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The Wyoming Snowmobile Wrangler is the official newspaper of the Wyoming State Snowmobile Association and is provided to the association's members through their paid memberships.



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District 5 Bert Miller

Hello all,

Well up here in the Cody country we are been having fun just like all of you. We have had some well attended club meetings. Planning and having fun for the Christmas Parade. Our float was fun to build with our youth and their ideas and sleds. We met on Saturday morning at 10 a.m. and finished building at about 2:30 pm in the afternoon. We have a few pictures for you to see in the article.

We have also been doing a lot of planning and getting ready for our upcoming Avalanche training. Our dates are Jan. 3 and 4. Friday evening, the 3rd, will be the classroom night from 6 to 9 p.m. We with serving a light dinner for folks with a sandwich bar. On Saturday the 4th, will be the field day training. We will meet at the Beartooth Safety Shelter at 10 a.m. sharp.

Lunch will be served from 12 to 1 and we will finish up the field day training by 3 p.m. The Holiday Inn in Cody will be helping us host the Avalanche training. Last year we had approximately 100 folks attending, we are hoping for another great year of training.

Snow up here is coming a little slow this season so we all will need to get together the snow dance or the snow Boggie dance. We wish all of you a Merry Christmas.







in our clubs that can benefit from this great program.

I know all the clubs are about to get very busy planning everything from trail clearing to Christmas parades and fund raisers to the world championship hill climbs but, as we move into the riding season, remember to take a kid snowmobiling when you can. The days we spend helping our youth is a fun and easy investment in developing our next generation of snowmobile enthusiasts that will be there to promote our cause in the future.

I hope you all have a great holiday season, that includes lots of time on the snow.

Get those letters to Santa sent early and always look ahead.



District 12

Jay Slagowski

Season's greetings fellow Snowmobilers! I hope your Thanksgiving was as enjoyable as mine was having spent some quality time with family and friends. Our house is in the final stages of operation "leftover demolition" and I'm pretty sure things are fitting a bit tighter than they were before the holiday started. It's a good thing it's time to get out on the snow and start working some of that holiday cheer off the old waistline.

I was able to get out in early November and help The Dubois Sno-Katters with their fall wood cutting chores at the safety shelters and we did some cleaning and minor maintenance while we were at it. The snow pack in the upper Wind River/Togwotee pass area is slowly building and folks are currently riding on 12-18 inches but we are still a couple good storms away from feeling good about pulling off any big aggressive downies or pow turns.

The online registration for WSSA Fun Days in Rock Springs is up and running and if you have never attended one, now is the time to "get er done". It's always a fun-filled weekend that raises a lot of money for charity, our mission in protecting access and our youth. And speaking of our youth, the WSSA student scholarship information has been posted in the November Wrangler and is available for download on the WSSA website as well so let's do our best to find those student riders

wyoming snowmobile WRANGLER

Directory

www.snowmobilewyoming.org

Wyoming Clubs

307 Riders - kjcrawler@hotmail.com, PO Box 5150, Gillette WY 82717

Big Horn Mountain SnoMads - snomads.wyomingbighorns@gmail.com, PO Box 397, Sheridan WY 82801

Big Horn Sno Goers - bighornsnogoers@gmail.com, 1509 Cloud Peak Dr, Worland WY 82401

Casper Snow Gypsies - snowgypsies@ gmail.com, 255 W Collins Dr, Casper WY 82601

Cody Country Snowmobile Association - codysnowmobileclub@hotmail.com, PO Box 1745, Cody WY 82414

Dubois Sno-Katers - dubois.snokatters@gmail.com, PO Box 1064 Dubois, WY 82513

Jackson Hole Snow Devils - mail@ snowdevils.org, PO Box 4276, Jackson WY 83001

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Lincoln County Snow Bears - lincolncountysnowbears@gmail.com

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WSSA President

BRENDA **M**ILLER

I hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and brought or will be bringing the new year in with a bang!

Congratulations to all of you that took the time to put a float in your community Christmas parades. Letting folks know that organized snowmobiling exists around the State of Wyoming is fantastic.

