

WYOMING SNOWMOBILE

# WRANGLER



OCTOBER 2024



# In This Issue

Board Reports...2-4

Directory...4

District/Club Reports...5-12

News...9

Associates...10

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

Welcome everyone to the 2024-2025 snowmobile season! Hard to believe it is already fall. While I would like to enjoy this season a little longer, I will be grateful for snowfall soon so that the fire fighters around the state will get a reprieve and the fires will subside and go out.

I see that the clubs are getting things prepared for the season. They are all getting firewood for their safety shelters and getting trails prepared for the day that mother nature blesses us with the white gold. I certainly hope that the predictions for colder temps and more snowfall come true this year. We are certainly overdue for a great snow season.

In April snowmobile leaders across the snowbelt again convened in Washington D.C. to learn about legislation and to lobby for snowmobiling. This year marked the 22nd year snowmobilers have been to Washington D.C. Our first day of the Fly-In we had American Council of Snowmobile Association (ACSA) meetings we were informed that the Trails riding group will have their winter meeting/ride in Tower Minnesota. The Mountain riding group will have their winter meeting/ride in the Bighorn Mountains at the Elk View Inn. We also discussed the Trespass Awareness contest that began in June. We talked about the ACSA Future Leaders program as well as the ASCA Scholarship program. If you want more information on any of this information, please reach out to me. Our second day of the D.C. Fly-In we had speakers from Jaret Smith the President of the International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association, the US Fish & Wildlife Service, the Motorcycle Industry Association, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Then on the third day we visited with our federal legislators. It was a very informative three days.

In June we participated in the International Snowmobile Congress which was hosted by the Wisconsin Snowmobile Association in Green Bay Wisconsin. They had around 450 attendees. We had a lot of information to absorb in three and a half days. They had great speakers, good meetings, and multiple breakout sessions. Unfortunately, I came down with some sort of bug and was not able to attend many of the breakout sessions. The one that I did attend was held by the International Snowmobile Manufacturers where they were talking about the types of vehicles that pass the national standards and qualify to be designated as a "snowmobile". It was a great session. Our vice president Jay Slagowski was able to attend more sessions. Their off-site event was at the Casino across the road where we had a great meal and watched the dancers of their Indian nation. There is plenty of time and camaraderie during this event. During the groomer reception the association had a maze game on every type of groomer. Then we had the opportunity to get in the groomer and see if we could make a baseball go through the maze. On the last evening, they have the International Snowmobile Congress Banquet. We have the pleasure of listening to a few more speakers and then awards are given out to American and Canadian snowmobilers & supporters. We had the pleasure of congratulating the snowmobile dealer of the year "Rocky Mountain Powersports - Rock Springs" Pete Leibe said that he was honored and humbled. The things that he does are all for the support of our sport. He was then surprised that he also won the International Snowmobile Dealer of the Year! Rocky Mountain Powersports was inducted into the International Snowmobile Hall of Fame in September. Congratulations Pete!!!

We had a good fall meeting, and I want to thank everyone that was able to attend. We set a budget for this season, and we had lots of good discussions on multiple things. WSSA is working on a new Sponsorship Package as well as a Snowmobile Outreach program. WSSA has great people at the State level and it is always good to spend time with them and get to know them better.

Remember Fun Days is always the first full weekend of March, and it sounds like the Sweetwater Snowpokes are well on their way to hosting another fun event! They are planning a bus poker run again this year which was a lot of fun last time. If you plan to go on their poker run, they want you to please bring cash if you are going to purchase drinks at any of the stops, this makes it a faster process for the servers. Credit/debit cards slow the process up quite a bit. Watch for the registration form coming out soon.

Until next time, enjoy your fall!

# WSSA Vice President



## RIDE SAFE SO YOU CAN RIDE AGAIN

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



**JAY SLAGOWSKI**

Hello again fellow snowmobilers!

With Fall headed out the door, I hope your summer has been a good one and that you have had a chance to get outside and have some fun.

I started my first season of official WSSA travel in early April by attending the Wyoming outdoor Recreation Summit in Casper primarily to listen in on the discussions on recreation as a whole and also make sure that winter motorized use has a voice and a seat at the "recreation table" in the future. The event was very well attended by all user groups and there were some great presentations and panel discussions offered.

