

Montana

SNOWMOBILE

Association



MONTANA SNOWMOBILE NEWS

NEWSLETTER

January 2022

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Aluminum Shortage is Over!

**Show your support with a
'Winter Wonderland' MSA
sponsored plate on your vehicle
and trailer. Plate proceeds
benefit the Montana
Snowmobile Association.**



'Distinctly Montana' Highlights Snowmobile Clubs & Community

by Lacey Middlestead
Distinctly Montana

Featured People & Places: November 2021

When winter descends on Montana and drapes the land in white, outdoor enthusiasts flock to the trails to savor each power-filled moment. From cross-country skiers, snowshoers, and fat-tire bikers to snow bikers, dog sledders, and snowmobilers, the trails see an incredible variety of use. What many people don't realize is the efforts from members of Montana's snowmobile clubs that keep the trails they love groomed and maintained.

When club members aren't rallying together to prepare trails for winter riding, they are building community among fellow riders and promoting the fun, family-friendly nature of the sport.

Read the full story online.

www.distinctlymontana.com/montanas-snowmobile-clubs

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to this great article showcasing our sport, community, grooming efforts, and clubs! KUDOS!

The Hierarchy of Organizations

A Who's Who Guide to the Snowmobiling Community

International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association (ISMA)

An organization representing the four snowmobile manufacturers, Arctic Cat, Ski-Doo/Bombardier Recreational Products (BRP), Polaris, and Yamaha. ISMA partners with ACSA and coordinates committees within the industry to handle concerns such as snowmobile safety, the promotion of the sport, keeping accurate statistics, reporting industry growth, and the positive economic impact the sport has throughout the world.

American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA)

A non-profit national association dedicated to providing leadership and advancing the efforts of all snowmobile-affiliated organizations to promote the expansion and education of responsible snowmobiling in the US. Acts as national coordinator and spokesperson for state volunteer snowmobile associations and clubs.

State Associations - Montana Snowmobile Association (MSA)

MSA is our state organization uniting the local snowmobile communities and coordinates with FWP to assist clubs with grooming funds, support trail access, provide environmental event insurance, support legislative voice that protects and represents snowmobilers riding access. (Visit snowmobilemt.org)

Local Snowmobile Clubs

Local organizations are invaluable to the community. Members maintain, build and improve trails in which we ride. MSA recognizes 26 Montana clubs in 13 regions.

SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS AND GROUPS

Western Chapter of the American Council of Snowmobile Associations (WCSA)

Uniting Montana, Utah, Oregon, Idaho, Washington, and Wyoming state associations, along with British Columbia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan. The Western Alliance was formed to champion common goals to organize, protect and address issues affecting snowmobiling in the Western United States and Canada.

International Association of Snowmobile Administrators (IASA)

Government employees and paid administrators who coordinate government action pertaining to the snowmobile industry and in particular, manage the safety training programs and trail systems within the states and provinces.

National Snowmobile Foundation (NSF)

A 501C3 foundation designed to educate the public about safe snowmobiling and assist snowmobile organizations with fundraising for charity.

International Snowmobile Congress (ISC)

All snowmobile representation groups meet annually, exchange information, and address issues and concerns common to the industry.

International Snowmobile Tourism Council (ISTC)

ISTC is an organization of tourism bureau representatives from the states, provinces, and territories who work to promote snowmobiling within the tourism industry.

Visit gosnowmobiling.org and snowmobilers.org to view a comprehensive list of snowmobile organizations.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Montana Snowmobile Association

By Fred Bailey

Well, it looks like most of us had a white Christmas, mother nature was holding out but came through.

In this issue, we wanted to thank all of the businesses that support MSA. Not only do they support us with their business membership but many offer their support through services and parts discounts to MSA members. Remember to support these businesses.

Also in this issue is a list of snowmobile organizations, from international to local, that are working with us to keep snowmobiling alive. We do this by fighting land closures, excessive regulations, and other pressures against us. I would like to point out that almost all of these organizations are made up of volunteers willing to donate their time to a sport they love. The collective hours would amaze us!

Last but not least, thank you to all the members of MSA and our 26 clubs. Your membership and input matter. During one of our travel plan processes, we had organized a meeting with the Forest Ranger. After the meeting, he came up to me and commented he had no idea there were that many snowmobilers. We do not make ourselves known, nor are we vocal enough when area closures are in front of us, as an organization we need to be better advocates for our sport. We are getting better but we still have a ways to go.