I'm glad to see that some areas in the snowbelt are getting snow. However, it would be nice for Mother Nature to include all the snowbelt. In the northwest corner of Wyoming, we have had temperatures in the high 40s and low 50s for weeks now. I sure hope we get some colder temperatures and snow soon.

It is time for everyone to start thinking about who you want to nominate for the WSSA awards that will be presented on March 8th at our Fun Days convention. Please be sure to nominate your deserving members for the Wyoming State Trails awards as well. Remember, nominations are due Feb. 1!

What else is due Feb. 1? Scholarship essays! Remember to follow the scholarship rules.

WSSA: https://snowmobilewyoming.org/2024-scholarship-application/. We are also doing another video challenge this year. Did you know that WSSA has awarded 140 scholarships worth \$210,650 over the past 15 years?

ACSA: Check out the rules and criteria at https://www.snowmobilers. org/acsa-scholarships.aspx.

Also be sure to check with your local club to see if they also have scholarship opportunities.

Some individual clubs have scholarship opportunities as well. Upcoming Snowmobile events at a national level that you all can participate in:

International Snowmobile Safety Week January 11-19, 2025 "Take a Friend Snowmobiling" Week February 8-17, 2025

If you have not joined the American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA) as an individual there is still time to do that too. While the Wyoming clubs are all members of ACSA, individuals should join as well. Check out their website https://www.snowmobilers.org/ it is loaded with lots of great information. ACSA E-News: feel free to share individual articles or the entire E-News on your social networks including website and Facebook as well as in any communications to your membership including newsletters and membership renewals.

If you love to snowmobile this is a great time to not only joining a club but to also become involved in everything that the organization does at a local level as well as the state and national levels. By joining you will build lasting relationships with incredible people of all ages. Volunteering for club activities is a great way to give back to the sport that we all love. Your time and effort can make a difference in your club and in the community. Joining and getting involved in your club is crucial for the future of the sport.

Hope to see you on the trail or the mountain soon!

District 9

GEORGE PRYICH

Good news! The Strawberry and Blind Bull safety shelters are stocked and ready for the season. Some snowmobilers have already traveled to the shelters in spite of the lack of snow. Sure hope storms and snow come soon.

During the local Holiday Home Show in Rock Springs, I visited with folks from Mountain View who were not familiar with WSSA or Wyoming State Trails. I explained what we do and why it's important to be aware of what we do for the sport of snowmobiling.

Have you and others in your club registered for Fun Days 2025? We look forward to seeing you in March.

Happy Holidays!

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On the web at: wyotrails.com

State Trails

WYOMING SNOWMOBILE WRANGLER

RIDE SAFE

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



Rev It Up Girls

JANICE ENOS

There's Snow in them there mountains... The fall colors have given way to the first waves of snow and some of us have already had our snowmobiles out for those first rides. With those first couple rides in mind, we always think about our preseason checklist and what we need to do.

We held our first winter club meeting and discussed what to pack and where you carry it, because there are some things you should always have on you and some things your sled can pack. We also covered the importance of preseason gear inspections and testing Avy bags. If you have an Avy Pack whether it runs off an air canister or a fan should always test and deploy it as part of your preseason routine. This way you can ensure it is functioning and going to work when you really need it to. We also covered some tips and tricks for saving space in your pack. Best piece of advice from the night, not only does it help keep it dry, but it also makes it take up less space, vacuum seal your emergency base layers. They compress down so small and take up so much less space.

Rev It Up Girls Montana, Whatchu Got Goin On?

Our Montana Chapter of Rev it Up has been busy working on putting together their winter events and you can see them listed below. They will be hosting a ride in January, February (this

is the Island Park joint club ride) and March. The locations are snow dependent because let's face it, it's Montana and the snow can't make up its mind where it wants to fall. No matter what, we will have a great time with great people. During the Feb. 21 and 22 ride which is based out of Island Park not only will we have skills day Friday and a Club Ride Saturday, but we will also be having a meeting Friday night with some fun games, delicious food, and a Clutch Class taught by a great mechanic and teacher. Not only will you be able to leave the class knowing how to look over and inspect your clutch, but you'll know how to replace and change parts efficiently even right there on the hill if needed.

