

Montana

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2025-2026 www.snowmobilemt.org

SNOWMOBILE NEWS

Protecting Access. Supporting Riders. Strengthening Communities.



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Snow or No Snow — MSA Strong

This season may not have delivered the snowfall we all hoped for, but it once again proved something even more important — the strength of our Montana snowmobiling community. While rides were canceled and trails stayed quiet longer than we liked, MSA members, clubs, and partners continued to show up, support one another, and keep the spirit of snowmobiling alive.

From a successful banquet and Capitol Card Crawl to ongoing advocacy, partnerships, and planning for the future, this year reminded us that MSA is about more than the ride — it's about protecting access, supporting our clubs, and building friendships that last far beyond winter. Thank you to everyone who volunteered, participated, and stayed engaged. Snow or no snow, MSA remains strong — and we're already looking ahead to better conditions and great rides next season.



Montana

SNOWMOBILE

Association

Montana Snowmobile Association
P.O. Box 56
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Website: www.snowmobilemt.org
 Contact Us: info@snowmobilemt.org

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Anaconda Snowmobile Club (5)
 45 Fire Lane, Anaconda, MT 59711
 406-563-7789

Beaverhead Sno-Riders (5)
 PO Box 867, Dillon, MT 59725
 406-925-0501

Big Hole Snowmobile Club (5)
 PO Box 141, Wisdom, MT 59761
 406-370-2587

Big Sky Snowriders (10)
 PO Box 365, Livingston, MT 59047
 406-220-0803

Bitterroot Ridge Runners (3)
 PO Box 265, Hamilton, MT 59840
 406-363-3433 www.bitterrootrr.org

Cabinet Ridge Riders (2)
 PO Box 1577, Trout Creek, MT 59874
 406-827-3226

Flathead Snowmobile Association (1)
 PO Box 5041, Kalispell, MT 59903
 406-871-4606
www.flatheadsnowmobiler.com

Gallatin Valley Snowmobile Association (10)
 PO Box 3164, Bozeman, MT 59772
 406-600-6063 www.gvsa.net

Great Falls Snowmobile Club (7)
 PO Box 70, Black Eagle, MT 59414
 406-899-5126
www.great-falls-snowmobile.org

Helena Snowdrifters (8)
 PO Box 5505, Helena, MT 59624
 406-202-2044 www.helenasnowdrifters.org

Jackpine Savages Snowmobile Club (5)
 PO Box 65, Wise River, MT 59762
 406-267-3389

Lincoln County Sno-Kat Club (1)
 PO Box 1180, Libby, MT 59923
 406-827-0524

Little Belt Snowmobile Club (9)
 PO Box 213, Hobson, MT 59452
 406-366-8924 www.littlebeltsnowmobile.org

Meagher County Little Belters (7)
 PO Box 315, White Sulphur Springs, MT 59645
 406-547-3966 www.mclittlebelters.org

Mining City Trail Riders, Inc (5)
 P.O. Box 4885, Butte, MT 59702
 406-782-4613

Missoula Snowgoers (3)
 PO Box 2441, Missoula, MT 59806
 406-241-6814 www.missoulasnowgoers.org

Montana Nightriders (2)
 PO Box 420242, Haugan, MT 59842
 406-544-5416 www.montananightriders.com

Ponderosa Snow Warriors (8)
 PO Box 933, Lincoln, MT 59639
 406-475-5786

Rev It Up Girls (7)
 PO Box 371 Wilsall, MT 59086
 406-595-79626 revitupgirls.com

Scenic Montana Trails (4)
 PO Box 174, Seeley Lake, MT 59868
 406-677-7777 www.driftriders.org

Summit Snowgoers (6)
 PO Box 301 Cut Bank, MT 59427
 406-229-0665

Sweet Grass County Recreation Association (10)
 PO Box 922, Big Timber, MT 59011
 406-459-6769

Ten Lakes Snowmobile Club (1)
 PO Box 404, Eureka, MT 59917
 406-297-3377

Troy Snowmobile Club (1)
 PO Box 1002, Troy, MT 59935
 406-295-4322 www.troynsnowmobileclub.org

Upper Yellowstone Snowmobile Club (10)*
 PO Box 1111 Cooke City, MT 59020
 406-223-5428 www.ridecookcity.com

Vigilante Snowmobilers (5)
 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

***2025-2026 Snowmobile Club of the Year**

() Corresponding District
 † Community grooming operation. No membership

DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

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DISTRICT 11
 Brent Larson
dist-eleven@snowmobilemt.org



DISTRICT 12 13 - VACANT



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we wrap up the 2025–2026 season, it's hard to believe this is already our final newsletter of the year. What a season it has been — challenging in many ways, but still filled with dedication, resilience, and plenty of reasons to celebrate.

