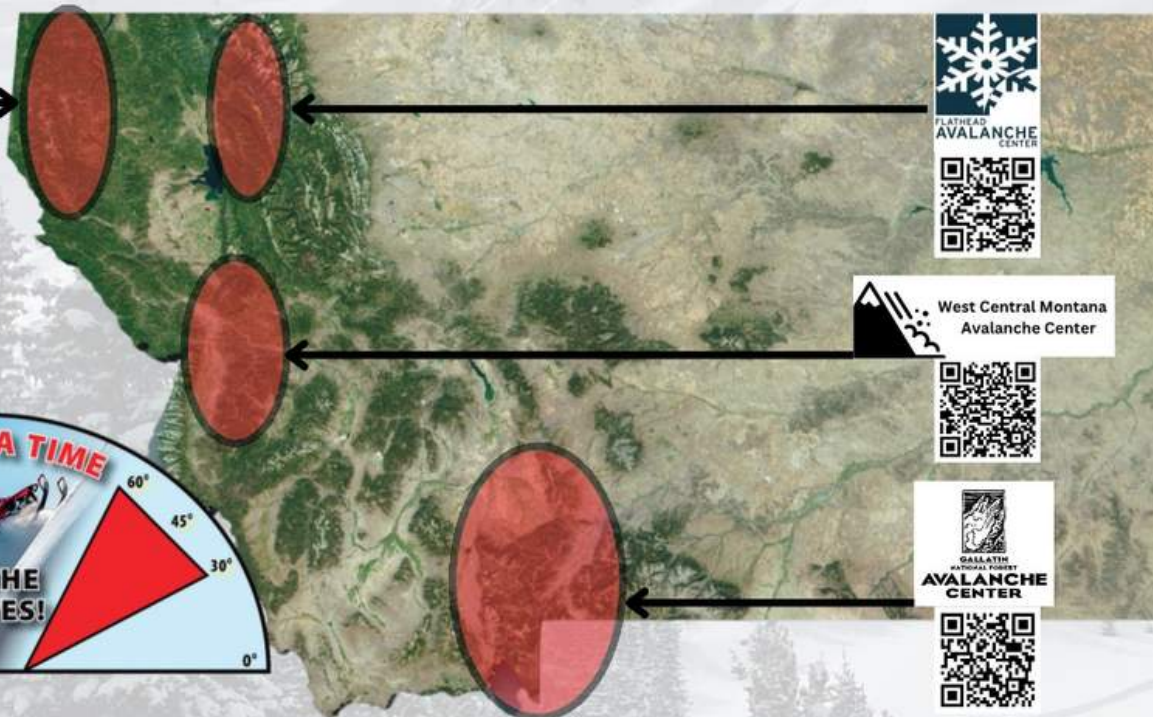
Download the application guideline and submit the application form along with your entry.

Two ways to submit your essay:

- WRITTEN ESSAY: Access the form online - Make sure your application and written essay arrive by the designated deadline.
- CREATE A VIDEO: Create and upload your submission video to YouTube along with your application form.

Visit www.snowmobilemt.org for details.

Get Your Local Avalanche Forecast



www.mtavalanche.com - www.missoulaavalanche.org - www.flatheadavalanche.org
www.idahopanhandleavalanche.org



MONTANA SNOWMOBILE PROGRAM UPDATE



By Seth McArthur

The phone has been ringing off the hook with all the early snow we have received in western Montana. Snowmobile areas vary on when they open to snowmobile use. Some areas open as soon as there is snow while other areas open on a certain date. Please check with the local USFS district office where you live or want to ride.

Seeley Lake is in the process of receiving a PB400 this season. 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.

Please find an avalanche class to take this December or January. Your life or those you ride with may depend on it. There are many classes being offered all over the state by snowmobile clubs and avalanche centers. Make the effort to practice using your transceivers as a group. Most of the people we lost in avalanches last year had avalanche gear on, but those they rode with did not know how to use it. Make sure you know the avalanche conditions where you are riding. These can change daily.

Please be safe this holiday season and cherish your time with friends and family. You can contact me with any questions or comments at smcarthur@mt.gov or 406-444-3753.

