

FRESH POWDER NORTHWEST

Spokane Winter Knights Snowmobile Club

SpokaneWinterKnights.com

spokanewinterknights@gmail.com



JULY 2018

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2018 Summer Picnic

Our annual Winter Knights summer picnic will once again be held at Darrell and Norma Ritz's home on Pend Oreille River's Albeni Cove by Newport, on Sunday, August 19 at 12:00 pm. They have a beach, large lawn area, and plenty of room for our picnic, so bring your lawn chairs. Kids and adults are welcome to go swimming in the cove, so don't forget your swimsuits, towels, and sunscreen. The club will provide the meats, plates, and utensils.

Please bring your favorite picnic dish or dessert to add to the meal, as well as your own beverages.

If you need directions, call Darrell or Norma Ritz at 509-220-2758.



Annual Winter Knights Golf Game

CALLING ALL GOLFERS (Men, Women, & Children)!!

WHAT: FUN time of Golf (only 9 Holes)

WHEN: Sunday, August 19, 2018 (before the club picnic)

WHERE: [The Ranch Golf Club, Priest River, Idaho](#)

TIME: 1st Tee Time @ 9:00 a.m.

RSVP DEADLINE: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 Please call Sharon (484-7273) to reserve your spot.

It's not a competition – we golf and have fun – and no one cares what your score is! I thought it would be nice to golf this year in memory of Gary Gross, a longtime member whose life was cut short by a hit and run driver a couple of months ago. I golfed with Gary Gross the past 5+ years with the club before the picnic. I heard stories about his golfing, and just from playing with him, I could tell what a fine golfer he was. You will be missed on the golf course Gary! Hope to see you all on the golf course in August!

Sharon Crockett, Treasurer



From the President

As I write this, we are gearing up for summer and the 4th of July. Just got done watching my daughter play in Hoopfest this year. What an event with about 235,000 people in attendance this year!! Can you imagine if this number of people attended a snowmobile event? Well, maybe that would not be such a great idea, best left for Hoopfest!

Even though it is only July, things are gearing up for the summer 2018 snowmobile season. The Saint Maries, Idaho, Summer Sucks Grass Drags are July 18 and 19 to start things off. Then it will be the lone, Washington, Downriver Days with the Snowmobile Watercross on Sunday, July 29. I know we will have some Winter Knights in attendance for this event. Waiting for Glen Mumm to

break out his new snow bike and take it to the water for some testing. It was done last year by a KTM. Lastly, it will be time for Hay Days in North Branch, Minnesota on September 8 and 9. The Winter Knights' attendance at this event seems to keep growing each year. Also mark your calendars for the 2019 WSSA Winter Rendezvous, which will be coming back to Hills Resort at Priest Lake on February 15, 16 and 17. The Winter Knights will be hosting the event this year, so we will be recruiting volunteers!!

Lots of things in store for 2018-19 with the club as well. Hope to be able to have some guest speakers at our club meeting, for one. Looking at some rider training as well. We have talked about a ride at the Ski Doo



factory in Valcourt, Quebec, Canada, and will pursue that again at Hay Days. Keep in mind things you would like to see happen this year and let us know, as these ideas will help keep things fresh, which is great for interest in the club.

I hope each of you has a fun and enjoyable summer and will see you at one of the upcoming events or club meetings.

Greg Figg,
President

Upcoming General Meeting



Our next meeting will be Thursday, September 20, 2018 at the [NEWTECH Skill Center](#), located at 4141 N. Regal. Please arrive BY 6:00 pm, dinner is at 6:15. The meeting will start at 7:00 pm. Dinners are \$11.00 per person (this includes tax and tip).

We will continue to have the "Student Shoe Fund" donation jar at the check-in table to help support the students in the culinary arts program!

Next Board Meeting:

September 6, 2018 @ 6pm
Location: Contact Greg

From the Vice President

Finally, the days are getting shorter and we are slipping back into winter. The 2018/2019 snowmobile season will mark the 50th anniversary of the Winter Knights. Rick Suhr is working on a new club video to commemorate this milestone. We would like to ask all members of the Winter Knights that might have any digital pictures or video and would like to have their memorabilia included in this project, to please contact either Rick or myself to make arrangements for pick up. Time is of the essence, as we need to have this ready prior to the Snow Show and it takes a considerable amount of time to put these videos together. The deadline for contributing digital content for this project is July 31st.

The winter of 2018 was very unpredictable and eventually brought us a record amount of snow, with some folks riding well into June. For those of us that ride the mountains and backcountry, there was a heavy price to be paid, as we lost a number of our fellow riders to avalanche-related deaths due to a very unstable snow pack caused by constantly changing weather patterns and a lack of Avi IQ.

Here are some statistics provided by Mike Duffy at Avalanche I.

