

FRESH POWDER NORTHWEST

Spokane Winter Knights Snowmobile Club

www.spokanewinterknights.com

spokanewinterknights@gmail.com

From the President

I believe I'm speaking for a lot of us when I say, "Bring on the winter!!!" I'm writing this article as snow falls around my home and there's that familiar chill in the air. When I'm done writing this, I plan to go out into the garage and reorganize things for the season of white. The movement of toys is symbolic for me in my limited space, and helps me to set my mind in the right direction for what is about to come.

It seems these efforts have been mirrored by our club during the last few months as a variety of activities have taken place to ready us for the riding season. We've taken on an unprecedented effort in trail clearing in the King's Lake area as well as Mt. Spokane. Our traditional wood cutting/splitting/stacking at the Ritz Warming Hut went flawlessly and the general maintenance at the hut was accomplished without a hitch. We applied for and received a BRP Grant for \$5000 to be used in trail maintenance and education. We met with our groomer contractor to discuss trail priorities and possible modifications to his route based on logging efforts in the area. We discussed as a group and decided on which local charities would receive our donations and we will be writing checks to them very soon. Plans for our Christmas party are made and it looks to be one of the best menus in years. And, of course, we successfully held our annual Snowmobile and Powersports Expo at the fairgrounds which looks to bring in a healthy amount of money to further our efforts.

That list is very ambitious, and it could not have been accomplished without the energy and direction of a large group of volunteers that tirelessly keep the club alive and in motion. It's

personally rewarding to have been a part of this for so many years as I watched the excitement and enthusiasm of like-minded people coming together to help make a difference for our sport. In these current times with clubs and organizations struggling to stay afloat, there must be something magical about the Spokane Winter Knights. I'm looking forward to seeing where it goes on from here. Thanks to everyone for stepping up to make us the greatest snowmobile club in the Inland Northwest.

Al McCarty

President



**November
2023**

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Snow Show 2023

It was great to see our show climbing back up in attendance since 2019. COVID surely impacted our event. I am excited to see the upward spiral!

So, thank you to everyone, starting with our 105 Volunteers this year. Even though none of you get paid to do this, you are priceless to me and the Winter Knights. Great job. This also includes those of you that are putting in the many hours before and after the show. A special Thanks to Rick for additional hours for sure.

Thank you to all the Dealers, Businesses and other Clubs that participated in this 2023 Show. Without all of you, this Snow Show would not happen. I hope that all of you did well and are planning for our next show, November 9th, 2024. Please email or call me for any thoughts you might have to make this event better for you and your company. dean@abacus-llc.com 509-220-1001.

Thank you to all the Attendees for supporting this show for so many years with your wonderful Faces and Finances. You are the best. I hope to see all of you and more next year.



Thank you to the Northwest Vintage Snowmobile Club and any others that bring in the antiques. This really adds value to our show. It is always a blast to look to the past. Thank you for filling a very large empty space for Snow Big Deal. The curb appeal was out of sight.

Thank you to the NEW Kitchen Crew (Melinda and Bret) this year and all the people that provided the Crock-Pots full of their special dishes. No other Snow Show compares in this country or the next. Exhibitors are sharing with me that they can't believe how much food is donated to feed so many people for two days. They are Truly Spoiled. Again, thank you.

In closing, our Snow Show Website www.winterknights.org is already updated with the dates for our 2024 event. Also, if you need any contact information from the 2023 show, just click on 2023 and download the PDF that includes Company, Contact Person and Phone Number for all of the Exhibitors that participated.

Now, "Bring on the Frosted Flakes".

Respectfully and thankfully submitted;

Dean Meakin,

WK Snow Show Director



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Snow Show 2023 Pictures



Rides

We are excited about the upcoming riding season! Our “travel” rides have been finalized and all the information for those have been emailed to you already so that you can make your hotel reservations and request time off work. Our “local” ride schedule is still in the works. We continue waiting for ride leaders and hosts to get back to us with their information. We are still looking for more ride leaders, especially during the week, so please contact us. In light of new information about possible logging this winter in some of our riding areas, we are also waiting to see how this will impact the access points to the trail system.

Make sure you have all your registration and groomer stickers clearly and correctly displayed on your machines to avoid being ticketed by the park rangers, as well as your Sno-Park permits in your vehicle too!

Brenda Major & Nellie McCarty,
Ride Coordinators



Ski-Doo P.A.S.S. Grant

This past July, the club was notified by our local Ski-Doo dealers here in Idaho and Spokane that the BRP Corporation was letting the snowmobile community know they were offering grant applications to snowmobile clubs and organizations under their Ski-Doo Snow P.A.S.S. (Protect, Access, Sustain, Support program). This grant by Ski-Doo and its affiliated dealer network, would provide clubs with up to \$5,000 in funding combined with matching club monies to protect our local trails and play areas through trail maintenance and development. The overall goal is to make snowmobiling more accessible to the public and educate them on various safety initiatives and programs implemented by snowmobile organizations.

