

# FRESH POWDER NORTHWEST

## Spokane Winter Knights Snowmobile Club

[spokanewinterknights.com](http://spokanewinterknights.com)

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### From the President

Well, another snowmobiling season is quickly drawing to a close! When I think back, we had a great year! Our snowmobile show was fantastic with a full complement of vendors and over 3,100 people in attendance. This was our best year in a long time! We are betting that this coming year will be even better with the work that has begun on this.

Next, was our Christmas party with almost 100 people in attendance. Can't wait for this year, as we will be back at the Ruby Suites Hotel. Their remodel will be complete, no more having to cater food in. Looking forward to an even bigger turnout.

After the New Year, we sprung into rides with a full complement of trail, off trail, and mountain rides being hosted by the club. Thinking of all the places we went this last year: Priest Lake, Kings Lake, Kalispell Peak, Mt. Spokane, Fernan, 4th of July Pass, Tacoma Creek, West Yellowstone, McCall, and K Diamond K Ranch. Planning for the

rides next year will begin this summer with more epic rides to come. Stay tuned for more on this.

Another great moment was the WSSA Rendezvous at Hill's Resort this year. The Winter Knights was the host club this year and put on three days of spectacular rides. We provided trail rides, off trail rides, and a complement of advanced mountain rides to Roman Nose, Trestle Creek, and the Mollies.

Planning ahead for this next season, we are looking to bring in some guest speakers to the monthly club meetings, having some seminars at our local dealers, sponsoring a snowmobile movie premiere, partnering with the avalanche center on an event, and other events to get us ready for the next season.

Thank you everybody for all the volunteer hours and effort that you put in to make this club awesome!! I wish everybody a safe spring/happy summer and hope to see you all again this fall when we ramp up our activities.

**Greg Figg**, President



## APRIL 2019

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## From the Vice President

Well, it's time to say goodbye to the wonders of winter, and hello to smoke, heat, yard work (yuck), home repair, bla, bla, bla.... Summer Sucks! So just like the inevitable changing of the seasons, you can count on more changes coming to club rides and marketing. Over the last 2 years of traveling to Hay Days and consulting with some of the leading people in the snowmobiling industry like Bret Rasmussen & Dave Norona from Ski Doo, Phil Chadwick with 509, Mark Hoffman at CMX, having the opportunity to train with Mike Duffy & Chris Mayer at Avalanche I, and ride with Jon Ferrian from NWAC to name a few, I can honestly say we have done a lot of things right and have a number of things that need some attention. We have come a long way with our social media presence and website, but can't afford to rest on our laurels and need to freshen things up. Expect to see a number of changes coming to all rides.

One of the best things to come out of this year's WSSA Winter Rendezvous at Hill's Resort in Priest Lake, Idaho, was getting the chance to talk with folks from around the state and hear what they are doing to keep their clubs alive and vibrant in a time when participation in clubs and voluntarism is down. If you have been following our Facebook page, you have seen a number of events shared from other clubs like the Yakima Ski Benders, Northwest Glacier Cruisers, and the Cascade Drift Skippers that are organizing charity rides that benefit the community and are worthy of being called an event. If we are going to be known as Club Of

The Year, it's time to up our game. So while you are enjoying the heat and smoke of summer, and dreaming about

that new sled you just Snow Checked, please take a moment to consider how you can help your club by volunteering to help with any one of the many committees we have, being a part of a work party, or consider organizing and hosting your favorite ride next season. Remember that people join a snowmobile club to ride new areas, learn new skills and make new friends and this can only happen with your participation and help.

See ya at the picnic.

### **Glen Mumm**

Vice President  
Marketing Chairman  
Ride Coordinator



### 2019 Spokane Indians Baseball Game

It's Opening Night at the Ballpark! The club invites all its members to meet at the ballpark for a great night of Spokane Indians baseball, fireworks and camaraderie.



The game is on Friday night, June 21, 2019 at Avista Stadium. Gates open at 5:30pm and the game starts at 6:30pm. They will be playing the Boise Hawks, farm team for the Colorado Rockies.

