

Montana

SNOWMOBILE NEWS

ISSUE 1 • OCTOBER 2022

snowmobilemt.org

2022-2023



It's Time to Renew!

JOIN MSA

Today

See Page 15

**Ready to welcome the
beautiful snow season?
We are!**



BRING ON WINTER!

Join our growing community and make something happen in yours.

The Montana State Snowmobile Association is a non-profit organization formed in 1972 by grass root individuals working to find a way to provide a groomed trail system to assure continued access to our public lands.

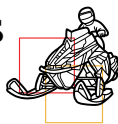
We are currently an organization with twenty-six member clubs and a trail system of 4,000+ miles of multi-use snowmobile trails. We represent snowmobilers as an organized group and promote proper recreational use of our land by working together with the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, the Forest Service, BLM, and land managers to develop and maintain quality trails and winter recreation opportunities. MSA helps fight for public land access and employs a lobbyist to represent our interest during the legislative session and helps clubs financially in their pursuit of keeping riding access. Our mission, briefly stated, protect, promote and enhance the family sport of snowmobiling.

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MSA Officers and Clubs

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Big Hole Snowmobile Club
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Big Sky Snowriders
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Livingston, MT 59047
406-220-0803

Bitterroot Ridgerunners
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Cabinet Ridge Riders
PO Box 1577
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Flathead Snowmobile Association
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Gallatin Valley Snowmobile Association
PO Box 3164
Bozeman, MT 59772
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Great Falls Snowmobile Club
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Lincoln County Sno-Kat Club
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Libby, MT 59923
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Little Belt Snowmobile Club
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Hobson, MT 59452
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Meagher County Little Belters
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White Sulphur Springs, MT 59645
406-547-3966

Mining City Trail Riders, Inc
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Butte, MT 59702
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Missoula, MT 59806
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www.missoulasnowgoers.org

Montana Nightriders
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Haugen, 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
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SnowmobileMT.org

*2021-2022 MSA Snowmobile Club of the Year



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Fred Bailey

Well, the heat seems to be letting up and the nights are cooling down, even seen some frost. Time to get the sleds ready to ride!

Even though we're not sledding in the summer there's still plenty going on. The lawsuit against the Helena National Forest is progressing, the Lincoln Prosperity Project is still going strong. We also had a chance to meet with the New Forest Supervisor in Dillon and have high hopes after talking with her.

She did tell us that we could expect to see the travel plan process begin next year in the forest under her supervision, stay tuned in and get involved.

The highlight of our summer was watching one of our own get inducted into the International Snowmobile Hall of Fame, a huge honor for Montana, congrats Jason Howell!

Keep up your snow dances, we're due for a good winter.

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



2023 Trans-Montana Charity Ride



TMR is gearing up for another great season! Keep an eye on www.trans-montana.org and save the dates Feb 1 - 8, 2023, for a chance to ride for a cause. This is a unique outdoor adventure and all fundraising goes to a good cause and stays in Montana.

We are also looking for corporate sponsors that would like to add their names to this great program! Contact Mark Smolen: sponsors@trans-montana.org

CONGRATULATIONS!



INTERNATIONAL SNOWMOBILE HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

JASON HOWELL
CLASS OF 2022

West Yellowstone, MT

Inventor, Designer, & Manufacturer

Jason started riding snowmobiles at a young age. His parents bought a Kitty Cat for him and his brother and they would ride for hours every night after school. This would mark the beginning of his passion for snowmobiling.

The Howell Family started an Arctic Cat/Yamaha dealership and the first snowmobile rental facility in the 1970s in West Yellowstone. He attended college at Montana Tech in Butte, Montana where he graduated with an engineering degree. Upon graduation, he started working for the State of Montana Department of Administration as a Supervising Engineer. Eventually, his passion for snowmobiling called him back to West Yellowstone to manage the Yellowstone Park sled rentals and the family's dealership.

Jason's involvement with Arctic Cat grew well beyond the dealership. With his input, Arctic Cat soon

realized they were headed down the wrong path with their mountain sled development.

In 1997 Jason was hired by Arctic Cat as their engineering team manager to head up the new mountain sled division. He convinced Arctic Cat to build a research and testing facility in the West Yellowstone area and Jason began recruiting his team of engineers.



The Howell Family, ISOF Awards Banquet,
Eagle River, WI (Including Bill Howell,
Jason's dad, (center-front) 1991 ISOF award recipient.