Happy New Year,
~ Fred

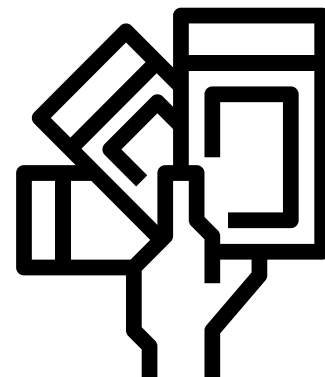
Montana Snowmobile Association
406-431-9402 | president@snowmobilemt.org

Montana Resident Snowmobile Trail Pass & Permit

Snowmobiles operating on public land must purchase a trail pass. Trail Passes apply to all “mechanized equipment” including snowmobiles, motorized snow bikes, and fat tire pedal bikes.

To purchase a trail pass visit fwp.mt.gov and purchase through the online licensing system or passes can be purchased and picked up through a participating vendor.

Trail Passes are available seasonally from October to April and valid for two seasons.





BACKCOUNTRY RIDING ESSENTIALS

Snowmobiles open the door to the wonderful world of winter. Whether you're new to the sport or an old pro, it's important to be aware of the snow conditions and avalanche threats before heading out for the day. Pack as a minimum the essentials listed here to keep you safe.

Ready to Ride?

- Get the Gear
- Get the Training
- Get the Forecast
- Practice with your transceiver and riding group
- Always ride with a knowledgeable partner.

Get familiar with the area avalanche centers in which you ride. We highly encourage all riders to take an Avalanche Safety, Rescue, or Level 1 course. There are a number of programs to help pay for training! Find a class near you.

Regional Avalanche Centers

- Flathead Avalanche Center
- Missoula Avalanche Foundation
- Gallatin Avalanche Center
- Idaho Panhandle Avalanche Center

Packing List

Avalanche Safety

Transceiver (i.e. Tracker)
Avalanche airbag (i.e. Float)
Shovel
Probe
Snow study tools

Communication/Navigation

Two-way radio (i.e. BC Link)
Map/Compass/GPS
Cell phone

Nutrition

High-calorie food
Water

Insulation

Extra gloves
Extra layers

Sun Protection

High SPF sunscreen
Lip/nose balm
Sunglasses
Hat

Emergency

Bivy sack/tarp
Waterproof firestarter/lighter
Survival kit
First aid/repair kit
Multi-tool
Headlamp
Extra batteries

Source: Backcountry Access



MONTANA SNOWMOBILE PROGRAM UPDATE

By Seth McArthur

It is hard to believe that another year has passed, and we are now looking forward to 2022. These past couple of years have been very eventful ones. We have seen some of the worst fires across the state, the loss of family and close friends, and inconsistent snow and rain throughout Montana. Wise River received all-new grooming equipment and the Montana Snowmobile Association elected a new President. Through these ups and downs, one constant we can all count on is the dedication and efforts of our snowmobile clubs and their membership.

I personally want to thank all the clubs and their members for dedicating countless hours to further enhance and promote the sport of snowmobiling in Montana. I ask those of you who are not members of a snowmobile club or have let your membership lapse, please reconsider joining with us to share your talents and abilities with your local club. I am amazed at the charity work that many of the clubs are involved in. Help them strengthen your communities. These efforts better our membership and benefit Montanans everywhere. The snowmobile clubs are the foundation of a successful grooming program.

Please be safe and avalanche aware.

Sincerely,
Seth

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



No Trespassing 'SLOGAN' Challenge



Send In Your Best Ideas! #Know Where To Go Or there will be NO where to go. Trespassing is the #1 reason for lost trails and riding areas on public and private lands. The Slogan Challenge is open to all original ideas and designs.

Submit your original poster design by January 15, 2022. Prizes will be awarded to the top 3 ideas or submittals. Prize winners will be notified by February 4, 2022.

Submit your Slogans to: info@snowmobilers.org. This Challenge is open to snowmobilers of all ages. Participation in the challenge constitutes the entrant's full and unconditional agreement of acceptance of the rules and decisions of ACSA. **For more information visit snowmobilers.org.**



28th Annual

SNOWMOBILE SAFETY EDUCATION WEEK

January 15 - 23, 2022

**ONE AT A TIME
ON THE SLOPES!**
RESPECT THE RED ZONE,
IT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE.

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



RESPECT THE RED ZONE, IT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE

One at a Time on the Slopes.

