

FRESH POWDER NORTHWEST

Spokane Winter Knights Snowmobile Club

spokanewinterknights.com

spokanewinterknights@gmail.com



APRIL
2021

From the President

Greetings Winter Knights Members! As I write this, another snowmobile season for many of us is drawing to an end. The season started out a bit slow with little snow in many areas, then improved as snow depth increased. Our Spring season was very nice with some late February storms, which brought us some great snow. However, our Spring season is ending sooner than I wanted with the warmer weather and our snow pack going away. It is always a sad day when our sledding season ends for the year.

We also had to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic this year, which led to our formal ride schedule being cancelled. I want to thank Rene Wigen, our Ride Coordinator, for persevering this year with the COVID-19 restrictions and giving members good riding options. This meant that many of us were riding in small groups with our friends this year. I know the Winter Knights had folks riding all the local areas, plus Tollgate, Oregon, McCall, Idaho, and West Yellowstone.

I wanted to thank our local groomers for doing a fantastic job at keeping the trails open and

smoothed out. Their hard work is definitely appreciated!!

In regard to the Board, Glen Mumm, our long time Vice President has retired from the Board. Al McCarty has stepped up to fill this role for next year. Sharon Crockett has been our club President, Treasurer, and Secretary over many years and has retired from the Board also. Shami Ruggles has stepped up to fill her position as Secretary for next year. Lastly, I want to thank Shaidon Storch and Jim Freeman for their service on the Winter Knights Board. Welcome to our new Board members, Simon Triggs and Bret Uhlich. I want to personally thank Glen, Sharon, Shaidon, and Jim for their many years of service to the Winter Knights! We will miss you and what you did for the club! I also want to thank the Winter Knights members and others that helped me dig out my sled from those numerous stuck events I had this year!!

Hoping you have a great Spring and Summer and hope to see you soon.

Best Regards,

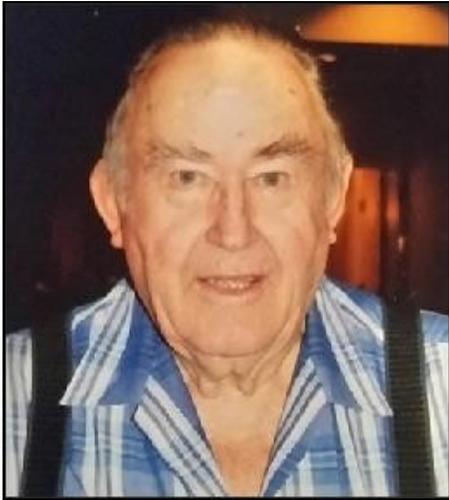
Greg Figg, President

Inside this issue:

In Memoriam - Frank Hager	2
Baseball Game Picnic & Golf Scholarships	3
Rides Media Request	4
Treasurer	5
Faces of the Club	6-9
Upcoming Events	10



In Memoriam - Frank Hager



At the ripe young age of 100, Frank Hager passed away on January 22, 2021. He had been a Spokane Winter Knights member since 1981. He volunteered countless hours to the club and will be greatly missed. Below are some memories club members had to share about him.

From Darrell and Norma Ritz:

Frank was always there to help with cleaning brush on the trails or any other club projects. He and Tom Yochum were great help on building the Warming Hut at Pelkie Pass.

From Terry Simpson:

I spent some time riding with Frank, Yochum's, and Robert's. Frank was usually making jokes. You would go over a rough section of trail and complain about the bumps and he would say that he never even noticed them on his Polaris. When he went to a retirement home, their bus had some problems. Without the management's knowledge, he put a "For Sale" sign on the bus. Frank and Tom Yochum would be at most of the club trail work parties and land closure meetings. Clearing brush years ago, he would bring several of his own tools and pull them on a Winter Knights trailer behind his sled. He spent a lot of time helping the club and the sport of snowmobiling.

From Bruce Rawls:

He rode well into his 80's. He was the funniest guy and enjoyed life to the fullest. In the 60's he owned a Ski Doo snowmobile business. If you never met Frank, you missed out.

From Richard Flaig:

He was an outstanding man! We had a lot of good times snowmobiling.