The result of those efforts became the M series (mountain) division. In 2008, Jason left Arctic Cat to come back to West Yellowstone to assist in the daily operation of the family snowmobile business. His mechanics and guiding certifications proved to be a good fit for the dealership and rental business. Jason became involved in other aspects of the snowmobile industry. In 2012, he began his service as the Vice President of the Montana Snowmobile Association (MSA) which continued for four years. He then served as President of MSA from 2016 to 2021.

The Howell Family played an instrumental role in keeping Yellowstone Park open to snowmobiling. Jason learned from the best. His father, Bill Howell, was also inducted into the International Snowmobile Hall of Fame in 1991.



Jason is involved in many other snowmobile related organizations. He is active in the Montana Trails Coalition, serves on the advisory committee for the State of Montana's Snowmobile Program, is a member of the Gallatin County Search and Rescue as well as serving on the West Yellowstone Grooming Association. He attends the International Snowmobile Congress each year and is active in the American Council of Snowmobile Associations. Jason is very deserving of induction into the International Snowmobile Hall of Fame, Class of 2022.



Mark (brother), Carole (mom) and Jason Howell

About ISHOF

Founded in 1984, the International Snowmobile Hall of Fame (known today as ISHOF) is on public display inside the World Snowmobile Headquarters in Eagle River, Wisconsin.

The International Snowmobile Hall of Fame was founded to provide a place for the snowmobiling community, governments, and related business organizations to recognize the dedicated individuals related to the worldwide sport of snowmobiling.



IN THE NEWS



Presenting the check to NAMI. Left: Connie (Treasurer) and Cliff Walter (Charity Chair), Matt Kuntz - NAMI Executive Director, and Fred Bailey MSA President.

TRANS-MONTANA CHARITY RIDE

On behalf of the Trans-Montana Charity Ride, MSA presents a check to NAMI Montana

For over eight years the Montana Snowmobile Association's Annual Trans-Montana Charity Ride has supported NAMI Montana raising over \$26,000 this past year. NAMI MT has rolled out PTSD support for veterans and the Youth Aware Mental Health Program that includes teen suicide prevention to over 30 school districts in Montana — Montana ranks one of the highest states in teen suicide.

The ride is a week-long ride through 5-6 of the best areas Montana has to offer (with the route changing every year). Each day a local club hosts the ride and guides the riders to the best areas, trails, and play areas. Snowmobilers and snow bikers are welcome for the day or the entire ride. Riders often come from MN, NE, CA, ID, and more.

Check 'transMontanaRide' on Facebook or the website for details on this year's highly anticipated event. Many, many thanks to Mark Smolen and Wally Deschene for making this event so successful. Thank you!



MONTANA TRAIL PASS

Purchase Your Montana Trail Pass for the 2022-23 Season

Ready for your first ride of the season? Residents must purchase a Trail Pass to legally ride on any of Montana's 4,000+ miles of groomed snowmobile trails. Passes are valid for two seasons and cost \$20. Trail Passes apply to all "mechanized equipment" including snowmobiles, motorized snow bikes, and fat-tire pedal bikes.

Apply online through the online licensing system at fwp.mt.gov or purchase your pass through a participating vendor.

MSA Represented at the 54th Annual International Snowmobile Congress

The International Snowmobile Council (ISC) snowmobile organizations from around the world met this summer in Dubuque, IA, to celebrate the sport and address issues that are common from a broader perspective. Participants include representatives from snowmobile and groomer manufacturers; state and federal administration, national, regional, and state snowmobile associations, local state snowmobile clubs (MSA), recreational motorized enforcement agencies; tourism, and media.



ISCA attendees

Top L - R: Ron Albee, Fred Bailey, Hunter Howell, Connie Walter, Cliff Walter, Jason Howell, Peggy Albee, Hannah Howell, and Julie Bailey

A Vision is Brewing for the Whole Sledding Family!

Young kids need a purpose; ISCA is encouraging State Associations to create a junior youth snowmobile council. MSA was excited to learn about this program and how organizations incorporated the junior members into their Club meetings. This new council will also be structured to have a youth representative on the MSA Leadership Board Association. As we get this season underway, look for more details coming your way on this exciting new program!

Montana District Area MSA Reps Realigned

New local area reps are in place for the season! 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.

Questions regarding MSA? Reach out to your area rep.

Club Tip: A guide to better grant \$\$\$

Keep your website updated. Believe it or not, your website factors into the equation when asking for grant money. As part of the grant process, the committee checks your club activity so make sure to keep your club's website and social posts up to date.



