

FRESH POWDER NORTHWEST

Spokane Winter Knights Snowmobile Club

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From the President

With the end of another snowmobile riding season upon us, it's good to know that everybody I hang out with made it through without serious bodily injury. The machines, however, had their fair share of carnage, some of which I personally witnessed. In all, it was a good season that started early and went late, with a bit of a dry spell in between. We had a wonderful time on the club trail rides with a group of enthusiastic riders that came out almost every weekend to enjoy the camaraderie and well-groomed trails. I believe the season was a success and hope to see the next one as even better.

My personal thanks goes out to the Board that spent countless hours tackling a variety of administrative duties over the past several months, setting things up for the next few years without having to revisit them right away. A few items are yet to be dealt with, but for the most part we're in good shape. With all those essential chores accomplished, I'm hoping we can now spend more of our time addressing suggestions from the survey sent out to our membership last August. I would also like to work closely with the Board and general membership to determine which of the many worthwhile causes to send donations to this next Fall. There's a lot of need out there and I'm looking forward to getting some input as to which charities to focus on.

Our annual Snow Show fundraiser will be here before you know it and I encourage everyone to consider donating some time to help make this big event successful. Some of us have already started working on things for the show to brighten it up and hopefully bring in some new vendors and increase attendance. As always, we welcome all input and ask that you send forward your ideas so we can add them into the overall picture for this year. This show is not only our primary fundraiser, but it also acts as a way to market our club to the outside world. If we intend to keep the club alive, it's very important to reach out into the community in order to encourage support and invite new memberships. I believe we can accomplish this by moving ahead with all our combined energies in a very positive and purposeful way.

I would also like to thank the many club members that support our efforts behind the scenes, by attending meetings and rides, and by providing a reason for us to exist. A club is only as strong as its membership, and I think we have the best and most supportive membership around. Please don't hesitate to let me know what you think and what you'd like to see. We can accomplish much, as we've seen, so let's continue to work together to move forward with a concerted momentum and purpose. Again, thanks to everyone and I look forward to seeing you on the trails next season.

Al McCarty



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/LKVoCJX8iXYgAq1fNGxw>

Rides

It is hard to believe that the snowmobiling season is already coming to an end! Don't despair though. As the new Ride Coordinators, we are already working on next season's ride schedule. In last Fall's survey responses, you asked for new areas to ride in. We need **YOUR** help to make this happen. If you have a place that you love to go to and are willing to share your knowledge, please volunteer to lead a ride at that location. This will help us increase the diversity of our ride options.

A ride leader's main responsibility is to know the specific area's trail system well so that those on the ride get in and out safely. Once you organize your ride route, you submit the information to us and we will take care of disseminating the ride information to club members for you. Keep in mind that most people that join the club want to find new areas to ride in and to meet other like-minded people to ride with. [Click here for ride type definitions.](#)

Please consider sharing your time and knowledge with other members **at least once** in the upcoming season, be it during the weekend or a weekday. Feel free to reach out

to us if you have questions. We look forward to hearing from you soon about rides and dates **YOU** would like to lead this Winter.

In regards to this Summer, if you are interested in riding your dirt off-road vehicles with other club members, send us an email at spokanewinterknights@gmail.com with your ride information so we can email it to our membership or post it in our private club member Facebook page.

Brenda Major & Nellie McCarty

Ride Coordinators



2023 Summer Picnic and Golf Game



Mark Sunday, August 20 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 organizing the annual 9-hole golf game for the same morning at 9am at the Ranch Golf Club by Priest River. If you want to reserve your pre-picnic golf spot early, call Sharon at 509-484-7273.

More detailed picnic information to follow this summer.

2023 Snowmobile & Power Sports EXPO & Swap Meet

42nd Annual Show
sponsored by:



Nov. 11, 2023

9AM - 5PM Spokane Fairgrounds

Fun & Prizes for the Whole Family!



Info: winterknights.org & spokanewinterknights.com

Vietnam War Era Military Service Recognition

The Daughters of the American Revolution, Jonas Babcock Chapter, honored some of our club members that served in the United States military during the Vietnam War era (1955-1975), either at home or abroad. During the February 16, 2023 Winter Knights General Meeting, our very own Susan Walker, member of The Daughters of the American Revolution, Jonas Babcock Chapter, along with husband Bob Walker, presented three of our club members with certificates: Norris Boyd, Gary Carlin, and Mike Harrison. Wayne Shawgo was not able to attend the meeting, but will receive his certificate at a later time.

Thank you all for your service.



