

WYOMING SNOWMOBILE

WRANGLER



FEBRUARY 2025



On The Cover

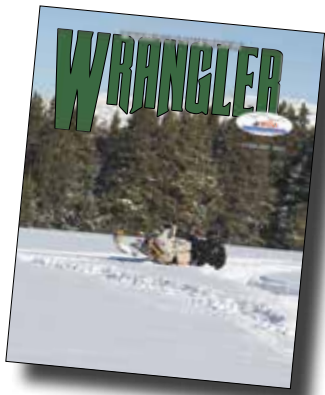


Photo courtesy Big Horn Sno Goers

District 5

BERT MILLER

Hollo WSSA members,
 We have had a few fun weekends. We joined forces with State trails and got the whole trail system marked and signed in one weekend! It was a fun weekend to show off our great trail system. Took us about two days and a lot of fun. In the evenings we had good food, drank a little whiskey and told stories about the day.

We also had a few club members riding and packing the trails. In one of the pictures, you can see our fearless club President found an open creek and got a little stuck. He may become eligible for the seat belt award. We also had a Winter Survival training based on what you would need and how to use the equipment. Very informative. We thank our Trainer Tommy.

We did the snow dance and wow it finally worked we received about 35" over three days as you can see from the stuck pictures. There were a few sucks that day. We even received about 12 to 18" in Cody over three days, what a blast. We hope you all are having a

great winter and having some fun. We look forward to seeing you at Fun Days.



District 9

GEORGE PRYCH

Hello to all,
 As I look back to 2024 and forward into 2025, there have been a lot of interesting and exceptional moments. In and around our world we have lost family, friends, and school classmates. That led to a reality check on what is important – the family and friends that are left! We have had political debates and fights. Many club members were involved with the Rock Springs RMP; spending hours writing comment letters; Some spent many hours with retired BLM employees who actually cared about doing the right thing for all the people and resources in Wyoming, only to have their comments ignored. Wildfires in Wyoming were some of the biggest in recent years and more recently, the California wildfires. We almost lost our safety shelter in the Upper Green to a wildfire. Many folks in Wyoming (and probably other states) followed the progress of the fire and the firefighting efforts on their phones. It was a tense summer and autumn. The weather has been temperamental to say the least, with weak layers from the first snow, cold weather, spring-like temperatures, and more snow. Hope we get the late season snow that lasts longer and is safe. We've lost people to avalanches because of the back-and-forth weather and recently lost people in airplane accidents. Club members have also been deeply involved in planning for Fun Days in addition to our February and June fun runs.

Be well, have fun, be safe, do the best you can to be with family and friends for we do not know what tomorrow brings. May you all enjoy a safe and good rest of the year.

See you in Rock Springs!

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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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WSSA President

BRENDA MILLER

Hello Wyoming Snowmobilers!

A HUGE thanks goes out to all of you who spoke with your legislators in your area, wrote letters to the Wyoming Legislators, or testified in person or electronically to the Travel, Recreation, Wildlife, and Cultural Resources committee asking for their support on the Snowmobile Registration User Fee.

We should hear something soon on the Bridger Teton National Forest travel plan and what we need to do to continue to be involved in that process. 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! Even though there have been budget cuts for our federal agencies we still need to remain vigilant.

The Northwest corner of the state finally got some snow with this last storm. I was really beginning to wonder if it would be like it has been for the last couple of years on the Beartooth mountains. Thankfully this is not the case. However, the snow is bottomless. Hopefully that will change soon so we can spend the day riding instead of getting unstuck.

Hope to see some of you at the American Council of Snowmobile Associations Mountain Riding summit that will be in the Bighorns this year. See you at the Elkview Inn.

"Fun Days" will be here before we know it. I personally am looking forward to seeing everyone. I'm also looking forward to the activities that the Sweetwater Snowpokes have in store for us. I'm also looking forward to seeing who will win the State Trails awards this year.

That will leave the Hill Climb March 20-23 and then in April we hope that the 307 Riders will have their hill cross.

See you all soon!

WSSA Secretary

MANDY NICHOLS

Hello all, I hope February has been good to you! Fun Days is just around the corner, and I can't wait to see what the Snowpokes have planned for us. Speaking of Fun Days, please remember all your club's raffle tickets and money (but please, no cash). Also, don't forget your charity reports, club scrapbook, and club banner to hang up. If you have any youth members, they can make snowmobile safety posters. There are three age groups (under five, five to eight years and nine and older) each group will get first, second and third place ribbons. Please send me your completed Club of the Year Questionnaire by Monday, March 3. All of the above and more will get your club points towards Club of the Year. I am looking forward to seeing everyone soon! Have a safe journey, and feel free to email me if you have any questions.

