

Montana

SNOWMOBILE

Association



snowmobilemt.org

OCTOBER 2019

NEWSLETTER

NEW CAMPAIGN TO CELEBRATE SNOWMOBILING

HASLETT, MI, May 31, 2019: The snowmobile manufacturers are collectively organizing and supporting a new, North American “International Snowmobile Celebration” Dealer event, happening on October 25-27, 2019. The dealer-focused event will celebrate the snowmobiling community and prepare for the upcoming season. All snowmobile dealers, local clubs, and Associations/Federations across the United States and Canada are invited to participate in the event.

The Celebration is being patterned after the successful “Snöskoters Dag” (Snowmobile Day)

which has been held in Sweden for 40 years. The event 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 weekend, with involvement from dealers, clubs, associations, media and other industry stakeholders.

Snowmobile dealers can use the time to begin the selling season with special offerings of products, parts, garments, and accessories. “Show and shine” events featuring vintage and custom snowmobiles, towing and groomer vehicles are encouraged. Safety training events, maintenance and winter check-up events for snowmobiles and trailers are another avenue for dealers to explore.

“International Snowmobile Celebration” is a fun, family festival type event, where Barbecue, some refreshments, music and an “open house” mentality will get snowmobilers prepared for the upcoming season! Dealers will be contacted throughout the summer encouraging them to participate in the October 25-27, 2019 celebration. Manufacturers are supporting by offering co-op dollars for dealers who host.

Snowmobile clubs are encouraged to participate with their local dealerships in the activities and participate where possible like: serving food, coordinating special events, conducting safety classes, while the event offers an opportunity for membership and volunteer recruitment.

Snowmobile dealerships will be encouraged to contact local Chambers of Commerce, Visitors and Convention Bureaus, and regional media to support and help with the event.

Snowmobiling is a major part of the Winter Tourism economic engine across the North American snowbelt. The “International Snowmobile Celebration” is a perfect opportunity to bring enthusiasts together in kicking off the season and enjoying the snowmobile family lifestyle.

This October let’s celebrate the “International Snowmobile Celebration” event as one big family. Manufacturers, dealers, associations and clubs embracing the opportunity to work together and celebrate snowmobiling in preparation for another great winter snowmobiling season.

More information is available on www.snowmobile.org and www.gosnowmobiling.org.

PRESENTATION OF THE NAMI CHECK



Ron Albee, Matt Kuntz, Jason Howell



Secretary Peggy Albee, Treasurer Connie Walter, NAMI Matt Kuntz

MSA'S BOOTH AT THE NAMI WALK



Ron Albee,
Mike Patterson,
Kay Jensen,
Matt Kuntz

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - OCTOBER 2019

Why support the "Montana Snowmobile Association" (MSA)?

Visit www.snowmobilemt.org

The Montana Snowmobile Association is an organization of grass root individuals, local snowmobile clubs and businesses interested in promoting snowmobiling. It was founded in 1972 to provide a unified voice for Montanans who want to preserve the sport of snowmobiling. What does Montana Snowmobile Association do? Montana Snowmobile Association encourages the safe, courteous, lawful and responsible use of snowmobiles. We help promote the proper recreational uses of snowmobiles on the land in keeping with the protection, preservation and enhancement of all natural resources.

MSA provides representation at every phase of Montana's public land usage. We keep members informed of state and national issues important to snowmobiling. MSA represents snowmobilers as an organized group. MSA provides snowmobilers with a way to meet other winter recreation enthusiasts in an atmosphere of camaraderie and cooperation. We assist state and local law enforcement agencies in winter search and rescue. We work with the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks to develop and maintain a quality snowmobile trail system, and series of maintained parking lots that can be enjoyed by all outdoor enthusiasts year around. We work with others interested in promoting the sport of snowmobiling in Montana by providing time, money and expertise in producing tourist information and materials. We provide representation at the Local, State and Federal levels on Legislative issues and recommendations. We work with the enforcement division of FWP to provide safety programs and the necessary information for snowmobilers.

MSA is a member of the American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA).

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATIONS (ACSA) Is a non-profit national (U.S.) 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 United States. It acts as national coordinator and spokesperson for state volunteer snowmobile associations and snowmobile clubs. ACSA was formed in 1995. Visit www.snowmobilers.org

ACSA is then a member of the INTERNATIONAL SNOWMOBILE COUNCIL (ISC)

ISC was formed in 1973 and is designed to provide a communication forum and a means of addressing issues that are common from an international perspective. Delegates from ACSA the Canadian Council of Snowmobile Organizations, Scandinavia, and the newest member Russia form the ISC.

