

Montana

SNOWMOBILE NEWS



Gear Up for an Exhilarating Winter

Snowmobile season is always an exciting time for snowmobile enthusiasts. It's a great opportunity to enjoy the winter weather, explore snowy landscapes, and have some thrilling adventures. Whether you're a seasoned rider or new to snowmobiling, there's always something exhilarating about cruising through the snow on a powerful machine. Stay safe and enjoy your snowmobile season to the fullest! If you have any questions or need any information about snowmobiling, feel free to ask.

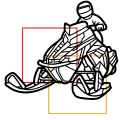
Not part of a club? Join today, better yet join your local club and don't forget to support the club(s) in your favorite riding area as well. They'll appreciate your support more than you know.

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MSA Officers and Clubs

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Big Hole Snowmobile Club
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Wisdom, MT 59761
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Big Sky Snowriders
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Livingston, MT 59047
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Bitterroot Ridge Runners
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406-827-3226

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Kalispell, MT 59903
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Gallatin Valley Snowmobile Association
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Bozeman, MT 59772
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Great Falls Snowmobile Club
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Black Eagle, MT 59414
406-899-5126
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Jackpine Savages Snowmobile Club
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Wise River, MT 59762
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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
PO Box 315
White Sulphur Springs, MT 59645
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Mining City Trail Riders, Inc
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Butte, MT 59702
406-782-4613

Missoula Snowgoers
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Missoula, MT 59806
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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.ridecookecity.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

***2022-2023 MSA Snowmobile Club of the Year**



Montana Snowmobile Association Districts

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Rick David
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DISTRICT 2
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DISTRICT 3
VACANT

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DISTRICT 10
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DISTRICT 12
VACANT

DISTRICT 13
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Fred Bailey



I hope everyone had a great summer, at least as good as you can without snow. We are excited about the upcoming winter. Forecasts are for a good winter but who really knows until it gets here. MSA held their elections this fall and Connie Walter was elected vice president, Fred Bailey president, and Peggy Albee has agreed to stay on as secretary. Connie Pollard is going to stay on as the newsletter designer. With Connie Walter taking on the Vice President position we needed someone to take on the Treasurer position and Kristen Yates has agreed to become the new Treasurer; we're excited as we know she will do a great job.

We want to thank John Zell for serving as Vice President for the last two years, John will stay on as District 4 representative. We want to thank Connie Walter for her many years as treasurer keeping us on the right track with her wealth of knowledge.

There is a national movement to try and get our junior snowmobilers involved in state and local club snowmobile leadership. We are going to dedicate a 1/4 to full page of our newsletter to our junior snowmobilers so we are asking them to send in an article about anything they feel is important to them about our sport or anything else that they would like to comment on. Many times, the youth see things that we grownups just don't see.

The Trans-Montana Charity Ride is well into the planning stage with the banquet to be held in Butte. We are currently contracting with University of Montana to conduct a new economic impact study. Grant applications start November 1 and are due January 31. Club meetings should be starting soon so make sure you get involved.

Thanks, and hope to see you on the trails,

Fred

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



Show Your Support: Buy a specialty license plate to support MSA. Ask for a 'Winter Wonderland' plate.

NAVIGATING THE SNOWMOBILE WORLD

A Guide to the Hierarchy of Clubs and Snowmobile Organizations

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 voices that protect and represent 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 is made up of 26 Montana clubs in 13 regions.

SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS AND GROUPS

ACSA Mountain Riding Group

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.



FIRST RIDE OF THE SEASON SAFETY REMINDERS

- **Safety first:** Always wear a helmet and appropriate protective gear, including goggles, gloves, and insulated clothing. Make sure your snowmobile is equipped with working headlights, taillights, and reflectors.
- **Know the local laws and regulations:** Familiarize yourself with the local laws and regulations regarding snowmobiling, including age restrictions, speed limits, and designated trails or areas.
- **Check the weather conditions:** Before heading out, check the weather forecast and be aware of any potential hazards such as blizzards, high winds, or low visibility.
- **Plan your route and inform others:** Let someone know your planned route and estimated time of return.
- **Practice proper riding technique:** Learn and practice the correct riding techniques, including how to accelerate, brake, turn, and maneuver in different conditions. Maintain a safe speed and always be aware of your surroundings at all times.