TOTAL US AVALANCHE FATALITIES 2017/18:

1. U.S. avalanche fatalities: 25
2. U.S. snowbike fatalities: 1
3. U.S. snowmobile avalanche fatalities: 11

BREAKDOWN OF US SNOWMOBILE AVALANCHE FATALITIES 2017/18:

- 44% of the total US avalanche fatalities were snowmobiles, the user group with most deaths
- 36% of the snowmobilers killed did not have a

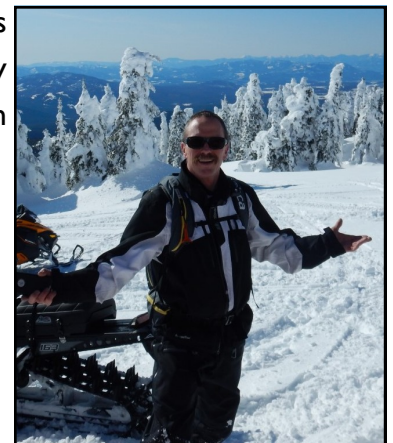
transceiver (2), a transceiver turned on (1) or a functioning transceiver due to 0% battery strength (1).

- 45 % of the snowmobilers died from trauma. The average is approximately 30%.
- 64 % of the snowmobilers killed had airbags.
- 43% of those killed with airbags did not deploy the airbag.
- 57% of those killed with airbags died from trauma.
- 36% of the snowmobile fatalities were from Washington State.

As you can see we have a lot of work to do when it comes to riding safely in the mountains. For the upcoming season, basic avalanche awareness will be a part of all Mountain Rides, so make sure you are prepared to take part by having a beacon, shovel and probe if you plan on attending these rides. Also, I would like to encourage all club members to plan on attending one of the free 8-hour on-the-snow avalanche awareness courses put on by Kevin Davis and IPAC. This course accommodates all rider skill levels (you don't need to be an expert rider to attend) and will really help you to understand what we all face when we venture into the mountains. I will be posting times and dates as they become available from IPAC.

Summer Sucks !

Glen Mumm,
Vice President ,
Ride Coordinator,
Marketing Chair



Search and Rescue (SAR)

Time will just not slow down. The only thing that has slowed are "call outs" as there have been none originated within Spokane County since last December. A few requests for SAR resources from out of county agencies have been made, primarily for dog teams to conduct cadaver searches to aid law enforcement. From the team's perspective, YES...we would like to see some action to support the ongoing certification requirements and reinforce a basic sense of accomplishing something good and noble; however, at least there has been no interference in a full night's sleep by text message alerts.

In sadder news, the team lost a long time and highly experienced member with the passing of Eliot Mohr on April 6th, 2018. He had been dealing with cancer related health issues for a little over a year before succumbing at age 76. Eliot was an avid outdoorsman involved in snow skiing, snowmobiling and ATV, all of which he carried over into his

dedication to Search and Rescue at the county and later club level. His presence and friendship will be missed.



Referencing time again, we are rapidly approaching the Winter Knight's SAR Team annual field training/social event which is scheduled for **Saturday, July 21st**. Activities will kick off mid-day and will consist of an adrenalin charged ATV course in, around and maybe back out of DNR state and private land depending on your map and GPS skills. Who knows? We may be able to turn a mock SAR exercise into a real one! Other training events will be hoist recovery, first aid, backboard use, search techniques and, of course, a refresher on GPS for those who

need it prior to the ATV course. Additionally, for those not familiar with operating an ATV but want to learn, instruction is available. All of this will be followed by a cook out of brats and burgers with drinks provided. For anyone interested or just thinking they might be interested, this is the best opportunity ever to see what Winter Knight SAR is about, meet the people and have a fun, learning experience. You have the choice to participate or just observe...your call...no pressure. You are also encouraged to bring your spouse, girlfriend, mistress (choose one) so they can also observe and socialize. If interested, contact me at 509-690-7059 or wayne.pjsmith@gmail.com and I will follow up with more information to include times, exact location and directions. I will need to hear from you NLT July 15th in order to lock in final planning and meal counts.

Wayne Smith,
SAR Director

Trail and Less Aggressive Off-Trail Rides

The 2018-2019 Trail and Less Aggressive Off-Trail Ride Schedule is in progress. Since the club is growing so fast, we want to address the needs of the new members, but not forget the needs of our long-time members as well. Therefore, I am waiting to receive the responses from your surveys on the back of the renewal invoices before finalizing the schedule.

I am also looking for members to lead or host these club rides. Are you interested? Give me a call ASAP and we can discuss leader and host duties and expectations, as well as dates and locations. Many hands make light work!

Al McCarty, Trail and Less Aggressive Off-Trail Rides



Spokane Indians Baseball Game

Friday, June 15, was the season opener for the Spokane Indians. They played against the Boise Hawks to a sell out crowd of 7,057. As loud as members of the Spokane Winter Knights cheered, it was not enough to pull out a win. The weather was good and the fireworks were fantastic. Despite the scoreboard going dark and not being able to see the score and stats, everyone had a great time. Hopefully more of you can join us next year.



Snow Show Kitchen Information

The Winter Knights Kitchen Crew would like to provide information about what they and club members do in the Kitchen during the annual Snow Show in November. The Crew shops for all the staples and brings them to the Show on Friday morning at 7:00am, and the party begins!