Together we meet annually to work hard and share our passion of snowmobiling.

What does the Montana Snowmobile Association mean to Montana?

MSA and the Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks sponsored an Economic study which was done by the University of Montana Bureau of Business and Economic Research in October of 1998.

Some of the facts from 1998;

"About 12% of Montana household's include snowmobile recreationists. Nearly always, the whole family participates".

The 1998 estimate was that the combined usage of resident and nonresident spending on gasoline generated over \$1 million in revenue for the state highway trust fund. A small portion of these funds is what goes to help fund our snowmobile grooming trail program.

In 1998 Montana residents alone owned an estimated 58,000 snowmobiles.

The estimated Montana resident economic impact of snowmobiling in 1998 was about \$35 million a year to Montana.

The estimated Non-resident economic impact of snowmobiling in 1998 was about \$44 million for the season. Of the \$44 million, \$16 million was estimated going towards lodging, and another \$11 million estimated going towards Montana's restaurants and bars.

On a U.S. and Canadian level alone snowmobilers are estimated at spending over \$9 Billion on their sport each year.

This is some of the reasons to either continue to support or start supporting MSA.

MSA SCHOLARSHIP

MSA is sponsoring a \$500 Scholarship. Requirements for consideration are as follows:

Applicant must be a member of Montana Snowmobile Association and have been accepted to an accredited post-secondary academic or vocational/technical school. Students with non-traditional education, individuals re- turn to the work force and continuing students are encour- aged to apply. He or she will submit an essay for judging. MSA's scholarship winner will be eligible to compete for the Western Chapter \$2000 Scholarship.

2019 Essay Topic: The cost of everything in winter recre- ation over the past ten years has skyrocketed. Snowmo- biling is an expensive sport when you take into consid- eration all things connected to it. Groomers and all their attachments, the ones doing the grooming, a home for the groomer, Sno-Parks, plowing, administration, trail con- struction/maintenance, and the list goes on. Money does not grow on trees in the USA or CANADA. Even when we find money to help our cause, we run into roadblocks be- cause of the origin of the items we are trying to buy. There must be a better way.

Essay Challenge: In the USA and CANADA, there is money available to support our needs in the snowmobile world. Finding it, qualifying it, and acquiring it is the be- ginning of your challenge. See List Below:

1. Where traditionally do the funds come from for your local and State / Provincial snowmobile needs?
2. What are the funds available to be used on?
3. How do you petition for these funds?
4. Are there funds available that are not being petitioned for in your area?

Finally, can you share with us your thoughts and ideas of how to financially support our cause for the next genera- tion of snowmobilers?

For more information go to the website: snowmobilemt.org

Please mail your completed application to:

**Montana Snowmobile Association
Scholarship Committee
P O Box 56
Black Eagle, Mt 59414**

WESTERN CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP 2019 APPLICATION FORM

Applicant Name: _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ State/Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

State Association / Provincial Federation: _____

Member of which local Club(s)? _____

Graduated from what high school or GED equivalent? _____

Attending which college, technical or vocational institute? _____

If already enrolled in a program, what year are you in? _____

High School or Equivalent GPA:

If applicable, College, Technical or Vocational GPA:

Have you attached a cover letter introducing yourself?

Have you attached a resume detailing your involvement in snowmobiling as well as extra-curricular school activities?

Have you attached an essay on the following subject (must be at least 2 pages, double-spaced and typed)?

Essays will be judged on depth of content, clarity, and organization.

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 a helmet with visor.
- 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.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2019/20

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Club: _____

Membership Type: _____

Individual/Family \$22

Associate(non-voting) \$30

Club/Business \$35

New

Renewal

_____ Number of members

To assist us in obtaining accurate information, please ensure that the application is completed in full

Mail completed application with payment to:

Montana Snowmobile Association

PO Box 56

Black Eagle, MT 59414

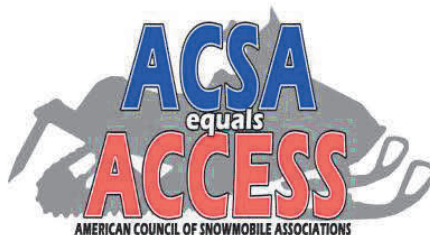


Who is ACSA? , **ACSA** is your voice on National snowmobile issues.