Later in the month, was my first trip to Washinton DC to team up with WSSA president Brenda Miller and attend "The DC Fly In" event organized by with The American Council Of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA)

It offered a robust, three-day agenda of meetings and presentations from multiple agencies and organizations with the subjects and discussions ranging from the endangered species act to our Recreational Trails Program (RTP) funds and how they all relate to snowmobiling. Then to close out the event we set out for capital hill to meet with our elected officials, (Senator John Barrasso, Cythia Lummis and Harriet Hageman) to talk all things snowmobiling.

We tried to bring forward an organized

effort with one targeted topic that would have a positive impact for all the states and organizations that host and maintain trails programs, but we also brought forward some Wyoming specific discussions to try to expedite some projects in the state that have stalled due to agency bureaucracies and lack of actions.

One of our main lobby points on the hill was for congress to appropriate more of our Recreation Trails program (RTP) funds raised from user gas taxes to the individual state programs as the current allocation is only \$84M of \$270M raised from the tax. We recommended that at least \$265M be allocated to the ground to help maintain current budgets and help offset future operating costs. All of our Wyoming Senators and Congresswoman were supportive of our recommendations and hoped to move the recommendations forward when the time came.

We continued my WSSA travel in June at the 2024 International Snowmobile Congress held in Green Bay Wisconsin, hosted by the Wisconsin Snowmobile Association. The ISC is a congregation of the United States and Canadian state and provincial organizations attending to inform, celebrate and honor commitments to snowmobiling. All of the manufacturers and vendors that support snowmobiling have a booth to visit and there were non-stop presentations and seminars to attend.

This year, the WSSA was proud to have been a banner sponsor at ISC and are ecstatic to have some Wyoming winners on the international stage. This year's ACSA, Snowmobile Dealer of the year is Rocky Mountain Power Sports of Rock Springs Wyoming owned and operated by Pete Leibee. Pete and his Business were also 2024 inductees into the International Snowmobile Hall Of Fame for his lifetime commitment to snowmobiling, and Lorin Jones also of Rock Springs and the Sweetwater Snowpokes was awarded the first place ACSA student scholarship of \$1,000.00 for an outstanding essay that she submitted. The evenings were loaded with fun, and entertainment and we got a free tour of Lambeau Field provided by the Wisconsin Snowmobile Association.

I finished up my WSSA travel at our fall directors meeting close to home in Riverton. It was great see everyone again and I'm looking forward to our 2024/25 season. We will be rolling out our new Snowmobile Outreach program that will help the WSSA provide funding back

to our Wyoming clubs for a variety of events and functions. Some examples include Trophies and awards for youth races, antique snowmobile show promotions, avalanche education and WSSA "swag" and information for club rides, banquets and fund raisers.

And finally, our Sponsor level membership package that will provide a platform for Businesses and organizations to become Bronze, Silver, Gold or Platinum members of the WSSA with the contributions they make 75% going directly to our Access Wyoming legal defense fund and 25% to the Snowmobile outreach fund to help the clubs in supporting our primary mission of protecting, promoting, and enjoying snowmobiling. Both new programs will be live on the WSSA website this fall, so jump on there for more information.

I am looking forward to seeing and hearing about your upcoming club plans and events and look forward to seeing you out on the snow and doing amazing things.

Always look ahead.



**{WSSA Sponsorship Application}**

**Bronze- \$250.00**

**Silver- \$500.00**

**Gold - \$ 750.00**

**Platinum - \$ 1,000.00**

**75% Of your membership goes to Access Wyoming Legal Defense fund**

**25% Of your membership goes to WSSA Snowmobile Outreach program**

**Your Membership includes**

- Annual advertising on the WSSA website with a hyperlink to your Business, organization, or club website
- Post your Business information to our WSSA Facebook page
- Six annual issues of the WSSA Snowmobile "Wrangler" News Paper
- 10x10 WSSA window cling for your business
- ACSA/WSSA News and legal defense updates

**Sponsorship Amount: (Bronze, Silver, Gold or Platinum)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Company Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Website Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact/Representative Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_



**WSSA SNOWMOBILE OUTREACH FUNDING REQUEST APPLICATION**

**Return completed form to:**

**WSSA President Brenda Miller, 4330 Pat O'Hara Mtn Dr, Cody WY, 82414 bnbkids@gmail.com**

*All funding request will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and must have majority approval from the WSSA board of directors. Applicants must be WSSA members in good standing to apply. Applications may be submitted hard copy by US mail or electronically via email*

**Club Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Club Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Requesting Officer or club representative name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Funding Amount Requested:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date funds are needed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date Requested:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please give a written description below of the needed funds and the specific function or event they will be used for:

**FOR WSSA BOARD MEMBER USE ONLY DO NOT WRITE BELOW**

Board Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Reviewed: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Disapproved: (Give Rational Why) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

# Directory



www.snowmobilewyoming.org

## Officers

**President: Brenda Miller** - (307) 899-3431, bnbkids@gmail.com

**Vice President: Jay Slagowski** - (307) 330-6763, jslagowski66@gmail.com

**Secretary/Treasurer: Mandy Nichols** - (816) 791-3480 wssamandy@gmail.com

## Appointees

**Awards/Fundraising Chairperson: Holly Sinclair** - (307) 880-2625, wssaholly@gmail.com

**Charity Chairperson: Brenda Miller** - (307) 899-9491, bnbkids@gmail.com

**Historian: Forrest Kamminga** - (307) 335-8229, forrest.kamminga@wyo.gov

**Safety Chairman: Lou Grunewald, Sr.** - (307) 234-9000, rec-vee@hotmail.com

**Scholarship Chairperson: Shannon Glandt** - (307) 413-3950, shannonglandt@gmail.com

## District Representatives

**District #1 - Platte, Goshen, Laramie, Albany Counties: Cory Juhnke** - (307) 399-0635, cjuhnke1@gmail.com

**District #2 - Carbon County: VACANT**

**District #3 - Teton County, Lincoln County (north): Justin Fritz** - (307) 413-5868, P.O. Box 3767, Alpine, WY 83128, justinfritzwl@yahoo.com

**District #4 - Sheridan County: Rick Young** - (307) 752-8444, P.O. Box 159, Dayton, WY 82836, mtswin@hotmail.com

**District #5 - Park, Big Horn Counties: Bert Miller** - (307) 899-3419, b.miller1962@hotmail.com, 4330 Pat Ohara Mtn. Dr., Cody WY 82414

**District #6 - Weston, Campbell Counties: Brandon Klemm** - bdklemm@hotmail.com

**District #7 - Fremont County (south): VACANT**

**District #8 - Natrona, Converse Counties: Lou Grunewald** - (307) 234-9000, 554 S 4th Ave., Mills, WY 82604, rec-vee@hotmail.com

**District #9 - Sweetwater, Uinta Counties: George Prych** - (307) 382-2879, 108 2nd St., Rock Springs, WY 82901, asp911@ymail.com

**District #10 - Johnson, Washakie Counties: Tony Niswender** - (307) 660-8720, 2501 Little Powder River Rd., Gillette, WY 82716, niswender@collinscom.net

**District #12 - Fremont County (north): Jay Slagowski**, jslagowski66@gmail.com

**District #13 - Sublette County: Alan Lane** - (307) 699-7105

**District #14 - Lincoln County (south): Susan Johnston** - (307) 690-0770

## 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.snokaters@gmail.com, PO Box 1064 Dubois, WY 82513

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

**Lander Snowdrifters** – landersnowdrifters@gmail.com, PO Box 281, Lander WY 82520

**Lincoln County Snow Bears** – lincolncountysnowbears@gmail.com

**Powder River Sno-Buffs** – powderriversnobuffs@yahoo.com, PO Box 754, Buffalo WY 82834

**Rev It Up Girls** – info@revitupgirls.com

**Riverton Sno-Goers** – rivertonsnogoers@gmail.com, PO Box 2115, Riverton WY 82501

**Snow Explorers Altitude Offroad** – pse1271965@gmail.com, PO Box 2509, Pinedale WY 82941

**Star Valley Sno-Skippers** – Marcuss Sainz, marcussainz@gmail.com, PO Box 63, Afton, WY 8310

**Snowy Range Snowmobile Club** – membership@srschw.com, PO Box 1930, Laramie WY 82073

**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



## Wyoming State Trails

**Program Manager: Forrest Kamminga** - forrest.kamminga@wyo.gov, Office: (307) 335-2671, Cell: (307) 212-2821

**Program Support and Contract Manager: Josh Milek** - joshua.milek@wyo.gov, Office: (307) 335-2670, Cell: (307) 349-4778

**Field Operations Manager: Jordan Weller** - Office: (307) 335-8229 ext 225

**Field Foremen: Tim Martell** - william.martell2@wyo.gov, Cell (307) 330-4690

**Eric Eiserman** - eric.eiserman@wyo.gov, Cell: (307) 330-7038

On the web at: wyotrails.com

# Snowmobile Events 2024/2025

SUSAN ANDREWS  
ISMA

The International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association (ISMA) is pleased to announce Snowmobile Day will be held on October 26, 2024, and International Snowmobile Ride Day on February 8, 2025. These events are geared to celebrate the sport of snowmobiling and the upcoming winter season. Snowmobile clubs, local dealers, associations, and snowmobile groups are invited to participate in these events.