We have reserved a block of Reserved Upper Box Seats for only \$11 per person. In order to secure this pricing, the club must pay in advance for at least 20 people. Invite your family and friends to come with you!

**Please see the attached ticket order form and return the bottom portion with your payment by May 31<sup>st</sup> to the McCarty's at the address listed.**

This is a great opportunity to get to know each other better and without "helmet hair"!

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### 2019 Summer Picnic and Golf Game

Our annual Winter Knights summer picnic will once again be held at Darrell and Norma Ritz's home on Albeni Cove by Newport, on Sunday, August 18 at 12:00 pm. Preceding the picnic, the annual 9-hole golf game will be at 9am at the Ranch Golf Club by Priest River. More information to follow this summer!

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### From the Scholarship Committee

The Scholarship Committee awarded two applicants each a \$1,200 scholarship. Congratulations to Zane Smith, grandson of Wayne and Peggy Smith, as he heads off to Grand Canyon University, Phoenix, with an interest in finance, and Colin Howell, grandson of Garrett and Maralyse Wight, as he heads off to The Honors College at Montana State University, with an interest in mechanical engineering!

**Sharon Crockett**  
Scholarship Committee Chair



## Search and Rescue (SAR)



Saturday, March 9, was supposed to be a day of rest and recovery following the 470+ mile return trip home from snowmobiling in West Yellowstone the day prior. Typically, while "call outs" are really never convenient, this alert happened at the noon hour. You may recall that all the severe winter storm forecasts did in fact start to blanket the Spokane area that prior Friday evening. Heavy snowfall, combined with strong 40 to 50+ mph winds, created hazardous road conditions, particularly in the area south of Spokane commonly referred to as the Palouse. Now the Palouse is that open, somewhat treeless area of rolling hills that when you drive through in the summer encourages pleasant thoughts of how great it would be with three to four feet of snow to do nothing but play and snowmobile to your hearts

content. Reportedly, several vehicles were caught up in snow drifts along Hwy 27 south of Fairfield. Even snow plows were ineffective in clearing the roadway so it was determined that snowmobiles were the answer; hence, Winter Knights to the rescue.

Text messages went out and positive responses quickly replied. Responders were to link up with Deputy Thad Schultz, Incident Commander, approximately 3 miles south of Fairfield at the point Hwy 27 was closed and barricaded. First to arrive on scene were Steve, Greg and Brandon with Bob, Brett and myself about 30 minutes later. Rather than wait, it was decided to send out the first group and try to get an early read on the situation. Once the second group arrived, rather than launch immediately, we decided to allow a little more time to hear back from the first in case additional equipment was needed i.e; blankets, toboggan, etc. However, after a time and unable to raise the first group by radio, cell or text ... there was enough concern to launch the second group.

It had been quite a while, years in fact, since there was a

snowmobile only call out. Almost immediately I realized this was one I would have just as soon have done without. The wind was horrendous. It was so bad that if you wanted to talk to someone, they had to stand downwind to catch the words as they flew by. Conversely, to hear a reply you had to change places. It was so bad that if this was occurring on the east coast it would be called a hurricane and they would have named it. Well, I had a name for it and to preclude editorial censorship I won't spell it out, but its initials are S. O. B. A name I kept repeating to myself over and over. First of all, snow filled every depression especially where the road cut through the hills. You couldn't go down the highway due to the size, vertical height and compactness of the drifts. Plus, even if you could climb over the drift, you would just fall on to bare asphalt on the other side. The asphalt wasn't just bare, but covered with a clear sheet of ice offering little to no traction or steering. (S.O.B.) Next option was to work around the drift involving a little side-hilling to finally see open ground where snow had filled the ditches presenting the appearance of a