Mark Your Calendars

Here is a list of our winter events and locations.

Jan. 10-11 Box Y Ride Alpine, WY

Jan. 18 Montana club ride

Jan. 25 Utah hosted ride

Jan. 29-Feb. 2 Third Annual Riding Retreat Afton, WY

Feb. 20-23 Montana/Wyoming Club Meeting and Club Ride Island Park, ID

March 7-8 WYSSA Rock Springs, WY

March 14 Club Meeting

March 15 COED Ride Star Valley, WY (WY Season Finale)

March 22 Montana Club Ride (MT Season Finale)

For more information go to our Facebook book pages.

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- 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





Snowmobile Manufacturers Association

307 Riders



BRANDON KLEMM

Hello from the 307 Riders Snowmobile Club! We are anxiously awaiting snow! Our club has been busy selling raffle tickets for a 2024 Polaris 9R. The tickets are almost sold, so we are excited to do the ticket drawing soon! The club decorated a float for the Parade of Lights.

Thanks to BWE Energy Services for letting us use their shop for decorating and Platinum Diesel for providing their truck as our float. Keep doing your snow



dance, people...it's time to ride! Happy Holidays from the 307 Riders Snowmobile Club!



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Casper Snow Gypsies

BECKY THORNE

Hello from Casper! The Casper Snow Gypsies has been gearing up for the season. Shelters have been cleaned and repair work done. They are stocked too! Thank you to everyone for helping!

We had our annual Bingo Night with a potluck! Always a fun night to just hang out. Instead of prizes for kids we did Bingos for Bucks. Kids enjoyed a fresh \$1 bill for their Bingos.

Our Christmas Party is Nov. 14 at the Eagles. This is a potluck and Santa is expected to appear. A White elephant gift exchange too. Club will provide meat.

Club dues are DUE! We also have WSSA Raffle tickets available. Club meetings are second Thursday of the month. 6 p.m. at the Pizza Ranch. Have a great season and do a snow dance!



Lander Snowdrifters

CAL ANACKER

Howdy from the Lander Snowdrifters, Welp, another month has passed and the snow and temperatures have yet to change from the fall pattern of dry and warm! Snow is at a minimum and most places around the south end of the Wind River Range are still accessible by vehicle or ATV/ UTV.

We held our Christmas party carry-in earlier this month in conjunction with the State Trails crew. Although Club members were light in attendance, many of the Trails crew and their families/friends showed up and Forrest prepared an amazing beef brisket for the entree.

Also completed this month was the maintenance of our snow machines, grooming drags and various Club owned equipment. Hopefully snow conditions will change soon and we can begin to maintain the Lander Area Side Trails.

The Snowdrifters have meetings the second Thursday of each month from October-April at the Oxbow Restaurant, so if you're in the area stop on by.



Dubois Sno-Katters

JOHN LEE

Hello from sunny warm Dubois! As I write this, winter is struggling to make its way here. There's a little snow up on the pass but definitely thin so far! It looks like a change in the weather is coming next week—so let's hope so!

Sno-Katters cut wood for our two safety shelters and stacked it inside, so ready for the trip to the mountain. Members completed some of the repairs and the shelters are ready for the season. At our meeting last night, we made a few plans for the year but all in all, a fun short meeting as we are just waiting on Mother Nature to launch into high gear.

I've included some photos from Fun Days 2024. As you remember, Ted Knowles from Dubois received the Pioneer Award. Ted has a wood stack at his home that Paul Bunyan would envy. While cutting even more firewood on the mountain this fall, by himself, Ted broke his ankle when his foot got wedged in between some rocks. He then crawled back to his pickup truck, a manual transmission, and managed to make it back home. Long story short, Ted is recovering and out and about. He is a tough pioneer, for sure.

