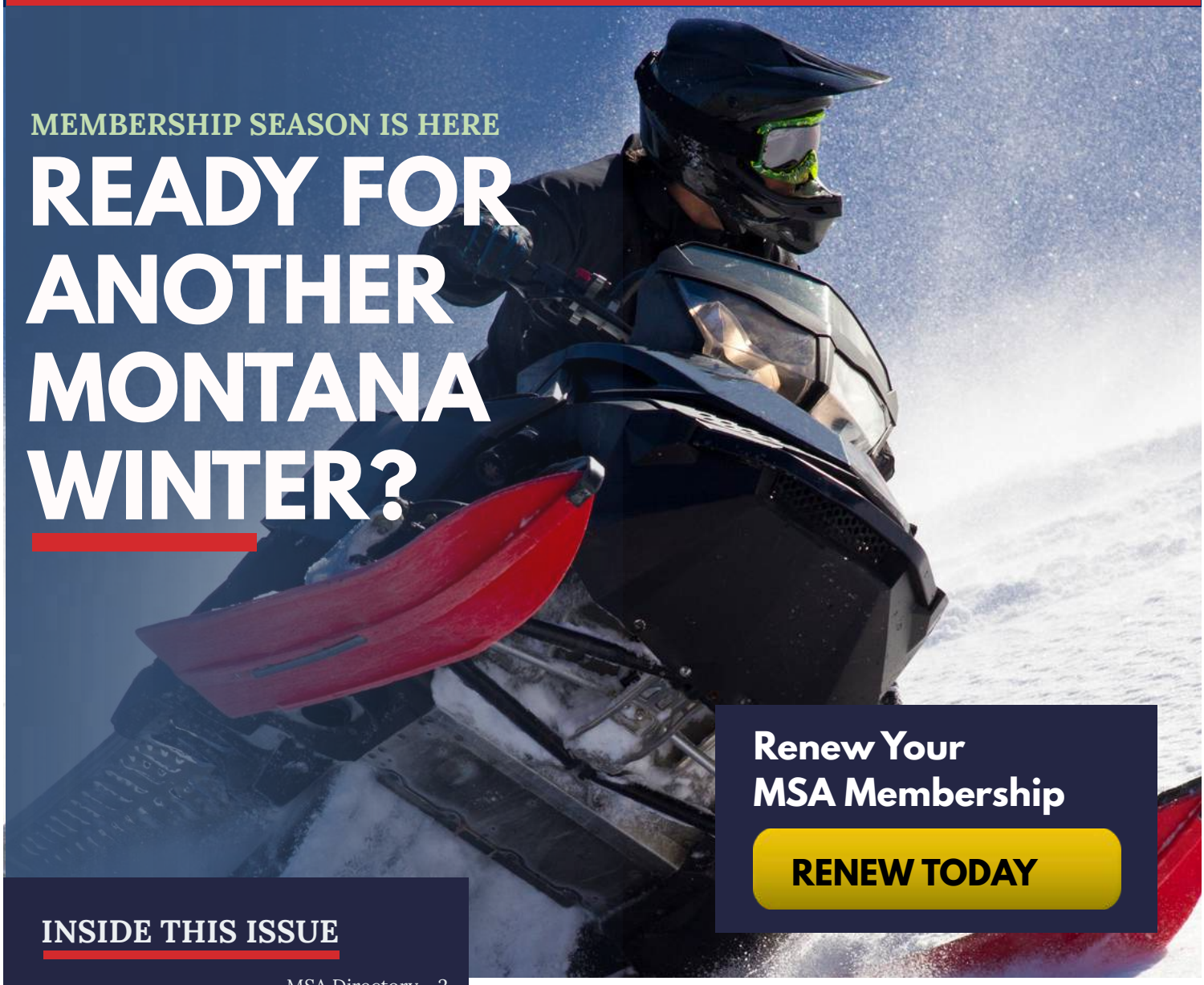
ISSUE 1 • OCTOBER 2026
2026-2027

Montana SNOWMOBILE NEWS

Protecting Access. Supporting Riders. Strengthening Communities.

MEMBERSHIP SEASON IS HERE

READY FOR ANOTHER MONTANA WINTER?



Renew Your MSA Membership

RENEW TODAY

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

MSA Directory - 2
Ready to Ride? - 3
Club News & Spotlight - 4
New Youth Program - 6
President's Message - 7
Snowmobile Hall of Fame Inductee - 8
Event Calendar - 10
MSA on the Go - 12
Trans-Montana - 13
Snow. Sleds. Stories. 14-15
Vice-President's Corner - 16
MT Snowmobile Program - 17
Why Mountain Riders Use Trails - 18
Membership Application - 19

Can You Feel It?

The mornings are getting colder. The leaves are changing. Mountain peaks are already seeing their first dustings of snow.

Winter is coming. Let's make it a great one.

Chase the snow, but don't leave the Big Three behind: **beacon, probe and shovel.**

Montana Snowmobile Association

P.O. Box 56
Black Eagle, MT 59414

Website: www.snowmobilemt.org
Contact Us: info@snowmobilemt.org

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

CONNIE WALTER
President
406-590-0386
president@snowmobilemt.org

FRED BAILEY
Past President
406-431-9402
pastpresident@snowmobilemt.org

ROWDY YATES
Vice-President
406-223-5428
vp@snowmobilemt.org

PEGGY ALBEE
Secretary
secretary@snowmobilemt.org

KRISTEN YATES
Treasurer
treasurer@snowmobilemt.org

COMMITTEES & ADVISORY PARTNERSHIPS

Charity Chair
Cliff Walter
charity@snowmobilemt.org

Safety Officer
Rowdy Yates
safety@snowmobilemt.org

Trans-Montana Co-Chairs
Mark Smolen
Wally Deschene
leader@trans-montana.org

Tech Advisor
Colin Watts
tech@snowmobilemt.org

Youth Ambassador
Alec Manseau
youth@snowmobilemt.org

Newsletter & Advertising
Connie Pollard
news@snowmobilemt.org

Legislative Lobbyist
Margaret Morgan
406-431-9836
mgtmorgan@morganconsults.com

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

MSA-AFFILIATED SNOWMOBILE CLUBS

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) 595-7962 www.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.troysnowmobileclub.org

