



March 2019

FLATHEAD SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION INFORMER

PO BOX 5041 KALISPELL, MT 59903

Shared use of Public Lands

We are blessed to live in a state and a region of the state that has an abundance of public lands for multiple uses – natural resource production, recreation, and habitat preservation can all be accommodated. Usually, tension arises when these different uses come in contact with each other in the same area or at the same time of the season.

What I would like to address here is when the various user groups have contact within the same land use category, specifically those using the land for recreation. The groups using the public lands during the winter in Northwest Montana include snowmobiles, back country skiers, cross country skiers, fat tire bikers, dog sledgers, snows hoers, ice fishermen and trappers. In order for us to maintain access and have a good and safe experience in the back country and on maintained trails, we need to all work together and be courteous to one another when we meet and utilize our public lands.

Specially, when we are out on the FSA groomed trail system, there are others that have access to our trails and we need to be mindful that it's their land to use as well. When we meet a grooming machine, whether it's ours or someone else's, we need to give way as best we can and get around them and continue on down the trail. Skiers are more abundant on the trail as Whitefish Mountain Resort has opened more areas to back country access. Slow down when approaching skiers and give them a wide berth. Your 500 pound machine is nimble and responsive, but skiers can be unpredictable. Sled dogs can be startled by our loud machines. Pull over, turn off your machine, and let them pass before continuing. Also, if you're in an area that is frequently used by another group, please be aware of your trenching and try and leave a track that will not disrupt the use of the area by others.

The FSA is continually working with other groups and state and federal agencies to maintain and improve the snowmobile experience in our short snowmobile season. We ask all users to be safe and courteous to one another while they are using the access we have to the public lands. If you experience a conflict with someone while out on the snow, please let us know about it. Document with photos, times, and locations if at all possible and we will report it to the proper authorities. We at the FSA are committed to helping the snowmobile community any way we can, whether it is on our trail system or not. We are also working with other groups on ways to minimize conflicts in the areas where our various uses may come into contact with each other.

We at the FSA believe that, if we work together, we can continue to have a safe and enjoyable public land's experience for many years to come.

David Covill, FSA President

From the Treasurer's Desk - Grooming Reports and Memberships

As we reported last month, membership to the FSA is on the rise--and THANK YOU! We also have over 900 people liking our Facebook Page and over 350,000 hits per year on our website! However, actual club memberships are now right at 100 memberships with nearly 200 persons represented (family memberships count for multiples). What we are noticing is that there is a wide difference between people liking our Facebook page and paid members--700+.

A number of members have approached us and asked why do we "give away" all the grooming report information on Facebook to 900+ people? Well, initially, we just wanted to get it out there and "be nice". These members who have come from other areas of the country informed us that grooming info is something most are willing to pay for...so why give it away? This is why we want you to come to meetings! You (our members) have good ideas!!!! Our board agrees. It's time to give paid members more for their membership and hopefully attract a few more people to the club.

So our board faces a decision and we're going to try out some different ways of getting grooming reports out to those that want them. We are going to stop posting grooming reports on Facebook. We will tell people our normal grooming schedule, but actual grooming reports and groomer track info will be hidden from our website.

We'd like your thoughts on this. We're going to try it out and if it doesn't work, we'll make adjustments--nothing is in stone, but our current line of thinking is that if the grooming report is important enough, a membership should also be a priority to you.

Thanks for bearing with us and please, send us your feedback!



January Family Day Ride on Crane Mountain

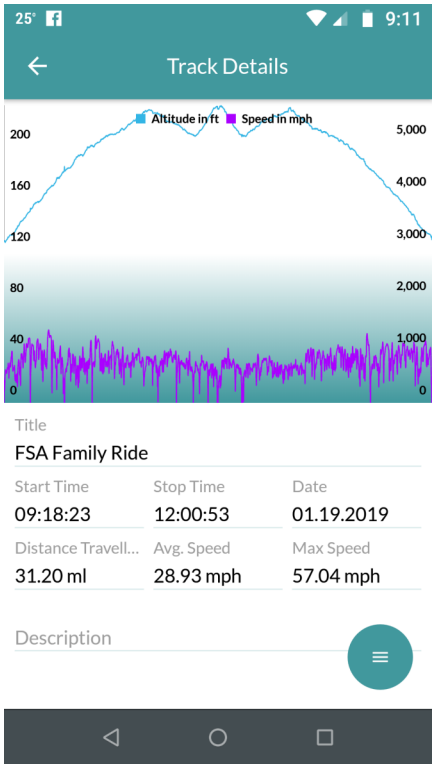
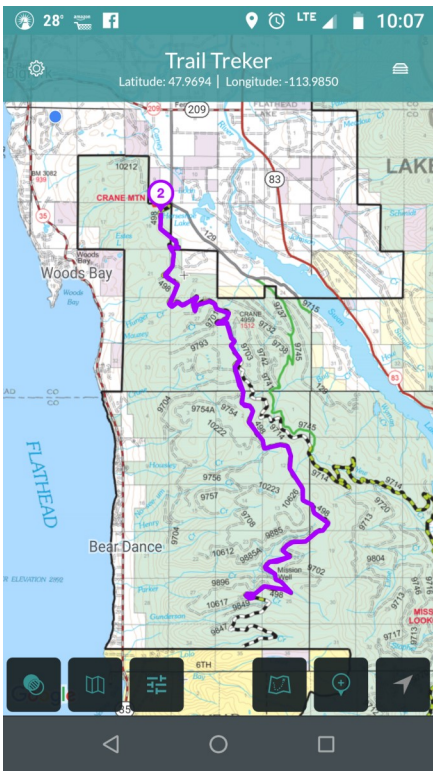
Saturday, Jan 19th, a bunch of fun loving FSA members ventured over to Fern-dale to check out the fresh snow (over a foot at the top!). We had a great ride up to Mission Well pond (we did not go on the pond). Thank you Rick David for a great groomed trail bed...even the few trucks driving up and down the first few miles didn't mess it up! Check out the Track Trail Treker recorded! Remember all the Flathead area maps are free to members!