I would like to take this time to thank all our associate members and general membership. We appreciate your support for the sport of snowmobiling. A great big thanks to the Rustic Pine Tavern for your \$1000 sponsorship to the W,S.S.A. I really think the sponsorship program is a terrific idea and hope



it takes off statewide. Sponsorship is a good write off for businesses and provides support for our industry. Check out the W.S.S.A. website page Become A Sponsor!

Looking forward to seeing everyone up on the mountain this year!





WYOMING SNOWMOBILE WRANGLER

Top of the Rockies

DAVE BURCHARD

Here at Top of The Rockies a few of us are still struggling to shed the weight we put on at our Alpine Community Thanksgiving dinner. We served and delivered some 265 meals to our friends, neighbors and ourselves. Although this started many years ago as a humble effort to feed those less fortunate it has become THE PLACE TO BE on Thanksgiving day. We all enjoy the effort as well as the meal itself. This year we prepared and served 4 smoked hams and 10 turkeys with enough fixins and deserts to feed an army! We hope you all were able to spend that day with friends and family as well!

As we are now well into December we find ourselves a bit short on snow in our neck of the woods. Although this is not what we hope for it does provide us with an opportunity to get more prepared for a successful first ride. Even if you are fortunate to be sporting a brand new sled there are some steps you'll want to take to ensure your sled performs well in the back country. Sled maintenance, safety gear, clothing and communications should all be given serious consideration for the sake of your fellow riders as well as your own.

Sled Maintenance:

Don't wait till the night before that first ride to drag your sled out and see if it runs as these things are much harder to do once you are up the trail and deep in the white stuff.

• Start with fresh plugs (including a spare set)

• blow out and inspect your clutches

• inspect your drive belt and replace if needed. It's better to start with the new belt and keep the old as a spare. This allows you to break in the new belt on the trail.

• Go through the onboard tool kit and verify you've got the basics.

• Check for spare fuses.

• Check tail lights, brake lights and headlights.

• Check bogie wheels and track tension.

• Inspect suspension components.

• Inspect hyfax and replace if needed.

• Put that grease gun to work with some low temp grease.

• Replace the chain case lube and adjust chain tension.

• Check steering joints and A-arms for excessive play.

- Check the carbides on your ski's.
- Inspect the pull starter chord.
- Test brake and throttle movement.

• Top off the tank with fresh nonethanol fuel.



• Check brake fluid and two stroke oil levels.

What's in your Pack and on your Back:

We can't take everything with us but some items are a MUST HAVE! Put together a dedicated pack. For example, don't swipe your favorite flashlight from your hunt pack...keep one just for this pack so you know what you have every time you go out!

IMPORTANT Items used in avalanche recovery should always be on your person rather than packed on your sled. Get training and know how to use this gear...these are the tools you need to save your best friends life!

• First things first...Avalanche Beacon with fresh batteries and tested!

- Aluminum snow shovel.
- Probe kit.
- Marking flags.
- Whistle.
- Wood saw.
- First aid kit.
- Mapping software on your phone.
- Personal Locator Beacon such as Garmin Inreach or Spot Tracker.
- Water or Gatorade.

• High protein snacks.

• Extra gloves and wool socks (hint: a vacuum sealed bag saves space)

• Spare Goggles-clear lenses make a lot of sense if you are making your way out late.

• Led headlamp and spare batteries -good to use devices with common battery types.

• Fire starting kit. Lots of options here. A road flare can start even wet materials!

Lock blade knife with stout blade.
A length of paracord to make repairs, build shelters or secure a splint.
A dozen plastic tie wraps.

• Small roll of electrical tape.

• Two way radio.

• Avi pack to carry all the most critical stuff. Some items are okay on the sled.

• Portable phone charger pack.

• Wear synthetic base layers. Cotton Kills! Go heavy if you are new. Can tone it down next time if needed.

• Proper boots not only keep you warm and dry but provide impact protection.

• Thick wool socks stay warm and dry. Wet feet are just no fun and you'll be hating life!