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

( ) Corresponding District
† Community grooming operation. No membership

2025-2026 Snowmobile Club of the Year

DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

DISTRICT 1
Rick David
dist-one@snowmobilemt.org

DISTRICT 2
Aron Dicksion
dist-two@snowmobilemt.org

DISTRICT 3
Sammi Rasmussen
dist-three@snowmobilemt.org

DISTRICT 4
Kurt Freedie
dist-four@snowmobilemt.org

DISTRICT 5
Rex Caraker
dist-five@snowmobilemt.org

DISTRICT 6
Gary Blond
dist-six@snowmobilemt.org

DISTRICT 7
Cliff Walter
dist-seven@snowmobilemt.org

DISTRICT 8
OPEN
dist-eight@snowmobilemt.org

DISTRICT 9
Ron Albee
dist-nine@snowmobilemt.org

DISTRICT 10
Rowdy Yates
dist-ten@snowmobilemt.org

DISTRICT 11
Brent Larson
dist-eleven@snowmobilemt.org

DISTRICT 12 & 13 - VACANT

SAFETY NEWS

MSA SAFETY NOTE

The temperatures are dropping, snow is starting to show up in the high country, and before long snowmobile season will be underway across Montana. We're all ready to throw a leg over a sled again, but before that first ride, there's one question worth asking:

Are you, your sled, and your gear actually ready?

The Sled - Most of us spend plenty of time making sure the machine is ready. Check the belt, fluids, track, suspension, skis, carbides, lights and battery. Look over your tools and spare parts and make sure everything you carried last season is still there and still usable. Update and clean tools.

AVY & Safety Gear - Inspect your helmet and goggles. Check your first-aid/survival kits. Replace all batteries with new. Charge radios and satellite communicators and make sure subscriptions and software are current, then test them. Check your fire starters, extra gloves, socks, emergency blankets, etc. and don't forget you can vacuum seal things to make them pack smaller.

Heading to the Steep and Deep? - For those riding Montana's steep-and-deep backcountry, preparation takes another step. Avalanche beacon, probe and shovel are always standard equipment for every rider in the group, and everyone needs to know how to use them. Test beacons before leaving the trailhead and practice with your equipment before the season gets rolling. Be that person to check everyone!

Refresh your avalanche knowledge, check the current avalanche forecasts. An avalanche airbag can add another layer of protection, but no piece of equipment replaces good training, sound decisions and knowing when it's time to turn around. Be prepared to be that person that says "not today", if it's not right that day.

Trail Safety and Etiquette - Stay on your side of the trail, especially in blind corners. Control your speed for the conditions and expect another rider around every corner. Give groomers plenty of room and slow down when approaching or passing them. Respect posted signs, closures, private property and designated routes.

Finally, Get Yourself Ready - The first few rides can wear you out faster than you expect. Fatigue affects judgment, reaction time and decision-making. Ease back into riding, stay hydrated and recognize when you're getting tired. Take a little extra time before that first ride to prepare yourself, your machine and your equipment. Getting ready for snowmobile season isn't just about getting the sled ready. The most important piece of equipment on that sled is the person running the throttle. Ride prepared. Ride smart. Ride safe. And let's have a great Montana snowmobile season.

Become a GOLD Sponsor Partner!

Support those who support the sport.

Meet the businesses investing in Montana snowmobiling—and discover how your business can ride with us. Visit snowmobilemt.org - PARTNERS

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**
- **Island Park & West Yellowstone Madison-Gallatin Monument Plan**
- **Clearwater Blackfoot**
- **Lincoln Prosperity Project**
- **Lolo Travel Plan**
- **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.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

We welcomed a new club under the MSA umbrella. Welcome Rev It Up Girls! This dynamic club serves Montana and Wyoming riders.

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.

Rev It Up Girls
PO Box 371
Wilsall, MT 59086
(406) 595-7962
Website: revitupgirls.com
Facebook: revitupgirls

TRACK VOLUNTEER HOURS

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.

CLUB FORMS & DOWNLOADS

RESOURCE CENTER

Visit snowmobilemt.org

DOWNLOADS

- MSA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
- NEWSLETTER & WEB ADVERTISING
- VOLUNTEER HOURS (MEETINGS, EVENTS, ETC.)
- DAILY GROOMING LOG
- MSA GRANT APPLICATION
- SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION
- AWARD NOMINATIONS

Let's Get Started!

Report your club's 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.

New Look

MSA rolled out a new logo just in time for the 2026-2027 season!

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.

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

RIDE HERE? SUPPORT HERE.

GALLATIN VALLEY SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION

Bozeman, Montana • MSA District 10 • Founded: 1967

260 MILES GROOMED | 1 GROOMER | 10 FAMILY-FRIENDLY GROUP RIDES

Club Motto: Keeping Montana's snowmobile tradition strong—one ride, one trail, and one adventure at a time.

ABOUT

The Gallatin Valley Snowmobile Association (GVSA) has been grooming adventures and building community since 1967. Based in Bozeman, GVSA maintains a vast network of trails, brings riders together through family-friendly events, and works to keep snowmobiling a vital part of Montana's outdoor heritage for generations to come.

Website: www.gvsa.net
Facebook: GallatinValleySnowmobileAssociation
Email: galvalsnowmobile@gmail.com

President: Daniel Kristensen - (406) 539-6959
District Rep: Rowdy Yates

RIDING AREA:

South Central Montana
Greater Bozeman & Gallatin Canyon Region

TRAIL FAVORITES

Buck Ridge
Taylor Fork
Fairy Lake
Battle Ridge
Moose/Portal
Storm Castle
Swan Creek
Little Bear

SIGNATURE EVENTS

East-West Ride * Black Ridge Poker Ride
Christmas Party

UPPER YELLOWSTONE SNOWMOBILE CLUB

Cooke City, Montana • MSA District 10 • Founded: 1972 • 3x MSA Club of the Year

33 MILES GROOMED | 1 GROOMER, 3 GROOMER OPERATORS | STEEP & DEEP

"The adventure starts the moment you unload."

ABOUT

The UYSC and Cooke City set literally at the end of the World starting December 1st. We start the adventures the moment you pull into town and unload your sled/snowbike. Once unloaded you don't reload until going home or broke! We are very well known for being home of the "Steep and Deep". We also have riding areas for everyone's talent. We are always a Top 10 snowmobile destination. We have been voted Club of the Year 3 times by the Montana Snowmobile Association. Our legendary UYSC Hog Roast is in March and continues to set fundraising records.