### **Search and Rescue (SAR) -- (cont.)**

white, smooth line paralleling the road. Finally, a chance to cover some ground in our effort to “search for the searchers”. However, as soon as the sled hit that nice patch of level snow it immediately laid over on its side and I found myself rolling on to the highway. The snow had no base. It was “sugar snow” and the ski immediately plunged to the bottom of the ditch and wedged itself in the unseen cracks and crevices below. (S.O.B.) That left only those nice rolling hills. Problem was there was no snow anywhere on the hills. The wind had

taken care of that and all that was left was running over frozen dirt clods. (S.O.B.) The only highpoint of this adventure was that only after a little more than a quarter mile we met head-on with the first group. In most situations it would be considered rude not to stop and greet new arrivals. This did not happen as it was painfully obvious that everyone was headed beeline for the trailers as fast as possible.

The end result was that the first team did locate the vehicles in question, however,

the occupants in one managed to walk out to a nearby farmhouse and the others were evacuated by a snowplow. In the days that followed I managed to glean out stories of the first team’s experiences. In short, they had the same problems described above ... just in greater numbers with everyone getting stuck multiple times. Overall, an experience to hopefully never repeat!

**Wayne Smith**  
Search & Rescue

### **Trail and Less Aggressive Off-Trail Rides**

After an awesome trail-riding season, it has unfortunately come to an end. Thank you to ALL who helped make it a success, either as hosts, leaders, sweeps, cooks, photographers, or as a participant. We have received a lot of positive feedback for our organizing efforts, but we couldn’t have done it without you.

During her presidency, Sharon Crockett asked us to be Trail Ride Coordinators. We accepted the responsibility with enthusiasm and care, as we truly wanted to address the needs of the trail riders. Based on your comments, we feel that we were successful in doing so: more weekday ride opportunities were provided, new ride leaders were recruited to share their expertise at some of their favorite locations, consistent ride information was provided in weekly emails, and member safety/identity was protected in Facebook event posts that promoted new members.

So it is with a heavy heart that we are announcing our resignation from this role. Our personal life just will not allow us the time to continue as Trail Ride Coordinators, along with all the other “helmets” we wear in this club. Anyone interested in taking on the Trail Ride Coordinator position, please contact President Greg Figg as soon as possible for more information.

Happy Easter!

**Al and Nellie McCarty**



## FACES OF THE CLUB: Erv Koller, New Board Member



I'm a native of Southeastern Washington. Both sides of my ancestral family were pioneers in Asotin and Garfield Counties. I grew up in Pomeroy and the Blue Mountains where my maternal great grandparents homesteaded in 1877. Hunting, fishing, and camping have always been a big part of my life. I'm a four seasons person.

I worked for the Forest Service as a young man out of high school in 1964. After finishing college, I worked for the Adams County Road Department as a civil engineering technician. We later moved to Spokane in 1977, where I went to work for the Washington State Department of Transportation in the same capacity. The first fifteen years of my career were

spent on the engineering side of the department. The last half I worked as the Eastern Region Wildlife Biologist and Regional Maintenance Environmental Coordinator. I finally got to take advantage of my college degree in Wildlife Biology. I retired in 2009 with thirty years at WSDOT, a great place to work.

My wife, Geri, and I have two children, Brad and Becky. Between them and their spouses, we have three grandchildren. All of them live in Spokane. We're fortunate!

My wife and I both ride Harleys. I spent fourteen years as Director (President) of the Spokane River Chapter, Harley

Owners Group (HOG). During my tenure, the Chapter grew from eight charter members in 1996 to well over 600 when I stepped down in 2010 to concentrate on retirement.

I took up snowmobiling in 2012 so I could do things with my extended family during the winter months in the Blue Mountains. I've owned three snowmobiles since then and currently ride a 2018 Polaris 800 PRO RMK 155. I've enjoyed getting to know many of the Winter Knights family and look forward to working with the great people making up this exemplary club.

**Erv Koller**

Board Member



Picture taken in Blue Mts. on March 9, 2019 on 8' of snow! The sled on the left is my first one. I sold it to my cousin.

## FACES OF THE CLUB: Cindy Woodward, Treasurer



Hello SWK!