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

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.



The Snow is Here!

PLANNING YOUR SNOWMOBILE TRIP

Planning is a large part of having a successful snowmobile trip. Prior to riding, you should plan where you will ride, how long you will ride, and with whom you will ride. Planning also includes informing someone of your trip plans.

It is strongly recommended that you never snowmobile alone – always ride with a buddy.

Where you will ride: Before you start riding, decide the routes, and trails you will be riding. Create a plan using detailed maps for the planned riding area.

How long you will ride: When choosing a trail with the maps, always consider how long you want to ride. Determine the time period by the maps and, if possible, an experienced rider's judgment. Take into account passengers or other riders, gasoline/supplies, and added time for stopping and enjoying sights along the trail.

Who you will ride with: When riding snowmobiles, always ride in a group or use the buddy system, preferably a buddy who will stay with you throughout your journey and not leave you behind. If you are new, ride with someone who is experienced, patient, and willing to help you learn the proper way to snowmobile. If you are riding in a group, choose a group of riders with equal or better riding experience, or a group of riders who will be considerate of your abilities.

Notify someone of your plans: Before you begin your trip, make sure someone reliable knows where you plan to go, whom you are going with, when you are leaving, and when you will return. If the trip involves an overnight stay, include information on where you will be staying and contact numbers. This is most important since time becomes critical in the event of an accident or an emergency.

Source: saferiderssafetyawareness.org

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
 And get entered today!

UPCOMING EVENTS

AROUND THE STATE

- December 31, 2022 - **Deadline, MSA Annual Award Nominations** (See page 9)
 January 14-22, 2023 - International Snowmobile Safety Week
 January 14, 2023 - Vintage Snowmobile Show & Fundraiser, The Miracle of America Museum, Polson
 January 21, 2023 - DAV Moonlight Fun Run, Ponderosa Snow Warriors - Lincoln
 January 21 - 22, 2023 - Winterfest Vintage Snowmobile Show & Ride - Lolo Hotsprings
 January 31, 2023 - Grant Application Deadlines (See page 9)
 February 1-8, 2023 - Trans-Montana Charity Ride (See page 14)
 February 4, 2023 - MSA Annual Club Ride - Helena
 February 4, 2023 - MSA Annual Awards Banquet - Helena
 February 10-14, 2023 - Race to the Sky - racetothsky.org
 February 11-20, 2023 - "Take a Friend Snowmobiling" Campaign
 February 18, 2023 - Poker Run, Upper Yellowstone Snowmobile Club, Cooke City
 February 25 - 26, 2023 - Vintage Fun Run, Ponderosa Snow Warriors - Lincoln
 February 28, 2023 - OHV Grant Application Deadline (See page 9)
 March 10-11, 2023 - 27th Annual Hog Roast Fundraiser, Upper Yellowstone, Cooke City
 March 31, 2023 - Deadline, MSA Scholarship Entry