From the Scholarship Committee

The Scholarship Committee awarded our 2023 applicant a \$2,000 scholarship. Congratulations to Noah Klopsch, grandson of Jack and Earlene Riggins (Winter Knights Golden Members - 53 years). Noah plans to attend Montana State University, with an interest in mechanical engineering. Noah is an Eagle Scout, member of the National Honor Society, and plays the tuba.

Sharon Crockett, Sue Harrison, Doris Peterson
Scholarship Committee



Here is an excerpt from Noah's scholarship application essay...

Snowmobile clubs play an essential role in promoting the sport of snowmobiling, preserving trails, and providing a sense of community among enthusiasts. However, many clubs face a challenge in recruiting younger members to ensure their longevity. To broaden their appeal and attract younger members, snowmobile clubs can adopt several strategies.

To begin with, snowmobile clubs can leverage social media to reach younger audiences. Platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter are excellent tools for clubs to promote their activities and events, share photos and videos of snowmobiling trips, and connect with prospective members. Clubs can also use social media to highlight the benefits of joining their organization, such as access to exclusive trails and discounts on gear and equipment.

Snowmobile clubs can also organize events and activities that appeal to younger members. For example, they could host snowmobile races, freestyle events, or group rides that cater to different skill levels. They could also organize social events like BBQs, movie nights, or game tournaments to foster a sense of community and camaraderie among members. By having a range of activities that appeal to younger members' interests, snowmobile clubs can make their organization more attractive and inclusive.

To help the people who don't know how to ride a snowmobile, snowmobile clubs can provide educational and training programs to help younger members develop their skills and knowledge of the sport. For instance, they could offer safety courses, avalanche training, or equipment maintenance workshops. By providing these resources, clubs can demonstrate their commitment to the safety and well-being of their members and help younger members feel more confident and comfortable while riding.

To help out with the cost snowmobile clubs can partner with local businesses and organizations to offer discounts, promotions, and other incentives for younger members. For example, they could collaborate with snowmobile dealerships, ski resorts, or outdoor gear retailers to provide discounts on equipment or passes. With partnerships and offering exclusive benefits, snowmobile clubs can demonstrate the value of membership and attract more young people to join.

Finally, snowmobile clubs can leverage their existing members to recruit younger members. Club members can act as ambassadors, promoting the club to their friends, family, and social networks. They can also help mentor younger members and make them feel welcome and included in the club.

FACES OF THE CLUB: Jeremy Gentry, New Board Member

Hi. My name is Jeremy Gentry and I was voted in as a new Board member in March. I ride a 2019 Ski-Doo Summit, 850. I am not an expert, but I do like to ride off-trail and trail.

I was born in Lewiston, Idaho and grew up in Weippe, Idaho. My hometown was a logging and farming community. My family was big into hunting and fishing on the Clearwater and North Fork rivers. Growing up, I would run trap lines with my uncles. My grandfather owned Spencer and Sons Logging. From a young age I was fascinated about how trucks and equipment worked. Every chance I got, I would help my grandpa work in the shop. That inspired me to become a diesel mechanic. At 19 years old I got my ASE's and signed on with a company to work in shipyards in North Carolina. I bounced around from job to job until I found my way back home.

It was just something about the Inland Northwest that I couldn't do without. My 20+ years of experience landed me a job at Peninsula Truck Line 7 years ago. I'm currently the shop Foreman.



14 years ago I met my wife Keely, who is a dump truck driver for Inland Asphalt. We have a daughter, Lilian. She's 6 and a half now and becoming her own little person.

I joined Spokane Winter Knights pre-COVID. A friend and coworker talked me into working the Snow Show with him. Working the Snow Show, I got to talk to and know some of the club members. I then decided to go on a

couple rides. I enjoyed the camaraderie and the atmosphere that the club presented as individuals and as a club together. That's something I'd like to be a part of. So here I am in the club and being one of the Board members. I decided to put myself out there and to be more involved with the club.



Jeremy Gentry

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2023 Upcoming Events

July:

- 15 - Membership renewals for 2023-2024 season mailed out, renewal deadline is August 31
- 30 - Down River Days Snowmobile Water Cross - Lone, WA

August:

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

September:

- 14 - Board Meeting
- 21 - General Club Meeting - NEWTECH Skill Center

October:

- 12 - Board Meeting
- 19 - General Club Meeting - NEWTECH Skill Center

November:

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

December:

- 9 - Christmas Party



- 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
Marketing - Rick Suhr
Membership - Nellie McCarty

- Board Members -

Jeremy Gentry
Kevin Major
Matt Johnson
Rick Suhr
Guy Peacock
Simon Triggs

- Newsletter Editors -

Al & Nellie McCarty

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