From Mark and Jana Augenstine:

We knew and loved Frank. He was the sweetest guy and had the funniest sense of humor. Years ago, when we met at the Longhorn in the Valley, he got up and did a Frank comedy bit for us, dressed in a cape and a shirt that had a big "V" on the front. He played that room like a violin and we all howled with laughter. We will surely miss Frank and Betty "Hot Rod" Hager. They were a one-in-a-million couple.

Rest in peace Frank.

2021 Spokane Indians Baseball Game

Due to stadium seating capacity restrictions, the Spokane Indians are not anticipating being able to host “group nights” this summer. This means that the Spokane Winter Knights will have to wait until 2022 to attend a baseball game as a group.



2021 Summer Picnic and Golf Game

Mark Sunday, August 15 on your calendar!

In the spirit of looking ahead and anticipating “normalcy”, we are moving forward and planning our annual Winter Knights summer picnic! Long-time club members, Darrell and Norma Ritz, have once again graciously offered to host the picnic at their home on Albeni Cove by Newport. It will start at noon.

Sharon Crockett is in the process of organizing the annual 9-hole golf game for the same morning! Plans are to start golfing at 9am at the Ranch Golf Club by Priest River. Keep your fingers crossed! More information to follow this summer.

From the Scholarship Committee

The Scholarship Committee awarded each of our two applicants a \$500 scholarship.

Congratulations to Hannah Peacock, daughter of Guy and Tara Peacock, who is deciding on Montana State University, Carroll College, or Washington State University, with an interest in BioMed and Nursing. Hannah has participated in Spokane Winter Knights organized rides and volunteered at the annual snow show.

Congratulations to Rebekah Ross, daughter of Perry and Sandy Ross, who will be attending Brigham Young University, with an interest in Applied Math. Rebekah has ridden snowmobiles with her family and worked in the family business, along with participating at snowmobile shows.



Sharon Crockett, Sue Harrison, Doris Peterson
Scholarship Committee

Rides

Unfortunately, another sledding season is coming to an end. I hope everyone was able to get out and have some fun this winter. This season was anything BUT normal. I would like to thank everyone who helped me with the scheduling, volunteering as ride leaders, and just overall support!!! Due to grooming and snow conditions, the rides didn't happen the way I would have hoped. I'm already looking forward to making next season bigger and better. I CAN ONLY GO UP FROM THIS YEAR!!!

If anyone is interested in getting together for a "non-club-sanctioned" ATV, 4-wheeler or side-by-side ride this summer, please let me know or just post it on the club's private Facebook page. I hope everyone has a GREAT and safe summer!!!

Rene' Wigen

Ride Coordinator
Board Member



Photo and Video Request



Did you take pictures and/or videos while out snowmobiling this winter? Please share them with the club! They will be used in the club's yearly video. The video gets used online and at the Snow Show to promote our club and encourage membership.

The following link will direct you to a Drop Box location for you to upload your media. Need assistance? Please contact me!

Rick Suhr

Media Guru & Board Member

<https://www.dropbox.com/request/jPMib52MckNxdPLHUaT?fbclid=IwAR0pzCkVg-fcgdTHJX-58VFp4sifgr9aSHy5Ky59nkprAjU9TySQzuZMtRQ>

Upcoming General Meeting

Next general business club meeting will be on
Thursday, September 16, 2021 at 7pm.

At this time, we are not sure if the meeting will be in person at NEWTECH or virtually on Zoom. It will depend on the COVID-19 restrictions in place at that time. We will keep you posted!



From the Treasurer

Hi Winter Knights!

You, reading this ... you are a snowmobile enthusiast and I think you are awesome!

This year has been interesting... that pesky COVID thing lurking close by at all times, having to cancel our club rides (but grateful for our new Ride Coordinator, Rene', who did her best to make non-club rides known to members), no dinner meetings, Zoom meetings, Snow Shows at individual dealerships due to ours being cancelled, and overall lack of snow. In short, some have called it "The Winter That Wasn't". None of that has stopped me from having the best season of my life to date! For those of you who fueled up your sleds and located snow, congratulations! Our community of people takes

care of each other on the mountain and it has been that way since I was a young child. Unconditional support, authentic encouragement and the deep desire to see someone else succeed is what fuels my heart in sledding! Ok...and the adrenaline rush! I am grateful for each and every smile so many wonderful friends have shared with me this year! It has been an odd year with a friend's sled catching fire, huge stucks, new tricks, improved skills, sometimes my showing zero skill while laughing and wondering what went wrong, toasts to riders who now ride in heaven, injured ribs and a 12' deep creek rescue of another rider. Yet I wouldn't trade a minute of it! Of course, these experiences have caused me to add new

rescue items to my tunnel bag!

