

WYOMING SNOWMOBILE

# WRANGLER



FEBRUARY 2024



# On The Cover

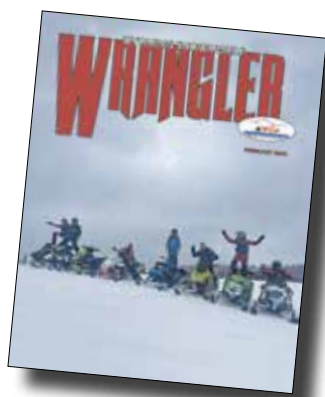


Photo courtesy Top of the Rockies

# WSSA President

**BRENDA MILLER**

Hello Wyoming Snowmobilers!  
I want to thank all of you that attended the Bridger Teton National Forest Plan Symposium whether it was in person or online. It was very frustrating that any "motorized" questions that were asked quickly disappeared from their Q&A queue. We need to make sure that we stay

vigilant on this and all Federal Agency management of our public lands. We **cannot** depend on just a few to take on the challenge to keep our public lands open to the public and especially to keep our motorized access open. We need **EVERYONE** to remain involved!

What is up with Mother Nature this winter??? Since that extremely cold snap in the weather in January we have had 40-60-degree temperatures up here in the northwest corner of the state. I know that snow has fallen in some places of the state but most certainly not what we would like to see or what we normally have this

time of our riding season. I have heard this is similar across most of the snowbelt.

I want to thank all of the officers and directors for spreading the word this year about the newly formed American Council of Snowmobile Associations scholarship. Students from Wyoming sent in more scholarships than any other state. Good luck to each and every one of you.

"Fun Days" will be here before we know it. I personally am looking forward to seeing everyone. I'm also looking forward to all of the activities that the Dubois Sno-Katers have planned for us.

See you all soon!

# WSSA Vice President

**JAY SLAGOWSKI**

Hello again fellow snowmobilers  
I hope everyone is getting some throttle time in and enjoying the winter now that it's here.

The family and I have done some riding the last couple weeks, and our snow on the continental divide is hanging in there. We were able to time the last couple storms pretty well, and actually found some really good pow while it lasted. Now that the rust is knocked off, all's we need is for these west cost storms to keep on coming.

Don't forget to get registered for fun days in Dubois, March 1-3, I know the Sno-Katters have been working hard to show everyone a great time while they're here. Also don't forget to start working on your charity reports to help us document what we provide for others as a state. For no bigger than our membership is, we usually set a pretty high bar on what we accomplish. Thanks again for all you are doing and all the hard work you put in

The Bridger Teton National Forest is in the beginning stages of their new forest plan, and many of us will be keeping a watchful eye on the process to make sure winter motorized has a seat at the table. We will keep everyone posted as that process continues.

Be sure and check those avalanche forecasts before you go out and make sure everyone has the tools to help those that may need it.

Ride safe and always look ahead.

# Casper Snow Gypsies

**BECKY THORNE**

WHERE'S THE SNOW????? Hard to believe we are entering the month of February and very little snow. We all need to do a snow dance! We had a Poker Run planned but the warm weather was melting what little snow we had. Still hoping for a big dump of snow soon.

We will be headed to Deadwood for Presidents Day weekend for our club ride. We are staying at Deadwood Gulch. Kids have done their posters and coloring books and ready to send them for Fun Days. We still have WSSA Raffle tickets available so let us know if you would like one. Remember that each club keeps 50% of what they sell. In July the club will be working at the Fair and Rodeo doing the parking. What a great fundraiser for the club.

Hope all is well across our wonderful state of Wyoming. Be safe out there!

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# A great partnership for the snowmobiling community



## Working hard to support the snowmobiling community

- Keeping trails open and developing new trails
- Supporting trail grooming
- Initiating and supporting lawsuits that threaten access
- Encouraging snowmobiler participation in clubs and associations
- Promoting snowmobiling as a family activity
- Providing safety awareness and education through the Safe Riders! program



# Top of the Rockies

**CHERYL DICKERSON**

The holiday festivities continued with our club Christmas Party on January 14. This is a fun potluck style gathering with an entertaining outdoor themed white elephant gift exchange. Ratchet straps, gas cans and headlamps are always hot items! Thanks again to all our club members who do so much for our community.

“Many hands make light work” is a favorite club saying. There was a wonderful turnout of hands on January 21 to put up the teepee safety shelter at Squaw Creek. This was followed by a short club ride. Thank you everyone for the group effort!