We were happily notified by BRP in October that the Spokane Winter Knights was awarded one of their grants for \$5,000! This will be an exciting opportunity to bring our club together to work on maintaining and improving the trail system within the King's Lake Sno-Park, Coville National Forest, and adjacent Idaho-Panhandle National Forest. Often various winter storms and past forest fires have left numerous dead trees and snags that provide hazards and obstacles for our

snowmobile community. With BRP's help, our club will now have the financial resources to help mitigate some of these hazards. At the same time, it will shine a positive spotlight on our organization that we care about our trail conditions and that we also want to educate the public on how to safely ride during their coming snowmobile adventures. The club purchased a large banner recognizing BRP for their support and we displayed it proudly at the entrance to this year's Snow Show at the Spokane County Fairgrounds. We are hoping too that the increased publicity, working in conjunction with our social media platform, will entice new members to join our club and to become involved in helping us to better maintain our local trails. A special 'shout out' goes to Rene' Wigen and Greg Figg for assisting and helping me to write and successfully obtain this generous grant.



Bret Uhlich, Vice President

Membership News

Thank you to everyone that has already renewed their club memberships this year!

We are up 15 new members so far this year: 9 joined at our Snow Show earlier this month, 3 were referred by other club members, 2 from social media viewage, and 1 from our website.

There are still about 13 members that have not yet renewed. If you are one of these, please mail in your \$30 check, made payable to Spokane Winter Knights, as soon as possible to: P.O. Box 1255, Mead, WA 99021-1255. You may also renew on-line by going to our [website](#), completing the renewal form and paying with PayPal.

Please renew by November 30th!

Golden members, even though you are free

from paying your Winter Knights dues, you still need to make sure your contact information is correct. Please return your updated form, call us, or email us at spokanewinterknights@gmail.com.

Snow Show Note:

Thank you to all **105** club members that volunteered **1,133 hours** between the Snow Show and the set-up day on Friday!

Nellie McCarty
Membership Chair



Search and Rescue

Hello from Search and Rescue. Wishing all snowmobilers a safe and wonderful upcoming snowmobile season!! Please be prepared when you head out for the trails or backcountry! Remember to ride only in groups, carry emergency supplies, and be prepared for changing weather!!



The Snow Show went well for the Search and Rescue unit this year! We had our annual 50/50 raffle at the Snow Show, in which we raised \$958. Thank you to all the volunteers that helped with the raffle this year in making it highly successful!

So far 2023 has been a quiet year with a few call outs, but none involving snowmobiles or ATV's. The Winter Knights Search and Rescue has just completed our transfer of the snowmobile, ATV and trailer over to the Spokane County Sheriff's office. There were numerous reasons for this transfer, part being in housing this equipment was expensive

and finding insurance for this equipment was not obtainable. For these reasons, we felt transferring it to the County where it could be used for its intended purpose would be for the best. The Winter Knights Search and Rescue unit will have access to it for training and other purposes such as the Snow Show.

We are hoping to recruit more members for our Search and Rescue this year as well. Our meetings are back in person and will resume after the holidays on the 4th Thursday of January.

Have a great holiday season!!

Greg Figg, Spokane Winter Knights SAR

Life Flight Renewal

It is time to join or renew Life Flight memberships through the Winter Knights. Our 2023 memberships expire on December 31, 2023.

The membership fee is **\$65** a year. The membership will cover any dependents claimed on your tax return and elderly or disabled family members living in the same household.

1. If you are **joining** for the first time, please send your completed Enrollment Form ([click here](#) to find the form on our website) and your check for **\$65 MADE PAYABLE TO THE SPOKANE WINTER KNIGHTS** to me by December 1, 2023. You can mail it to me at the address below.
2. If you are **renewing** and there are no changes in your household, you do not need to complete a membership form. I just need your check for **\$65 MADE PAYABLE TO THE SPOKANE WINTER KNIGHTS or cash**. You can mail it to me at the address below.
3. If you would like to give a membership to a family member or friend, or invite someone you know to join our group membership in Life Flight, you can do that also. I just need the application completed and a check for **\$65 MADE PAYABLE TO THE SPOKANE WINTER KNIGHTS**. You can mail it to me at the address below.

Life Flight is not offering the 3 year membership any longer - you can only renew for a 1 year membership. If you have any questions, please call me at 509-484-7273.

Sharon Crockett

1128 E Gordon, Spokane 99207

2024 Scholarship

The application form for the Winter Knights 2024 Scholarship is now updated and posted on our club website. Please send all required documents to the address on the application (email will not be accepted) by March 15, 2024. Questions? Contact Sharon Crockett (509) 484-7273 or visit our club [website](#) for detailed information.



Upcoming General Meeting



Our next general business meeting will be on Thursday, January 18, 2024 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 \$16 per person (this includes tax and tip).

An RSVP for dinner is REQUIRED by Sunday, January 14.

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!