When my alarm rings on my iPhone every morning, I hope to wake to mounds of fresh snow outside my window. No. Such. Luck.

No matter how far we have to drive to find snow, though, it is always worth it! Each time my sled starts and I smell the two-stroke, my adrenaline is undeniable as we head off into the beautiful forest looking for new places to improve our skills, enjoy laughter and eat lunch on mountaintops. If I'm lucky enough to be heading back to the trailer on fumes in the dark, just know there is a huge smile under my helmet!

As I sit on my sled covered in powdery snow atop a mountain, I can't help but think how truly alive I feel with 850cc's of Ski-Doo ready to take me anywhere I dare to try conquering!

I am grateful for each of you who joined me this year and look forward to meeting more of you next year!

Cindy Woodward
Treasurer



FACES OF THE CLUB: Simon Triggs, New Board Member



2012. I met some guys that belonged to the Winter Knights, so I joined the club.

I started out riding a 2002 2up, moved up to a 2005 Ski Doo MXZ 136 for a few years, then to a 2007 Ski Doo Summit 144, and just a few weeks ago moved up to a Ski Doo 800R Summit 146. I ride trails most of the time and sometimes play off trail in some open spaces.

I became a Board member to try and get others to enjoy the great land that we have so close to us. I could go on and on, but I need to stop, or else all the other Board members will get mad at me if the newsletter only has my story.

Simon Triggs

I'm Simon Triggs. I was born in the 1950's in the San Francisco bay area. I'm the 4th born of 10 children. Growing up in this time and with so many in the family had hardships that I was not really aware of at that time. I never had my own room, received hand-me-downs, but I thought life was pretty good. We went on a lot of picnics and camping trips, which gave me the love for the outdoors. I was married in 1978 to my wife, Debra, and have 3 children and 8 grandchildren. I taught my kids to also love the outdoors at a very young age.

They learned to snow ski, water ski, mountain bike, hike, and camp.

I worked as a mechanic for most of my life. I retired from Auto West Honda in Fremont, California in 2009, where I had worked for 30 years. In 2006, I helped my son move to Spokane. I fell in love with the area right away! I found 10 acres in Chattaroy for sale, so I bought it right up. My wife and I moved up here in



FACES OF THE CLUB: Bret Uhlich, New Board Member



Hello fellow Spokane Winter Knights members! My name is Bret Uhlich and I'm one of your newest Board members for 2021.

I moved to Idaho in 2018 after a 30-year career in law enforcement. I'm a "political refugee" from one of those states who shall be nameless...LOL! I have always loved the Pacific Northwest and have come up here to either hunt, fish or white water river rafting for almost 40 years while working. I finally retired in 2012 to move up to my house in Coeur d'Alene. I'm married to my

wife Melinda, who is also a Winter Knights member.

This is my second Board appointment, as I'm also on the Board for the Backcountry ATV Association in Coeur d'Alene. I feel we need to work hard to protect our motorized access to this beautiful and magical place and my goal is to help keep our club on top of legislation which attempts to limit our access

to our public areas. Our organization, along with WSSA, are very important components so that we speak with one voice when issues arise, either locally or federally affecting public land access.

I currently have a Ski Doo Summit 600 and mostly enjoy trail riding with some limited, low risk off-roading from time-to-time. I'm on our Search & Rescue team and also a SAR member with the Spokane County Sheriff's team. I have a vast amount of previous SAR experience as I was a helicopter crew chief for

11 years in Ventura County and performed hundreds of rescues and searches during my tenure. I enjoy learning the various areas and major trails in our local forests so I can be better prepared in case help is needed. I've always enjoyed giving back to the community where I live or areas where I utilize public land.

I'm very excited to be on our Board and looking forward to this new year. I am crossing my fingers that we can move forward from this pandemic and get back to having our regular club meetings and events, such as the Snow Show.