• Your outer shell should fit loose





enough to have an air pocket but not impede mobility.

• A compact puffy coat makes a great mid layer that you can remove if not needed.

• Well fitting water proof gloves are essential. Don't skimp here! A backup set can be mitt style which can help you warm up frozen fingers.

• A balaclava and properly fitted helmet and goggles that all work well together protect your head and keep you warm. This is no place to skimp either!

I

That first ride:

Following these guidelines can help ensure safety and increase everyone's chance of having an enjoyable experience.

• Consider keeping the first ride short and go to an area you are well familiar with. This gives you a chance to break in that new belt properly and find any gremlins that have come along for the ride.

• Test your beacons transmit and receive functions with your buddies before you leave the parking lot.

• Review the latest avalanche reports from https://bridgertetonavalanchecenter.org/ with your group.

• Talk about where you are going and lay some ground rules about keeping your group together.

• Set your radios to the agreed channel. If you get separated and are unsure where to go hang tight and try to communicate via radio. Panicking often makes matters worse.

• Check fuel and oil levels.

• Observe reasonable separation when traversing risky ridge lines and keep eyes on each other.

• Go have fun, be willing to laugh at yourself and look out for your fellow riders.

**Disclosure, these ideas are only one man's opinion however they are based on 12 years with Search & Rescue. I encourage every rider to consider their particular needs based on where and how they ride.

	TEIWAT	
#WSSA	Explored Y	ROCK SPRINGS
	Same Crepto tott !	CONCENTION

WYOMING STATE SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION FUN DAYS MARCH 7-9, 2025 – Rock Springs

HOSTED BY: Sweetwater Snowpokes – PO Box 1731 Rock Springs WY 82902

Regi	ster by mail or at <u>https://s</u>	<u>snowmobilewyoming.org/wssa-events/</u>		
Name(s):				
Youth Name(s): _				
Phone:		email:		
Club Name				
Registration Fee	es (Dinner included):			
		= \$ Shirt Size		
Youth (6-12)	\$75 x	= \$ Shirt Size		
Child (≤ 5)	\$25 x	= \$ Shirt Size		
Dinner only:	\$45 x =			
Dinner Menu: Ri	beye - Qty:; Chicken Al	lfredo - Qty:; Vegetarian Lasagna - Qty:		
Registration Fee	e Includes:			
✓Friday Night Piz	zza √Swag Bag	✓1 Drink Ticket		
		ht Dinner		
Saturday Rides: Snowmobile: Trai SxS/ATV Ride to	il Ride - Qty:; Intermed	ns and ORV / OSV registration required) diate Ride - Qty:; Advanced Ride - Qty: g on machine required) - Qty:		
(event will be Discounted Discounted Discounted Discounted Old Chicag	held at Ballroom on location) d group rate: Standard King d group rate: Standard two o d group rate: Standard single d group rate: Executive King d group rate: Executive two o	queen \$99 e queen \$99 g \$109 queen \$109 er person. Children 12 and under eat free off kids		

Deadline for the next Wrangler is January 6!

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POWDER RIVER SNOBUFFS ACTION AUTO BODY PAINT QUALM CONSTRUCTION

TOP OF THE ROCKIES **3 RIVERS MOTEL ALPINE ADVENTURE RENTALS** ALPINE ATHLETIC CLUB ACE HARDWARE **BANK OF ALPINE BETTER MONDAYS BOX Y LODGE BRIDGER ANIMAL HOSPITAL** BULL MOOSE SALOON DRIFTWOOD PIZZERIA EARTH CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION FARM BUREAU FIRST BANK FLYING SADDLE RESORT JENKINS LUMBER MOST WANTED PERFORMANCE NEXT LEVEL RIDING CLINICS PELLICANE **REAL ESTATE OF STAR VALLEY ROCKY MOUNTAIN YETI RUSTIK WYOMING** SALT RIVER MOTORS THREE CANYONS RESTAURANT VETERANS PLUMBING WILD ROVER FREIGHT