Avalanches that involve people do not randomly occur. Over 90 percent of the time, the victims or someone in their group triggers the snow slide. This means that avalanches could generally be avoided if snowmobilers would learn to follow avalanche safety procedures. Help ensure that snowmobilers who ride in avalanche terrain learn simple things that can help save lives. Find an avalanche class near you.

**YOUTH OPERATORS
NEED SAFETY
TRAINING**
KEEP THEM SAFE.
GET THEM TRAINED.

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



YOUTH OPERATORS NEED SAFETY TRAINING

Keep them Safe. Keep Them Trained.

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.

Safety Education Tool Kit

A wide range of materials are provided in recognition of the varying local priorities across the Snowbelt. The Tool Kit features downloadable posters that provide snowmobile clubs a choice of materials to help address your local priorities and issues. For these and other safety posters, visit snowmobilers.org.

- January 8, 2022 - Jackpine Savages' Fun Run, Wise River (Jackpine Savages)
- January 15-23, 2022 - International Snowmobile Safety Week! (See page 6)
- January 22, 2022 - Pancake Breakfast and Fun Run, Lincoln (Ponderosa Snow Warriors)
- January 29, 2022 - Ray Peterson Annual Fun Run, Eureka (Ten Lakes Snowmobile Club)
- 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 (Open to all members)
- February 12-21, 2022 - "Take a Friend Snowmobiling" Campaign
- February 19, 2022 - Disabled American Veteran's Moonlight Fun Run, Lincoln (Ponderosa Snow Warriors)
- 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 snowmobilemt.org)
- March 5, 2022 - Vintage Snowmobile/Scholarship Fun Run, Lincoln (Ponderosa Snow Warriors)
- March 11-12, 2022 - 26th Annual Hog Roast Fundraiser/Fun Run, Cooke City (Upper Yellowstone Snowmobile)
- March 12, 2022 - Family BBQ and Fun Run, Eureka (Ten Lakes Snowmobile Club)
- 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

Visit Avalanche.org to find an upcoming class!
Seasonal. Free Avalance Safety Training every weekend - Cooke City

Share your Club News and Events
Email: news@snowmobilemt.org
Deadline: 22nd of the month

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

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



The Sledder's Pledge

- I will operate my snowmobile only when sober.
- I will drive within the limits of my machine and my own abilities.
- I will obey the rules and laws of the state or province I am visiting.
- I will be careful when crossing roads and always cross at a right angle to traffic.
- I will keep my machine in good condition and perform a pre-ride inspection.
- I will wear appropriate clothing including gloves, boots, and helmet.
- I will let someone know my planned route, my destination, and my expected return.
- I will treat the outdoors with respect.
- I will not litter or damage trees or other vegetation.
- I will respect other people's property and rights and lend a hand when I see someone in need.
- I will not snowmobile where it is prohibited.



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Follow us on Facebook
"transMontanaRide"

TRANS-MONTANA SNOWMOBILE CHARITY RIDE UPDATE

It's nearing the end of December as I write this and I'd like to also thank all the businesses in this great state (and many others!) that are supporting the Trans-Montana Charity Ride and our riders. It's really amazing when companies like Klim, BCA, SCS, and many many others step up and provide such critical support for our great cause. As many of you are aware, our state has seen suicide reach epidemic proportions across our population. Our efforts with NAMI Montana are more critical than ever this year.

If you haven't seen our Trans-Montana Sweepstakes yet, check out the incredible prizes we have, courtesy of national and local businesses as well as our clubs! This is your chance to outfit yourself with all the latest Klim gear for \$5!

We are doubling down with our efforts and I'm really moved as I hear from our riders telling me how a local company is writing a check or providing support in another way. We will have approximately 30 full-time riders this year coming from Minnesota, Nebraska, Colorado, Oregon, and all across Montana. I think we also will set a record for the number of women on this year's ride—this is a ride for all. Please pass the word, let's keep it growing! And it's not too late to join us. If you can't join us, buy some sweepstakes tickets, support a rider, or just share our link with your friends or your Facebook page.

As I think of all these positive things at this time of year, I can't help but channel my inner Bing Crosby and say: "I'll fall asleep counting my blessings!"

Mark Smolen

Co-Chair Trans-Montana
leader@trans-montana.org



Join the Ride! February 4 - 12, 2022
www.trans-montana.org

This is a unique outdoor adventure and all fundraising goes to a good cause. Please come join the fun! Proceeds from Trans-Montana will go to NAMI, all money raised stays in Montana.