WSSA and Top of the Rockies hosted the Pinedale Snow Explorers/Altitude Off Road first Youth Snocross Race Circuit in Alpine on January 27, during Alpine’s Winter Jubilee. It was a great turnout, happy kids and lots of parents, families and friends helped make it a fun and successful event.

Alpine is a hot spot for many year-round outdoor recreation activities. Our very own Vice President, Andrea Burchard was interviewed by Julie Dockstader Heaps along with club member and Alpine Trails and Pathways board member, Jeremy Larsen for an article in the Star Valley Independent titled “Alpine serves as a gateway to western Wyoming scenic winter”. They talk about a local “smile and wave” campaign, the importance of “trail etiquette” - sharing the local trails, whether motorized or non-motorized, “being respectful” and hav-



ing “personal responsibility.” They also include a friendly reminder if you enjoy the trails with your doggos, to “scoop the poop”! This is a great article and I only touched on a few highlights. Enjoy the full article here: <https://svinews.com/alpine-serves-as-a-gateway-to-western-wyoming-scenic-winter/>



# Directory



www.snowmobilewyoming.org

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**Sweetwater Snowpokes** – snowpokes@yahoo.com, PO Box 1731, Rock Springs WY 82902  
**Top of the Rockies** – toralpine@gmail.com, PO Box 3172, Alpine WY 83128



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On the web at: wyotrails.com

# Star Valley Sno-Skippers

MEGAN SAINZ

The Star Valley Sno-Skippers have been very busy! In December, we participated in The Festival of Trees. The Sno-Skippers decorated and donated a tree to be raffled off. All of the proceeds that were raised from this event were donated to local food banks. The event was a great success and the local food banks greatly benefited from this event.



As always, we start the New Year out with a cornhole tournament. We had another great turn out this year and filled up the 32-team bracket. The Sno-Skippers are always pleasantly surprised with the support that the community shows us at our tournaments. We have hosted three of these cornhole tournaments over the last two years and our goal has always been to raise enough money to buy avalanche beacon check stations for our community. With the continued support we were able to achieve this goal. The Star Valley Sno-Skippers purchased not only one, but TWO avalanche beacon check stations and placed them at the head of Cottonwood Canyon and Dry Creek Canyon. We hope these check points will be utilized and remind riders to check their local avalanche forecast, carry the proper equipment, and make sure they are transmitting! We appreciate club members Dirk Hillyard, DJ Hillyard, Rick Naumoff and President Marcuss Sainz for donating their time and material to put these beacon check stations out.

In January, the Sno-Skipper club members came together for a monthly club ride. We celebrated our efforts to make a safer environment for the snowmobile community, enjoyed the sun shine and deep snow. Stay safe out there friends!



# District 5

BERT MILLER



Hey folks,

We have had some very interesting and informational speakers at our meetings like Shoshone Forest Supervisor Ken Coffin. At our January meeting our speaker was

Jake Skeen from Beartooth Ride and Guides. It was great to have Jake go over the topic of what's in your backpack. Very interesting to discuss what maybe new in the industry to carry and what is still solid older equipment. When you host the guest speakers you always learn something new. Our meeting attendance was about 20 folks. Nice Job Jake!

With the low snow this year the snow layer has been very unstable. Cooke City has experienced numerous avalanches. Please always do the buddy check on your avalanche beacons before your head out. Plus, never pass up the chance to check your beacon at the beacon checking stations. You just never know so, ride smart and check out all your equipment. With the unstable snow and ground a big thanks to Wyoming State Trails crew for responding so fast to the

rock slid that happened in Beartooth (Ravin) canyon. Nice job guys!!

There has been some fun with the kids this year. Enjoying some fun this year pictured is the Bales boys Parker and Kaden kicking up some snow and enjoying lunch at the Beartooth Safety Shelter. We are sure looking forward to Fun Days in Dubois this year, get ready here we come LOL.



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Any additions or corrections to the Associate Membership list should be directed to: Mandy Nichols, P.O. Box 2656, Alpine, WY 83128, (816) 791-3480, e-mail: [wssamandy@gmail.com](mailto:wssamandy@gmail.com)

# District 9

**GEORGE PRYICH**

A few of us rode the Upper Green on January 27, using S Trail to Strawberry safety shelter, hoping for enough snow across Union Pass so we could enjoy lunch at Crooked Creek. We hope there will be more snow in the coming weeks! Typical maintenance performed: cleared the stairs and ramp of snow, loaded wood onto the porch, restocked the cupboards. The guest book and chalkboard are full of wonderful comments from summer and winter visitors from around the world. We continued our scenic ride to Crooked Creek for a delicious lunch. Remember to take care of the safety shelters you use when riding...load some wood, clear the entrances...this keeps the shelter prepped for the next visitors. See you on the snow!