Associates

SNOWY RANGE SNOWMOBILE

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Association

307 GLASS **ABSORKA AUTO SALES BEARTOOTH RIDES AND GUIDES BIG HORN COLLISION REPAIR C&H PROPERTY RENTALS** DENNY MENHOLT CODY ELK HORN LODGE LLC EXTREME REALITIES KB MASONRY LAM CONTRUCTION PERFORMACE CO LITTLE ROCK LLC M&K CUSTON WOOD **ROB MARSHALL MONTANA MOUNTAIN REAL ESTATE MOUNTAIN VALLEY MOTORSPORTS PRODUCTION MACHINE CO INC OUALITY ASPHALT PAVING RIDGELINE AUTO REPAIR ROCKY MOUNTAIN MASONRY LLC TOP OF THE WORLD RESORT** WESTERN REAL ESTATE OF WYOMING Y-TEX CORPORATION

LANDER SNOWDRIFTERS cottonwood resources iiams landscaping jim spriggs construction napa auto parts of lander

Powder River Snobuffs ultimate outdoors



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: <u>wssamandy@gmail.com</u>

DECEMBER 2024

WYOMING SNOWMOBILE WRANGLER

Sweetwater Snowpokes

ANGELINA PRYICH

The Strawberry safety shelter survived the Pack Trail Fire. They found the protective wrap removed and everything in good condition.

We enjoyed our annual Christmas party after ,i9a short December meeting. About 40 of us enjoyed a delicious meal of delicious food prepared by our members. We enjoyed a traditional white elephant gift exchange full of steals, groans, teasing and laughter.

The annual lighted holiday parade sponsored by the Rock Springs Chamber is an enjoyable way to start December. The Snowpokes' entry had six vehicles this year decked out with lots of lights. Enjoy the photos; for more photos of the parade visit the Snowpokes on Facebook.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Jan. 8 Club meeting in Green River Feb. 4 Club meeting in Rock Springs Feb. 8-9 Box Y Ride Feb. 15 Fun Run in Upper Green March 4 Club meeting in Rock Springs March 7-8 WSSA Fun Days in Rock Springs March 9 WSSA Meeting April 1 Club meeting in Green River Visit Snowpokes on Facebook for more information.





Strawberry shelter survived!



More snow, please.

Welcome to Parade 2024!





Christmas party.



Big Horn Sno Goers

Lynda Schatz

Big Horn Sno Goers are off and running! A slow start to the season but better a little late than never! We have six inches on the south end and 21 inches on the north end. A few riders went out last week and were very careful. One suddenly realizes how many rocks and boulders are out there!

Washakie County Search and Rescue and Big Horn Sno Goers took in the safety shelters Nov. 3. The safety shelters are stocked with wood, fire starter and necessary first aid supplies for the season. As we get more snow, we will check on each and keep them well stocked.

We are welcoming Deer Haven Lodge as a new member who will be open and ready to serve riders on the mountain. They have a full restaurant, cabins and rooms and will be renting sleds in January. In the meantime, we will be doing snow dances!



Jackson Hole Snow Devils

COURTNEY HODGES RUDDAT

Happy December! This seems to be the busiest season of all with the holidays and finding time to get out and enjoy the fresh snow. Lucky for all, old man winter has come to stay. In the spirit of the holiday season the Little Devil's completed their first community service project, "Be the ¢hange" drive. They were able to raise money to feed 9 local families and kids at the Van Vleck House & Hirschfield Center through the Teton Youth & Family Services. Their original plan was to be able to help 7 families, but through their hard work they were able to add an additional 2 families. Way to go Little Devil's, you are the change our community needs! We will be having our annual Christmas party at Togwottee Mountain Lodge on December 14th. Hopefully there will be enough snow for everyone to be able to enjoy a nice ride. Even if there isn't enough snow, being able to enjoy great company is the best way to celebrate the holiday season.

Keep up with those snow dances, have a great Christmas and Happy New Year! We are looking forward to seeing everyone out on the snow soon!



Deadline for the next Wrangler is January 6!