Website: ridecookecity.com
Facebook: facebook.com/uysclub

President: Rowdy Yates - 406-223-5428 broncbuster48@yahoo.com
District Rep: Rowdy Yates

RIDING AREA:

SouthCentral Montana
Absaroka and Beartooth Mountain Ranges-East of Yellowstone National Park

TRAIL FAVORITES

Daisy Pass
Lulu Pass
Round Lake Safety Shelter
Beartooth Country

SIGNATURE EVENTS

Presidents / Valentine's Poker Run
Legendary Hog Roast

Each edition we'll spotlight a few clubs, are you next?
Contact news@snowmobilemt.org.

SPECIAL FEATURE

If you've spent any time around the outdoors, you've probably heard someone say, "We need to get more youth involved." We couldn't agree more.

That's why we're excited to introduce Montana RidgeRunners Youth, the Montana Snowmobile Association's new youth program.

While Montana RidgeRunners Youth is part of the MSA family, this isn't just about snowmobiling. It's about getting youth and young adults outside year-round. Whether it's snowmobiles in the winter or side-by-sides, ATVs, dirt bikes, and other OHV adventures in the summer, we want to encourage the next generation to enjoy everything Montana has to offer.

MONTANA RIDGERUNNERS YOUTH

EXPLORE | LEARN | RESPECT
VOLUNTEER | RIDE | BELONG

For more information, E-mail or call:

Alec Manseau
alecwm19@gmail.com (406.366.1933)

Zandria Bancroft
zandriabancroft12@gmail.com (406.422.3964)

Youth Advisors:
Kristen Yates (406.366.2686)
or Stacy Deupree (406.366.6691)

Our goal is to get youth outside, help them learn new skills, respect the land, and build lifelong friendships. We want them to learn safe and responsible riding, understand trail etiquette, give back through volunteer projects, and see what being part of a local club is all about. Most of all, we want them to have fun and create memories that will last a lifetime.

"We believe some of the best memories are made when families ride together."

Our hope is that Montana RidgeRunners Youth gives families another reason to unplug, head outside, and enjoy time together—whether that's on the snow in January or on the trail in July.

This is just the beginning. We have a lot of ideas, and we're excited to watch this program grow across Montana. We know it won't happen overnight, but every youth member, every family, and every club that gets involved helps keep our riding traditions alive for the next generation.

Whether your family enjoys snowmobiles, ATVs, side-by-sides, dirt bikes, or just spending time outdoors, we'd love to have you be part of Montana RidgeRunners Youth. This is just the beginning, and we're excited to see where this adventure takes us.

Be sure to follow our social media on Facebook and Instagram.

Youth Group

Sign Up:
snowmobilemt.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A Note from the MSA President

As I look back over the past several months, one thing stands out to me: MSA does not stop working when the snow melts. In fact, summer is one of our busiest times as we work to protect access, support our clubs, and prepare for the seasons ahead.

In April, several of us traveled to Washington, D.C., for our DC Fly-In. It was an incredible experience, and we were given special treatment by Montana's legislators and representatives.

Having the opportunity to sit down with our elected officials, talk about snowmobiling, and explain the importance of access, trails, grooming, and our rural communities is extremely valuable. These face-to-face conversations matter. We need to make sure the people making decisions in Washington understand what snowmobiling means to Montana.

June is always International Snowmobile Congress. We are already looking ahead to the 2027 event in Salt Lake City, June 9–12. This is an important opportunity for snowmobile associations from across the country and beyond to come together, share ideas, discuss challenges, and work collectively for the future of our sport. I hope many Montana snowmobilers and club members will consider attending.

Most exciting news for MSA.... Montana Ridge Runners, our youth program for MSA, is off and running. So get your kids signed up. Alec and Zandria are working hard to build the group guided by Kristen and Stacy.

If we want snowmobiling to have a strong future, we need to introduce young people to our sport, teach them to ride safely and responsibly, and give them an opportunity to become involved in our clubs and our organization. Building the next generation of snowmobilers won't happen overnight, but we are sure moving forward.

We have spent considerable time working on access issues across Montana, because protecting the places we ride has to remain one of our highest priorities. We have also been dealing with the very practical issues that affect our trails—downed trees, trail maintenance, and keeping routes accessible and ready for the coming season.

If you haven't visited the MSA website recently, I encourage you to take a look at all the resources available to members.

There is a lot to do, and none of it happens without our volunteers, club leaders, district representatives, and members. Whether we're sitting across the table from legislators in Washington, working through an access issue, clearing a downed tree from a trail, helping a club with a grant, or talking with a young person about snowmobiling, it all comes back to the same goal: protecting and strengthening snowmobiling in Montana for the next generation.

Thank you for being part of MSA and for everything you do for this sport. I look forward to seeing you on the trails this winter!

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

Trail Passes & Registration

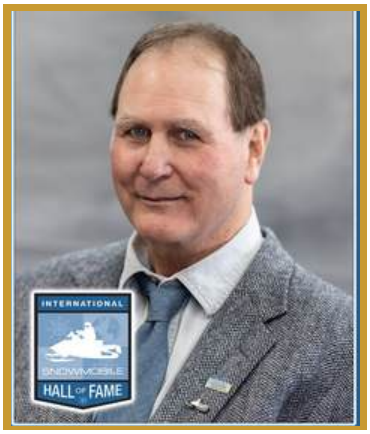
A Montana Trail Pass is required for residents and nonresidents riding on the state's 4,000 miles of groomed snowmobile trails. Resident passes are valid for two seasons; nonresident passes are valid for one season.

Visit snowmobilemt.org for details or
Online License Service
ols.fwp.mt.gov

Fred Bailey

Inducted into the 2026 International Snowmobile Hall of Fame

Honoring a Lifetime of Dedication



For more than three decades, Fred Bailey has been a driving force behind organized snowmobiling in Montana and across the nation. His lifelong dedication to the sport, its riders, and its future has earned him one of snowmobiling's highest honors—induction into the International Snowmobile Hall of Fame, Class of 2026.

Fred's snowmobiling journey began as a young boy riding with his grandfather near Avon, Montana. What started as a passion for winter recreation quickly grew into a lifelong commitment to protecting, promoting, and advancing the sport he loves. Alongside his wife, Julie, Fred has spent more than 30 years enjoying Montana's snow-covered backcountry while tirelessly giving back to the snowmobiling community.

His service began with the Helena Snowdrifters, where he soon stepped into leadership roles and became one of the club's most dedicated volunteers. Fred played a key role in securing the property for the club's groomer shed, obtaining the truck and trailer used to transport the groomer, maintaining the club's nonprofit status, and supporting countless work parties, trail maintenance projects, bridge-building efforts, and even the relocation of the groomer shed itself. If there was work to be done, Fred was there.