I am Cindy Woodward, your new Treasurer! My husband, Mark, and I joined the SWK in 2016 and enjoy the club immensely!

I am originally from the Yakima Valley, and moved to Spokane in 2011. I started snowmobiling with my dad on a Diablo Rogue at age 2 (mostly sleeping while dad's elbows kept my helmet upright). I graduated to riding a 300 Ski Whiz alone at age 4 (dad was an apple farmer, hence the Massey Ferguson photo ... I'm the one in the background "racing" my big sister with my red, sparkly Jetson's style helmet), moved on to several Arctic Cats with my softball, volleyball and basketball coaches begging me not to get hurt, and currently ride a Polaris 800 Switchback Assault.

Things have gotten a LOT more comfortable and powerful, getting me into steeper and deeper fun ... and stuck!

I have two boys, one working in Scottsdale,

Arizona and the other in law school. Mark has 3 girls and one boy, plus 6 grandchildren and another on the way.

I carried on the snowmobiling tradition with my boys, starting them on a Kitty Kat with a grass kit at age 2, moving them up to Arctic Cat and SkiDoo 120's after they mastered the Kitty Kat. I live for snowmobiling and have so many wonderful memories and photos because of this sport!

A day on my sled with friends and family in the back country on a bluebird day ... nothing compares. At the end of each ride, I feel blessed to find myself watching the sun dipping behind the magnificent mountains, headlights ricocheting off alpine timber blanketed in white on the way back to the trailer, knowing I will ride again soon (except when injured, LOL). Let it snow! #summersucks

**Cindy Woodward**

Treasurer





# FRESH POWDER NORTHWEST - APRIL 2019

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## 2019 Upcoming Events

### **June:**

21 - Spokane Indians Baseball Game (order tickets by May 31)

### **July:**

15 - Membership renewals for 2019-2020 season mailed out,  
renewal deadline is August 31

28 - Down River Days Water Cross - Lone, WA

### **August:**

13 - Deadline for Golf Tournament registration

18 - Golf Tournament - The Ranch Golf Club, Priest River, Idaho

18 - Summer Picnic - Ritz' home on Pend Oreille River

### **September:**

5 - Board Meeting

7 & 8 - Hay Days, North Branch, Minnesota

19 - General Club Meeting - NEWTECH Skill Center

### **October:**

3 - Board Meeting

17 - General Club Meeting - NEWTECH Skill Center

### **November:**

7 - Board Meeting

8 - Snow Show Set-up - Fairgrounds

9 - Snow Show - Fairgrounds

21 - General Club Meeting - NEWTECH Skill Center

29 - CDA Christmas Parade - Come see our club float!

### **December:**

14 - Christmas Party - Ruby River Hotel Spokane (same as last year)



#### **- Club Officers -**

President - Greg Figg

Vice President - Glen Mumm

Treasurer - Cindy Woodward

Secretary - Ron Kelley

#### **- Club Chairs -**

Snow Show - Dean Meakin

Search & Rescue - Wayne Smith

Membership - Al & Nellie McCarty

Marketing - Glen Mumm

#### **- Board Members -**

Erv Koller

Bob Walker

Jim Freeman

Shaidon Storch

Sharon Crockett

Brandon Propeck

#### **- Web -**

[spokanewinterknights.com](http://spokanewinterknights.com)

#### **- Email -**

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# SPOKANE WINTER KNIGHTS SNOWMOBILE CLUB NIGHT AT THE BALLPARK



## WHEN:

FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 2019

GATES OPEN @ 5:30PM

GAME @ 6:30PM

## WHERE:

AVISTA STADIUM

602 N. HAVANA

OPENING NIGHT FIREWORKS



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**PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS BY MAY 31<sup>ST</sup>**

MEMBER NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF TICKETS: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$11 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_



PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO  
**SPOKANE WINTER KNIGHTS**  
AND RETURN PAYMENT WITH THIS FORM TO:

AL & NELLIE McCARTY  
P.O. Box 1255  
MEAD, WA 99021-1255