# Sweetwater Snowpokes

**ANGELINA PRYICH**

This month's photos show folks riding the pow in deep snow, lots of avalanches because of the weak layer, scenic vistas, and some other activities. From the cruise photos, "When you can't go sledging you go cruising!" No matter the adventure, everyone is having a good time! Please send in your photos from this month's adventures. If you'll be at Fun Days in Dubois, take some photos! See you soon.



# Snowy Range Snowmobile Club

**SUNNY MADDEN**

Hello from the Snowy Range! Riding has been odd this year with January weather feeling a lot more like late March or April weather. Many of the southern slopes at lower elevations are completely melted off with the unseasonably warm temperatures. At higher elevations you still have to watch for rocks, stumps and trees that are hiding just under the snow and can wreak havoc on your machine. There have been several small avalanches on the Range as well. If you come to ride here, please keep your eyes open and stay safe! There are numerous beacon check signs on the mountain to make sure your avalanche beacon is on and sending a signal.

Even with the limited snow, our club continues to grow! We currently have members from 12 different states, with some as far away as Delaware! Our club's social media presence continues to grow as well with almost 8,000 followers!

Several members from our club are participating in the Highway 130 Winter Recreation SWORC Subcommittee. This brings together multiple user groups who all have an interest in the Snowy Range. This includes skiers, snowshoers, WYDOT, the Forest Service, snowmobilers and State Trails. It is our hope that by being active in this group, other user groups will see the importance of having more parking lots for winter recreationists in the Snowy Range. Thank you to Josh Milek for joining these meetings and helping to keep the facts straight!

Our February club meeting will be on Thursday the 15th at 6 p.m. at the 3C Guiding shop. You can always join in via Zoom as well! On Sunday, February 18, we will be having a club barbecue at the Lake Marie safety shelter. If you're on the Range, come grab a burger or hot dog! Hopefully the weather will cooperate and give us some fresh powder for the weekend.

We look forward to seeing everyone in Dubois for Fun Days!



Heather Tupper in the Snowy Range.

**Deadline for the next Wrangler will be Thursday, March 7**

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# Rev It Up Girls

**CLUB OFFICERS: PATRICIA VERONDA-NAUMOFF, JANICE ENOS (VP), SUSAN JOHNSON (SECRETARY/TREASURER) AND EVA K (SOCIAL MEDIA)**

Hello again from Rev It Up Girls Club.

Our fourth Annual Avy Savy, Search and Survival was well attended, with the help of 801 Mountain Riders and Teton Bridger Avalanche Center. Thou we only had a few frozen inches of snow on the ground we were still able to practice beacon searches, mountain medical, building shelter and starting a fire.

First Rev It Up Girls Club Ride, was in December. We had a couple, Ross and Kim Abraham from Upper,

Michigan. This was Kim's, first trip out west and a belated honeymoon for them both. She was super excited to come ride with us, and learn a few tips and tricks. She had such a great time, she hopes it snows back home to practice her new skills. Couples who ride together stay.

Bailey McKinnon 2023-2024 Steward sponsored a Family Toboggan on December 27.

Meet our 2023-2024 Team These women were chosen for their respect for the great outdoors and their passion to support other women and their local communities. Our club assistance in supporting our NEW MONTANA Rev It UP Girls Chapter, activating involved in our five-day second Annual, Wyoming, Women's, Snowmobile Retreat, helping at our Skills Days/Club Rides weekends and socializing women snowmobiling happenings and events occurring all over Idaho, Montana,



Wyoming. Without them, we would not be able to have so many fun and exciting events this season. Thank you to our Let's Rip It Stewards and Club Board: Natalie Zuech, Jadian Pfaff and Kim Ullman. Club Officers: Patricia Veronda-Naumoff

(President), Janice Enos (Vice President), Eva Kirchlechner (Social/Marketing), Susan Johnson (Treasurer). STEWARDS: Cheyenne Rasmussen Hollingsworth, Bailey McKinnon, Megan Roy, Judi Collins, Margaret LaPorte, Courtney Bancroft.



# Lander Snowdrifters

**JIM SPRIGGS**

Hello from Lander. Keep on doing the snow dance; there still may be some hope. Good showing of club members and non-members for Avalanche Awareness Training on January 19 at Lander Community Center. A good crowd participated in the field day on the 20th as well. Thank you, Forrest and Bridger Teton for all the very worthwhile information. Congratulations, Katie Peay and Chuck Tanner for Radio and AV Shovel door prize winners.

Keep sunny side up. Enjoy what you can. Always keep supporting those that support us.