Our 2026 awards have officially been presented, and we are proud to highlight all of this year's recipients in this issue. Congratulations to every award winner! Each of you represents the very best of the Montana Snowmobile Association — volunteers who give countless hours to keep trails open, events running, and our snowmobiling community strong.

As always, we know there are many more deserving individuals, families, dealers, and clubs across the state. We encourage all clubs to take the time next season to submit nominations.

Recognizing our volunteers is one of the most important things we do. Let's make sure no good deed goes unnoticed!

There's no sugarcoating it — snow conditions across most of Montana were difficult this winter.

Many areas saw below-average snowfall, shortened riding opportunities, and canceled events.

While that's frustrating for all of us, it also highlights how much effort our clubs put in behind the scenes, regardless of conditions. Even in a low-snow year, trails were cleared, meetings were held, equipment was maintained, and volunteers showed up. That commitment is what keeps our association moving forward.

Our next meeting will focus on appropriations and planning for the coming year. We will gather in June in Helena. We encourage club representatives to attend and participate in the discussion.

Your input matters as we make decisions that impact all 27 of our clubs.

Even though the sleds may be parked, the work doesn't stop. Summer is the time for:

- Trail maintenance and brushing
- Bridge and signage repairs
- Fundraising and community outreach
- Membership drives
- Planning winter events

Clubs that stay active in the off-season often find themselves better prepared when the snow finally flies.

This is your association. The stronger the participation, the stronger we become statewide.

Thank you to every volunteer, sponsor, landowner, dealer, and member who supported snowmobiling in Montana this year — even in a tough snow season. Your dedication ensures that when the snow returns, we will be ready.

Connie Walter
President
Montana Snowmobile Association
406-590-0386
president@snowmobilemt.org





MSA Welcomes New Club!

For the first time in a decade, the Montana Snowmobile Association (MSA) has voted to welcome a new club into our fold – and we couldn't be more excited.

Please join us in welcoming Rev It Up Girls to the MSA family!

This unique and inspiring club approached MSA with a strong interest in building alliances across the state. Their mission is simple, yet powerful: to empower women in the sport of snowmobiling.

What does that mean?

It doesn't mean excluding men. Instead, the focus is on honing skills, building confidence, and lifting up women riders in a sport where technique matters. As many of us know, maneuvering a 600-pound sled requires strength, strategy, and skill. Women often approach riding differently – refining techniques that maximize control, balance, and efficiency. Rev It Up Girls creates an encouraging space where those skills can be developed, practiced, and celebrated.

Though the group is currently small, they are mighty – and growing. One of the most unique aspects of this club is its statewide footprint. Members reside throughout Montana and travel wherever the snow is falling, chasing conditions and building camaraderie across regions. They also maintain strong ties with a sister club in Wyoming, further expanding their riding community.

Montana Chapter President Janice Enos encourages women of all experience levels to consider joining this dynamic organization. Whether you are brand new to the sport or a seasoned rider, Rev It Up Girls offers support, mentorship, and a shared passion for winter adventure.



LEARN
more

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Wilsall, MT 59086
(406) 595-79626
Website: revitupgirls.com
Facebook: [revitupgirls](https://www.facebook.com/revitupgirls)

What Does It Take to Become an MSA-Affiliated Club?

The Montana Snowmobile Association (MSA) is always open to welcoming clubs whose missions align with ours. The first step is simple: reach out and connect with the MSA President to begin the conversation.

From there, we take time to learn more about the group:

- Do they have an established board and membership base?
- Do they operate with a clear mission statement?
- Are they a registered nonprofit or charitable organization?
- What are they hoping to gain from an affiliation with MSA?

