

FRESH POWDER NORTHWEST

Spokane Winter Knights Snowmobile Club

SpokaneWinterKnights.com

spokanewinterknights@gmail.com



JULY 2019

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2019 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 18 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 18, 2019 (before the club picnic)

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

TIME: 1st Tee Time @ 9:00 a.m. We will divide into groups and tee off one after the other.

RSVP DEADLINE: Tuesday, August 13, 2019 Please call Sharon (484-7273) to reserve your spot.

Our annual golf game is happening on Sunday, August 18, 2019, at the Ranch Golf Course by Priest River at 9 a.m. – no stress, no competition, just a nice morning of 9 holes of golf. We golf and have fun – and no one cares what your score is! There is a new owner of the golf course, so it will be a treat to see what changes have been made since last August! If you're new to the club (or even been in the club for MANY years), we would enjoy having you join us! See you in August!

Sharon Crockett, Board Member



From the President

Hope this finds you well and enjoying your summer!! Does not seem that long ago we were out riding the trails and backcountry. I know riding season will be here before we know it. The older I get the faster time seems to go.

Even though it is only the first part of July, things are gearing up for the summer 2019 snowmobile season. The first event this year will be the lone Washington Downriver Days with the snowmobile Watercross on Sunday, July 28th. This is always a great event and the attendance just keeps

growing. The event is free to watch in the lone City Park.

Lots of things in store for next year with the club as well. We are working on having some guest speakers at our club meetings this year for one. Also, looking at some rider training clinics again this year 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 this year. 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 at one of our club meetings this Fall.

Sincerely,

Greg Figg,
President



Upcoming General Meeting



Our next meeting will be Thursday, September 19, 2019 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 5, 2019 @ 6pm

Location: Contact Greg

From the Vice President

So as I was preparing to write my little blurb for the newsletter, I realized that there is only 19 more Fridays until winter starts. Now a touch of panic sets in when thinking about all the things that need to happen to prepare for another snowmobiling season with the Winter Knights. Thankfully, the new ride schedule is done and available for you to view on the Winter Knights' website, along with the addition of the Featured Photo Of The Month. This is something all club members can participate in by joining our Facebook Group page and submitting a snowmobiling photo each month to be voted on by the Group members. The winning photo each month will be featured on the home page of the website and become the profile picture for our Facebook page. The winning photo will be chosen by whichever photo gets the most likes. In the event of a tie, should one of the photos receive a Luv or an Emoji, that photo will be chosen as the winner.

When it comes to the ride schedule, the biggest change is the incorporation of the International Difficulty Rating Scale that many of you are familiar with from skiing, as the ski resorts use this system to rate terrain & trail difficulty. This is another attempt to help members and their guests make a better decision about whether or not a particular ride suits their skill level or not. This has always been a challenge for us, especially in the Off Trail & Mountain category. Other clubs are

now using this system with good results, so we decided it was time for the Winter Knights to follow suit. I look forward to hearing your feedback this season.

On top of this, I somehow have been able to put together a new motor for the SnowBike, rebuild my enclosed trailer, and start down the path of marketing and promotions for the club and the Snow Show. With the success of last year's Snow Show, work promoting the 2019 show had to begin early in the year to continue the trend of growth. I started in May contacting possible new vendors and working on getting more pro riders like Bret Rasmussen to come to our show and continue to help make the Winter Knights Snow Show the biggest 1-day show in the West. While the results are very promising, there is still a lot of work left to do.

So my fingers are crossed for a record snow fall here in the Selkirk and Cabinet Mountains for the 2019 / 2020 season, and another year of record attendance at the Snow Show. Hope to see everyone at the August picnic.

Summer Sucks!

Glen Mumm,
Vice President



Search and Rescue (SAR)

Summer was looking pretty good. Nice comfortable temperatures, blue skies with the one week exception of smoke in the air, mostly from Canada and no “call outs” since the Fairfield fiasco in February (see the Winter Newsletter for details). Then the proverbial “stuff hit the fan” with four call outs in less than three weeks.

The first was Tuesday, May 14th at 8:am involving a 69 year old male missing in the vicinity of Medical Lake. Actually, the search area was between Medical Lake and West Medical Lake involving a considerable amount of State Hospital property. Subject reportedly suffered bouts of depression and was last seen with a whiskey bottle in hand. Also, a note was left for the family allegedly stating “leaving for good....goodbye”. With all the water in the area it would be easy to jump to a conclusion of where to focus search efforts, however, a ground and ATV search was conducted with Sherriff Department boats covering the shoreline. Major portions of the ground area were thick with brush and craggy rock formations which presented numerous challenges to a comprehensive search.