Next Board Meeting:

January 11, 2024

NewTech Skill Center

McCarty Announcement

We have been Winter Knights members since 2011. We had recently moved to Washington and were looking for places to ride and like-minded people to ride with. The club definitely met our basic needs at the time. For the last 10 years, we have been in some form of leadership role for the club. We have greatly enjoyed serving the club and being an integral part of guiding it to the professional level it is currently in. Our success can be attributed to staying neutral and treating each individual in our varied group of members with respect, always doing things for the good of the club, regardless of our own personal feelings or time constraints. We are also proud to have ensured that every member's digital information has been kept safe and secure during our watch, especially since so many of our members have jobs or life situations where their personal life interactions must be guarded.

It is now time for other club members to take the reins and continue the club's forward momentum. Al will not be seeking re-election as President at the end of his term in February. Nellie will be resigning from all of her duties with the club at the end of the club's season cycle, effective February 29, 2024. With 130 family memberships, surely the following list of open positions should not be difficult to fill by March 1, 2024.

It has been an honor to serve you all for the last ten years. We are excited to see the new heights the club's new group of leaders will achieve in continuing to progress our beloved sport of snowmobiling. We wish you all the best and look forward to seeing all our friends on the trails for seasons to come!

Al and Nellie

Open Club Positions = March 1, 2024

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR = create, print, mail, and process renewals; follow up on "past due" renewals; database upkeep; maintain liability waiver list; run the Membership Booth at Snow Show; Christmas Party RSVP's; create official yearly roster; track and update Golden Member status

COMMUNICATIONS = draft all club emails; BCC all emails for digital privacy; monitor incoming emails and disseminate to appropriate member; only accept club members in club's private Facebook page for security

CALLING COMMITTEE CHAIR = create and maintain monthly call lists for each committee member; coordinate with NewTech chef for monthly menu and inform chef of dinner RSVP numbers; check in attendees and collect dinner payments monthly at the door; follow up on dinner "no shows" and ask for reimbursement

NEWSLETTER EDITOR = create newsletter 3 times per year (April, July, November); disseminate via email; print and mail to those that pay extra

WEBSITE WEBMASTER = maintain and update club website

RIDES CO-COORDINATOR = plan and schedule yearly rides; coordinate ride leaders and hosts

SNOW SHOW VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR = prepare volunteer sign up sheets; disseminate collected information to each department chair; check volunteers in and out at show; process total hours worked by volunteers and report to show director

SNOW SHOW SECURITY DEPARTMENT CHAIR = set up schedule for Friday and Saturday of show; contact volunteers to fill all shifts

Christmas Party



Saturday, December 9, 2023

Ramada by Wyndham at Spokane Airport
(8909 W. Airport Drive, Spokane Airport)

Social Hour @ 6pm with a No-Host Bar

Dinner @ 7pm

Free = Member Volunteer working 8+ hours @ Snow Show

\$20.00 = Winter Knights member

\$40.00 = Guest (Non-Winter Knights member)

RSVP and PAYMENT Due by December 1



- By mail (P.O. Box 1255, Mead, WA 99021-1255)

- Online with PayPal on spokanewinterknights.com

****An RSVP must still be made even if you earned a free dinner. Email spokanewinterknights@gmail.com****

In the spirit of the season, **please bring non-perishable food items** to be donated to a local food bank. Receive 1 raffle ticket per item you bring. The more items you bring, the better your chances at winning a prize!!

Don't miss out on all the fun!

Great food! Great games! Great prizes!

Silent Auction to benefit local charities!

Bring your checkbook!



2023-2024 Upcoming Events

December:

- 1 Deadline to RSVP for Christmas Party
- 1 Life Flight Renewal Deadline
- 9 Christmas Party - Ramada at Spokane Airport
Social Hour 6pm - Dinner 7pm

January:

- 11 Board Meeting - NEWTECH Skill Center
- 18 General Club Meeting - NEWTECH Skill Center

February:

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

March:

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



- Club Officers -

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

- 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
currently vacant
Simon Triggs

- Newsletter Editors -

Al & Nellie McCarty

- Web -

spokanewinterknights.com

- Email -

spokanewinterknights@gmail.com

Seeley Lake Timeshare Condo For Sale

Timeshare condo for sale at Seeley Lake, Montana. The week starts the third Friday of January and ends the following Friday. One bedroom on ground floor, twin beds in the enclosed loft. Full kitchen, two full bathrooms and washer dryer. Living room has heatilator fireplace insert. The condo is at Arrowhead Owners Association, next door to Double Arrow Resort. On good snow years, it is ride-in / ride-out, otherwise it is just a few miles to the parking lot. 350 miles of groomed trails, and lots of off-trail riding. Community Hot Tub shared by 8 units. Plenty of parking.

Price is \$10 to cover the recording of the quitclaim deed. Annual Maintenance fee is \$390. Call Bruce Rawls (509) 710-4197 if interested. If not sold, it will be for rent January 2024.

Officer and Board Member Election 2024-2025

Join the 2024-2025 club leadership team!

Club elections will be held on February 15, 2024.

Consider running for one of the following positions: Board Member (2 vacancies), President, Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer.

Refer to the club By-Laws for detailed duties for each position.