At MSA, we don't just add clubs – we build partnerships. We ensure that goals, values, and interests are aligned so that, together, we continue protecting trails, promoting safety, supporting our communities, and strengthening the future of snowmobiling in Montana.

The Rev It Up Girls align within MSA's District 7, alongside the Great Falls Snowmobile Club and the Meagher County Little Belters. District 7 is represented by Cliff Walter.

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to Rev It Up Girls. We look forward to their continued growth and the positive impact they will make across our state.

From Grassroots to Millions!

How the Trans-Montana Charity Ride is Rewriting the Future of Mental Health

By Mark Smolen | Trans-Montana Co-Chair



Mother Nature may have sidelined our sleds this year, but she couldn't touch our mission.

Despite a lack of snow forcing the cancellation of the 2026 ride, the Trans-Montana spirit remained unbreakable. We didn't just "show up" at the MSA Annual Awards Banquet—we stormed it. With 25 of our 40 riders traveling from out of state and supporters arriving from every corner of Montana—from Eureka to Cooke City—we proved that this community is defined by its heart, not its horsepower.

The Power of the "Multiplier Effect"

We often ask ourselves: Is our \$33,000 annual average enough to move the needle? At the banquet, Matt Kuntz, Executive Director of NAMI Montana, gave us an answer that left the room silenced.

In the twelve years we've partnered with NAMI, we have raised over \$400,000. While we continue to search for corporate partners to grow that number, Matt revealed that our "small" donations are already performing miracles through what he calls the Multiplier Effect.

1. Transforming Veteran Care (The 800% Increase)

Our funds specifically target Veteran's Mental Health. In the past, federal funding for VA Peer Counselors (PCs) was based strictly on population, leaving Montana—a state with a massive veteran per-capita presence but low total population—with a budget for only two counselors.

Using the flexibility provided by our donations, Matt was able to lobby in Washington D.C. to change the federal allocation formula.

The Result: Montana's budget jumped from 2 counselors to 15. *

The Impact: We went from \$86,000 in annual federal support to over \$700,000 in real help for our veterans, every single year, forever.

The Bottom Line: Your donations helped turn 3,300 hours of counseling into nearly 25,000 hours. We are turning thousands of dollars into millions of dollars in value.

2. Saving Our Youth

Montana currently ranks #1 per capita in teen suicide—a statistic we refuse to accept. Our funds act as the safety net for Teen Suicide Prevention programs in at-risk schools. When state or federal funding falls short of the \$186,000 annual cost to run these programs, our money fills the gap. This coming year, we are also launching the Teen Mental Health First Aid program. This empowers Montana's youth to spot the warning signs in their friends and take life-saving action before it's too late.

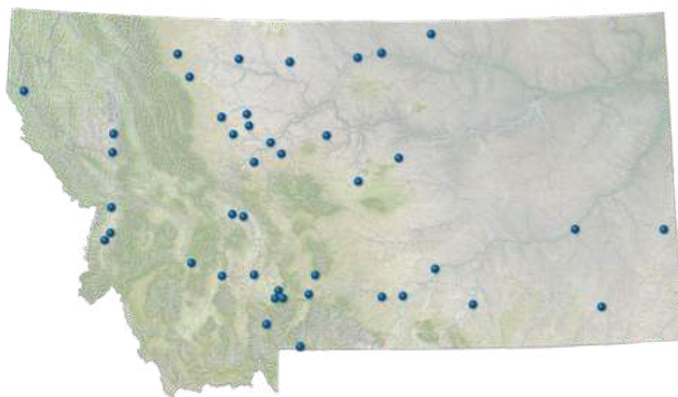
A Humble Thank You

To the riders who drove hundreds of miles just to sit at a banquet table, to the clubs who continue to hustle, and to the donors who trust us: Thank you. It is humbling to lead a group that "soldiers on" when the trails are bare. We aren't just a snowmobile group; we are a lifeline. The stats say there is more work to do, and as long as there is a need, we will be here.