While up there, we took the opportunity to have Brian Weber (long time member and current board member) to give us a refresher on using our avalanche beacons. We had a few members that had new beacons and a few (like me) that thought they knew what they were doing. We found our target, but I'm not sure our victim would have made it. Let me just take this opportunity to ask everyone who has a beacon to take it out and do a simulated search with a buddy. It's a great exercise and if you've never used your beacons before, ask a club member, or check out one of the classes offered by the [Friends of the Flathead Avalanche Center](#).

It doesn't take that long to get proficient with the beacons, but there are things about them you need to know which could help you if the worst ever happened. Everyone likes to think that "I just stay out of those areas", but you never know when you might be called on to help someone and knowing how to use that little box could save a life. Just ask yourself how you'd feel if you rode up to an avalanche site saw something sticking out of the debris and didn't know how to use your beacon.

After all that exercise (both mental and physical!), we figured it was time for food, so we rode back down, fired up the grill, got the hot cocoa poured, chips, snacks and candy open AND had a great lunch!

Crane Mountain Family Day Ride





Open Board Position - Secretary

This month, our current Secretary resigned and we thank her for all the years of service she has faithfully rendered to the club--honestly, most do not know all the work she has done. THANK YOU!!!

So our current board is handling her duties, but we'd like to ask our membership for volunteers to backfill the position. The Secretary is responsible for recording the meeting minutes as we meet (at both Board and General Membership meetings). It's not that hard or time consuming, but it is an important function and gives legal credibility to our club. The bottom line is that you attend the meetings, take notes and then type them up (preferably into Google Docs so we have an electronic version).

If you can help, we would greatly appreciate it!



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Trail Maintenance

Dec 1st, opening day Canyon Creek. ATV Maintenance crew loaded with chain saws headed in to clear trails to top of Big Mountain.

2 inches of snow in parking lot at Canyon Creek. Solid ice all the way down to Canyon Creek Bridge. 4500 ft elevation, 2 1/2 – 3 feet of snow.

Trees cut out along the trail, pictures taken at white out alley. Lots of brush. Thanks to Skip, Les, Ralph, Don, John and Dave (me).



Phot Credit:
Dave Konopatzke

Your board does a lot...but we could use a few more helping hands from time to time...

Here's what we need help on now:

- Canvassing the area for sponsorships
- Help with a float for the C-Falls Night of Lights parade
- Sending out Membership materials to new/renewing members (we cover all the costs)
- Working on the Groomers to get them ready for this-coming winter (re-tracking/hauling)
- Working on website/facebook page (we could use one more tech-savvy editor)

If you are looking for a great organization to volunteer with and you can help out, visit our website at <http://www.flatheadsnowmobiler.com> and click on the 'Join the FSA' tab and scroll to the bottom and tell us how you can help!!



Do you usually advertise with FSA?

You don't see your business's ad in our newsletter?

**Have a new
summer/winter/outdoor recreation
business and would like
to advertise with us?**

Contact Mark Smolen to update your information!!

Treasurer@flatheadsnowmobiler.com

FSA Scholarship - Call for Entries (Deadline April 1)

If you are a club member and you have children in High School about to graduate and go to Tech School or College, you may want to apply for the FSA Scholarship! Your child may receive a \$250 scholarship for their continued education. You might be a college student that is currently a member or a child covered under a family membership.

To apply [click here](#) to get the application form. Applications must be received by April 1, 2019 and payments will be made upon successful completion of the next semester. Payments are made on the following semester of award GPA (we don't look at cumulative GPA, only the semester the award is made in):

- A to B Average (3.0 or better): 100% of the Award (\$250)
- B to C Average (2.0 - 2.99): 50% of the Award (\$125)
- Below 2.0 Average: No Award

Don't let this chance get by!
Apply Now!



Get the trail maps on your phone!

Trail Treker

All three trail systems the FSA maintains (Canyon Creek, Crane Mountain, and Desert Mountain) will be available for free download to club members. The Trail Treker app is \$2 (one time). The app is available on the Apple and Google stores. The app will show you exactly where you are at all times (with no mobile phone coverage needed!). You will need this code: **FSA18** to download the maps. Just another great benefit coming from your FSA dues!