Snowmobile Day aligns with "Snöskoters Dag," an event that has been held in Sweden for over 40 years. ISMA encourages snowmobile clubs to partner with a local snowmobile dealership as the location of the celebration, bringing members of their community together while supporting local business.

Over the past three years many new riders have entered the sport and Snowmobile Day is a great opportunity for clubs and associations to increase membership and recruit volunteers for trail maintenance activities. Snowmobile Day should be a fun, family festival type event, where BBQ, refreshments, music, vintage sleds, and an open house can get snowmobilers looking at the new products in the market and getting excited for the upcoming season.

International Snowmobile Ride Day was launched two years ago by Bombardier Recreational Products (BRP), manufacturer of the Ski-doo and Lynx. Responsibility for the event has now been handed over to ISMA. The event encourages riders of all brands of snowmobiles to get out and ride on the second Saturday of February.

ISMA encourages Snowmobile Clubs to host an event such as an open house at a Clubhouse, Hot Chocolate at a trail intersection, or BBQ at the trailhead to celebrate this day.

The snowmobile manufacturers of ISMA want to support Snowmobile Day and International Snowmobile Day in North America by offering up to \$500 to select snowmobile clubs / associations participating in both events. If your snowmobile club would like to be considered for this offer, please email Susan.Andrews@snowmobile.org for the application form and submit it no later than September 23, 2024. Clubs filling out an application will be contacted by ISMA regarding their submission by October 1, 2024.

# RIDE SAFE

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## SO YOU CAN RIDE AGAIN

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MARKS X SPOT  
THE  
**WHY DIE?**  
DRIVE SAFELY

# Rev It Up Girls

EVA KIRCHLECHNER

## OUR SUMMER

We experienced a remarkable summer, commencing with a family-friendly Rev It Up Girls excursion to Pipestone, Montana. The activities included side-by-side, two wheel single track, hiking, seeing hieroglyphs, swimming, overnight camping, and a sunset barbecue. Perhaps we will to see you there next summer.



We commemorated International Female Ride Day with a Rev It Up Girls dinner and drinks event in Star Valley, Wyoming. Additionally, our Rev It Up Girls Montana Chapter organized an evening featuring pizza, beer, and a golf simulator in Butte, Montana.

As summer unfolded, we engaged in multiple single-track intermediate rides within the Bridger-Teton Forest, alongside beginner rides for side-by-sides and dirt bikes in Caribou National Forest. We concluded our summer with an enjoyable float down the Salt River in Wyoming, shared between mothers and daughters.



Lodge, situated in the Grey Back Mountains of the Teton Bridge Mountain Range. Their lodge is only accessible by snowmobiles during the winter months. Tim had sustained an injury at the beginning of summer, and their family had recently welcomed a new grandson. As they prepared for the winter season, we offered our assistance as a gesture of gratitude for their support of our annual Women Box Y overnight rides over the past four years. A highlight of the experience was the delightful dinner prepared by Cindy and the cozy cottage where we stayed for free. After completing our work, we took the opportunity to explore the local trails using our side-by-sides and quads. Now that's a lot of wood

Our second service project, which holds a special significance for us, took place in October and involved assisting our Public Lands, where we engage in snowmobile club rides during the winter and off-roading and camping in the summer.

Rev It Up Girls undertook various tasks at Caribou City, Idaho, located just west of Star Valley, Wyoming. These tasks included sanding, staining, and repairing shingles, as well as removing weeds, overgrown bushes, and deadfall.

Caribou City was named after "Cariboo Jack," who discovered gold on Caribou Mountain. The settlement began in 1897 as a tent town, and by 1900 (only 3 years later), a post office was established, 32 brothels, saloons, and gambling establishments. Approximately \$1,673,892 worth of gold was extracted from the mines surrounding Caribou City. During its heyday, Caribou City was one of the largest mining camps in the American West.



## LET'S TALK SERVICE PROJECTS

Contributing to our local communities and public lands is essential for ensuring future access to our national forests. This fall, we organized two service projects.

The first project occurred in September, during which we cut, split, and stacked approximately five cords of wood for Tim and Cindy, the proprietors of Box Y



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Here is a list of our winter events and locations.