Without success the search was terminated at dark. However, a second 8:am call out was initiated the following Saturday, May 18th essentially in the same area, but was again unsuccessful and terminated at 2:30pm. To date the subject’s whereabouts remain unknown. As a side note....bodies can remain underwater for 2-3 months depending on composition and water temperature.

You may recall from local “breaking news” reports about the two missing school girls (ages 9 and 12) that walked away from school grounds in the Dishman Hills area on Friday, May 24th around noon. Actually, it was five girls that left the school grounds, however, three were found on a nearby trail rather quickly. Sheriff’s helicopter and local law enforcement being unable to locate the two remaining girls, a call out was initiated at 3:34pm. Fortunately, the girls were located shortly afterward and the search was officially terminated at 4:43pm.

Thursday, May 30th at 9:17am a call out was initiated for a 30 year old female missing in the vicinity of Wildflower

Road off Hwy 195 just south of Hangman Valley Golf Course. Subject reportedly had a history of over “self-medication” and walked away from her parent’s home at 9:pm the prior Tuesday evening. The housing area is gated with 5 – 10+ acre lots and numerous walking trails. The subject was found deceased approximately 10 feet off one of the walking trails sitting with her back against a tree. Search was terminated at 11:22am, however, a few personnel and yours truly stayed around waiting for the Medical Examiner and to assist in body recovery with the ATV/UTV. All personnel were released and departed the area at 1:30pm. It was later determined the subject died from a drug overdose.

Lastly, a call out Sunday, June 9th was initiated at 8:20pm with very limited information; (continued on next page)



Search and Rescue (SAR) - Continued

that being “missing person at 2400 Craig” which happens to be south of Airway Heights. Normally a better description (age, sex) and address is provided and rarely is a search commenced right at the start of nighttime unless it involves a child and/or life threatening freezing temperatures. For me at best it takes 30 minutes to gather gear, change into appropriate clothing, hookup the trailer and load the UTV. Since most call outs seem to occur south of Spokane and living 14+ miles north, it takes at least an hour driving time to get through town. Fortunately, the call out was

terminated 30 minutes later which did not cause too much turmoil and was definitely appreciated. Spokane County SAR protocols prior to a text message county wide call out are extensive and detailed. Primarily they involve interviews, situation assessment and a hasty search prior to a full blown call out. Deputy Shultz is the county SAR Coordinator/Incident Commander and was vacationing in Montana at the time, hence; the premature and ill-timed call out. Hopefully, lessons were learned and similar future actions won't be repeated.

In just two short months we will start another September cycle of Winter Knight's club meetings and SAR Team Training Meetings. I recognize that local snowmobiling is probably 2 – 3 months beyond that so I recommend that team members, if you have not done so already, consider taking your medical equipment off the sled and place it in your most used POV. You never know when you may come across a situation where your training and equipment may be needed.

Wayne Smith,
SAR Director

Spokane Indians Baseball Game



Amongst a sell out crowd of 7,057 fans, 25 Winter Knights club members and friends attended the Friday, June 21st, season opener for the Spokane Indians against the Boise Hawks. The Indians improved to 6-2 on the season with a 9-4 win. The weather was perfect and the fireworks were fantastic!

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.

Mail your payment BY August 31, 2019 so your membership does not lapse, as September 1 is the start of the new 2019-20 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 (\$1.17 convenience fee).

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

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.

Membership Dues = \$30 per 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.



2019 Upcoming Events

July:

15 - Membership renewals for 2019-2020 season mailed out
26, 27, 28 - [Down River Days](#) - Lone, WA (WaterCross on 28th)

August:

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

September:

5 - Board Meeting - Contact Greg for location
7 & 8 - Hay Days, Minnesota
19 - General Club Meeting - NEWTECH Skill Center

October:

3 - Board Meeting - Contact Greg for location
17 - General Club Meeting - NEWTECH Skill Center

November:

7 - Board Meeting - Contact Greg for location
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 - The Ruby River Hotel

- 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

- Newsletter Editors -

Al & Nellie McCarty

- Web -

SpokaneWinterKnights.com

- Email -

spokanewinterknights@gmail.com