- We *monitor* legislation that is introduced in DC.
- We are the *watchdog* on regulations on the National level that may impact snowmobiling, such as fuel standards and emission levels.
- We *work* with the agencies like the Forest Service, B.L.M., National Park Service and Federal Highway Administration. Those agencies allow snowmobiling to take place on their federal lands.
- We *partner* with the other National recreation groups, some of the groups are:
 - Motorized: AMA, NOHVCC and MIC
 - Non-Motorized: Rails to Trails, Mountain Bikers, and Equestrians.
 - Others: Tread Lightly and the Coalition for Recreational Trails.
- We *fought* hard to retain RTP (Recreational Trails Program), and we are now working to increase the amount of money returned on the federal gas taxes we pay each time we fill our sleds.
- We *organize* the DC Fly-In every spring where we visit +250 legislative offices. The Congressmen and Senators from snow states are told "The Truth About Snowmobiling".
- We *meet* with all of the Agency leadership.
- We *will* work with you on State issues.

Visit our Snowmobile Safety and Access Information Center at www.snowmobileinfo.org. It is the world's most comprehensive online source for snowmobile safety and access information.

Also, be sure to search for American Council of Snowmobile Associations on Facebook to find our page easily and **like** us to follow and join our Community of Friends.



SNOWMOBILE SALES OUTPERFORM ECONOMIC GROWTH WORLDWIDE

Snowmobile Sales Outperform Economic Growth Worldwide

HASLETT, MI, July 23, 2019: A long lasting cold and snowy winter in much of the snowmobile community, and continued enthusiasm and interest in snowmobiling powered snowmobile sales to increase worldwide to 133,081 new sleds sold this past year. This is an increase of over 8,275 units, which is a 7 percent gain from last year. Sales in the United States grew to 55,025 new snowmobiles sold – a 3.7 percent gain from last year, while sales in Canada fell 0.1 percent to 46,784 new snowmobiles sold. The sales increase wasn't confined to North America. Sales increases were realized in Norway, Sweden, and Finland. Sales in Sweden increased 17 percent to 11,956 new snowmobiles sold and increases of 15 percent were reported in Norway and 26 percent increase in Finland. The largest national increase was in Russia where sales increased 88 percent over the previous year.

The snowmobile community is optimistic following the above average late snow fall throughout most of North America this past season. The 2019 manufacturers' spring snowmobile shows reported increases in attendance. In many of the spring shows, attendance was up over 20 percent. Spring orders were strong and that points to a good 2020 sales year.

The snowmobile industry reports that registered snowmobiles in North America totaled 1.85 million registered snowmobiles. Increased registration in Northern Europe continues.

Snowmobile related tourism also increased in North America and beyond. This can be seen in economic impact studies conducted throughout North America by major business colleges and universities. Miles ridden by snowmobilers (which is always predictive of economic impact) showed an increase of over 15 percent this past season versus 2018 season. This is a result of riding conditions and improved and expanded riding areas and trail systems.

The average age of a snowmobiler this past season was determined to be 45 years of age. Snowmobilers are active, outdoor enthusiasts who enjoy snowmobiling with family and friends.

Surveys conducted by ISMA have shown that 75 percent of first-time buyers in the snowmobile market purchased a used snowmobile. Many of them are young adults and they move on to purchase a new snowmobile later in life.

The majority of snowmobilers in North America are Club

members and/or Association-Federation members. These active, involved, outdoor enthusiasts build the trails and support snowmobiling access. Snowmobilers are also active charity fundraisers who raised over \$3.5 million dollars for National Charities last year.

The Go Snowmobiling website serves as another strong indicator for the interest in snowmobiling. This year, the Go Snowmobiling site received more than 2.34 million hits. 40 percent of those visitors to the website were new snowmobilers or individuals who do not own a snowmobile but are expressing a great deal of interest in owning a snowmobile and going snowmobiling. 20 percent of the visitors to the site visited the rental outlet pages of the site. Indications are that many of the individuals visiting the rental site do not own a snowmobile but want to rent one during their winter vacation. This high level of interest in renting bodes well for future sales and the growth in the snowmobile rental market.

Additional surveys have found that snowmobilers are active in many outdoor activities. Snowmobilers are also boaters, motorcycle riders, camping enthusiasts, ATV and UTV riders, hunting enthusiasts and general outdoor recreationists.

Many families have discovered that snowmobiling is a great winter recreational activity. Research shows people go snowmobiling for reasons such as viewing the scenery, be with family and friends, to get away from the usual demands of life and be close to nature.

Many organizations report that new trails are being developed to support the positive economic impact of snowmobiling and job growth for the rural community. Economic impact studies generated by universities in North America show that snowmobiling is growing in importance as part of the overall economic engine and job growth for winter tourism. Studies show that snowmobiling now generates more than \$30 Billion Dollars of economic activity in North America. The economic activity generated by snowmobiling provides many jobs and investment opportunities and generates considerable tax revenue for local governments which eagerly support snowmobiling.