November 22, 2024 Star Valley WY Club Meeting (Season Opener)

November 23, 2024 Star Valley WY (Snow Dependent)

December 6&7 Avy Savy and Survival Etna, WY

December 20, 2024 Star Valley WY Club Meeting

December 21, 2024 Star Valley WY Club Ride

January 10-11, 2025 Box Y Ride Alpine, WY

January 25, 2025 Northern, UT

January 18, 2025 Montana Club Ride

January 29-February 2, 2025 >>> 3rd Annual Riding Retreat Afton, WY

February 20-23, 2025 Club Meeting and Club Ride Island Park, ID

March 7-8, 2025 WYSSA Rock Springs, WY

March 29, 2025 Montana Club Ride

March 14, 2025 - Club Meeting  
March 15, 2025 COED Ride Star Valley, WY (Season Finale)

For more information go to our Facebook book page.



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## Dubois Snow-Katters

TRENT SLAGOWSKI

Greeting from the Dubois Snow-Katters I hope that everyone had a fun filled summer. It's crazy to think how fast our summer came and went, we were lucky enough to get out and do a few fun things like riding our horses in the backcountry as well as ripping around on our dirt bikes. Waking up to the cool mornings and feeling the chill on the breeze has me looking forward to the snowmobile season. We still have a while to wait, with fires still burning in our local riding areas and temperatures in the 70s it's hard to get too excited. As far as the Dubois Snow-Katters we are about to have our first meeting for the year. The fall chores consist of our membership drive and wood cutting for the warming shelters. Here's to hoping for a snowy winter!



## Lander Snowdrifters

JIM SPRIGGS

Hello from the Lander Snowdrifters,

Hope the smoke has cleared from your areas and the crowds have lessened somewhat so that you can enjoy the fall weather and get out and recreate at your favorite spots. At the April 2024 meeting we elected a new Treasurer, Jess Forton and a new Secretary, Cal Anacker. We held our spring highway cleanup in May. Overall, it was a relatively slow summer for the Club.

The State Trails program cleared and rehabbed the old trail from the Rock Shop Inn (on State Highway 28) to the E Trail (Willow Creek) this summer.

By the time this goes to print, the club will have held its first meeting and be working on our 2024-2025 season schedule of events. Our meetings are held the second Thursday of each month (October-April) at the Oxbow Restaurant in Lander. In October, we plan on scheduling a highway cleanup and also start clearing trees from the Lander Side Trails. Enjoy the fall colors!



# Jackson Hole Snow Devils

COURTNEY HODGES RUDDAT

Happy fall from the Jackson Hole Snow Devils! We hope that everyone had a wonderful summer enjoying the beauty our state has to offer. May started off with our end of winter highway clean up, and we are happy to report we didn't see as much trash as we normally do. In June, we celebrated a successful 2024 season and



Father's Day by having our annual end of year celebration for our members. The weekend was filled with our annual club golf tournament, corn hole tournaments, great food and company to celebrate the hard work last winter.

Now as the temperatures start to cool down, we are getting excited for the upcoming winter season. We will be holding our first meeting of the year on October 17, we look forward to seeing familiar and new faces to kick off the year! As tradition we will hold our fall highway clean up the Saturday after our meeting to ensure our state stays as beautiful as always.

We are all excited for the white fluffy flakes to start falling from the sky for many reasons. While we wait for the snow to show up, we are preparing our gear and freshening up on our avalanche safety. They are calling for a snowy winter in the Rockies, so let's hope the predictions are true. We are excited to continue to spread awareness and have so much fun doing what we love when the snow piles up! Can't wait to see everyone on the hill soon!

# Casper Snow Gypsies

BECKY THORNE

Hello from Casper! Summer has gone by too quickly! Club has had a camping trip to Shirley Mountains and a booth at the Ford Wyoming Center for Kid's Fest.



We also volunteered to do the parking at the Central Wyoming Fair and Rodeo. We have a lot of great people volunteering their time! Shelters have been cleaned and stocked and some maintenance was done too! Thank you to everyone who was involved.

We hope we have a lot of snow this winter not only for a great snowmobile season but for the moisture we are lacking this year.

Due to lack of snow last winter, we didn't get to have events like we should have but hoping we get to have some club rides, poker runs and more! Stay safe hand have a great October!



