

FRESH POWDER NORTHWEST

Spokane Winter Knights Snowmobile Club

spokanewinterknights.com

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From the President

Greetings Winter Knights Members, Well, as I write this, another snowmobile season for many of us is drawing to an end. It has been a very unusual season for us. It started out with little to no snow, then we got a lot making the avalanche danger extreme. After that we had more of a typical mid-season. Our spring season seems to be ending sooner than typical with the warmer weather and the COVID-19 pandemic with areas now being closed.

We were able to get some good rides in this year with our Priest Lake overnight trip, the three day ride to McCall, and all the great local rides we have had. Our local grooming program did a fantastic job at keeping the trails open and smoothed out. Their hard work is definitely appreciated!!

I also want to take a moment to thank all of you for all the hours you have put in to make snowmobiling in Eastern Washington a fun activity!!

In regard to the Board, Ron Kelley has retired from being our club

secretary. Ron has been our club secretary for the last 6 years and I wanted to thank him for his service to the club, you will be missed!! Moving forward, I would like to thank Sharon Crockett for stepping up to fill this position.

Lastly, I wanted to mention our 2020-2021 budget. With it being prohibited to meet as a group due to the COVID-19 situation, the Board of Directors voted to continue the budget discussion to our next general membership meeting this Fall where we can vote on the budget. In the interim, we will be using the budget that the Board of Directors passed. By postponing this vote until the Fall, we will also have a better idea what is happening with the COVID-19 virus and implications it could have on our snow show.

Please be safe and take care of each other in this difficult time.

Best Regards,

Greg Figg

President



**APRIL
2020**

Inside this issue:

Treasurer Message	2
Baseball Game Picnic & Golf Scholarships	3
SAR	4
Media Uploading	5
Faces of the Club	6, 7
Upcoming Events	8
Baseball Ticket Order Form	9



From the Treasurer

How about that snow on March 25th...COVID-19 can't stop that! I hope all my fellow Spokane Winter Knights friends have been able to enjoy many days out in the freshies this winter laying down first tracks and smiling all the way!

The financial side of the Spokane Winter Knights Snow Show enjoyed an increase in income and attendance. Thank you to all who generously donated their time to our Snow Show once again this year! Also, a big shout out to those putting in the extreme efforts of making it a success every year! Thank you to you...you know who you are!

We recently enjoyed a week riding with SWK members in McCall. Great times were enjoyed and laughter rang throughout the mountaintops at times. We indulged in the Burgdorf Hot Springs experience on our last day. Shout out to #TeamBurgdorf... we loved it! Remember, the best snowmobiler is the one having the most fun!

The highlight of my season was signing up for 3 days with the Ride Rasmussen Style "Back to Skool™" pro riders. I am always riding with guys (mostly younger) and try not to hold them up. Well, my old school methods of riding (since

age 2...and I am old, people) were no longer good enough, so I asked Rasmussen's guides to teach me side hilling and work on my back-country skills. Friends (girls especially)...there is NOTHING you can do to more quickly improve your sledding skills than to sign up with pro riders! In hindsight though, be careful what you ask for! Being pushed far beyond ALL limits I had previously set as the extreme outer edge of my comfort zone...well, let's just say I have newly adjusted limits after those 3 days! I have never put myself in a situation where I had no way down a mountain other than to put my sled on the side panel and walk it down step by step, reminding myself to breathe. I still haven't put myself in that situation, but Rasmussen's pros did! LOL My sled and I made it down safely; but, wow, those guys have a twisted idea of "fun"! Love them though and hope to return yearly. Once back in Washington State without the 3' of West Yellowstone fresh powder supporting my sled, I realized I had more practice to do because keeping my sled on edge in hard pack isn't so

easy! But, so much progress was enjoyed and I constantly reminded myself that failure is success in progress!

It is Spring Snow Check time...get your 2021 snow pony on order! If your sled is new to you for 2021... become best friends with it and create many smiles per gallon! If your sled is old and falling apart...ride it until it disintegrates and laugh the entire way! Come join us on rides in 2020-21!

We are already planning additional rides for next year...just pray for an exorbitant amount of hourly snow and be willing to lead a ride because your club wants you! I will be planning a "Girls Only" ride for 2020-21 and bringing a camera to capture all our shenanigans... looking forward to it!

Snowmobiling...no happier place to practice social distancing! #luglife

Cindy Woodward
Treasurer



2020 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 Wednesday night, June 17, 2020 at Avista Stadium. Gates open at 5:30pm and the game starts at 6:30pm. They will be playing the Hillsboro Hops, farm team for the Arizona Diamondbacks.

We have reserved a block of Reserved Upper Box Seats for only \$12 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 31st to the McCarty's at the address listed.

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

2020 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 16 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. Save the date! More information to follow this summer!