Thank You Business Members For Your Continued Support!

Show your support to those that support our sport! To become a business member, please visit snowmobilemt.org.

Antlers Lodge- Cooke City-Silver Gate
 Axiom Precision - Whitefish
 Backcountry Adventures Inc - West Yellowstone
 Backcountry Sled Patriots - Missoula
 Barry Bregan Trucking - White Sulphur Springs
 Bart Bitz Farms Inc - Big Sandy
 Bearclaw Powersports, LLC - Columbia Falls
 Bob's Bar - Neihart
 Bradford Balance & Machine - Kalispell
 Brandin' Iron Inn - West Yellowstone
 Chili O'Brien's Catering - Helena
 Copper City Sheet Metal - Anaconda
 Dalen Dental Clinic - Whitefish
 Dan's Machine - Belgrade
 Darrell Tuss Painting - Lewistown
 Dunne Communications - Anaconda
 Eureka Auto Repair - Eureka
 Evig Enterprises, LLC - Billings
 Experimental Warplanes - Saint Ignatius
 Fickler Oil Co Inc - Butte
 Food Roundup - West Yellowstone
 Freedom Bank - Columbia Falls
 Friends of GNFA - Bozeman
 Goobers Insulation - Helena
 Granite Sportland - Philipsburg
 Great Northern Heating and Air - Kalispell
 Great Northern Powder Guides - Whitefish
 Helena Cycle Center - Helena
 Howell Septic & Excavating - West Yellowstone
 K & K Roofing - Butte
 Kelly Inn West Yellowstone - West Yellowstone

Kenworthy Electric Inc - Sheridan
 Kevin Miller, DDS - Helena
 Kings Hill Grooming Association - Neihart
 KM Construction Company - Bozeman
 Knowles Financial Advisors - Great Falls
 Leepers Ponderosa Motel - Lincoln
 Lincoln's Silver \$ - Haugan
 Mark Sverdsten Logging - Cataldo
 Menard Construction - White Sulphur Springs
 Mitchells Crash Repair - Great Falls
 Montana Boat Center - Helena
 Mount Helena Motorsports - Helena
 MT Poverty Drilling - Lincoln
 Northwest Motorsports - Libby
 Olympus Technical Services - Helena
 Pair A Dice Bar - Butte
 Penco Power Products - Kalispell
 Prescription Design Hearing Center - Great Falls
 Pintler Petroleum - Philipsburg
 Priced-Rite Auto Sales - Missoula
 Response Equip. Specialists - Kalispell
 Rocky Mountain Power - Helena
 Rocky Mtn Surveyors - Plains
 S & S Sports Inc - Ronan
 Silver Express - Haugan
 Skyline Guest Ranch - Cooke City-Silver Gate
 Smoot Honey Company - Power
 Sports City Cyclery - Great Falls
 Stage Coach Inn - West Yellowstone
 Stokes Contracting LLC - Columbia Falls
 Summit Roofing Inc - Missoula
 The Filling Station - Seeley Lake
 TMS Equipment Services, LLC - Whitefish
 Top Gun Auto Body - Helena
 WTJ Trucking Inc - Belgrade

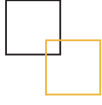


New District Representative

New District 8 Rep, **Kevin Horne** -- representing the Ponderosa Snow Warriors and the Helena Snowdrifters. (See page 11 for a complete listing.)

District Reps play a vital role in acting as a liaison between MSA and the local clubs they represent. Thirteen reps make up MSA's Board of Directors to help oversee organizational activities, provide direction and financial oversight, as well as advocate for the betterment of MSA and our snowmobiling communities.

Association Officers



FRED BAILEY
President
406-431-9402
president@snowmobilemt.org

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

CONNIE WALTER
Treasurer
406-590-0386
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

snowmobilemt.org



Montana Snowmobile Association Districts

DISTRICT 1
Rick David
dist-one@snowmobilemt.org

DISTRICT 2
Mark Sverdsten
dist-two@snowmobilemt.org

DISTRICT 3
Vacant
dist-three@snowmobilemt.org

DISTRICT 4
Rex Caraker
dist-four@snowmobilemt.org

DISTRICT 5
Rex Caraker
dist-four@snowmobilemt.org

DISTRICT 6
Robert Yunck
dist-four@snowmobilemt.org

DISTRICT 7
Ron Shortridge
dist-four@snowmobilemt.org

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



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

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