WSSA Vice President

JAY SLAGOWSKI

Hello again Fellow snowmobilers,

I can't believe February has almost come and gone, but at least the majority of us are enjoying abundant snow in our mountain riding areas and I hope that you all have been able to get out there and ride. I must admit I personally could have done without some of the subzero temperatures we endured at the beginning of the month, but we can't have good snow without a little "Arctic blast" to usher it in now and then.

The WSSA officers, directors and many of your Club members have been busy writing letters and testifying to our Wyoming legislators to encourage the passing of HB0004 (Snowmobile user fee increase)

Why would we want to raise our current user fees Some may ask? Well, the answer is simple. Our last registration fee increase was passed in 2013 and began implementation in 2014 Our current fees have funded Wyoming State Trails winter program thru fiscal year 2025 but with current inflation, the rising costs of fuel, maintenance and equipment, employee wages, and the consistent rising cost of grooming and plowing contracts, it is necessary for us to move forward with responsible planning to maintain future snowmobile program funding.

With the modest fee increases recommended in HB0004, we will ensure that we do not lose any of the current services the majority of us utilize in our riding areas



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On the web at: wyotrails.com

RIDE SAFE SO YOU CAN RIDE AGAIN

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



Vice President:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

across the state. These services that are provided by our partners at Wyoming State Trails include designated and plowed parking areas, more than 2500 miles of trail grooming and marking, permanent and seasonal remote safety shelters, and finally, our direct access to thousands of acres of backcountry riding opportunities on public lands. All of the forementioned services we are willing to share among multiple user groups including back country skiers and snowboarders, snowshoers, dog sledders, cross country skiers, fat tire bikers and adventure racers just to name a few.

But, I believe the most important factor we should consider is that if we compromise the current Wy State Trails program services with insufficient funding for the future, we become at great risk of losing access to our public federal lands. The bottom line is that if the programs and services don't exist then there will be no need to include the activities they support in future RMP's, forest plans or travel management rule decisions. We must recognize the need to "pay to play" to continue promoting and protecting snowmobiling in Wyoming for the future. I would encourage you all to jump on the Wyoming State Legislature website and search HB0004 and see what's in it for yourselves and hopefully this information has shed some light on its importance.

Coming up on the weekend of February 20th, I'm looking forward to attending the American Council Of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA) Mountain Riding Summit in the Big Horns for two days of riding with folks from all across the snow belt, and then on to Fun Days in Rock Springs March 7-9 we're guaranteed to have a great time there so bring the family and finally closing out my March travel over in Jackson at The World Championship Hill Climbs hosted by the Snow Devils. We will have the WSSA tent all set up at its usual location at the starting line so please come over and say hi and tell a few stories when you get a minute.

Get out there on the snow every chance you get. and always look ahead.

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



Sweetwater Snowpokes

ANGELINA PRYCH

Remember the first of February forecast with a winter storm warning and strong winds? Many of us decided not to venture out to Blind Bull that weekend because the forecast also called for strong winds. Experience said that wouldn't be any fun because of the resulting limited visibility. Been there; done that. One adventurous group of riders tried anyway. Yes, it was as horrible as imagined. They made it to the Blind Bull safety shelter after fighting blowing snow, poor visibility, and difficulty finding the trail! After resting for a while, part of the group headed back to the parking area, stopping often. Soon, several of the other fellas caught up to the first group, saying that it was no fun to ride when you cannot see! We're glad you all made it out safely!! Perhaps the bluebird day weather will arrive for the Snowpokes Fun Run on February 15.

Mark your calendars:

February 16, Avalanche Field Practical, 10 a.m., Upper Green parking area

March 4, Club meeting in Rock Springs

March 7-8, WSSA Fun Days in Rock Springs

March 9, WSSA Meeting in Rock Springs

March 14, 100-mile ultramarathon The Drift starts

April 1, Club meeting in Green River

Visit Snowpokes on Facebook for more information.



February 8, Box Y Ride



February 9, Junior Snowpokes Rider Introduction

Casper Snow Gypsies

BECKY THORNE

Hello from dry Casper. Still waiting for snow! Hard to believe we are in February and having another dry but windy winter. Club is headed to Lava Mountain Lodge Feb. 14-16. So if you're in the area stop by and sat hi or join us for a ride.

Club did some maintenance this Fall on Powder House Safety shelter. Thank you to everyone involved. If you're up there tell us what you think of the improvements!!!