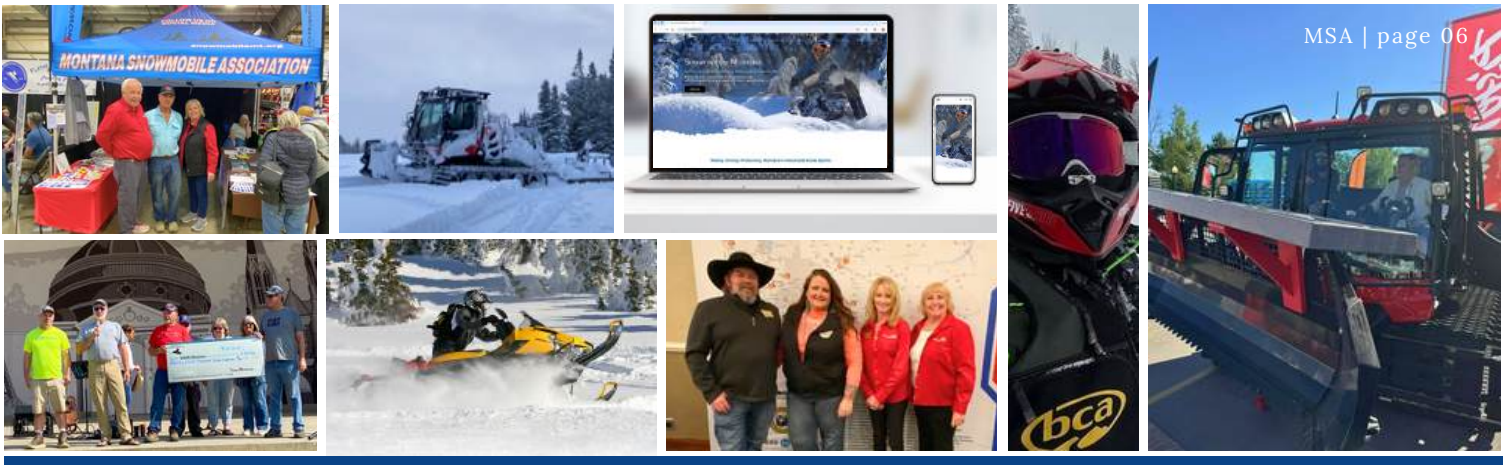
How You Can Help

Identify a Partner: We are still seeking a corporate donor to help us multiply our impact even further. If you have a connection, please reach out to Mark Smolen directly.

Stay Involved: Even without a ride, the fundraising continues. Every penny goes directly to NAMI Montana's front-line programs.



School Systems where Teen Mental Health Programs have been rolled out.



A Look Back at MSA's Season



Triumphs & Teamwork

If you've ever wondered what your Montana Snowmobile Association board and clubs are working on behind the scenes... here's a snapshot of what the season looked like.

We Protected Your Trails

- Worked alongside the FWP Snowmobile Program on grooming coordination and trail funding.
- Monitored access issues and represented snowmobilers in land-use discussions.
- Advocated for continued state support of trail maintenance and infrastructure.
- Participated in the Washington, D.C. Fly-In to represent Montana snowmobilers at the national level.
- Met directly with legislators and staff to advocate for responsible recreation, access, and funding priorities.
- Engaged with American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA) to stay aligned on federal policy and land access issues impacting our state.

We Strengthened Our Voice

- Initiated a Montana Snowmobiling Economic Impact Study to better understand and communicate the value snowmobiling brings to our state.
- Collected data to support advocacy efforts, funding discussions, and long-term strategic planning.
- Positioned MSA with stronger facts and figures to support conversations at both the state and federal levels.

We Expanded Opportunities Through Grants

- Continued offering MSA grant opportunities to support local clubs.
- Helped strengthen club projects through funding assistance for trail improvements, equipment, and community initiatives.

We Promoted Safe Riding

- Shared avalanche awareness resources and rider education materials.
- Promoted responsible riding and stewardship across the state.

We Refreshed Our Digital Presence

- Launched a newly refreshed MSA website with improved navigation and updated content.
- Made it easier for members to find events, newsletters, scholarship information, and association updates.
- Strengthened our online presence to better represent Montana snowmobilers statewide.

