



November 2018

FLATHEAD SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION INFORMER

PO BOX 5041 KALISPELL, MT 59903

FSA Brushing Tractor

In 2017, the FSA applied for and received a RAC grant through the Forest Service for the purpose of trail brushing. Upon receipt of the news that we were awarded the grant, we asked that instead of paying a contractor to brush 23 miles of trail ONCE, could we instead purchase a piece of equipment to brush with any time we wish?! The Forest Service said that would be fine, so that's what we did. What we found and ultimately purchased was a Ford / New Holland 7740, four wheel drive tractor with a Tiger articulated brush arm and heavy duty brushing head. It is rated to cut up to 5" diameter brush! After some repairs, we were going to take it out on November 10th and 11th, but as Rick was getting it warmed up to load on the trailer to take it to Porcupine Creek, it blew a power steering hose. So we are going to get it fixed and see if we can still get it out this year. Otherwise we will be all ready come next spring. We will keep you posted.

Advertise

Here!!

Contact

Mark Smolen





It's the Annual Flathead Snowmobile Association

Prizes!

Auction!

PRAY FOR SNOW PARTY!

The public is Welcome!

When: Saturday Nov 17th 4-7PM

**Where: Silver Bullet Bar
1700 MT Hwy 206**

Tickets: \$25 at the door - Dinner at 5:30

Prime Rib Dinner!

Join the Trans-Montana Charity Ride

Once again this year, the MSA will be holding the Trans-Montana Snowmobile Ride! Last year, Alan DeLeon, Fred Haas, Jason Ross, and Mark Smolen were full-time riders from the FSA. This year it looks like at least eight folks will be riding--maybe more if you join!

You can get all the details on their website: Join the 2019 Trans Montana Charity Ride! www.trans-montana.org It's a great cause, a great group of folks, a great time and you won't be sorry you took part. It's already looking like at least eight folks from our area are going! So don't miss out! If you have questions, you can call Mark Smolen and he'd be happy to tell you all about it (406-407-0301).



What Did the FSA Accomplish Last Year??

We understand you have a busy life and can't keep up with everything that goes on, but your dedicated board does a ton of work (and not just in the winter!) to keep things moving forward!

Here's a rundown of what the dedicated volunteers did this past year:

- ⇒ Applied for and were awarded \$45,000 RTP Grant
- ⇒ Applied for and were awarded \$21,000 State Grant
- ⇒ Attended multiple meetings with the USFA, DNRC, MSA, and other organizations
- ⇒ Hired three groomer operators and one plow truck driver for the past winter
- ⇒ Hired a contract groomer to groom Desert Mtn and Crane/Porcupine Mtn trails
- ⇒ Performed over 2,000 hours of maintenance work on our groomers & equipment
- ⇒ Moved all our equipment from N. Kalispell storage barn to a new location
- ⇒ Held the Pray for Snow Party and raised money for the club
- ⇒ Took the special folks that work at Flathead Industries for a snowmobile ride
- ⇒ Held a family day ride and picnic
- ⇒ Marched/drove in the Night of Lights Parade in Columbia Falls
- ⇒ Canvassed the valley businesses for support/sponsorship
- ⇒ Hosted and guided the Trans-Montana Riders in January up on Stryker Peak
- ⇒ Were on SnowTrails TV showing off an epic powder day (video on website homepage)
- ⇒ Purchased a brushing tractor for the club to brush trails

We hope to see you at the meetings and our Pray for Snow Party--remember, attendance is important in many ways. And if you can, please volunteer to help out with our events--we could use a little help from time to time.



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can be great at giving back

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What Does Your Membership Mean??

First, thanks for taking the time to join and support our local club!

Your membership means more than the dollars to us too. Every year, we apply for a state and federal grant which keeps the groomers running. Without your support and membership, we can't claim as many members or "users" of our trails and it's harder to justify our grant dollars to the folks that review the grant applications--so THANK YOU!

As with any club, there's a dedicated group of board members keeping things moving forward. Each year, it seems less and less and people are willing to step forward to help. We'd simply like to ask a couple things:

Please come to our meetings this year. They will be posted on our website and we'll post meetings on Facebook too. If you like our Facebook page, you'll see the events as they come up, but we have a full calendar on the website: www.flatheadsnowmobiler.com Coming to our meetings also helps us because the Forest Service and the FWP personnel attend various meetings--when they see many people attending the message gets sent that "snowmobiling and access to their areas is important." No attendance sends a very different message.

We are also trying to hold most (not all) of our meetings at Scotty's Bar or possibly other locations so we can have food and beverages...our first meeting in October was very well attended (Thank you all!!)