At the state level, Fred's impact has been equally significant. He served as an MSA District Representative, four years as Vice President, and four years as President of the Montana Snowmobile Association. Throughout his tenure, he championed issues critical to snowmobilers, including trail access, safety, funding, education, and responsible recreation.

Fred has represented Montana snowmobilers at numerous Washington, D.C. Fly-Ins, meeting directly with senators, representatives, and policymakers to ensure the voice of snowmobilers is heard. He understands that advocacy is essential to protecting the future of the sport and has dedicated countless hours to that mission.

As MSA Trails Coordinator, Fred has worked closely with the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks. Through years of collaboration, he has built strong relationships with land managers and other recreation groups, earning widespread respect for his knowledge, professionalism, and ability to find common ground. Those partnerships have proven invaluable when addressing winter travel planning, access issues, and legislative challenges.

Safety and education have always been among Fred's highest priorities. He is both a state and nationally certified snowmobile safety instructor and an instructor for the ATV Safety Institute. Over the years, he has educated countless riders, helping ensure that future generations can enjoy the sport safely and responsibly.

Fred has also been a familiar face at the Montana Legislature, where he has testified on numerous bills affecting snowmobile funding, trail access, and rider safety. Whether advocating for recreation opportunities, promoting education, or defending access to public lands, he has consistently been a trusted voice for Montana snowmobilers.

> ***The Montana Snowmobile Association proudly congratulates Fred Bailey of Helena on his induction into the International Snowmobile Hall of Fame™ Class of 2026.***

Perhaps what makes Fred's contributions most remarkable is not any single accomplishment, but the consistency of his service. He has never sought recognition or personal accolades. Instead, he has quietly dedicated thousands of hours to improving the sport, mentoring new riders, supporting youth involvement, and ensuring organized snowmobiling remains strong for future generations. Individuals with Fred's combination of experience, leadership, passion, and selfless dedication are rare. His impact can be seen on the trails, in clubhouses, in legislative chambers, and in the countless friendships and partnerships he has built along the way.

The Montana Snowmobile Association proudly congratulates Fred Bailey on his induction into the International Snowmobile Hall of Fame. This honor is a fitting recognition of a lifetime spent serving snowmobilers, strengthening the sport, and leaving a lasting legacy for generations to come.

A Proud Montana Legacy

Embracing the past.
Building the future.

Montana has left a lasting mark on the snowmobiling world. From volunteers who built clubs and trail systems to innovators who helped shape the industry, these leaders dedicated countless hours to growing and protecting our sport.

The Montana members inducted into the International Snowmobile Hall of Fame represent the very best of snowmobiling—service, leadership, vision, and a passion for the next generation of riders. Their contributions have reached far beyond Montana's borders, helping strengthen snowmobiling across North America.

A special salute to Montana inductees Bill Howell (1991), Nina Smith (1997), Clyde Seely (2006), Jerry Schmier (2016), and Jason Howell (2022). Their legacy reminds us that the future of snowmobiling is built by those willing to give back.

Montana is proud to call these trailblazers our own.

Montana Fun Fact:
Bill and Jason Howell are the Hall of Fame's first father-and-son inductees.

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.

Winter Wonderland License Plates

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!

EVENTS

Don't Let Your Newsletter Ride Off Without You!

Enjoy getting Montana Snowmobile News?

Renew your MSA membership to keep it coming. This is your last issue until you renew—and your membership helps support Montana's snowmobile community all season long.

Want to give the newsletter an extra boost? Advertise with us! Email news@snowmobilemt.org to learn more.

October 30-31, 2026 - Montana Snowshow, Kalispell
December 5, 2026 - Christmas Party - Montana Night Riders, Haugen
December 5, 2026 - MSA Board Meeting, Helena
December 5, 2026 - Groomer Operator Training, Helena
December 31, 2026 - Awards Nominations Deadline
December 31, 2026 - Scholarship Entries Deadline
January 2, 2027 - Frozen Bogie - Montana Night Riders, Haugen
January 9 - 17, 2027 - International Snowmobile Safety Week
January 15 -17, 2027 - Winter Fest - Vintage Snowmobile Show - Montana Night Riders, Haugen
January 30, 2027 - Poker Ride - Montana Night Riders, Haugen
February 6-15, 2027 - Take a Friend Snowmobiling Week
February 11- 17, 2027 - Trans-Montana Charity Ride
February 12, 2027 - MSA Board Meeting
February 13, 2027 - MSA Association Group Ride, Missoula area
February 13, 2027 - Montana Snowmobile Association Awards Banquet & TMR Charity Auction, Missoula
February 13, 2027 - UYSC Poker Ride, Cooke City
February 17-22, 2027 - ACSA Mountain Riding Summit, West Yellowstone
February 20, 2027 - Glow Ride - Montana Night Riders, Haugen

Grant Applications - Check websites for dates!
AVY Training - Check websites for dates & locations.

Mark your calendars for the MSA Banquet.

Details to come soon!

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

Montana Snowmobile Show

Come out for the 2026 Montana Snowmobile & Powersports Show

This 2-day event brings together the best of western snowmobiling and promotes local snowmobile businesses. Check out the newest sleds from Arctic Cat, Ski-Doo, Polaris and Lynx as well as snowbikes, trailers, rentals and lodging.

It's the best place to find the best deals of the year on riding gear, parts and accessories. Bring the whole family!

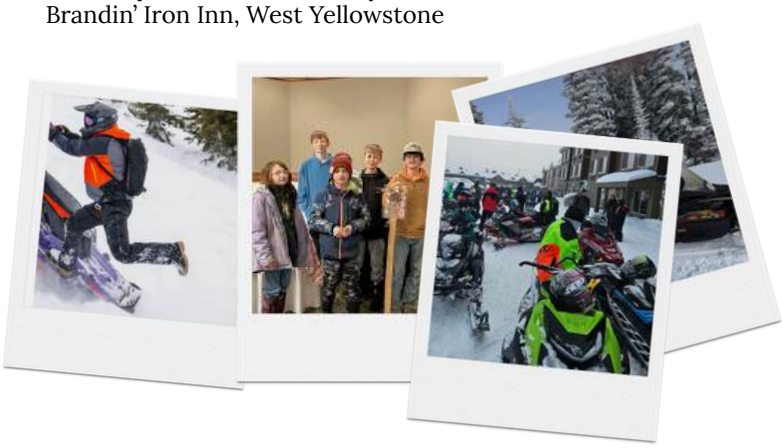
October 30-31, 2026
Flathead County Fairgrounds - Kalispell, MT
265 N Meridian Rd, Kalispell, MT 59901
SHOW HOURS
Friday: 3pm–9pm
Saturday: 9am–4pm

ACSA Mountain Riding Summit

Building Tomorrow's Riders

The American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA) will host its Mountain Riding Summit in West Yellowstone again this February with the Montana Snowmobile Association. Enjoy several fun-filled days of riding, roundtables, hands-on clinics, and youth connections.