Membership Renewals

Your membership dues notice will not be mailed separately this year. See page 15 for details. **Act now!**

SAFETY AND EDUCATION

Snowmobilers Take the Pledge

- Protect Snowmobiling access so we and future generations can continue to enjoy the riding freedoms we currently have.
- Protect the Landowners that allow trails to cross their property.
- Protect snowmobiling by riding off-trail ONLY where it is legal and allowed.



- **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.

Safety Education

Help ensure youth operators receive proper training and that adults use appropriate precautions when riding with kids. Posters are available for your club!

This Tool Kit features downloadable 8 1/2" x 11" posters that provide snowmobile clubs, associations, and individuals a choice of materials to help address their local priorities and issues. Visit snowmobilers.org



Know Your 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.

Visit www.snowmobilecourse.com



Snowmobile Day October 29, 2022

The snowmobile manufacturers are pleased to announce Snowmobile Day, happening October 29, 2022. Snowmobile Day is a day to celebrate the snowmobiling community and begin preparations for the upcoming season.

Snowmobile clubs, local dealers, associations, and snowmobile groups are invited to participate. Snowmobile Day is being patterned after the successful "Snöskoters Dag", held in Sweden for over 45 years. The celebration in Sweden started in the 1970s and expanded rapidly through the 1980s as snowmobiling in Sweden expanded. The success of the event is traced to creating a fun family party, with involvement from clubs, associations, media, dealers, and other industry stakeholders.

Snowmobile clubs are encouraged to begin the season with a party that might include games activities, and more. A "Show and shine" event featuring vintage and custom snowmobiles, towing and groomer vehicles could be another type of activity planned. Safety training, maintenance and winter check-ups for snowmobiles and trailers are other activities clubs and associations might hold during a Snowmobile Day celebration.

Snowmobile Day should be a fun, family festival type event, where BBQ, refreshments, music, and an open house can get snowmobilers excited for the upcoming season.

Snowmobile Clubs are encouraged to participate in the activities and serve food, coordinate special events, conduct safety classes, sell trail, riding permits, and registrations.

This is a great opportunity for clubs and associations to increase membership and recruit volunteer for trail activities. Snowmobile associations and clubs are encouraged to contact local Chambers of Commerce, Visitor and Convention Bureaus, and regional media to support and help with a local event.

Planning a Snowmobile Day celebration is a perfect opportunity to bring enthusiasts together in kicking off the season and enjoying the snowmobile family lifestyle.

The snowmobile manufacturers of ISMA want to support Snowmobile Day in North America by offering up to \$400 to snowmobile clubs or associations that plan a Snowmobile Day Celebration.

Visit snowmobilers.org.

\$MILLIONS Available Soon for Trails, Recreation, and Parks Projects!



ATTENTION CLUBS

Annually, Fish, Wildlife & Parks manages the grant administration for an array of trails and recreation projects. This money is generated from trail passes from motorized recreation use and a portion of the fuel taxes.

This year the total amount of grants available is nearly \$4 million! The grants, depending on the program, can fund trails and recreation in urban, city, community, county, reservation, and backcountry and are available to public agencies, reservations, private associations, and non-profits. Basically, depending on the program, any projects benefiting trails and recreation are eligible.

Last year the information about applications didn't get out to the public until November with deadlines in late January. Due to that time challenge, barely enough applications were received by Fish, Wildlife & Parks to commit the funds. As an example, the Trails Stewardship Program funded all but one eligible project.

So, this message from your Montana Trails Coalition and Montana Trails, Recreation and Parks Association serves to arouse your interest and as a recommendation to start thinking about your trails, recreation, and/or parks project and begin or finish planning now! It takes time to plan and prepare projects for submittal for these funds.

The following amounts are approximate. 1) Trail Stewardship Program - \$ 2 million, 2) Recreational Trails Program - \$1.5 million, 3) Off-Highway Vehicle Program - \$ 200,000, 4) Summer Motorized Trail Pass Program - \$ 200,000. The snowmobile grant program typically announces applications at a later date. To find more detail about each, go to <https://fwp.mt.gov/aboutfwp/grant-programs>. We expect applications for each, except snowmobile, will be available approximately **November 1** or soon thereafter.

We want to see this money getting to those trail, recreation and park projects that benefit Montanans all over Montana. Please, start now and be prepared to apply for these valuable funds!

UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENTS

October 1, 2022 - 2022-2023 MSA Membership Season Begins!