- **Carry essential supplies:** Pack a small emergency kit with items such as a first aid kit, extra clothing, water, snacks, a map, a compass or GPS device, a tool kit, and a flashlight. It's also a good idea to bring a fully charged cell phone or communication device.
- **Stay on designated trails and approved riding areas:** Stick to established snowmobile trails to avoid trespassing on private property and to minimize the risk of accidents.
- **Avoid frozen bodies of water if uncertain:** Unless you are certain of the ice thickness and its safety. If you must cross, check local ice conditions, and proceed with caution.
- **Check avalanche conditions and carry the proper avalanche gear:** Know your surroundings and always carry avalanche gear. Sign up for a refresher course.
- **Maintain your snowmobile:** Regularly inspect and maintain your snowmobile. Check the fuel, oil, and coolant levels, as well as the track, skis, brakes, and lights. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for maintenance and service intervals.

Remember, safety is paramount when operating a snowmobile. Always exercise caution, be aware of your limitations and the conditions around you and follow all applicable rules and regulations. Enjoy your ride!



Meet the exceptional individuals who make up the MSA Snowmobile board and learn more about their roles within the club. Snowmobile's board members embody a unique blend of business acumen, industry knowledge, and a deep love for the sport. With their diverse backgrounds and unwavering dedication, these individuals collectively form a powerhouse that shapes strategic decisions and ensures continued success in the exhilarating world of snowmobiling. We start this month's feature with our President.

MSA President: Fred Bailey

Fred Bailey, the President of the Montana Snowmobile Association (MSA), is an unwavering and passionate advocate for snowmobiling in Montana. His lifelong dedication to this thrilling sport is palpable in his extensive commitment to both the snowmobiling community and the preservation of its trails.



In addition to his current role as MSA President, Fred Bailey boasts a remarkable track record of leadership. He has previously held pivotal positions such as President, Vice President, and Board Member of the Helena Snowdrifters, where his contributions have helped shape the local snowmobiling scene. Presently, he assumes the role of Trails Committee Chair with the Snowdrifters, where he actively engages in trail preservation and enhancement, reaffirming his commitment to ensuring accessible and well-preserved pathways for all snowmobiling enthusiasts.

Fred attributes his remarkable success to the strong support of volunteers who rally around MSA and Clubs to support the sport of snowmobiling and keeping our trails open for future riders. He firmly believes that unity and collective action make the snowmobiling community stronger. He encourages anyone interested in getting more involved to join their local club or reach out to him to explore ways to support MSA.

Fred's commitment as MSA President extends beyond the winter months. He tirelessly advocates for MSA year-round, dedicating an amount of time and effort equal to a standard 9-5 job to ensure the success and growth of snowmobiling in Montana while actively supporting the preservation of trail access for future generations.

MSA IN ATTENDANCE...

NAMI Montana Receives Donation Check

The Montana Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) has received a generous donation from the 2023 Montana Snowmobile Association Trans-Montana Charity Ride and Fundraiser. The success of this event is attributed to the support of dedicated riders and local snowmobile clubs across the state who volunteered their time and contributed funds.

This year, the donation is particularly remarkable as it's the largest one in the past decade. The Executive Director of NAMI Montana, Matt Kuntz, accepted a check for an impressive sum of \$30,316. This contribution will undoubtedly make a significant impact in the organization's efforts to support and raise awareness about mental health issues in Montana. It's heartwarming to see the community come together for such a crucial cause.

All monies collected directly benefit individuals and their families through the provision of free education and support classes in communities across Montana. Additionally, NAMI Montana plays a critical leadership role in ensuring that state-level mental health efforts are developed and sustained in ways that truly impact communities.