# Top Of the Rockies



## CHERYL DICKERSON

Dear Gentle Readers,  
 Welcome fall! It's been beautiful, with brilliant foliage and the subtleness of the light starting to shift. Summer was eventful and fun filled as always. Club members gathered to take the teepee safety shelter down from Squaw Creek, participate in the July 4th Parade and host our annual Alpine Car Show. One club "buggy" ride to the old Roosevelt Mine followed by a BBQ on the lake. We sure know how to have a good time!

As many of you know, the ISHOF (the International Snowmobile Hall of Fame), honored two Wyoming residents with induction at this year's ceremony. George Bratrude, as the International Snowmobile Groomer of the Year for 2023 and Pete Leibee, International Snowmobile Dealer of the Year. George is one of Alpine's own and grooms the Grey's River Road. Pete owns Rocky Mountain Power Sports in

Rock Springs and is a very active member of the Sweetwater Snowpokes. George is in good company as he joins Tim Haberburger in the Groomer Hall of Fame. Tim, the proprietor of the Box Y, was inducted in 2018. Congratulations to you both!

We look forward to more fun activities coming up. Halloween and Thanksgiving are right around the corner. Given the array of decorations in stores already, bring on "HalloThanksMas"!





## District 9

GEORGE PRYICH

Hello from District 9. What a year this has been.

I have been working with resources in my circle to make comments on the BLM Rock Springs RMP. This plan is being fueled by Washington DC an environmental extremists to implement the 30/30 conservation plan and cripple one of Wyoming's largest energy producing counties. The RMP also contains wording about travel restrictions that also could cripple recreation in the county. Make no mistake, this RMP is a template for the rest of Wyoming. If implemented, it will affect our lifestyle and economy. The Sweetwater Snowpokes also have other members like Stacy and Taylor Jones very involved on this RMP. The comments to the Draft EIS were submitted in January and the protests to the Final EIS were due by September 23. In total, there were approximately 3400 pages to filter through, an impossible task for the general public on their own. Many thanks to everyone who put in the time to make comments. We will see how it turns out.

Also of note is that the Bridger-Teton National Forest is starting their travel management plan for the Forest. Please get involved with the process no matter where you are. It is the future of recreation for our next and future generations and Wyoming.

After Fun Days in Dubois, the Sweetwater Snowpokes supported The Drift 100 (started in 2020) for the 5th year. The weather for the 2024 Drift was great (compared to last year's blizzard) with just enough snow. Our presence is much appreciated by the participants no matter the weather. Our Fun Runs continue to generate interest in our communities and attract participants from around the region. See details in Snowpokes club report.

The Bridger-Teton National Forest had several large fires this year, as have other areas in Wyoming. The fires got too close to Blind Bull and Strawberry safety shelters but the firefighters were on it and worked on mitigating the fires away from the shelters. During my career as a firefighter (now retired), my department was involved with the Yellowstone fires of 1988. I know the work and logistics needed to work on these fires is intense and frustrating at times. THANK YOU to all the fire personnel for their dedication and for putting themselves in harm's way to protect us all.

The trails on the Forest may need extensive work before we can ride there; please be careful wherever you are riding. Let's hope the weather brings plenty of snow so we can enjoy riding on our public land this winter. Be prepared and aware of changes resulting from the wildfires.

Hope to see you on the trails!

# From Wyoming trails to international acclaim: Rock Springs' Leibee is the International Snowmobile Dealer of the Year

TRACIE SULLIVAN  
ROCKET MINER

ROCK SPRINGS -- For three decades Pete Leibee, owner of Rocky Mountain Powersports in Rock Springs, has quietly worked behind the scenes to foster and support the snowmobiling industry.

Last week however, he found himself in the spotlight at the International Snowmobile Congress in Green Bay, Wisconsin when he was awarded the prestigious International Snowmobile Dealer of the Year.

While Leibee knew before the Wisconsin conference he had won National Dealer of the Year he was surprised when he got there to find he had also taken the top award amidst delegates from all over the North American continent.