February 17-22, 2027 - Make your reservations now.
Brandin' Iron Inn, West Yellowstone

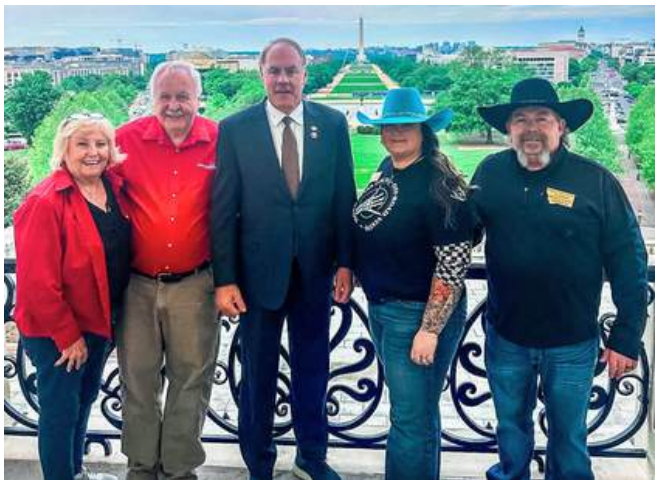


Some of Montana's best sledding is right outside our door—and so are the hot springs.

Road Trip Edition

Sharing Montana's Snowmobile Spirit

Putting on the Miles...



April 2026 | 26th Annual D.C. Fly-In

MSA representatives spent five days in Washington, D.C., advocating for trail access, responsible recreation and the future of snowmobiling. Alongside snowmobile associations from across the country, we met with decision-makers, strengthened partnerships and shared how snowmobiling supports Montana's families, communities and local economies. We were proud to make Montana's voice heard where important decisions are made.

June 2026 | 58th Annual International Snowmobile Congress

MSA representatives joined snowmobile leaders from around the world in Omaha, Nebraska, for the 58th Annual International Snowmobile Congress. The conference brought together associations, clubs, manufacturers, government agencies, tourism professionals and media to share industry updates, discuss common challenges and strengthen partnerships. MSA was proud to represent Montana and help shape the future of snowmobiling.

September 2026 | International Snowmobile Hall of Fame

Longtime Montana snowmobile advocate Fred Bailey was inducted into the International Snowmobile Hall of Fame in Wisconsin for his recognition of his decades of leadership, service and dedication to the sport. MSA was proud to celebrate Fred and the lasting impact he has made on snowmobiling in Montana and beyond.

MSA CHARITY RIDE

Come "Ride the Rockies"
and raise money for charity!

Trans-Montana Update **By Mark Smolen | Trans-Montana Co-Chair**

It's Sept 1 as I write this and I can't believe that autumn is nearly here! So that means planning for the 2027 Trans-Montana Ride is underway! First off, please do your snow dances, say your prayers or whatever we need to do to get some snow. Last year was a real bummer in that it was supposed to actually be a a LaNina year with lots of snow. Sadly, the forecast for this year is not so great with a super Elnino in the works. But we are soldiering on and planning for snow–we have to–the cause needs our help.

September 20th we presented NAMI with the check from last year's TMR. Even without riding, we raised $27,000. Not a record-breaker, but pretty darn good! Thank you to everyone who attended the banquet in Helena with a special thank you to the Helena Snowdrifters for putting that on!

Step one for this year is to move the dates back another week. In the past ten years, we've been moving the dates back and it truly has helped get us riding in the snow. We will start the ride in Eureka with the **Ten Lakes SC** on Thursday, Feb 11th. From there we will ride with the **Haugan Nightriders** on Friday.

Then we will spend three nights in Missoula. We will ride with the **Missoula Snowgoers** on Saturday at Lolo, and have the MSA/TMR Banquet that night in Missoula. The Banquet will be co-hosted by the **Missoula Snowgoers and the Bitterroot Ridgerunners** (thank you to all those folks organizing that!).

Sunday will ride with the **Bitterroot club at Skalkaho Pass.** Monday will be a day off as we travel to Butte.

Tuesday we will ride with the **Butte area clubs** and then make our way to **West Yellowstone** for our final ride on Wednesday and Rider's celebration party.

The sign-up page is live and ready to go. And most, if not all the hotels should be listed by the time you read this. Riders, ask for the TransMontana blocked rooms at the special rates.

Another key note is that the MSA/TMR Banquet will take place independent of the snow conditions. So we hope everyone will plan on coming to Missoula for that event! Saturday, Feb 14th. Bring your sweetheart!

One quick story: After being part of the TMR for many years, I'm astounded by all the friends I've made and all the phone calls and emails I get throughout the year. It truly is humbling to think of all the folks I never knew and now call friends. If you haven't come on the ride, you really are missing out on a chance to make some really great friends...hope to be meeting many more of you this year! -Mark

TMR Ride Schedule

Feb 11 - Eureka
Feb 12 - Haugen
Feb 13 - Missoula/Lolo Pass
TMR Charity Auction and Annual MSA Awards Banquet
Feb 14 - Skalkaho Pass
Feb 15 - Travel Day
Feb 16 - Butte
Feb 17 - West Yellowstone

Trans-Montana is MSA's premier charity ride and signature fundraiser.