Mark Smolen, Otto Johnson, Cliff Walter, Matt Kuntz, Wally Deshene, Fred Bailey, Julie Bailey, Connie Walter, Seth McArthur



55th Annual International Snowmobile Congress June 2023 - Moline, Illinois

Every year, during the second week of June, snowmobile enthusiasts, manufacturers, suppliers, and representatives from state, provincial, and national snowmobile organizations from around the world gather to celebrate the sport and conduct the business of snowmobiling at the International Snowmobile Congress.

Attendees include a diverse range of participants, such as representatives from snowmobile and groomer manufacturers, state and federal administrators, national, regional, and state snowmobile associations, local state snowmobile clubs, recreational motorized enforcement agencies, tourism professionals, and media representatives. This vital conference serves as a platform for snowmobile leaders to gain industry insights, forge valuable networks, and acquire educational opportunities.



Montana Attendees: Thank you, Fred & Julie Bailey; Ron & Peggy Ablee; Cliff & Connie Walter; Jason Howell & Family and Seth McArthur



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COME RIDE THE ROCKIES!

Trans-Montana Snowmobile Charity Ride (TMR)

Every year a group of dedicated riders take off and spend a week enjoying some of the best places in Montana. All while raising money and awareness for a great cause...NAMI Montana. Everybody is welcome to join the fun. Visit www.trans-montana.org to learn more about this great event.

The Trans-Montana Snowmobile Charity Ride is MSA's annual premiere charity event.

2024 Trans-Montana Route

January 31

TMR Riders Arrive in Georgetown Lake (2 Nights)

Feb 1 (TMR Day 1)

Ride the Skalkaho Ridge Guided by the Bitterroot Ridge Runners

Feb 2 (TMR Day 2)

Ride the Georgetown Lake guided by the Anaconda Snowmobile Club

Day 3 (TMR Day 3)

Ride the Butte / Wise River Area guided by the Mining City Trail Riders and Jackpine Savages. (MSA Riding Convention & Banquet)

Day 4 (TMR Day 4)

Travel Day - Travel to West Yellowstone)

Day 5 (TMR Day 5)

Ride West Yellowstone area with the Yellowstone Chamber

Day 6 (TMR Day 6)

Ride the West Yellowstone area with the Yellowstone Chamber

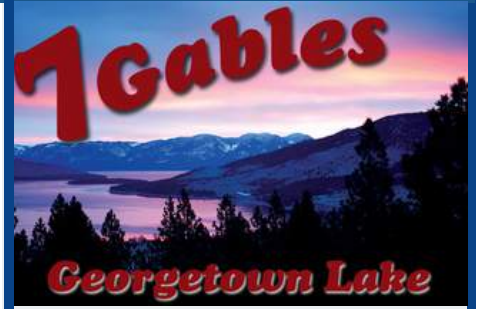
Day 7 (TMR Day 7)

Ride West Yellowstone area with the Yellowstone Chamber



TMR is looking for corporate sponsors that would like to add their name to this great program!

www.trans-montana.org



Nights of Jan 31 - Feb 1
7-Gables has 9 rooms @ \$79/nt



Lakehouse has 5 rooms @ \$117/nt (we are working to see if they will reduce the rate)



Nights of Feb 2 - 3
\$139 for a King Bed/nt
\$149 for 2 Qn Beds/nt



Nights of Feb 4 - 7
Rooms are blocked under TransMontana @ \$64/nt



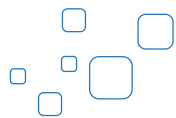
JUNIOR SNOWMOBILE PROGRAM

The American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA) and MSA are promoting the involvement of club member children in their snowmobiling clubs. They have a program called KAOS (Kids and Adults on Snowmobiles), which serves a dual purpose.

1. Youth Engagement: KAOS aims to provide young snowmobilers with a comprehensive understanding of how the entire snowmobiling program is structured. This helps them gain insight into the workings of snowmobiling clubs and associations.
2. Leadership Development: KAOS also serves as a leadership training program for these young snowmobilers. It helps them develop leadership skills and become active participants in the snowmobiling community.