We Elevated Our Event Presence

- Invested in new event signage, tents, and displays to create a more professional and unified MSA presence.
- Improved visibility at rides, fundraisers, and public events.
- Strengthened brand recognition across districts and clubs.
- We Brought Riders Together
- Continued our charity auction efforts benefiting NAMI Montana.
- Hosted our Annual Awards Banquet celebrating Montana riders, volunteers, and clubs who go above and beyond.
- Recognized outstanding contributions that keep our snowmobiling community strong.

We Kept You Informed

- Published monthly newsletters highlighting club activities, legislative updates, safety reminders, and member stories.
- Shared timely updates on trail conditions and event changes due to snowpack and weather conditions. (as reported by clubs)
- Promoted club events across our social media channels to help increase visibility, attendance, and community engagement.


We Invested in the Future

- Awarded scholarships to support youth education.
- Encouraged family involvement and the next generation of snowmobilers.

We Supported Our Clubs

- Provided guidance, communication support, and statewide visibility for local events.
- Encouraged collaboration between districts and clubs to strengthen our voice.
- Added a new MSA-affiliated club to our association, expanding our statewide network and strengthening representation for Montana riders.

Since 1974, MSA has served as the voice of Montana snowmobilers. From local trail projects to national advocacy, everything we do is about protecting access, promoting safety, and strengthening our snowmobiling community.

Because when we work together, Montana snowmobiling stays strong. 



CLUB NEWS

MSA Watch Items & Travel Plans

MSA remains actively engaged in travel plans and land use decisions that impact snowmobiling across the state. Listed below are key areas where MSA has provided feedback or continues to monitor developments:

- Wilderness Study
- Economic Impact Study (Winter)
- Island Park & West Yellowstone Madison-Gallatin Monument Plan
- Clearwater Blackfoot
- Lincoln Prosperity Project
- Kootenai Forest
- Montana Headwaters Legacy Act
- Lolo Travel Plan
- 30 by 30 Initiative
- Avalanche Center Budget Reduction
- Roadless Rule

We encourage all members to stay informed and engaged in these discussions. Our voices play a vital role in shaping the future of snowmobiling in Montana.

THANK YOU, DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES!

A sincere thank you to our MSA District Representatives for serving as the vital link between local clubs and the association. Your communication, leadership, and commitment ensure that ideas, concerns, and successes flow both ways — strengthening every club and MSA as a whole. We appreciate all you do behind the scenes to keep us connected and moving forward together.

Club's if you have questions, not sure how to go about a project or an issue, contact your district rep. We have resources and assistance just waiting to help you. See page two to connect with your rep.

TRACK. LOG. REPORT.



Your volunteer hours matter — so make sure they count! Logs can be downloaded anytime from the MSA website Resource Center.

And remember, recording hours isn't just for groomer operators. Be sure to track meeting attendance, website and social media support, event planning, trail work, fundraising efforts, and more. It all adds up — and it should.

Volunteers are the core of our clubs' success. Reporting those hours helps demonstrate our impact, strengthen our programs, and show just how much dedication powers MSA forward.

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ANNUAL UPDATE



Attention Clubs: Please report your current club and officer information annually using the online form at snowmobilemt.org under Resources. Keeping this information updated ensures we can communicate effectively and keep your club connected.

QUICK FACTS

The average snowmobiler spends \$2,000 each year on snowmobile-related recreation.

HELP US SPOTLIGHT THE HEART OF MSA — YOUR CLUB



Every club is the heartbeat of MSA, and we want to share your story. We're asking each club to submit at least one article per season highlighting your events, members, projects, and community involvement (and of course, more are always welcome!).

Let's hear about the rides, the volunteer efforts, the fundraisers, the behind-the-scenes trail work — all of it. Your stories inspire others and show the strength of our statewide snowmobiling community.

No article? We'll send warm weather your way. And wind. Lots of nice southerly winds.

All jokes aside — readers truly want to hear from you. Step up and help us reach this goal. If you're not sure where to start, we're happy to help. Reach out anytime at news@snowmobilemt.org.

Let's tell the club story — together.

Vice President's Corner

It's March...already!

Unfortunately, this means that sledding season is getting closer to coming to a close.

While we still have the opportunity to ride some great spring snow the opportunity's will be less. I do hope that you were able to get some awesome powder turns in this season.