Trail Treker is a locally owned company doing business with clubs across the country. We have partnered with them to make sure you have the safest and most enjoyable ride possible. Using Trail Treker, the FSA also makes money by showing local businesses on the map as well as from visitors to the area downloading the map! So make sure you tell everyone and especially visitors, to download the app and maps!

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Smile even more with Amazon!

I try to buy local when I can, but If you're like me, you shop a lot on Amazon.com. I use Amazon for many things that I just can't get here in Montana.

But what you might not have known is that Amazon gives a portion of sales to charities. Last month, we told you about creating **Friends of the Flathead Snowmobile Association** (FFSA)...this is our 501(c)(3) charitable organization that allows us to support the FSA with charitable donations.

Amazon has a special landing page: <http://smile.amazon.com> that allows you to donate to any charitable foundation like ours (and yes, you can choose the FFSA!). When you shop via smile.amazon.com, a small percentage of the sale gets funneled to your selected charity. If you're a Prime member, you still get the free shipping and other benefits of your prime membership. All you have to do is go to smile.amazon.com (instead of www.amazon.com) and select our charity! The first time you login to smile, you just select a charity. There are many charities automatically listed, but you can search for any charity; I searched for "Friends of the Flathead Snowmobile Association" and it allowed me to select our charity! Now everytime I buy via smile.amazon.com, Amazon donates a small percentage to us.

If you happen to login and a charity is already selected, you can change your charity under "Your Account" or by clicking this link (you have to be logged into Amazon). <https://smile.amazon.com/gp/charity/change.html>

Every little bit adds up and our little organization can use every penny! It costs nothing and you get all the same great prices and deals.

Check out [this link](#) for more screenshots on how to change your charity and search for FFSA.

The image below shows where the link is located under Your Account settings when you log into smile.amazon.com

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2018-2019 Board Members

President - David Covill

Vice President - Bryan Landis

Grooming Co-Chairmen - Rick David and David Covill

Secretary -

Treasurer - Mark Smolen

Safety Officer - Brock Bolin

Board Member - Steve Konopatzke

Board Member - Alan DeLeon

Board Member - Meghan/Brian Weber

Board Member - Erik Loroña

Want up-to-date
grooming information??



Like us on Facebook!!

Search for

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Association

or follow this link:

[https://www.facebook.com/
FlatheadSnowmobileAssociation/](https://www.facebook.com/FlatheadSnowmobileAssociation/)

Calendar of Events

March

12 - 7:00 pm: FSA Board Meeting @ Scotty's (Kalispell)

17 - 9:00 am - 4:00 pm: FSA Family Day Ride (Dessert Mountain Trail System)

19 - 7:00 pm: FSA Member Meeting @ Scotty's (Kalispell)

21-24 - Recreational Level 2 Patrol Fund (Whitefish)

31 - Last Day of Grooming on Open Trails

April

14 - Last Day to Ride Open Trails

16 - 6:00 pm: FSA Board Meeting @ Scotty's (Kalispell)

27 - End of Year Party (Time and Location TBA)

Summer

TBA - Summer Picnic - Look for more information and an opportunity to help with this event!

*****Any and all board meetings are open to the general public. Members are welcome to attend and discuss matters brought before the board but may not vote on board matters.*****

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ANY OF THESE EVENTS, VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

<http://www.flatheadsnowmobiler.com>

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CONTACT

MARK SMOLEN

Treasurer@flatheadsnowmobiler.com

406-407-0301



Been out riding?? Send me your pictures!

Have info that you think would be interesting to others?

Send it my way!!

Jessica

jessicardyer@gmail.com

**Want up-to-date grooming
information??**

Visit our website!

www.flatheadsnowmobiler.com

**You can view SPOT tracking for the groomer so you can see exactly where they are!
Please check this site for grooming info!!**



2018-2019 Flathead Snowmobile Association Membership Application

F.S.A. Begins a new membership year every JUNE!

DATE: _____ () New () Renewal Member

NAME: _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE (H) _____ PHONE (Mobile) _____

E-Mail: _____

Number of snowmobilers in your family or business? _____

FSA Only

- () Single \$15.00
- () Family \$20.00
- () Business \$30.00

FSA & MSA

- () Single \$37.00
- () Family \$42.00
- () Business \$65.00

F.S.A. will forward your application
and dues to M.S.A.

Make checks payable & Send to:

Flathead Snowmobile Association
P.O. Box 5041
Kalispell, MT 59903-5041

Add \$10 donation for the Grooming Fund and receive
an "I Support the FSA Sticker" with 100% of the
proceeds going directly to our grooming fund!



Please check any and all that you would like to volunteer for.

- () Family Day Ride -- January
- () Family Day Ride -- February
- () Family Day Ride -- March
- () Trans-Montana Ride
- () Summer Camp Out -- July

For information or to pay your dues with a credit card, please visit us @ www.flatheadsnowmobiler.com

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE FSA

Comments or suggestions: _____

Remember- T.E.A.M.- Together Everyone Achieves More!