If you're interested in supporting KAOS as a youth representative or advisor, please reach out to Fred Bailey or Connie Walter for more information and details on how to get involved. Keep an eye out for further updates on starting a youth club in your area. This is a fantastic opportunity to engage the next generation of snowmobilers and help them become leaders in the sport. (See page 3 for more information.)

Junior Snowmobiler



Hello,

My name is Everett Blonde, I am 22 years old and I have been snowmobiling since I was 5 years old. I got into snowmobiling because my dad introduced me to the world of sleds with a 1980 300 enticer. I fired her up, hopped on and drove it straight into the side of the house, 17 years later I am involved as ever.

The reason I still ride is for the quality time I get to spend with my loved ones. As we always say, a bad day of riding is better than a good day stuck in the house. I've loved every trip I've ever been on, the good, the bad, and the ugly.

I will always continue to be an ambassador for the sport in hopes that one day I'll be able to pass the memories and joy that snowmobiling has brought me onto my son.

No matter what you ride, be proud! Make it yours! Lastly Have fun and cherish the memories with your loved ones!

Everett Blonde

Youth Operators Need Safety Training

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.



MONTANA SNOWMOBILE PROGRAM UPDATE

By Seth McArthur

I have already noticed some snow starting to dust the mountain tops 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.

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

Upcoming Events

The Montana Snowmobile Safety Instructor certification is coming up. It will be for all current and prospective Snowmobile Club Safety Instructors for the purpose of providing training for unlicensed youth riders. Certified instructors can provide training for kids 16 and under so they can ride on dual-purpose roads, where allowed with a licensed adult. The class will focus on familiarizing instructors with the snowmobile safety instructor manual.

The recertification will be held Saturday, December 2, 2023, 9:30 a.m. at MT Wild in Helena. Lunch will be provided. Questions: Please contact Seth.



Raffle Tickets - Mining City Trail Riders

Trans-Montana Charity Ride Raffle Tickets Now Available.

This year's riding convention and awards banquet will be hosted in Butte.

Clubs: Do you need more raffle tickets for your club members? Check with your MSA District Representative or reach out directly to Mike Patterson, Mining City Trail Riders for more information and tickets.

Great Prizes. Great Cause.



Helena Snowdrifters Club

The Helena Snowdrifters Club, located in Helena, Montana, has been diligently working this fall on a significant project. They have been focused on replacing the bridge deck of one of their groomed trails, which begins at the Moose Creek parking lot. This bridge carries historical significance, having once been a part of the supply route to Camp Remini, the military's first dog sled training ground.

Camp Remini, serving as a training ground for military dog sled teams tasked with rescuing pilots and stranded soldiers in challenging snow-covered regions, boasts a captivating history closely connected to the inception of the Race to the Sky sled dog race.

The Forest Service supplied the materials for the planks and the rental of a backhoe, while the dedicated members of the Helena Snowdrifters Club contributed their labor. Special gratitude is extended to Mike Cuta, Fred Bailey, Dick Benner, Daryl Cheek, and Terry Everhart for generously donating their time and skills to ensure the success of this project.

Initiatives such as these not only serve to preserve history but also continue to facilitate safe trail access for all.

Read more about this historical tie; Camp Remini War Dog Reception and Training Center - montanamilitarymuseum.org and Race to Sky History: www.racetothetasky.org.

Attention Clubs

Email news@snowmobilemt.org your events and good deeds! Due the 20th of each month.



RIDING VINTAGE

Photo and Story by Paul Kruger, Flathead Snowmobile Association and Vintage Enthusiast

On a crisp snowy morning at the trailhead, you crank your 60's-70's-80's snowmobile to life. Ahh,..the smell of two cycle in the mornings. The smell of fun! You Brrrrp a loop in the parking lot while modern snowmobilers point and smile. Then you're off with your group for a short 10-15-mile jaunt to a warming hut for lunch. You always travel with a group because it's fun, but you may need a little help with that cranky old Tillotson carburetor.