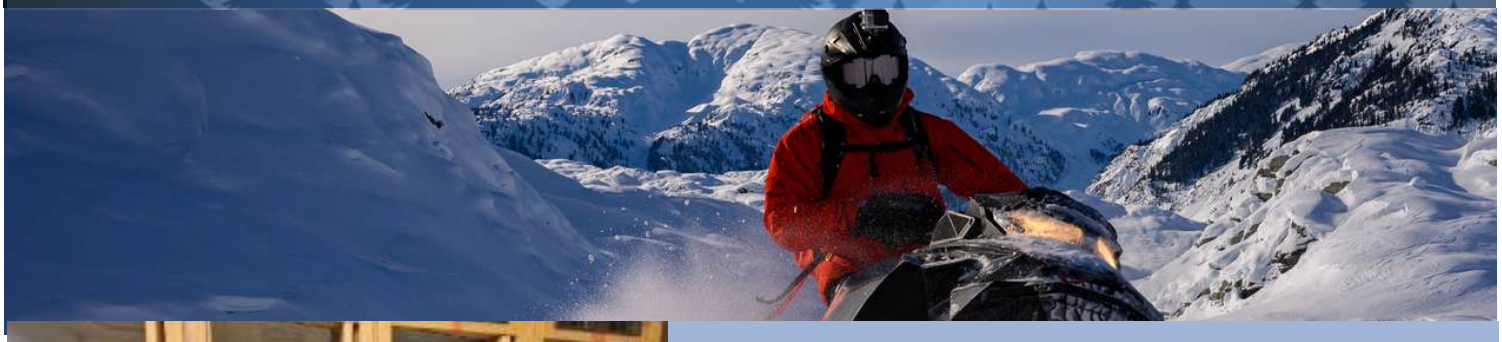
Each year, riders come together for a week-long adventure through Montana's Rocky Mountains—sharing scenic trails, small-town hospitality, and a commitment to giving back.

Funds raised support NAMI Montana and its work to improve the lives of Montanan teens and veterans affected by mental illness.

Your choice:
Ride for a day or the week!

Visit trans-montana.org

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS



Snow. Sleds. Stories.

Last year, we introduced the MSA Executive Team with biographies. This year, we thought we'd skip the resumes and ask a few questions every snowmobiler can appreciate.

Connie Walter
President
Great Falls, MT

Favorite Place to Ride in Montana
"This is not an easy one to answer. For someone who began riding later in life, I have been very lucky to ride many of the great areas in Montana. This is in part because I'm a member of the Montana Snowmobile Association and have ridden the Trans-Montana Ride for a few years.

I am not a speed demon, and I love to take in the scenery, so I'm kind of a slow gawker! I like riding loops and not traveling the same way back.

Lincoln is fun, but we've been lacking snow. Kings Hill is a great place with very smooth trails and a variety of riding for all skill levels. I also love to ride in West Yellowstone. Two Top is so beautiful, and Big Springs is amazing in the winter.

I guess I failed at picking a favorite...I'm just happy to be out enjoying Montana's wide-open spaces in the winter."

Go-To Trail Snack
"I have tried jerky a few times—not a good choice in the cold! So my usual is salami and cheese, with trail mix for a quick snack.

On our old sleds, we had muff pots and enjoyed many great trail lunches—Hot Pockets, egg rolls...you name it!"

What Are You Most Excited About This Season?
"The fact that Rowdy has predicted an epic snow year!! Hopefully, all of our riding areas will be inundated with snow and riders.

I'm also excited that we're getting our youth group off and running, that we'll be playing a big part in the Mountain Riding Summit in West Yellowstone with our youth, and that we'll continue growing our membership."

Rowdy Yates
Vice-President
Gardiner, MT

Favorite Place to Ride in Montana
"How could I answer this question with anything other than Cooke City, Montana. Cooke City is where I started Mountain riding with my wife Kristen. It's where all of this association and club involvement started for me!"

Go-To Trail Snack
"I usually carry a variety of protein snacks. Jerky, Protein bar, and without a doubt a Reese's Cup or two! "

What Are You Most Excited About This Season?
"We snow checked 2027 Arctic Cats so super excited to get them in our possession !!"

One Last Thought...
"I never have just one last thought..I always have many but in closing this time...I'm looking forward to a great snow season. Our state and all the sledding communities need and deserve a great season. As sledders we sometimes are not fond of sharing our snow or riding areas but our sledding community is what keeps some areas moving in the winter months. So..more snow..more
riding time, introduce a kid to the sport,
get the avalanche training,
and everyone be safe!"

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Peggy Albee
Secretary
Lewistown, MT

Favorite Place to Ride in Montana
"My favorite place to ride is around the Crystal Lake area near Lewistown. It is SO scenic - an easy ride or more difficult - depending on where you go!

Go-To Trail Snack
"My go-to snack on the trail is nuts (walnuts, sliced almonds, and dry-roasted, unsalted peanuts! They get stuck in your teeth, but who cares - no one can see your teeth when you're wearing a helmet!

What Are You Most Excited About This Season?
"I'm looking forward to using all the skills I learned during my experience with the Octane & Grit Women's Riding Clinic - I developed a sense of confidence in riding and safety awareness that I never knew I was capable of! Thanks to Jess, Kristen, and crew, I've come a long way!

Kristen Yates
Treasurer
Gardiner, MT

Favorite Place to Ride in Montana
"Since I pretty much grew up riding Cooke City with my parents, I'd have to say Cooke City. It's home, and there's nowhere else I'd rather ride."

Go-To Trail Snack
"Depends on the weather. If it's cold, you'll find chicken tenders, shrimp, or steak cooking in my Muffpot. On a normal day, it's jerky, cheese, and a Reese's Stick."

What Are You Most Excited About This Season?
"That's a tough one—there's so much happening this winter. I'd have to say coaching at the Octane & Grit Backcountry Ladies Clinic. Watching women build confidence and succeed in the backcountry is hard to beat. A close second is the ACSA Mountain Riding Summit, where we'll be getting more youth involved in the sport."

One Last Thought...
"Take someone new riding. The future of our sport depends on it. Every experienced rider was once a beginner, and it's up to us to pass on the skills, respect, and passion that keep snowmobiling alive."

Fred Bailey
Past-President
Helena, MT

Favorite Place to Ride in Montana
"Dog Creek area, there are lots of play areas more than other places overall."

Go-To Trail Snack
"Summer sausage, sliced cheese and crackers."

What Are You Most Excited About This Season?
"I'm hoping we get good snow! I love being part of a group of people who share the same passion and interest for snowmobiling.

Snowmobile people are just a different group of people...and I mean that in the very best way."

All Roads Lead to Snow

The MSA Executive Team is made up entirely of volunteers who donate countless hours to supporting local clubs, advocating for snowmobilers, improving trail access, promoting safety, organizing events, and helping ensure the future of our sport across Montana. While they each have important leadership roles, they're snowmobilers first.

Vice President's Corner

A Note from the MSA VP
It's almost that time of year when we get to chase the **white gold, the cold smoke, the deep pow, and the pristine trails.** It's also that time of year when we need to evaluate our riding gear, sled readiness, snow safety training, and all the other things that go along with getting ready for another season.