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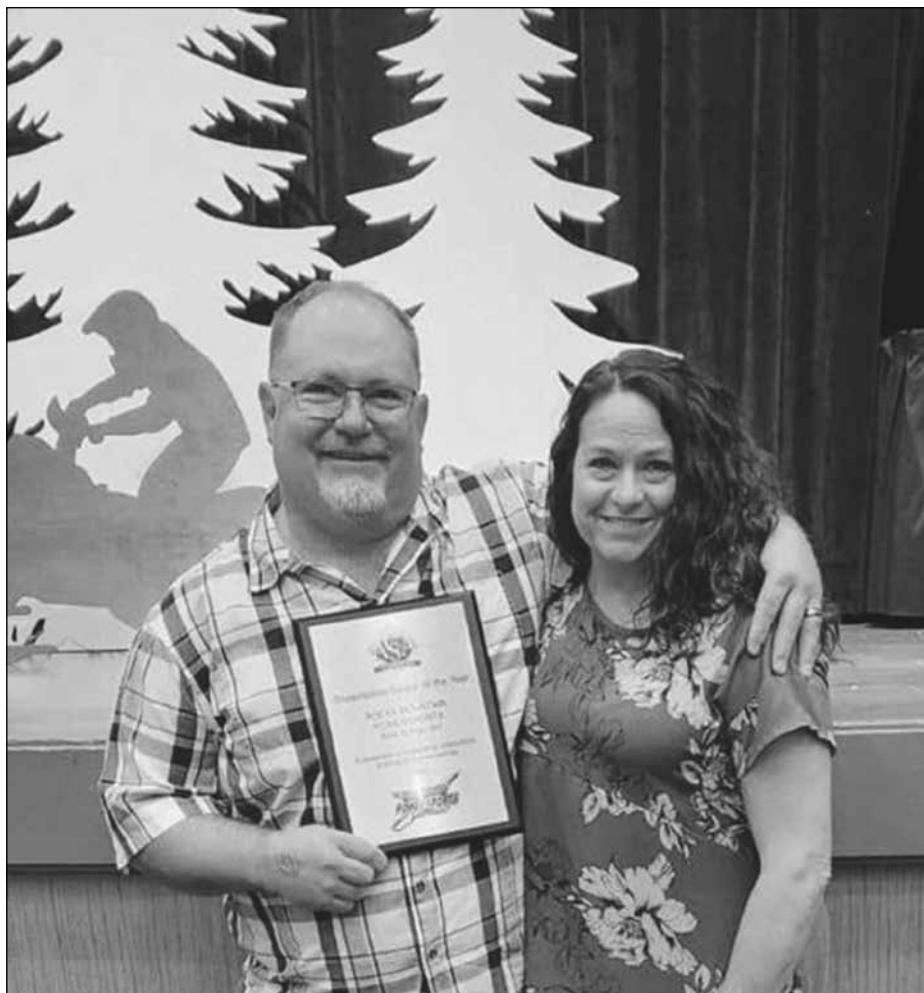
While Leibee knew before the Wisconsin conference he had won National Dealer of the Year he was surprised when he got there to find he had also taken the top award amidst delegates from all over the North American continent.

### BUILDING A LEGACY

For Leibee, snowmobiling isn't just a business – it's a way of life deeply rooted in his love for Wyoming's rugged landscapes. His journey from a local enthusiast to an internationally recognized figure began humbly, fueled by a passion for the sport and a commitment to his community.

In 1995, Leibee established Rocky Mountain Powersports, initially focusing on automotive sales. Over time, however, his business evolved to specialize in powersports, becoming a cornerstone for outdoor enthusiasts across Wyoming.

Beyond selling snowmobiles and ATVs, Leibee also aimed to help



*Courtesy photo*

**Pete Leibee, owner of Rocky Mountain Powersports in Rock Springs, was recently awarded the International Snowmobile Dealer of the Year. Here he is pictured with his wife Karrie.**

build a community of outdoor enthusiasts.

"He works nonstop and pours his entire soul into the sport of snowmobiling," said Forrest Kamminga, Program Manager of the Wyoming State Trails Program.

One of Leibee's proudest achievements is his long standing membership with the Sweetwater Snowpokes, a group deeply rooted in Wyoming's snowmobiling history.

In the 1970s, when Wyoming lacked formal trail systems for snowmobiling, the Snowpokes took initiative. They worked tirelessly alongside the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to establish and maintain trails, construct warming huts, offer scholarships, and organize events like poker runs.

Their efforts laid the groundwork for what would eventually become a thriving winter recreation industry in Wyoming, valued in the millions today.

Leibee has been part of that legacy for three decades helping to

build trails, shelters and organize events.

"The Snowpokes embody the spirit of community and stewardship," Leibee emphasized. "Joining them was my way of giving back to the community."

### LOOKING AHEAD

Beyond working to build more trails and shelters, Leibee also remains committed to expanding access to Wyoming's winter wonderland and instilling the love of the sport in the next generation.

