



FSA INFORMER

Editor: Marie Lewis

February 2010

PO Box 5041, Kalispell, MT 59901

President's Corner

It would appear we are coming up on the season midpoint. The snow is not good, I have only been riding twice and now I am off tomorrow for Mexico. I hope that mother nature gets mad at me for leaving and snows a bunch while I am gone. There will be a family ride the weekend of the 13th but I will let Marie fill you in on that .

The next meeting will be at Fastoys on Feb 9 at 7pm
Bill Yunk

The Grooming Report

Grooming is progressing normally with no problems except the warm weather. This has made grooming tough as the soft snow gets bumpy very early in the morning. I was out a couple of times on the weekends and it was really bad. Things are much better now that it has cooled off. Be sure to check FSA's web-site and the link to our groomer Spots. These devices really work well and show you right where the groomer has been and when.

Robbie

FSA Meeting

Please join us

February 9th

7 pm at

Fastoys

3480 Hwy 2 East

Kalispell, MT

We will have door prizes and food Bring a friend & find out who won the rental from Winter Wonderland Sports.

Club Contacts

Bill Yunk —President

862-1143

Marie Lewis—Vice President

755-7994

Erika Meyer—Secretary

257-1378

Devonna Benware—Treasurer

314-4115

Robbie Holman—Grooming Chair

862-6296

Marie Lewis—FSA Newsletter

755-7994

Dave Slack—Safety Director

752-1580

YOUR OPINION COUNTS

Here is an interesting little tidbit I found while surfing Facebook. The Greater Yellowstone Coalition is conducting a poll to get backing for banning snowmobiles in Yellowstone Park. Last time I checked over 100 people had taken the poll and stated that snowmobiling in the park did not influence their decision on whether or not they would vacation in the part in the winter season. If you can, take the poll and vote NO.

"Would you be more likely to take a winter vacation to West Yellowstone, Mont. if no snowmobiles were allowed in the park?" Greater Yellowstone asks this question on its Web site, and is going to file suit against the Park Service for allowing snowmobiles. Answer the poll! Here is the link.

<http://greateryellowstone.org/issues/wildlife/index.php?category=wildlife>

Calendar of Events

February 9th	Meeting at Fastoys 7pm
February 13th	Family Day Ride and Poker Run
March 9th	Meeting at Kurt's Polaris 7pm
March 13th	Winter Classic & Family Day Ride
March 15th	Last day of riding on the Flathead Forest???
April 13th	Last Meeting of the year.

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Mission Statement

The Flathead Snowmobile Association is a membership of snowmobilers and outdoor enthusiasts who endeavor to educate the public about the sport, enhance the riding experience in our area, promote safety and provide opportunities for family recreation.

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The Flathead Snowmobile Association purchased two tickets to Las Vegas the big prize at last fall's Pray for Snow party. The party was a great time and even greater when I won the trip. Since my husband, Steve, doesn't care for Vegas I asked my friend Marie Lewis to go with me. She jumped at the chance since she'd never been there so I knew we were in for a good time. The first (and last) pole dance I watched in Vegas was on the tram from the airport to the luggage carousel. It starred Marie scrambling to grab the metal as the tram took off. She'd never ridden 'the rail' before so I knew we were in for some adventure on this trip. We got in too late Friday night to do anything but gamble. Isn't that what you do in Vegas? The next morning we walked through adjoining casinos before getting into our costumes with our tickets to Let's Make a Deal. We'd packed our coats, mittens, goggles and fur-lined hats to dress as snowmobilers for the game show starring Wayne Brady. The line lasted for five hours while we met interesting people from all over North America. Some of the memorable ones included a guy dressed as a Caesar's salad, a friar who never shut up, two chickens from Canada, a gal dressed as a wall socket and guy as the plug, and every other goofy costume which would be in the audience. Security for the T.V. show was tougher than getting into the Obama Whitehouse party. We gave our I.D.s, filled out paperwork and were patted down with electronic bars before entering the stage. Hours later we had puffy hands from clapping, smiles pasted on our faces, shin splints and many good memories. Not enough to do it again, but still good memories. The double decker bus we rode to Freemont Street (old Vegas) was a great discovery. It stopped at every casino up and down the strip so we took advantage of other venues for picture taking opportunities. Don't be fooled into walking to the next casino, however, when you can see the neon plainly 'down the way' as we did late one night. That two miles reminded us that Vegas signs are 100 feet tall when you get there. Another fun included a day at Boulder Dam and Lake Mead, laughing through a comedy show, being on the largest television screen in the world and watching the light show at midnight on the canopy over Freemont Street. When Marie wanted to take a nap one afternoon I reminded her that we could sleep when we got home! We did exactly that when we were on the flight back to the Flathead. Thanks, FSA for the tickets to a good time.

What happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas....except, of course, anything that can be pulled up on the internet!

Dee Brown

(So little space, so much more to laugh about....)



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Dave Slack will be conducting a Snowmobile Safety Class on February 13th at the Fish and Game office. It will run from 9am to 1pm. Anyone interested needs to preregister by February 8th. You can do so by calling Dave at 752-1580 or 755-5540.



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This is an article that was in MSA's newsletter and it seems to me that this message needs to be shouted from the rooftops.

I'm sure that you have all heard that the Yellowstone Park Service has decided to only allow 318 snowmobilers per day into the Park in the up coming winter. That is down from over 700 allowed last year. I received a call from the PBS station in Bozeman. They wanted to know what I thought about the decision. It is very hard to condense over 10 years of litigation and politics into a 30 second interview. I was going to write down my thoughts. However I ran into an article written by John T Prusak in the latest issue of 'SnowGoer' magazine. The article follows:

Stop the Misinformation

"Great news," the Minneapolis TV anchor gleefully reported. "In the month of July, Yellowstone National Park set a record when more than 900,000 people visited the park. The park also set an all-time high for June, when more than 644,000 people visited America's first national park. Park officials attribute the boost to relatively low gas prices this summer."

Yep, things are looking up in Yellowstone-attendance records were being broken this past summer as people made their way through one of America's treasures. The hotels and campgrounds in and around the park were packed-it was a great summer, local folks would tell you. Sure enough, there's only one thing that's threatening this great piece of Americana-snowmobiles. Just look at the numbers.

Last winter, fewer than 33,000 snowmobiles entered the park over a four-month period (all numbers in this piece are from the National Park Service). Those snowmobiles were required to stay on the trail-a singular ribbon that takes visitors to and from Old Faithful. In fact, snowmobiles are allowed on less than 1 percent of the 2.2 million acres of Yellowstone National park, and only on strictly enforced, guided tours traveling on the best-available-technology snowmobiles. Moreover, combining snowmobiles, automobiles, snow coaches and any other means of travel, Yellowstone had 86,793 visitors from December through March last winter, but from May through October, it'll have more than 2.7 million visitors, and the total for all of 2008 was 3 066,580. So, fewer than 3 percent of annual visitors enter in the four-month winter, and snowmobiles are the problem? During the summer, RV's, trucks, motorcycles, tour buses and passenger cars clog the roadways and fill campgrounds. None of these vehicles cause air pollution? None of these people litter?

In fact, we celebrate the great numbers of summer visitors in Yellowstone---press releases are written, newspapers rave about American's getting back to nature, the talking heads gush. It's as if each of those 900,000 July visitors were magically transported in vehicles that don't require energy, none of the people ate, drank, had any bodily function or encountered any animal. Instead, they somehow hovered above the park, and none saw each other-each person was on their own tiny island of peace and solitude. Yet one-tenth of that number entered the park over a four-month period last winter and just 3.7 percent visited on snowmobiles. Stated another way, in July the average daily visitors was 29,048. Last winter, an average of 205 snowmobiles per day entered the park. And snowmobiles are the problem?

A 'Salt Lake Tribune' editorial stated "scientific research clearly indicated that snowmobiles... don't mix well with wildlife and the quiet, pristine air and natural wonders that national parks are created to protect." The 'Denver Post' editors hoped further snowmobile restrictions or a ban can help restore "peace at one of America's most special places."

Quiet? Pristine? Peace? With 900,000 visitors in one month?

It's time to stop the villianization of snowmobiles and snowmobilers. We cannot celebrate huge July attendance for Yellowstone while we decry a micro fraction of that number making highly restricted visits on vehicles that get better fuel mileage than the RV's and SUV's that pack the park in the summer.

Yellowstone does not have a snowmobile problem-it has a perception problem, and the mainstream media is perpetuating a myth."

I think John stated the reality of the Park very well. Land use questions, don't have anything to do about land, air, or the animals. It is about power. Some groups don't want anyone in the forests for any reason. If you are strong politically, they can't pick on you. If you are weak, look out. Their goal is to return the land to pre-Lewis & Clark days. Montanans can fight this trend, but we must get off our butts and let our voices be heard.

Robbie

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| <input type="checkbox"/> January Family Day Ride | January 2010 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Whitefish Winter Carnival | February 2010 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> February Family Day Ride | February 2010 |
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