The Kitchen Crew provides food for our Exhibitors and all Club Members throughout Friday and Saturday. The Kitchen provides: coffee, tea, chocolate, pop, donuts & goodies each morning; Chili Dogs and delicious Crock

Pot dishes provided by our club members throughout Friday and Saturday (a minimum of 30 per day are required). To make the meal cleanup more efficient, we provide Pot Liners for members to use in their crock pots.

The Kitchen opens: 7:30am Friday and Saturday for the wake-up foods; 11:00am to 6:00pm on Friday, and 11:00 am to 3:00pm on Saturday for Chili Dogs and Crock Pot meals.

Please consider volunteering Friday morning at 7:00am to set

up or Saturday after 3:00pm where help is really needed for cleanup, closing up the kitchen, boxing up stuff for another year and loading the trucks.

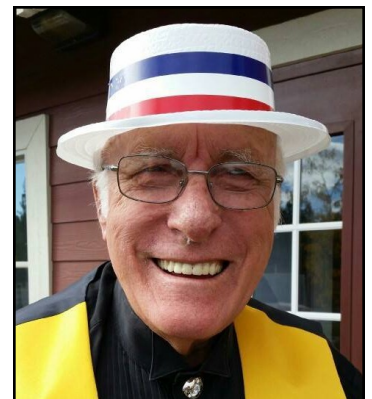
Sign-up sheets will be available closer to the Snow Show.

Also, I am still looking for a Co-Chair to help me, learn the ropes and to eventually take on this duty. Please call me if you are interested!

Ron Kelley and Crew!

In-Memoriam: Gary Gross

On April 26, 2018, we lost one of our longtime members due to an automobile accident. Gary Gross was an active member of the Winter Knights since 1986. He and his wife, Judy, could always be found helping the club in some way or other. He was part of the Search and Rescue team for many years and served as club president for two years (1994-96). During the Snow Show, you could usually find him back by the Used Parts Sales section as Security. When not snowmobiling, Gary could be found singing in a barbershop quartet, golfing, or spending time with his family. RIP Gary. You will be missed!



Membership Renewal Invoices

IT IS TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP! Be on the lookout for your Winter Knights renewal invoice. It is being mailed separately from this newsletter, on July 15.

It is imperative that every member keep their contact information up-to-date. It is especially important that your email address is accurate, since this is our main form of contact with you throughout the year. Examples of important emails we send include: last-minute ride location or time changes, special events, meeting reminders, etc.

New this year: The back of the invoice has a SURVEY. As the club keeps growing, so does the needs of our members. Please let us know what your “ride” preferences are so that we can put together a ride schedule that reflects what you need.

Mail your payment BY August 31, 2018 so your membership does not lapse, as September 1 is the start of the new 2018-19 season for both the Winter Knights and WSSA.

Please renew your membership through Winter Knights, **NOT** through WSSA directly. Once we update our club database, we will then update the WSSA database automatically for you. It is much easier on our end this way.

3 ways to renew your membership!

1. Renew On-line and pay with PayPal.
2. Renew On-line and send a check in the mail.
3. Renew by updating contact information on the invoice and mailing it back with a check.

Just go to
spokanewinterknights.com/membership-renewals
and follow the instructions.

Membership Dues = \$30 this year, same as last year.

Newsletters: They are emailed to our membership for free. If you want yours mailed via the U.S. Post Office, there is an additional \$5 annual fee.

Al & Nellie McCarty
Membership Chairs

Website

Have you checked out the club website lately?

Go to SpokaneWinterKnights.com and check it out! It is full of information, mobile-friendly and easy to navigate.

Don't forget to bookmark it for easy access in the future.



2018 Upcoming Events

July:

15 - Membership renewals for 2018-2019 season mailed out
27, 28, 29 - [Down River Days](#) - Lone, WA (WaterCross on 29th)

August:

14 - Deadline for Golf Tournament Registration
19 - Golf Tournament - The Ranch Golf Club, Priest River, Idaho
19 - Summer Picnic - Ritz's home on Pend Oreille River
(bring side dish or dessert & beverage)
31 - Membership Renewal Payment Due

September:

6 - Board Meeting - Contact Greg for location
8 & 9 - Hay Days, North Branch, Minnesota
20 - General Club Meeting - NEWTECH Skill Center

October:

4 - Board Meeting - Contact Greg for location
18 - General Club Meeting - NEWTECH Skill Center

November:

1 - Board Meeting - Contact Greg for location
9 - Snow Show Set-up - Fairgrounds
10 - Snow Show - Fairgrounds
15 - General Club Meeting - NEWTECH Skill Center
23 - CDA Christmas Parade - Come see our club float!

December:

8 - Christmas Party - 50th Anniversary - Red Lion River Inn

- Club Officers -

President - Greg Figg
Vice President - Glen Mumm
Treasurer - Sharon Crockett
Secretary - Ron Kelley

- Club Chairs -

Snow Show - Dean Meakin
Search & Rescue - Wayne Smith
Membership - Al & Nellie McCarty
Marketing - Glen Mumm

- Board Members -

Jim Freeman
Shaidon Storch
Brandon Propeck
Simon Triggs
Scott Ahrens
Bob Walker

- Newsletter Editors -

Al & Nellie McCarty

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