"When I accepted my award and I looked out at the audience, what I saw was a lot of white hair," Leibee said. "If we don't pass what we have and the love of this sport down to the younger generation, it will die. It has taken a lot of hard work to get us where we are and to maintain access to our public lands. The younger generation has to keep that going."

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# Support those who support our efforts!

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FREMONT ELECTRIC INC.  
FRONT RANGE POWERSPORTS  
FRONTIER CYCLES  
HYALITUDE CONTRACTING  
MADDEN CONTRACT PUMPING  
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DANIEL JUNCTION/THE BEAR DEN  
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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)

# Sweetwater Snowpokes



Prepping the trail on May 29.



Will it be muddy or wet on June 1?



Square Top from route of August Fun Run.

## ANGELINA PRYICH

Welcome back to the Wyoming Snowmobile Wrangler and news from the Sweetwater Snowpokes! After a knuckle biting drive home in whiteout conditions and some near-miss drivers, all the Snowpokes returned home safely from a great Fun Days in Dubois. Remember the weather and snow and closed roads last March? So, you might think that by June 1 - and our Fun Run in Sweetwater County - the snow would be a long gone memory. Think again! Our Fun Run was held south of Rock Springs in the Pine Mountain area. Fantastic scenery, some challenging terrain, cold weather in the morning followed by STRONG winds and a downpour in the afternoon made for an interesting day. Did I mention that some parts of the trail didn't have rain that day?

The August 17 Fun Run from Kendall Valley Lodge was well attended and the weather was great. The trail provided beautiful scenery, challenging terrain, and grazing cattle. Thank you, participants, for opening and closing the gates. As we approached a fire camp, the plume of smoke from the Fish Creek Fire loomed ahead. Thanks to all who joined us that day and patiently waited for everyone to return to the Lodge. THANK YOU to everyone who organized this event and helped on this day! Photos and videos are available on the Snowpokes facebook page.

The Snowpokes' entry in the Liberty Parade in Rock Springs won 1st place in the Motorsports Division. Thank you to our members for representing the club in the community. Thank you to all the volunteers who came to help with the annual maintenance at the Blind Bull safety shelter and to those who take care of the Strawberry safety shelter throughout the year. You are appreciated!

Congratulations to Pete Leibe who was nominated and selected as the International Snowmobile Dealer of the Year at the International Snowmobile Congress (ISC) held in Wisconsin!

The Fun Days 2025 committee is finalizing the registration form which will be available online soon. In addition to the club facebook page, we now have a website at SweetwaterSnowpokes.com.



Can you see the dust and all the UTVs?



Fish Creek Fire on August 17.



June 1 Fun Run - not too bad on that snow-covered section (see May 29).

**Deadline for the next Wrangler is December 4**

# Cody Country Snowmobile Association

**BERT MILLER**  
DISTRICT 5 REP



Hello all,  
Well up here in the Cody Country the leaves are turning yellow and red with beautiful fall colors. We had our first club meeting this past September and the meeting was well attended. The Cody club will continue to have the club meetings and director meetings at the Holiday Inn in Cody. We are starting to work on club events like Avalanche Training. We are also going to participate in a Winter Sports Show in November which will be a new event in Cody that is going to help jump start winter.

The past few weeks the club has been in the process of getting the Beartooth Mountain Safety Shelter ready for the season. The club came together for some hard work on the shelter as well as doing some upgrades. We power washed the inside and outside of the shelter and did a lot of painting. On the exterior we repainted the red stripes and painted the walls on the interior. We replaced the steel entry door with a commercial grade door and sealed the roof. We also replaced tires and repaired and welded the wood stove door. Oh ya and repaired the exterior lighting to make the shelter safer for traveling.

The shelter is filled with wood and has been placed at the Island Lake Campground. The shelter is set up and ready to be opened once the snow starts to pile up on the ground.

We would like to follow up with a thank you to our Safety Shelter Corporate sponsors, we could not have done this without you. A huge thank you to Little Rock and GL Water for trucking the Safety Shelter back and forth. Also, thanks for your service truck for repairing and replacing the tires. Thank you also to M&K Custom Wood for replacing the steel door for us and for helping us with equipment usage and the man basket when we needed to paint the outside of the shelter. Thank you to Marshall's Auto Repair and Restoration for storage and allowing us to do all the repairs and work in their gated yard.

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Leaving town heading to the mountain.



Home for the winter - Island Lake Campground.



Three-month old Laiken Lamb (with mom and dad) first trip hauling the shelter to the mountain.