Bret Uhlich



FACES OF THE CLUB: Shami Ruggles, New Secretary



Hello Winter Knights. I'm the new club secretary, Shami Ruggles. My husband, Steve, and I have been club members since 2004. I remember our youngest daughter being at Dean Meakin's office for meetings and drawing him pictures. She was in kindergarten and now she is 23. I grew up on the west side of the state as a complete city girl, having never seen a snowmobile, much less snow itself in my life. I met Steve when I was 19 and the rest is snowmobile history. He taught me to ride, play in the snow, do some jumps and bought me my first snowmobile. I rode for a few years, but as the kids had

more and more weekend activities, I took a step back and let Steve have his "crazy guy time". I have not been out riding for years, but I would like to get back out on the snow again. I have been able to support the club in many ways over the years. I have been Secretary before, served on the Board, and on the Philanthropic and Scholarship committees. I am currently the Scholarship Chair for WSSA. I was the first one, along with Jeff Mahowald, to run the Outside Sales area at the Snow Show and I love doing it still. Putting on 10 Christmas parties for the club was probably my favorite thing to do, as it was always so much fun to see everyone having a good time together.

As far as our crazy family, we have four children and four grandchildren. Two of our kids live in the Spokane area with our grandkids, so we are lucky to be able to see them regularly. We have a daughter in Colorado and our youngest

daughter is currently serving in the US Navy in Norfolk. Right out of boot camp she was chosen to serve aboard the USS Constitution (Old Ironsides) for two years. We were able to visit her in Virginia often and even had the chance to go out to sea on her ship. Steve and I love to travel and love looking for new adventures. To keep ourselves busy, we like to go camping, fishing (well, Steve does, I'll just read a book), hiking, rafting, having friends over for a good fire and some drinks, etc. Basically anything outside and fun, we are in.

I look forward to spending the next year as your secretary and getting to know all of you better.

Shami Ruggles



FACES OF THE CLUB: Al McCarty, New Vice President



I am your newly elected Vice President and would like to thank you for showing your confidence in my leadership abilities. Since joining the club in 2011, I have taken on various roles including Membership Co-Chair, Webmaster, Newsletter Editor, Snow Show Security Chair, Ride Coordinator, By-Laws Revision Committee Chair, and Election Nomination Committee Chair. I look forward to continue serving you and the club.

I was born and raised in Central California and moved to the Spokane area with my wife, Nellie, in 2008. I retired from teaching public high

I grew up riding everything on two wheels at a very young age and took up snowmobiling soon after moving to Washington. I chose Ski Doo based on my neighbor's influence and have been happy riding one ever since. I currently own two of them, one for trail and one for mountain riding.

My years of experience has taught me that leadership is a fine art that takes dedication and cultivation. I feel I have been successful due to my

school prior to moving and began working in the event services business in 2010. I am currently an Operations Manager for a national event services company managing the local Spokane branch.

awareness of the strengths of the people around me and have worked together with them to realize our full potential together. I have had the opportunity to work with a lot of great people in this club and hope to take that experience forward with the future generation of club membership. This will require more of our club members to get involved and it is my goal to see that happen. I am committed to hearing your ideas and concerns and working together with you to further the great works of our club. Please feel free to reach out to me at any time.

Al McCarty



FRESH POWDER NORTHWEST - APRIL 2021

2021 Upcoming Events

July:

15 - Membership renewals for 2021-2022 season mailed out, renewal deadline is August 31

25 - Down River Days Water Cross - Lone, WA

August:

8 - Deadline for Golf Tournament registration

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

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

September:

9 - Board Meeting

11 & 12 - Hay Days, North Branch, Minnesota

16 - General Club Meeting - NEWTECH Skill Center

October:

14 - Board Meeting

21 - General Club Meeting - NEWTECH Skill Center

November:

11 - Board Meeting

12 - Snow Show Set-up - Fairgrounds

13 - Snow Show - Fairgrounds

18 - General Club Meeting - NEWTECH Skill Center

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

December:

11 - Christmas Party



- Club Officers -

President - Greg Figg

Vice President - Al McCarty

Treasurer - Cindy Woodward

Secretary - Shami Ruggles

- Club Chairs -

Snow Show - Dean Meakin

Search & Rescue - Bob Walker

Membership - Al & Nellie McCarty

- Board Members -

Simon Triggs

Bret Uhlich

Brandon Propeck

Rene' Wigen

Rick Suhr

Bob Walker

- Web -

spokanewinterknights.com

- Email -

spokanewinterknights@gmail.com

All dates and events subject to change due to COVID-19.