

FRESH POWDER NORTHWEST

Spokane Winter Knights Snowmobile Club

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From the President

As your new President, I hope to be able to provide the level of leadership required to keep all things moving smoothly. I am fortunate to be working with the many talented and enthusiastic people that have stepped up to take on leadership positions in the club. At our March Board Meeting, we had nearly full attendance and everyone was engaged and ready to learn about what they could do to move forward in a strong, positive direction. We've even planned to get together a couple of times in the off season to formulate our plans and be ready to hit the ground running in September. As things become solidified, we'll keep all of you informed via email, and be on the look-out for a couple of surveys coming your way. We hope all of you will participate by letting us know your feelings and expectations, and you might even win a prize for doing so!

With the riding season coming to an end, I want to thank everyone that joined us in the hills this winter. We had some great rides and the leaders were all well informed and prepared to guide us along safely and happily. We are noticing a resurgence of younger riders and their families coming out for the rides. This is a great way to continue the tradition of a family-oriented sport and we plan to modify our trail rides to meet the needs of these smaller riders. Even though the snow wasn't the greatest off the trails this year, many of us still found enough to play in to keep our sleds from significant collision repairs. All in all, it was a good ride season and plans are already being made for next year.

I want to take this opportunity to thank a couple of individuals that have held leadership positions for many years and have now decided to take a step back. Bob Walker comes first to mind. He has done just about everything one guy could do for this club and we've shared some great conversations. Even though he's tapering things off a bit, I'm extremely glad he will still be around to help move things forward. Secondly, I've always enjoyed Greg Figg's perspective when it comes to leading this club. I hope my tenure in the position will be a reflection of his guidance, coupled with Bob's enthusiasm and tenacity, so the momentum of our efforts can continue seamlessly forward.

Thank you for providing me with this opportunity to lead, but it will be impossible to do so alone. I ask everyone to chip in, even if it's just a little bit here and there, because as the saying goes, "many hands make light work", and with your helping hands we can keep this club alive and striving!

Al McCarty



**APRIL
2022**

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Rides

WOW!! Another season has come and gone already. It was great to see lots of old faces and meet lots of new ones this year. We had a GREAT turnout for the "New Comers" Ride followed by a BBQ this year. We had quite a few kids this year on rides, which was AWESOME!!!! That made me (us) start rethinking how we plan our rides. We made it work for this year, but will improve it for this next season. If anyone has any suggestions or ideas, please send me an email. Thank you to all my RIDE HOSTS for all the help and flexibility throughout the riding season. So, as we put away our snow gear and move into

summer fun, just remember...we will meet again!!!

Also, if anyone is interested in getting together for a "non-sanctioned club" AVT, 4-wheeler or side by side ride this summer, please let me know or just post it on the club's private Facebook page.

Rene' Wigen
Ride Coordinator
Treasurer



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/sh/5deezrr1nfb44r9/AAAhUH0OmwTOrTkqiQevzryua?dl=0>

Upcoming General Meeting

Our next business meeting will be Thursday, September 15, 2022 at 7pm at the NEWTECH Skill Center, located at 4141 N. Regal.

Join us at 6pm for dinner, prepared and served by the culinary students for \$11 per person (this includes tax and tip). An RSVP for dinner is REQUIRED by Sunday, September 11. We will continue to have the "Student Shoe/Coat Fund" donation jar at the check-in table to help support the students in the culinary arts program as well!



2022 Summer Picnic and Golf Game



Mark Sunday, August 21 on your calendar!

Long-time club members, Darrell and Norma Ritz, have once again graciously offered to host the annual 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.

More information to follow this summer.

From the Scholarship Committee

The Scholarship Committee awarded our 2022 applicant a \$1,000 scholarship. Congratulations to Madison Freeman, daughter of Karl and Jessica Freeman and granddaughter of Jim and Karla Freeman, who will be attending Eastern Washington University, with an interest in Veterinarian Medicine. Madison rides snowmobiles with her family and has helped in the used parts section of our annual Snow Show.



Sharon Crockett, Sue Harrison, Doris Peterson
Scholarship Committee

2022 Snowmobile & Power Sports EXPO & Swap Meet

Nov.12, 2022

41st Annual Show
sponsored by:

9AM - 5PM Spokane Fairgrounds

Fun & Prizes for the Whole Family!