October 29, 2022 - Snowmobile Day Celebration

December 3, 2022 - Groomer Training - Helena, MT

January 14-22, 2023 - International Snowmobile Safety Week

February 1-8, 2023 - Trans-Montana Charity Ride

February 4, 2023 - MSA Annual Awards Banquet - Helena, MT

February 4, 2023 - MSA Annual Club Ride - Helena, MT

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

AROUND THE REGION

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

October 14-15, 2022 - Utah Snowmobile Show - Sandy, UT

November 18-19, 2022 - Idaho Snowmobile Show - Nampa, ID

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

Support the Montana
Snowmobile Association
with a Winter
Wonderland Plate!



Visit the Montana Motor Vehicle
Division to pick up your MSA
Winter Wonderland license plates.

Support non-profit.



MONTANA SNOWMOBILE PROGRAM UPDATE



By Seth McArthur

I have already noticed some snow starting to dust the mountaintops around western Montana. It is hard to believe that we are nearing the start of another snowmobile season. I know many of you are out working with your local clubs to clear trail and get the grooming equipment ready for the new season. I appreciate your dedication and willingness to promote snowmobiling in Montana.

For all of you that are not a member of a club, please join and share your talents. Your support goes a long way in strengthening your community and benefiting those working to make snowmobile grooming a reality.

I am amazed as I hear the club reports each year for the work they do in their communities.

Don't forget to purchase your new trail pass. The Resident Trail Pass has boosted our equipment replacement program. The pass has been instrumental in offsetting 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 hunting 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



Save the date

Groomer Class

Saturday, December 3, 2022

Montana Wild | Helena, MT

Details coming soon.

This class is for all groomer operators operating state owned groomers.
Groomer manufacturers will also be on-site.

OUR SNOWMOBILING COMMUNITY ON THE GO... SHOWING SUPPORT FOR OUR MONTANA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE IN EAGLE RIVER, WISCONSIN



L: Cliff Walter, Jason Howell, Matt Gooding, Mark Howell and Hunter Howell



MSA President. Fred Bailey



Back L: Fred Bailey, Peggy Albee.
Front L: Julie Bailey, Connie Walter, Cliff Walter



Cliff Walter and Ron Albee

MSA representatives headed to the World Snowmobile Headquarters in Eagle River, WI, this summer to proudly support and attend Jason's induction ceremony. Thank you, Bailey, Walter, and Albee family for representing our home state for this auspicious occasion.



SNOWMOBILE HISTORY

The first attempts at building a vehicle that would move over snow on runners happened over 70 years ago.

Many dreamed of building a power-driven sled, especially where heavy snowfalls often meant the difference between life and death when attempting to transport an ill person to emergency care.

In 1935, a snowmobile was built with skis in front and a sprocket wheel and tracked system in the back. It carried 12 people, and family doctors, veterinarians, ambulance, and taxi drivers were first in line to purchase one. A modified version found a market in the logging industry.

It was the late 1950s, with the development of smaller gasoline engines, before the one or two-passenger lightweight chassis snowmobile was marketed ~ and with it, a new recreational activity was born.

Ten years later, there were dozens of manufacturers producing snowmobiles that sold for a few hundred dollars apiece.

Today, with more than 4 million riders, snowmobiling is a major winter recreational activity and a significant factor in increased winter tourism in much of Canada, the snow belt of the United States, in Northern Europe, and in Russia.

The history of the “snow machine” is yet to be completed. Today’s snowmobile bears little resemblance to earlier models. By today’s standards, many of the machines of the ‘60s and ‘70s are considered antiques.

Snowmobiling quick facts

In 2022 there were 130,644 snowmobiles sold worldwide; 53,821 were sold in the U.S. and 50,943 were sold in Canada.

There are 1.3 million registered snowmobiles in the US and over 601,000 registered snowmobiles in Canada.



Join MSA Today

Montana Snowmobile Association **Account** **Registration**

Have you visited the new MSA Website?

Manage your membership online. If you sent in your membership, but we don't have an email for you, please use the "Contact Us" tool to send us your email address. We'll get your account loaded into our membership system so you can manage your own membership details. This will help with your renewals, and keep your address updated.



Simple & Easy **Join Online**
snowmobilemt.org or complete the form below.



Membership Application 2022/23

Membership Type

New

Club /Business : \$40

Renewal

Individual/Family: \$25

_____ **Number of Family Members**

Do you belong to a local Snowmobile Club?

List Club: _____

Full Name:

Family Members:

Business / Club Name:

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

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