From the Scholarship Committee

The Scholarship Committee awarded our sole applicant a \$2,400 scholarship. Congratulations to Abby Sedra, granddaughter of Dean and Karlene Meakin. Abby has chosen to attend either Pacific Lutheran University or Westminster College, with an interest in nursing. Abby has been involved with the Girl Scouts for 12 years. She also says she was born into snowmobiling; her great grandpa, grandpa, parents, and herself love to snowmobile together. It's in her blood!

Sharon Crockett, Sue Harrison, Doris Peterson
Scholarship Committee



Search and Rescue (SAR)

There have been no “callouts” since the last newsletter. In fact, the last callout was May 30, 2019. One might think, with few to no callouts, what is the point in having a Search and Rescue [SAR] team. First, let me address callouts. They are never welcomed. By their nature, it implies someone is in a life threatening situation. Secondly, the timing is never convenient. It is usually in the late afternoon going into the hours of darkness or in the wee hours of the morning so the search can begin at first light. As to having a Search and Rescue team, I must point out that the team is made up of dedicated, trained individuals equipped with more than a first aid kit with assorted band aids as recently proven a few weeks ago.

A group of Winter Knights back country snowmobilers were returning in the late afternoon from an area in the vicinity of Sullivan Lake north of Usk when they came across a white male, mid-twenties, lying on the edge of the trail. The individual had apparently lost control of his snowmobile in a turn on the un-groomed trail and plunged down into a wooded ravine, hitting a tree

and losing his helmet. He somehow managed to climb out of the ravine to the edge of the trail. Fortunately, two members of the group, Steve Ruggles and Dan Parshall, immediately fell back on their SAR training and began providing assistance. The individual was delirious and complaining of hip and leg pain. Further assessment indicated he could have suffered a head injury and have a concussion. While Steve and Dan treated the leg injury with Sam's Splints, other members of the group continued the 2 to 2 ½ miles to the parking lot to locate the subject's riding companion. To make matters worse, the subject's buddy took off from the parking lot not wearing a jacket or helmet. By the time he arrived at the site he was already exhibiting signs of hyperthermia. Members of the group were able to loan him dry gloves, a fleece pullover and goggles. It was also noted that both individuals were wearing cotton jeans under their snow gear. Wrapped in an emergency blanket with the splinted leg resting on the hood of a snowmobile, the

subject was transported back to the parking lot and later to the hospital. The group was also successful in recovering the snowmobile from the ravine. While this event had a favorable outcome, it could have easily ended more tragically without the efforts of Steve, Dan and the other Winter Knights members. Many thanks to all involved.

On a personal note, having suffered through several setbacks in my Myeloma cancer treatment, the Coronavirus has delayed my stem cell transplant for the next couple of months. Peggy and I want to thank all of you for your encouragement, thoughts and prayers.

Wayne Smith
Search & Rescue



We need your media!!!

It is with great excitement that we announce a way for our members to upload video and photo files of their rides to a master Winter Knights riding folder contained within Dropbox.

<https://www.dropbox.com/request/nCMoVSVIOtxX07R7YBto>

Here you can upload the best of your best pictures and videos from your group rides and Winter Knights events. This will allow the club to get new and updated material for their yearly club video without the hassle of trading camera and video cards. These videos not only get hosted online by other vendors and social media outlets, but they also get shown at the area snow shows to encourage membership. If you receive a paper copy of our newsletter, it's obvious these links will not work. Please email a request and a link will be sent to you.

From the above link, you should open a page like this, (see below):



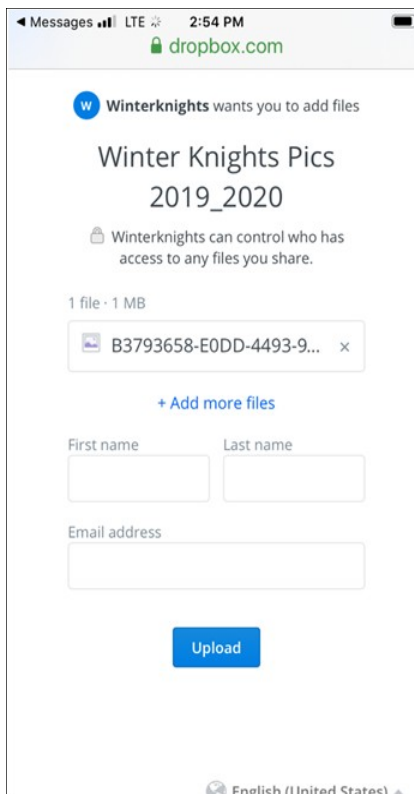
1. Click the “Choose Files” button.

2. Locate your Photo Library.

3. Choose one or many pictures and videos to upload.

Keep in mind there is a 2-gig limit per upload so if your video is lengthy, you might want to upload your pictures first, and then come back and upload your video separately going through the process again.