Info: winterknights.org & spokanewinterknights.com



"Help Us Help You"

Quilts of Valor

Are you a service member or veteran touched by war? If so, you are eligible to receive a Quilt of Valor! The mission of the Quilts of Valor Foundation is to cover all combat service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor. The QOV Foundation is a nationwide organization which has made and presented 298,684 quilts to date! The local branch of the QOV Foundation currently has 62 active members and has presented 928 quilts since November 2013. These members provide all the designs, material, labor and love that goes into each quilt. Each quilt takes 3-4 months to complete. Spokane Winter Knights member, Pamela Kelley, is one of these quilt makers. She would like to honor our club members with a Quilt of Valor if they are eligible. Please call her at 360-739-0917, or email her at pdk246@yahoo.com if you are interested or would like more information. She will send you a form to fill out with your military information. All requests must be submitted to Pamela via email or mail (P.O. Box 956, Deer Park, WA 99006). Quilts will be presented in the Fall at one of our Winter Knights meetings.



Quilts of Valor
Quilting to Honor & Comfort

Search and Rescue



Hello from Search and Rescue. It has been a fairly quiet year with a few call outs, but none involving snowmobiles or ATV's. We are entering our springtime off, in

which we don't have meetings, but will ramp back up this Fall in September. If you are interested in joining, please contact me. Our

meetings our typically the fourth Thursday of the month. I will also pass along any training opportunities that the County makes available to us.

In the meantime, continue to be ready for ATV callouts and other things that might come our way. Have a great spring and summer and will see you all in the fall.

Greg Figg

Interim Director

Wanted: Snow Show Kitchen Chairperson!!

HELP!! Ron Kelley is looking to retire from the Snow Show Kitchen Chairperson position. He has everything organized and detailed so that it will be an easy transition for the new person taking over. He is willing to stay on this year once again to work side-by-side with the new person to facilitate the transition. Please contact him if you have any questions. He would love to hear from you!!



FACES OF THE CLUB: Matt Johnson, New Board Member



I'm Matt Johnson, one of your new Board members. I've been a club member for 10 years and have been riding snowmobiles and dirt bikes for over 20 years.

I'm excited about getting more involved with the club. For the past several years, I've been working the back lot at the Snow Show and have developed some great relationships with the vendors.

I have been a commercial truck driver for the past 25 years and look forward to retiring in the next two, providing more time for me to follow my other interests. I believe in physical fitness and try to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

I have been married for 28 years and we share 3 children between us. I have a 3-year-old grandson that loves to sit on and ride my snowmobile with me around the house and I

would like to get him involved in the snowmobile community so he can develop a love and passion for the sport as much as I have.

I enjoy both trail and off-trail riding, and would like to share my experiences with those wishing to better their skills. I would like to further develop the club's off-trail ride schedule by offering opportunities for those interested in learning and practicing new techniques off trail. I have an open approach and would invite anyone interested, as long as they have the desire to make their efforts pay off. If you are wanting to experience something new and up your game, come join me for a day and get hooked. I guarantee a great time with memories to last.

Matt Johnson

FACES OF THE CLUB: Guy Peacock, New Board Member



Hello fellow Winter Knights. My name is Guy Peacock and I am the newest board member, filling a vacated position for the next two years. I am very excited about my new position and look forward to serving all members of the Winter Knights and hopefully making a great club even better.

My wife Tara, daughter Hannah, and myself joined the Winter Knights in 2017 after moving to Spokane, as I was very reluctant to take my family into the mountains snowmobiling since we had no experience of mountain riding. It is a completely different animal compared to the flatlands of the Midwest.

I grew up in Minnesota and you have to love Winter to live there, as Winter is long and cold. My first love of a Winter sport was not snowmobiling, but rather, hockey. Growing up the youngest of five boys, we



were very much a hockey family and I pretty much skated before I walked, literally. As my hockey life came to an end after high school, I turned to snowmobiling to get that adrenaline rush I was missing not playing hockey anymore. Riding in the Midwest is far different from riding in the West. Trails in Minny are full of twists and turns, accompanied by long straights and lots of lake crossings, and it's usually below zero most of the time. Thousands of miles of trails with varying terrain makes it different by the minute.

My main goal as a Board member of the Winter Knights is to spread my passion for the sport and pass it on to today's youth. I'm very proud of my daughter who has been riding since



she was very young and she looks forward to passing that passion on to her children one day. I love seeing families out enjoying the day in the mountains on their sleds. It always puts a smile on my face. Again, look forward to serving y'all.