Over the off-season, your MSA Board and Directors have been hard at work. No, we don't quit just because there's no snow. A few of us attended the **Washington, D.C. Fly-In** in April. This is where we get to meet with our Montana representatives in D.C. and discuss the issues we face as snowmobilers and as an association. Once again, we were able to meet with **Senator Daines, Senator Sheehy, Congressman Zinke, and Congressman Downing.**

Side note: Mr. Zinke took us on a whirlwind tour of the Capitol. I'm sure some of you saw the pictures on social media.

We also met with the D.C. USFS folks, and some good things came from that meeting. These face-to-face meetings are important and continue to build some great connections for MSA.

A group of us also attended the I**nternational Snowmobile Congress (ISC)** in Nebraska in June. Wow, what an experience that was. We made a lot of new friends, which makes for some great networking across the snowmobile world, and we learned a great deal while we were there. Nebraska did one hell of a job putting this event on and set the bar high for future host states.

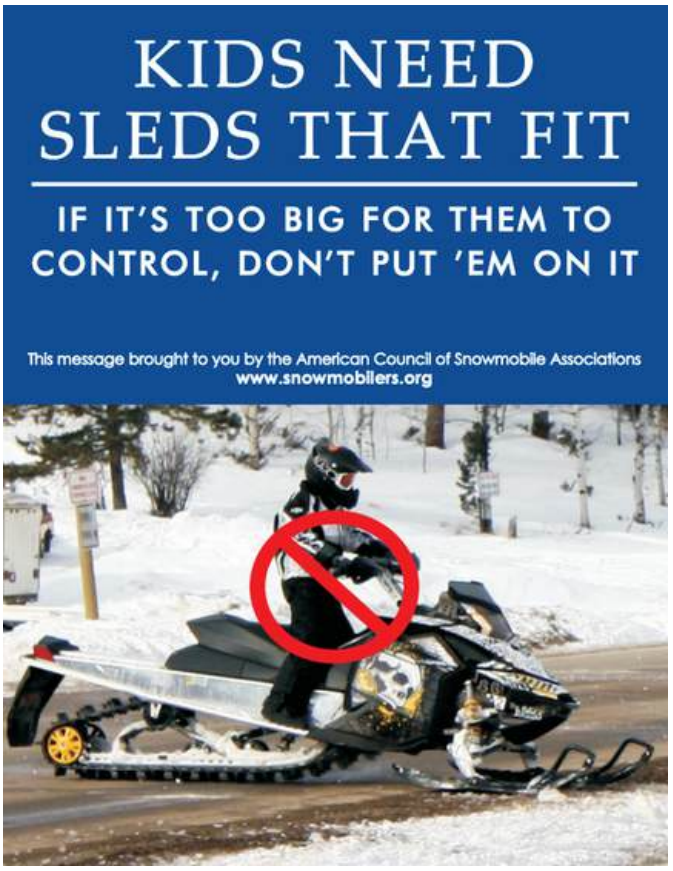
There are several pending issues involving access. The comment periods for some of them will be closed by the time you read this, but please stay informed and stay involved. Access doesn't take care of itself, and decisions being made today can affect where and how we ride tomorrow.

I'll close there. We ask that you get involved with your local snowmobile and off-road clubs. **Numbers do matter when we're sitting across the table from the suits.**

Have a great season, ride safe, and…

Let 'er Snow!

Rowdy Yates
Vice President
Montana Snowmobile Association
406-223-5428 | vp@snowmobilemt.org



ASPEN
Assessment & Counseling Services

MONTANA SNOWMOBILE PROGRAM UPDATE

We are almost upon a new season of grooming and all the hard work it entails for the many of you who volunteer to allow grooming to occur in Montana. I have spent this summer working to
repair and upgrade grooming equipment for the upcoming season. These upgrades are due to the
funding from the Snowmobile Trail Pass revenues. Thank you for your support of the
Snowmobile Clubs and their grooming efforts by purchasing the Snowmobile Trail Pass.

If your club needs funding for trail maintenance grooming, or equipment, there are FWP grant programs available to help. One of the biggest issues all clubs face is overgrown trails. Grants
are now available that will allow you to rent equipment and get this taken care of. If any of you have questions, please call and we can come up with a plan to assist in getting funding for these
activities. The grant process does take some effort, but it is worth it when the work is complete. I will do my best to guide you through this process. There are both state and federal funds that can be used.

Please take some time to thank those in your life that have selflessly served in your local snowmobile clubs. The clubs are full of these individuals who are not able to be active anymore.

Reach out and say thanks and offer a helping hand if so needed. Join a club and share your talents. Help us all promote safe snowmobiling in Montana.

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

Paulsen's POWERSPORTS
200 57th Street North
Great Falls, MT 59405
406-761-0303

MEMBERSHIP

MORE THAN JUST A WAY THERE

Why Mountain Riders Use Trails

You might be chasing steep lines and fresh powder, but groomed trails still play a big role in your ride. Here's why mountain riders rely on them:

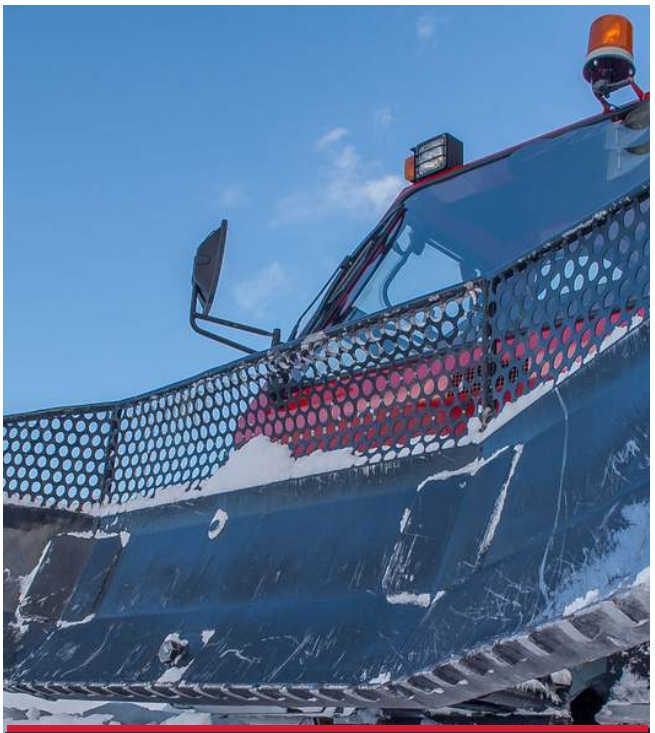
GET TO THE GOOD STUFF FASTER
Groomed trails are your highway to higher elevations, deeper snow and your favorite riding areas.