AROUND THE REGION

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

AVALANCHE EDUCATION

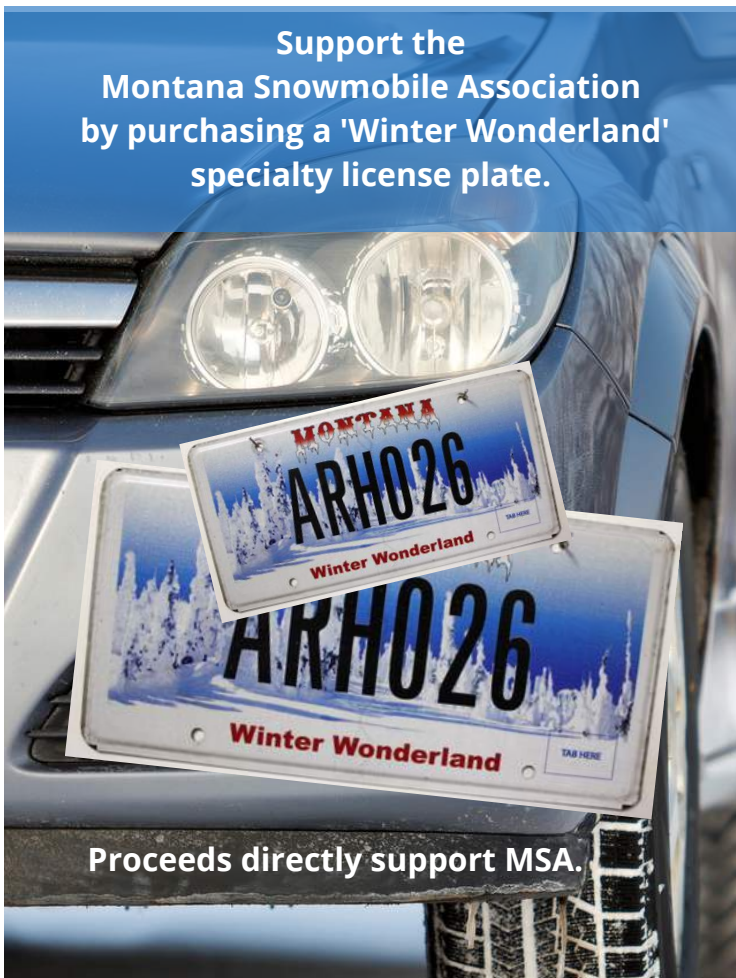
Visit Avalanche.org to find an upcoming class!

Share your Club News and Events!

Email: news@snowmobilemt.org

Event Deadline: 15th of the month

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 Montana Snowmobile Association
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Proceeds directly support MSA.



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TRANS-MONTANA CHARITY RIDE

Rider signup www.trans-montana.org

The Countdown is On!

My thumb is getting that twitch as I look outside and see snow on the ground!

Behind the scenes, we're getting ready for Trans Montana in February (which will probably be less than 2 months away when you read this!).

First, if you already are planning on attending some or all of the rides, please drop me a quick note at leader@trans-montana.org so that I can plan for you. And if you're still on the fence, check out this video from last year...I think you'll like what you see. Trans Montana ride brings snowmobiles from across the U.S. for fun & charity

Banquet & Auction

Second, the Helena Snowdrifters will be hosting the banquet and we would appreciate any items you might be able to collect for the auction. So, if you happen to be talking to a local business, ask them if they'd like to make a donation for Trans-Montana!

Day Riders

Next, I'd like to remind everyone that you don't have to ride the entire ride! Whether you come for a day or all of it, we would just love seeing you for any part of it.

We love meeting new folks and you can't beat getting a free guide service to an area you might not have ridden before! So please, if you can't make the entire week, we get it—and we look forward to seeing you! We ask for a \$50 donation for each day up to two days—more online on the Rider Signup page at www.trans-montana.org.

Fundraising

Finally, I've fielded a few questions about fundraising lately and I thought I'd share some ideas. For full-time riders, we're asking that each rider collect donations or donate directly \$500 (plus a \$75 registration fee). We raised that from \$350, but if you can't quite get \$500, don't sweat it. Also, you can collect donations from friends, family, or local businesses that count toward your \$500. It doesn't have to come from you! We even have a Donate page on the website where friends can donate on your behalf quickly and easily. And if you get new items donated for the auction, we'll count that too. So be creative, and don't let the donation make you stay home!

Keep doing those snow dances and we'll see you in February!

Mark Smolen

Trans-Montana Charity Ride Co-Chair
www.trans-montana.org

Join our growing community and make something happen in yours.



Manage Your Membership Online

Join online and an account will be automatically created for you. Already a MSA member? Manage your address change and subsequent renewals online. If we don't have a recorded email on file for you, please use the "Contact Us" button and let us know what your email address is so we can update our system. Visit www.snowmobileMT.org.



Become a Business Member!

Your sponsorship not only benefits the Club but also provides excellent exposure for your business or organization. Your business listing will be advertised to our members and the public through our website and club newsletters. We support those that support us.

Montana Snowmobile Association

Membership Application 2022/23

Join online 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

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- Park tours available with epic scenery



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- Ride from our front door to the trail head