Finally, please come to our events! We are trying very hard to make this club into something that you want to be a part of. We are always looking for suggestions on event ideas and things to do--so chime in, get your voice heard and come and have some fun with us!

We also want to make sure you got your membership card--if you didn't, please call Mark Smolen at 406-407-0301 (and we'll get you one). Our membership term covers the winter season that bridges between two years and follows our fiscal year June 1 to May 31, and your card gets you a \$15 discount at Penco, Lelands, and Fastoys! So if you signed up in January, that was for last year and we're now in the 2018-2019 membership year.

We try very hard to keep our website current and we have a "Join the FSA" page that allows you to "subscribe" for your membership dues. Once you sign up, PayPal will charge your credit card once a year for your membership dues and you never have to fill out a form or remember to sign up again! Just keep your credit card current with PayPal and you're good to go! And it really helps us by not having to process checks or cash--so thanks to all that have used it! If you just want to try us out, you can do a one-time payment without the subscription.

Emery Creek Trail Brushing

During the month of September, the Flathead National Forest, in order to celebrate public access trails, worked with some of its partners to invite the public to participate in some trail maintenance project. On September 7th and 8th, the Flathead Snowmobile Association worked with members of the National Forest to work on brushing the back loop of the Desert Mountain Trail on the Emery Creek drainage. We had 8 people on Saturday and 4 on Sunday. As we were behind a road closure, the brushing could only be done with hand held saws and brush cutters. Even so, we got around three miles cut back to make grooming and riding easier and more enjoyable. Thank you everyone for your help and we look forward to doing it again next year!



Before



After

Photo Credit: Aaron Berlinger

2018-2019 Board Members

President - David Covill

Vice President - Bryan Landis

Grooming Co-Chairmen - Rick David and David Covill

Secretary - Tammy David

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

Flathead Snowmobile
Association

or follow this link:

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

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



**KEEP
CALM
WE ARE
GOING
DIGITAL**

KeepCalmAndPosters.com

We need your email address! We're trying to go digital as much as possible to save the club money for "fun things". We have email addresses for all but eight of you. So if you're getting this letter, that means you're one of eight folks who we'd love to know your email. We don't share with or send our lists to anyone, so you will only receive our newsletter and an occasional update letter in your inbox--we promise!



**Advertise
Here!!**

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!!**

Friends of the Flathead Snowmobile Association 501(c)(3)



We have also legally formed a true 501(c)(3) charitable organization--Friends of the FSA. Now, we can truly offer a receipt for donations to the club that are tax deductible. So if you'd like to make a charitable donation. For example, we currently are paying to store all our equipment in a storage barn, but if we had a small piece of property we could build on,

we could eliminate that expense. So, if you happen to have a small parcel or area we could subdivide, the FFSA can make this mutually beneficial to both parties. The same goes for services and other monetary donations. You can see more at: <http://friends-of-fsa.org>

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!

Calendar of Events

November

13- 6:30 pm: Avalanche Talk @ Sportsman Ski Haus (Whitefish Location)

15 - 3:00 pm: DNRC Winter Rec Meeting @ DNRC Office (Olney)

17 - 4:00 pm: Pray for Snow Party @ The Silver Bullet Bar (1700 MT Hwy. 206)

20 - 6:00 pm: FSA Board Meeting @ Scotty's**

- 7:00 pm: FSA Member Meeting @ Scotty's

29 - 6:30 pm: Avalanche Awareness Talk @ Rocky Mtn. Outfitters (Main Street, Kalispell)

December

1 - SNOWMOBILE SEASON OPENS!!

6 - 6:30 pm: Avalanche Awareness Talk @ Sportsman and Ski Haus (Kalispell Location)

7 - 6:30 pm: Night of Lights Parade (Downtown Columbia Falls)

15 - 9 am-6 pm: Penco Snow Show @ Penco Power Products (Kalispell)

18 - 6:00 pm: FSA Board Meeting @ Penco Power Products (Kalispell)**

- 7:00 pm: FSA Member Meeting @ Penco Power Products (Kalispell)

20 - 6:30 pm: Motorized Avalancha Awareness Talk @ Penco Power Products (Kalispell)

January

3 - 6:30 pm: Avalanche Awareness Talk @ Whistling Andy (Whitefish)

10 - 7:00 pm: Avalanche Awareness Talk @ Stonefly Lounge (Coram)

15 - 6:00 pm: FSA Board Meeting @ Scotty's (Kalispell)**

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

17 & 19 - Ladies Intro. To Avalanche Training. Time and Location TBA

19 - 9:00 am - 4:00 pm: FSA Club Ride (Crane Mountain Trail System)

26 - Feb. 2: Trans Montana Charity Ride

*****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>



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!