4. Once you have made your choices, select “Done”.



5. You should be directed to a page where you can add more files or enter your name and email, (see image at left). Enter the needed info, then click “Upload”.

The more you send, the longer it will take, so please choose the best of the best pics and videos.

Let's hope this makes sharing our club experiences easier and makes our club video look amazingly fresh.

Rick Suhr
Media Guru

FACES OF THE CLUB: Rene' Wigen, New Board Member



ride a 2016 Polaris 600 RMK.

I enjoy trail riding with family and friends and also SOME adventure riding with certain friends!!!!

I joined the club in 2014 and I help with the snow show every year. I am also on the Calling Committee and help with wood cutting in the fall.

I look forward to helping grow the club and to meet more of the members, as well as focusing on providing more trail rides for the upcoming season.

Rene' Wigen

Hi everyone, I'm Rene' Wigen, your new Board Member.

I grew up in Hayden Lake, Idaho (the original one). I come from a family of racing. We started out circle track racing (stock cars) and eventually ended up drag racing. I was the first and youngest female to win a World Final NHRA championship in Division 6 in 1987.

Growing up we always had a snowmobile and my brothers and I would take turns riding our Polaris 440. I would jump off the road banks, it was

much more fun, that is until it broke. Suspension is much better today.

In 2011, I married Kevin, who is a third generation farmer in the Rockford area. We farm about 1,700 acres, which keeps us pretty busy in the summer, but we do find time to go camping with family and friends.

After we got married we took up snowmobiling again. I started with a 2007 Polaris 600 Switchback and now I



FACES OF THE CLUB: Brandon Propeck, Board Member



Hello all! I am Brandon Propeck. I have been a member of the Winter Knights since 2009. I am a member of the Winter Knights Search and Rescue team as well.

I grew up in Medical Lake and graduated from Medical Lake High School in 2004. After high school, I attended Walla Walla Community College to study Automotive Technology. After a short stint there, I was

offered a position as an automotive technician at a German specialty shop named European Autohaus here in Spokane in 2005. I have now been working for this shop for 15 years and am the lead technician. I am also a volunteer firefighter/EMT for Spokane County Fire District 3 and have been doing that since 2016.

I started snowmobiling at the age of 17 on my grandpa's '79 Arctic Cat Jag 340. At the time I did not think that I would be as heavily into the sport as I am now. It was just something that I could do to spend time with my dad and my uncles. I am now riding an '09 M8 and enjoy doing off trail riding. It is because of the club and the people that I have met that have given me tips and advice, that I have

been able to advance my riding skills.

When I am not snowmobiling, my wife Jessica and I enjoy traveling around and attending rodeos across the PNW. We try to attend at least one new rodeo every year. I also enjoy getting out into nature and backpacking, fishing, hunting and horseback riding. My wife and I are also Civil War re-enactors and are part of the 14th Virginia Cavalry. We travel to several places across the state for re-enactments every summer, including one in Cheney, WA every Memorial Day weekend.

Brandon Propeck



FRESH POWDER NORTHWEST - APRIL 2020

Page 8

2020 Upcoming Events

June:

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

July:

15 - Membership renewals for 2020-2021 season mailed out,
renewal deadline is August 31

26 - Down River Days Water Cross - Lone, WA

August:

11 - Deadline for Golf Tournament registration

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

16 - Summer Picnic - Ritz's home on Pend Oreille River

September:

3 - Board Meeting

12 & 13 - Hay Days, North Branch, Minnesota

17 - General Club Meeting - NEWTECH Skill Center

October:

1 - Board Meeting

15 - General Club Meeting - NEWTECH Skill Center

November:

5 - Board Meeting

13 - Snow Show Set-up - Fairgrounds

14 - Snow Show - Fairgrounds

19 - General Club Meeting - NEWTECH Skill Center

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

December:

12 - Christmas Party



- Club Officers -

President - Greg Figg

Vice President - Glen Mumm

Treasurer - Cindy Woodward

Secretary - Sharon Crockett

- Club Chairs -

Snow Show - Dean Meakin

Search & Rescue - Wayne Smith

Membership - Al & Nellie McCarty

Marketing - Glen Mumm

- Board Members -

Brandon Propeck

Rene' Wigen

Erv Koller

Bob Walker

Jim Freeman

Shaidon Storch

- Web -

spokanewinterknights.com

- Email -

spokanewinterknights@gmail.com

SPOKANE WINTER KNIGHTS SNOWMOBILE CLUB NIGHT AT THE BALLPARK



WHEN:

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2020

GATES OPEN @ 5:30PM

GAME @ 6:30PM

WHERE:

AVISTA STADIUM

602 N. HAVANA

OPENING NIGHT FIREWORKS



PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS BY MAY 31ST

MEMBER NAME: _____

NUMBER OF TICKETS: _____ **x \$12 = \$** _____



**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**