Snowmobiling is a most important segment of the Outdoor Recreation Economy which overall generates over \$887 Billion of economic activity in the United States alone, as reported by the US Department of Commerce and the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable (ORR). Coalition members of the ORR generate over 7.6 million jobs. Snowmobiling is a vital component of the Rural America Development effort.

2019 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER SHYLA EVIG

We are pleased to announce our scholarship winner for this year is Shyla Evig from Billings.

She was born and raised in Billings, MT. Graduated high school at Billings Senior High School in 2018. Shyla is continuing her education at Montana State University Billings. She is majoring in Dental Hygiene with the intention of working in pediatric dentistry.

She currently works as a preventative dental assistant at Pediatric Dental Specialists in Billings. Her job consists of consulting with patients and their parents, taking x-rays, performing cleanings, and coding insurances.

Outside of work she enjoys spending time with family and friends, jeeping, snowmobiling, and relaxing at their family cabin. Sixth months after she was born they strapped her in a car seat and took her hunting at the cabin in Checkerboard, MT. At age six she began driving my own snowmobile.

Having experienced the outdoors from a young age she has developed an appreciation for snowmobiles. Not only has she gained an appreciation for the outdoors, but also for a unified family that enjoys them together.

“GO SNOWMOBILING”

HASLETT, MI, September 11, 2019: The Go Snowmobiling campaign has been supported by the snowmobile community over the years. Snowmobile Clubs and Associations across North America have taken Military Personnel snowmobiling, coordinated Enlightenment rides with land managers, and often just have fun organizing snowmobile rides with friends and family. The trails and riding areas in many parts of North America are amazing and offer great opportunities to take friends snowmobiling.

The Go Snowmobiling rides highlight the “wow-factor” and the pure enjoyment that people have when they first ride a snowmobile. First-time snowmobilers can't quit talking about how much fun the ride was. When you take a friend snowmobiling, remember this may very well be their first time on a snowmobile. Chances are that your normal ride would seem like a marathon to an uninitiated friend. Let your friend enjoy that first day of snowmobiling. Again, enjoy the ride, make it relatively short, make it simple, and remember that it is always a good idea to feed your guests.

The Go Snowmobiling campaign is also joined with the Safe Riders! Campaign. We have a 13 chapter Safe Riders video series that can be found on our website at: <http://www.snowmobile.org/snowmobile-videos.html>.

~ MORE ~Go Snowmobiling Page 2

The chapters are a great tool when introducing a friend to snowmobiling and will help make the ride more enjoyable for everyone.

You should also visit and “Like” our Facebook page before participating in a Go Snowmobiling campaign. Our Facebook page is www.Facebook.com/GoSnowmobiling. When looking at the page you will notice that many snowmobilers are posting pictures and their experiences on the page. We have thousands of Friends who visit regularly and it is common for snowmobilers to send out informative posts that are forwarded to hundreds and thousands of snowmobile

enthusiasts worldwide. There is a short general survey on our Facebook page, so when you visit the page, consider answering a few simple survey questions. We are constantly surveying snowmobile customers to see how we can better serve you and how we can help you enjoy your snowmobiling activity.

When you consider putting together a Go Snowmobiling ride, just remember that individuals who don't own a snowmobile have a high interest in going snowmobiling. People that you know, who don't snowmobile, want to snowmobile. They also want to go snowmobiling for the same reasons you do:

- a. To enjoy the scenery
- b. To get outdoors to have fun with family and friends
- c. To go to unique places that they can't reach any other way to see amazing sights
- d. To have fun in the winter outdoors and be able to go home tired and be ready for a good night's sleep.

So please, go out and have fun, take a friend snowmobiling, and enjoy this wonderful winter. The link to the “Take a Friend Snowmobiling Campaign Action Manual” is: <http://www.snowmobile.org/docs/2020-take-a-friend-snowmobiling.pdf> Please review it and share it with others.



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Big Hole Snowmobile Club
P.O. Box 141
Wisdom, MT 59761
406-370-2587

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

Bitterroot Ridgerunners
P O 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
406-431-3659

Jackpine Savages Snowmobile Club
PO Box 65
Wise River, MT 59762
651-983-4985

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

Midland Empire Snowgoers
PO Box 3554
Billings, MT 59103
406-628-5202

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

Missoula Snowgoers
PO Box 2441
Missoula, MT 59806
406-251-3301
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 59639-0933
406-362-3334

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

SledMonkeys
740 Conway
Billings, Mt 59105
406-671-7470
kirk.hansen@usbank.com

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
www.sgcr.com

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
westyellowstonechamber.com

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Join MSA online by going to
snowmobilemt.org