A BETTER WAY BACK
Sled problems happen. A groomed trail can provide a safer, easier route back to the truck when your day doesn't go as planned.

ACCESS MATTERS
Some designated trails cross private land, providing access to riding areas that might otherwise be off-limits. Respect the route and help keep that access open.

RIDE TOGETHER. PLAY YOUR WAY.
Riding with family, friends or different skill levels? Trails let everyone enjoy the mountains while experienced riders dip off to play in the deep and steep.

IMPORTANT IN AN EMERGENCY
Established trails can also provide important routes into the backcountry when Search & Rescue needs to reach someone.



Already a LOCAL club member?

That's Great!

But, club membership and individual MSA membership are not the same thing. Both are important and both help keep you riding.

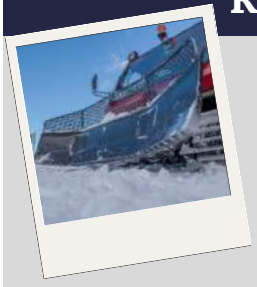
Behind Every Mile

PEOPLE. CLUBS. A STRONGER MONTANA.

Those trails—and the riding opportunities we all enjoy—don't just happen. Local snowmobile clubs and the Montana Snowmobile Association (MSA) work together, at different levels, to keep Montana snowmobiling strong today and for the next generation.

Montana snowmobilers enjoy more than 4,000 miles of groomed trails. Even if your perfect riding day happens miles beyond the groomed route, chances are a trail helped get you there.

Ride Local - Join a Club + Ride Montana - Join MSA



YOUR LOCAL CLUB
WHERE YOU RIDE.

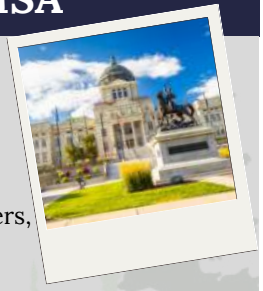
Local clubs are the boots on the ground – grooming and maintaining trails, working with landowners, organizing rides, events, and building the snowmobiling community in your area.

Trails | Grooming | Local Access | Community

MSA
ACROSS MONTANA.

MSA works on the bigger picture—representing Montana snowmobilers, protecting access, supporting grooming and funding, and giving riders a stronger voice on issues that affect our sport statewide.

Advocacy | Funding | Statewide Access | Representation



Montana Snowmobile Association

Membership Application

snowmobilemt.org

1. SELECT MEMBERSHIP TYPE

☐ **Single/Family - $25 annually** ☐ **Business / Club Membership - $40 annually**

Montana RidgeRunners-Youth is free with Single, Family or Business membership

2. CONTACT INFORMATION

Primary Account Holder: _____

Business / Club Name: _____

Mailing Address _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

Phone _____

Email Address _____

3. Family Members (If applicable)

1. _____ 2. _____

3. _____ 4. _____

4. Montana RidgeRunners-Youth - Free Add-on

List each youth member's name and date of birth.

	YOUTH MEMBER NAME	DATE OF BIRTH
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		

5. COMPLETE AND SUBMIT

Signature: _____

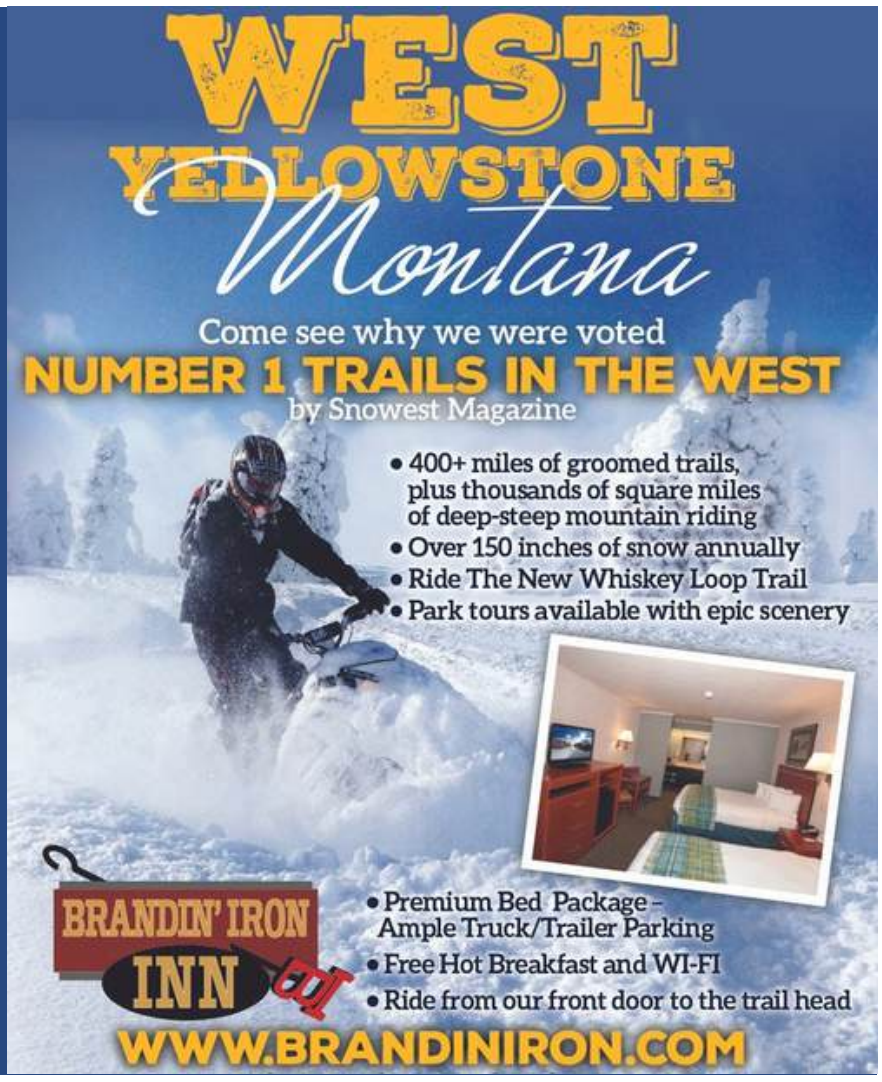
Date: _____

Mail application with payment

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

Montana Snowmobile Association
www.snowmobilemt.org
P.O. Box 56
Black Eagle, MT 59414

BRANDIN' IRON INN

201 Canyon St.
West Yellowstone, MT
Phone: 800-217-4613
www.brandiniron.com
info@brandiniron.com

Ask for Montana Snowmobile Association Special Rates and Packages!