Reminder CSG club dues will be due again March 1! Fun Days at beginning of March hard to believe it is coming so quickly. Be safe out there.



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Star Valley Sno-Skippers

PATRICIA NAUMOFF

Riding Hard, Giving Back, and Keeping the Spirit Alive

Winter is in full swing, and the Star Valley Sno-Skippers have been making the most of it! Between maintaining backcountry shelters, fundraising for important causes, and enjoying epic rides, our club is thriving—and we're always looking for more community-minded riders to join us in Afton, WY.

Kicking Off the Season with Service: Our season began in September with a trip to the Poison Warming Hut. With a fantastic turnout from our crew, we gave the hut a much-needed facelift—a fresh coat of paint, stocked firewood, and brand-new extendable glove racks to help thaw out frozen fingers. After a hard day's work, we fired up the grill and celebrated our efforts the best way we know how—good food, great company, and fresh mountain air.

Giving Back at the Festival of Trees: For the first time, three local snowmobile clubs—Star Valley Sno-Skippers, Top of the Rockies, and the Rev It Up Girls—teamed up to decorate and donate a tree for the annual Festival of Trees, benefiting food-insecure families in our community. Megan and Natasha led the charge with a stunning “Natural Outdoor” theme that was a big hit. It was a proud moment to see snowmobilers come together for a cause beyond the trails, showing that our community runs deep.

Lighting Up the Town: The holiday spirit was alive and well as we rolled into the Parade of Lights with our decked-out snowmobiles. The Sno-Skippers turned heads as we rode through town, reminding everyone why winter is the best season and why they should be out enjoying it with us!

Cornhole for a Cause: Snowmobilers don't just ride hard—we compete hard, too! Our cornhole tournaments have become an annual favorite, bringing together friends, family, and fellow riders for a night of fun. More importantly, every dollar raised supports Access Wyoming, ensuring we can continue to enjoy the backcountry we love. Thanks to everyone who came out to toss a few bags and support the cause!

Braving the Cold for a Club Ride: January brought one of our best-attended club rides yet, proving that true snowmobilers don't let a little cold (or a lot) keep them inside. On one of the chilliest Saturdays of the season, we geared up and hit the trails, riding to the Poison Warming Hut for a much-needed warm-up. Frozen fingers and frost-covered gear didn't stop us from enjoying the ride—and we even accomplished our goal of placing a game camera at the cabin. We can't wait to see what (or who) we capture on it!

Safety First: Avalanche Beacon Check Stations: We're stoked to announce the installation of new avalanche beacon check stations at Cottonwood and Dry Creek canyons. Snowmobiling is all about the thrill, but safety comes first. Before heading out, always check the avalanche forecast, carry proper gear, and ensure your beacon is transmitting.

Join the Sno-Skippers! The Star Valley Sno-Skippers are more than a club—we're a community. We ride together, give back together, and make sure the backcountry stays open and accessible for future generations. If you love the sport and want to be part of a group that values fun, service, and adventure, we'd love to have you!

Here's to a season of deep powder, bluebird days, and unforgettable rides.

Ride Safe!







Top of the Rockies

PATRICIA NAUMOFF

January Joy with Top of the Rockies: Community, Laughter and Winter Fun

January was a month to remember for Top of the Rockies! From hilarious holiday antics to scenic club rides, our community brought warmth and joy to the winter season. Here's a peek at the good times we shared:

Christmas Cheer Meets Star Valley Search & Rescue: We kicked off January in style with our annual Christmas Party, held at the Alpine Civic Center and joined by the incredible Star Valley Search & Rescue families. The Civic Center was packed, and we filled it with laughter, delicious food, and festive cheer.

Top of the Rockies provided the ham and prime rib, while members and guests outdid themselves with mouth-watering potluck dishes—there was no shortage of tasty treats! Sharing stories and laughs with Search & Rescue was an absolute highlight.

But the real gut-buster? Our infamous gift exchange game! This year's master storyteller had everyone in stitches, spinning a wacky, twist-filled trail ride tale that had gifts flying left, right, and back again! The room erupted in laughter as we tried to keep up with the story's wild turns.

Bingo Night: Fun and Funds for a Good Cause: Who doesn't love a good game of Bingo? On a chilly January Friday, we partnered with American Legion Post 46 and Wyoming Title & Escrow for a night of fun and fundraising. With exciting prizes and tasty treats provided by our hosts, this was an evening to remember.

The headline on Facebook said it best: "Join us at Community Bingo THIS Friday for fun, laughs, and supporting our local students via the Alpine Scholarship Fund."

The local Wyoming Title & Escrow team showed up in full force, and it was great to see so many friends stopping by to say hello.