Guy Peacock

FACES OF THE CLUB: Brenda Major, New Secretary



Hello everyone. My name is Brenda Major and I'm your new Secretary. I have lived in Spokane and surrounding areas my entire life; we currently live out in Nine Mile Falls. I am the youngest of 3. Most of my childhood we lived in Nine Mile Falls and spent our days riding bikes and swimming in the lake during the summer.

I married Kevin in 2007, and we had our daughter, Rachel, in 2008. When we are not snowmobiling, we enjoy camping, fishing, and riding ATV's. I work with a national insurance carrier as a disability claims manager. When I'm not working, I volunteer with our daughter's Girl Scout troop as a Troop co-leader and Troop cookie mom.

We started snowmobiling in the 2010/2011 winter. It was the first time I had ever been snowmobiling, other than riding on the back of one when I was a small child. My first sled was a 1996 Yamaha Vmax 600 and I currently have a 2019 Polaris Voyager 600. My husband Kevin loves to study maps, which is great for me. This allows me to enjoy the ride and scenery, as I love to take pictures of our adventures and it wouldn't be as fun to do that if I had to worry about where we are going.

We joined the Winter Knights in 2016 in hopes to meet people that shared our interests and to find some new places to ride. I have volunteered for several years with the Calling Committee and Snow Show. I enjoy trail riding and some of my favorite areas to ride are the Baldies, Mill Creek and Nordman, Idaho.

Brenda Major



FACES OF THE CLUB: Kevin Major, New Board Member



My name is Kevin Major and I am a new Board member. I am filling the 1 year vacancy left by Rene' Wigen now that she has been elected into the Treasurer position.

I was born and raised in Clayton, Washington, and currently live in the Suncrest community in Nine Mile Falls, Washington. I didn't do much snowmobiling during my youth, but did enjoy cross country skiing. Later on in my high school years, I began downhill skiing, then snowboarding after high school. So, being in the mountains during the winter months is nothing new.

My first snowmobile was a 2004 Polaris RMK 800, my

wife rode a 1996 Yamaha Vmax. We started riding in 2010. I have had several makes and models since then, almost too many to count. I currently have a 2019 Arctic Cat Alpha One 800, a 2009 Arctic

Cat Crossfire 500, and last night I bought a 2007 Polaris Dragon 700 that will replace the Crossfire as a trail or poor conditions sled. We primarily ride the trails in Washington north of Spokane, such as King's Lake, Mt. Spokane, 49 Degrees North, and Calispell Peak. I like to study maps to explore the groomed trail systems in our area and to find new areas to ride.

My wife and I joined the Winter Knights for the 2016-2017 riding season.

We joined to meet other like-minded people that enjoy riding snowmobiles like we do and to discover new places to ride. Over the past 3 years, I have been leading trail rides and will continue to do so. Next year I would like to lead rides with more options, such as having a trail-friendly route, but also having some off trail boondocking options on the hillsides close to the trails.

I look forward to seeing new and old members on the trail, woodcutting, trail clearing, at the Snow Show, Christmas party, and at meetings.

Kevin Major



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2022 Upcoming Events

July:

- 15 - Membership renewals for 2022-2023 season mailed out, renewal deadline is August 31
- 31 - Down River Days Water Cross - Lone, WA

August:

- 14 - Deadline for Golf Tournament registration
- 21 - Golf Tournament - The Ranch Golf Club, Priest River, Idaho
- 21 - Summer Picnic - Ritz's home on Pend Oreille River

September:

- 8 - Board Meeting
- 15 - General Club Meeting - NEWTECH Skill Center

October:

- 13 - Board Meeting
- 20 - General Club Meeting - NEWTECH Skill Center

November:

- 10 - Board Meeting
- 11 - Snow Show Set-up - Fairgrounds
- 12 - Snow Show - Fairgrounds
- 17 - General Club Meeting - NEWTECH Skill Center
- 25 - CDA Christmas Parade - Come see our club float!

December:

- 10?? - Christmas Party (exact date and location to be determined)



- Club Officers -

President - Al McCarty
Vice President - Bret Uhlich
Treasurer - Rene' Wigen
Secretary - Brenda Major

- Club Chairs -

Snow Show - Dean Meakin
Search & Rescue - Greg Figg
Membership - Nellie McCarty

- Board Members -

Matt Johnson
Rick Suhr
Guy Peacock
Simon Triggs
Kevin Major
Brandon Propeck

- Newsletter Editors -

Al & Nellie McCarty

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