MSA helped host the American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA) Mountain Riding Summit. This was held in West Yellowstone, Montana. The event was geared towards the youth attendees and riders. Jason Howell, ACSA Mountain Riding President, put together a phenomenal line up for the event. We all gathered to ride on Thursday and had..I don't use this word lightly...EPIC snow to ride. It was handlebar deep all day long.

Friday was meeting day and we had a full day of learning. We had some ACSA business to handle then moved on to our presenters. We had some notable names that spoke about avalanche awareness, medical kits, and what they carry into the backcountry. We watched a couple short films on the dangers of and avoiding avalanches. We learned about sled set up for the ladies as well as the gents. We sure do appreciate them all being there to help educate youth and adults alike.

My big take away from the ACSA Mountain Riding Summit... Youth..not kids, not children, I'm talking the youth of our sport. We had a round table with ages that ranged from 7 to 21. They fielded questions from the audience with each one answering the question posed. Not a single one stammered at the questions and with most giving elaborate and informative answers. One question was who did they admire from the sport of snowmobiling. The most popular answer was Dad & Grandpa....that hits right in the feels. Parents, yes moms as well, they are always watching and learning regardless of age. Think on this a bit and realize that the future of snowmobiling is in great hands.

I will end this with a quote, from the round table, when asked how adults can help them grow within the sport..... "Be a guardrail...not a leash".....

Rowdy Yates

Vice President

Montana Snowmobile Association

406-223-5428 | vp@snowmobilemt.org



SLOW DOWN WHEN RIDING WITH KIDS

KEEP THEM SAFE. MAKE IT FUN.

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



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Seeley Lake, MT

Snowmobile events returned to the X Games in Aspen in January 2026 after a hiatus since 2020, featuring high-flying action in Freestyle and Speed & Style. Read more in the online newsletter edition.

March 1, 2026 - 3-Club Cookout - Great Falls Snowmobile Club - Ant Warming Hut
March 2, 2026 - Scenic Montana Trails Fun Run - Seeley Lake
March 13 & 14, 2026 - Ski-Doo Spring Tour Stop - Fundraiser for Island Park EMS
March 13 & 14, 2026 - Hog Roast Fundraiser, UYSC - Cooke City
March 14, 2026 - St Patty's Vintage Ride, Anaconda Snowmobile Club - Anaconda
March 20 - 23, 2026 - World Championship Jackson Hole Snowmobile Hill Climb
April 18-22, 2026 - DC Fly-In
June 3 - 6, 2026 - International Snowmobile Congress - Omaha
June 27, 2026 - Snowmobile Appropriations Meeting - Helena
June 27, 2026 - MSA Board Meeting - Helena

Grant Applications - Check websites for dates!

Board & Groomer Appropriations Meeting

The next MSA Board Meeting, Spring 2026 will be held in conjunction with the Groomer Appropriation meeting. Annual club representation is mandatory for this meeting. Per FWP's regulations, clubs not in attendance incur a 15% deduction in groomer appropriation funding.

This is the one time of year all clubs get a chance to get together. We look forward to seeing everyone soon!