So, why ride vintage? It is affordable family fun! The machines are relatively inexpensive. A solid restored to operability machine will run you around \$500.00. If you have some mechanical skills, you can pick them up for free or around \$200.00. Compare that to the cost of a new sled. Vintage sleds are a blast to ride.

There are many vintage rides and events that can keep you busy all winter. Vintage riders join and are active in their local snowmobile clubs and are supportive of the MSA. No one appreciates good grooming like folks riding vintage sleds. Lastly, they are conversation pieces and moving pieces of history. Did you know that in the late 60's there were over 258 different brands of snowmobiles?



Residents must purchase a Resident Trail Pass to legally ride on any of the 4,000 miles of groomed snowmobile trails in Montana. Trail Passes are valid for two seasons and are \$20. Trail Passes apply to all "mechanized equipment" including snowmobiles, motorized snow bikes, and fat tire pedal bikes.

Vintage snowmobiling is catching on in Montana. Feel free to join in on the fun. See your MSA newsletter and website for a list of events.

Snapshot of Upcoming Vintage Events:

January 13th Miracle of America Vintage Show, Polson, MT

January 20 & 21 Lolo Hot Springs Winterfest Vintage Event, Lolo, MT

February 3rd Garnet Ghost Town Vintage Ride, Garnet, MT

March 9 & 10 Lochsa Lodge Spring Fling Vintage Event

TBA: Annual Vintage Snowmobile Show & Fun Run, Lincoln, MT

UPCOMING EVENTS

AROUND THE STATE

- October 28, 2023 - Snowmobile Day Celebration - Prepare for the Upcoming Season
- December 1, 2023 - First Day to Groom, if Conditions Allow
- December 2, 2023 - Snowmobile Safety Instructor Certification - Helena (See page 11)
- January 13 - 21, 2024 - International Snowmobile Safety Week
- January 13, 2024 - Skalkaho Ladies Ride, Missoula Snowgoers
- January 31 - February 7, 2024 - Trans-Montana Charity Ride (See page 9)
- February 2, 2024 - MSA Riding Convention Welcome Reception & Guest Speaker - Butte
- February 3, 2024 - MSA Awards Banquet and Riding Convention - Butte
- February 1- 19, 2024 - Take a Friend Snowmobiling Campaign
- Avalanche Awareness - Check Avalance.org for upcoming events.

Vintage Riding Events - See page 13

Watch the MSA online Events Calendar as we add more events!

ADVERTISE WITH MSA!

Get seen by the snowmobiling community.
Contact news@snowmobilemt.org for details



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Share your Club News and Events
Email: news@snowmobilemt.org

Deadline: 20th of the month

SUPPORT MSA

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



**\$500
Scholarship**



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

Entry Deadline: March 31, 2024
snowmobileMT.org

MSA MEMBERSHIP

Why Join MSA?



You already know MSA is the state organization uniting the local snowmobile communities to promote safe and responsible snowmobiling. Are you aware of the many reasons why you should become a member of MSA? MSA employs a lobbyist to represent our interest during the legislative session held every two years. MSA helps fight for public land access and helps clubs financially in their pursuit of keeping riding access.

MSA works closely with the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks along with local clubs to develop and maintain a quality snowmobile trail system for all riders. But did you also know, these two parties help administer grooming funds, support costly repairs, administer grooming program insurance coverage for your local club as well as provide the required resource-environmental damage insurance, for three hosted events, per club?

MSA gives back to the communities of Montana in any way possible and sponsors an annual scholarship program.

To support Montana, we need your support. Help defend your riding areas. If you are a member - THANK YOU! If you're not, we invite you to join online or by mailing in your Club, family, or business membership application today. **Visit:** www.snowmobilemt.org.

Join our growing community to make something happen in yours

Join online snowmobilemt.org or complete the application below.

Membership

Montana Snowmobile Association

Membership Application

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



Business/Club Name

For Club/Business Membership Level

Full Name*

Family Members*

Mailing Address*

Phone*

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- Send via Email Mail Print Copy

Are you interested in advertising? Yes, contact me.

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