Bluebird Days and Beautiful Rides: Our January club ride brought out the crowds—and the sunshine! We hit the trails on a stunning bluebird day, enjoying the breathtaking winter landscapes that make Alpine such a magical place to explore. There's nothing quite like zipping through the snow with a great group of people, sharing the beauty of our own backyard.

From festive parties to community rides, January reminded us why we love being part of Top of the Rockies. It's not just about the trails—it's about the friendships, the laughs, and the memories we create along the way.

Here's to more adventures in the months ahead!



Deadline for the next Wrangler is March 10!

Support those who support our efforts!

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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

307 Riders Snowmobile Club



BRANDON KLEMM

Hello sledders! Our club members have been enjoying getting to ride in various places around the state. Some of us went

to Togwotee for the big reset storm. Our club is looking forward to more snow and more riding! Hope everyone is able

to get lots of good riding in, have fun and be safe! Until next month.

Big Horn Sno Goers & ATV

LYNDA SCHATZ

Happy snow dances have been working! Our mountain range has been getting some awesome snow. Like always, we wish for more. We have been riding off Highway 16 from Deer Haven Lodge. And it is nice to stop for dinner before heading for home! A few blue bird days and more snow in the forecast! It is really nice to ride close to home!

We have a Poker Run in honor of Ron Aylor and Stan Wostenberg, planned for March 1. Follow Big Horn Sno Goers Facebook page for updates. The ride will start at Baby Wagon Parking Area and end at Deer Haven Lodge with a chili feed. We would like to invite all to join us for a fun event.



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Dubois Sno Katters

TRENT SLAGOWSKI

Greetings from the Dubois Sno Katters, I hope everyone's winter is going well.

We have had a strange winter this year, it's gone from below zero to the high forties and raining in the month of February. We are finally starting to stack up some snow on the mountain and the riding is starting to shape up pretty good. When the weather was warm, I found myself sitting in the shop looking for a project.

I had recently been driving through town and an old 1986 Yamaha Phazer caught my eye. I thought to myself that it would be a good

upgrade for my kid when she outgrows the kitty cat. It would be a sled that would get up and go but also small enough to keep her out of some trouble. The sled looked to be complete and didn't appear to be missing any parts.

I went ahead and knocked on the door of the owner's house to find out the story on the old sled. The guy really didn't know much about it, he had bought it fifteen years ago and found out that snowmobiling wasn't really the sport for him, so there it sat in the back yard. Returning home that night I showed my wife pictures that I had taken. Looking at the torn-up seat and faded plastic, she might not have shared in my enthusiasm.

The sled hadn't been started in 10 years, so first order of business was to pull the tank and get all the old fuel out that had turned into a semi solid stinky mess. I pulled the carbs and disassemble them and placed them in a dip bucket. I went ahead and replaced all the fuel lines while I had everything apart. I sprayed some WD-40 in the cylinders and pulled the rope a few times to loosen the top end up. I then did a compression check and was amazed to see 125 psi on both cylinders, this amazed me because the odometer read 9200 miles.

After cleaning all the parts I carefully reassemble everything, I replaced the spark plugs and pulled on the rope, "it was the moment of truth". To my amazement the sled fired on the second pull and ran as smooth as the day it was new. After a new seat cover and some plastic restorer I've got the old Phazer looking and running like it had in its prime. With a few trips around the hayfield to boost my confidence in the old girl, I think she's ready to take a maiden voyage up the mountain.

I really enjoyed reviving that old sled and I enjoy looking back to see just how far the innovation of snowmobiling has come. In those days it was a 485cc motor on a 136in track and now we have moved to 850cc turbocharged 165in tracks. So, if your riding down the trail and come across me and my old Phazer broke down, maybe I can hitch a ride.



Lander Snowdrifters

DARCI ANACKER

Greetings from the Snowdrifters,

We have had much needed snow in the lower portions of the Wind River Mountains over the last month. The three side trails which our club grooms and maintains are in good condition. There have been several downed trees cut out as a result of the high winds over the mountains and South Pass. The snow levels on the trails are quite deep; some of the trail markers are now only 4.5' off snow level! Great time to go ride and enjoy the outdoors.

Many thanks to the members of the club who are dedicated to the weekly efforts to keep the side trails in such good conditions. Also, thank you to all of the businesses who continue to support our club!

Our club meetings are held monthly, on the second Tuesdays at the Oxbow Restaurant. Club dinner at 6 p.m. and meeting at 6:45 p.m. Please stop on by to join us.

Take care and enjoy the snow!

Grooming - Lander Snowdrifters