Spring Meeting:
Helena - June 27, 2026

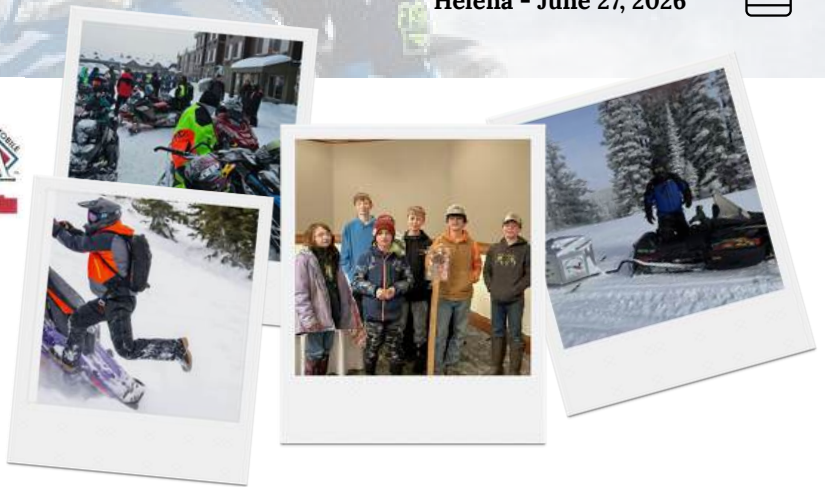


Send Us Your Events!
Email: news@snowmobilemt.org

ACSA Mountain Riding Summit Building Tomorrow's Riders



The American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA) hosted its Mountain Riding Summit in West Yellowstone this February – and winter finally showed up! The event was all about the kids, and it truly delivered. Youth riders ages 7 to 21 traveled from Oregon, Wisconsin, South Dakota, Nebraska, and across Montana for several fun-filled days of riding, roundtables, hands-on clinics, and connections.



MSA proudly sponsored a pizza party and luncheon for the group, helping fuel the next generation of riders. The highlight? More than 20 youth shredding the mountain together on Saturday – a powerful reminder that the future of our sport is strong, passionate, and ready to lead.

Winter Up Montana!

You may have seen this plate on many vehicles, but did you know that by purchasing this plate you support the MSA and our Legal Defense Fund?

All monies generated go to ensuring our ability to use public lands for all purposes. When your vehicle comes up for a license plate renewal, please consider getting the Winter Wonderland plate and supporting the MSA!



Did You Know?

You can support snowmobiling every time you drive—MSA has official sponsored license plates available!



MONTANA SNOWMOBILE PROGRAM UPDATE

This year has definitely not been the kind of winter I was expecting. It really seems to have passed us right on by. I know that many of our snowmobiling activities have had to be canceled. I do feel for those communities that rely on winter visitors to survive. Consider making a special trip to support some of these local businesses and try to lesson their losses. I apologize for the sad country song.

One thing I have learned over the years is how supportive you all are. Take the time to remember those people from your past. Take a minute to get in touch and let them know you are thinking about them. The snowmobile program would not exist without their hard work and forethought. I am also very grateful for all of you who currently keep the clubs running.

If you are not a member of a club, join one. Get involved and assist where you can. This is a great community, and we are definitely stronger with all of us working together. Have an awesome spring!

Seth McArthur
Montana Snowmobile Program Manager
 smcarthur@mt.gov
 406-444-3753

Thank You

Thank you, **Seth McArthur** of the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Snowmobile Program. Seth's support of Montana snowmobiling, MSA, and our local clubs goes far beyond the scope of his job — it's clear he brings passion to every interaction. From grooming operations and equipment assistance to educational support and coordination with key partners, he works tirelessly behind the scenes to strengthen our program.

His knowledge, network, and ability to connect the right people at the right time are invaluable to the snowmobile community. Seth is truly a backbone of our program, and we are deeply grateful for his dedication and commitment to Montana snowmobiling.

On behalf of MSA and our member clubs,
 Thank you.

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 406-761-0303



With Our Gratitude

Thank you to our valued Newsletter Advertisers. Your support helps keep our publication strong and our association connected.

Special thanks to:

The Lodge at Lolo Hot Springs, Paulsen's Powersports, Kurt's Polaris, Yellowstone Gathering Place, Aspen Assessment and Counseling Services, Elk Horn Lodge, and Brandin' Iron Inn.

Does it make a difference? You bet it does. We often hear from readers who make a point to support the businesses that support MSA. That loyalty speaks volumes.

When our advertisers invest in us, our members invest in them – and that's the kind of partnership that keeps our snowmobiling community thriving.

**Advertise in the 2026-2027
Newsletter and SAVE.**

Special - ask about our early-bird website and ad specials. We would love to work with you!
news@snowmobilemt.org

MSA Membership Application

Join online snowmobilemt.org or complete the application below.



Select Membership Type

- Single/Family Membership - Annual Cost \$25
- Business / Club Membership - Annual Cost \$40



If Business or Club Membership

Business / Club Name:

Primary Account Holder:

If Single / Family Membership

Primary Account Holder:

Family Members (If applicable):

Contact Information

Email Address

Phone

Mailing Address

Do You Belong to a Local Snowmobile Club?

List Primary Club:

Mail completed application with payment

Montana Snowmobile Association
P.O. Box 56 | Black Eagle, MT 59414



Montana Snowmobile Association

www.snowmobilemt.org

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