

# *FSA INFORMER*

Editor: Marie Lewis

December 2007

PO Box 5041, Kalispell, MT 59901

## President's Corner

Well everyone around us appears to be getting snow and we are coming up short. I am sure everyone has noticed that I have been absent from the first two meetings and the pray for snow party. My wife and I have two trips we take every fall and the just happened to fall during the time of the meetings and the party. I would like to thank Marie Lewis for stepping in the doing my job for me, she is a sweetheart. I would also like to thank all the board members and the people they recruited to help with the party.

I am sure that everyone has read that Yellowstone finally came up with their travel plan, and the green side immediately filled suit. Hope fully everyone will be riding and there will be lots of snow by the time I sit down to write for another news letter. Bill

## *FSA Meeting*

*Please join us*

*December 11*

*7 pm at*

*Penco Power Products*

*Hwy 93 South*

*Kalispell, MT*

## **SAFETY TIPS.**

WELL IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR. TIME TO GET THE SLEDS FIRED UP AND READY TO GO. WE SHOULD ALL BE THINKING ABOUT DOING A PRESEASON CHECK ON OUR MACHINES. IT'S ALOT EASIER TO FIX IT NOW THAN WHEN WE ARE MILES FROM THE TRUCK. A FEW THINGS THAT SHOULD BE CHECKED ARE THE SPARK PLUGS, BELT, LIGHTS, TRACK AND SUSPENSION. WE SHOULD ALSO REPLACE THE BATTERIES IN OUR TRANSCIEVERS AND FLASHLIGHTS. WE SHOULD ALSO CHECK OUR SAFETY SUPPLIES AND FIRE STARTERS. AND LETS NOT FORGET TO CHECK THE TRAILER BEFORE YOU HEAD OUT. CHECK THE WHEEL BEARINGS, TIRE PRESSURE EVEN IN THE SPARE AND THE HOLD DOWNS TO MAKE SURE NOTHING IS ABOUT TO BREAK. THERE IS NOTHING WORSE THAN TO LOOK IN YOUR MIRROR AND SEE YOU NEW SLED ROLLING DOWN THE ROAD BEHIND YOU. THINK SNOW!

SAFETY DAVE

## Club Contacts

Bill Yunk —President

862-1183

Marie Lewis—Vice President

755-7994

Tina Rothermel—Secretary

756-8540

Devonna Benware—Treasurer

314-4115

Robbie Holman—Grooming Chair

862-6296

Marie Lewis—FSA Newsletter

755-7994

Dave Slack—Safety Director

752-1580

## Calendar of Events

**December 11**

January 8

January 13

February 12

February 17

March 8

March 11

April 5,6

April 8

**Meeting at Penco 7pm**

Meeting at Jesco 7pm

Family Day Ride– Survival Cabin & cooking for the Trans Montana Ride.

Meeting at Fastoys 7pm

Family Day Ride– Crane Mtn or Kimberly Basin depending on weather

Family Day Ride & cooking for the Whitefish Winter Classic.

Meeting at Curt's Polaris 7pm

Cooking for Creston Auction

Last meeting of the year.

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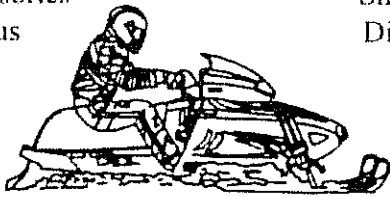
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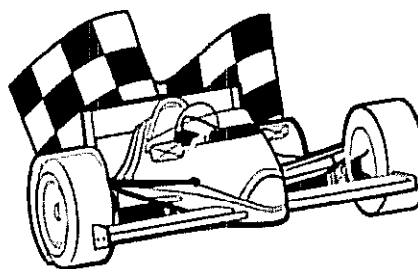
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## Grooming Report

The groomers are ready and the operators attended class the first week-end in December. We just need the snow!

Robbie

2007-2008 Flathead Snowmobile Association  
Membership Application

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

I am a ( ) New ( ) Renewal Member

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

I (We) would like to help with the following function(s):

- |     |                                    |            |
|-----|------------------------------------|------------|
| ( ) | Pray for snow party                | 11/10/2007 |
| ( ) | Night of Lights (Columbia Falls)   | TBA        |
| ( ) | January Family Day Ride            | 1/13/2008  |
| ( ) | Whitefish Winter Carnival          | TBA        |
| ( ) | February Family Day Ride           | 2/17/2008  |
| ( ) | March Family Day Ride/Doug Betters | 3/16/2007  |

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERSHIP RATES**

Flathead Snowmobile Association

F.S.A. AND M.S.A.

- |     |          |         |     |          |         |
|-----|----------|---------|-----|----------|---------|
| ( ) | Single   | \$10.00 | ( ) | Single   | \$32.00 |
| ( ) | Family   | \$15.00 | ( ) | Family   | \$45.00 |
| ( ) | Business | \$25.00 | ( ) | Business | \$60.00 |

How many snowmobiler's are there in your family or business? \_\_\_\_\_

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

Make checks payable to: **FLATHEAD SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION**  
**P.O. BOX 5041 KALISPELL, MT 59903**

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Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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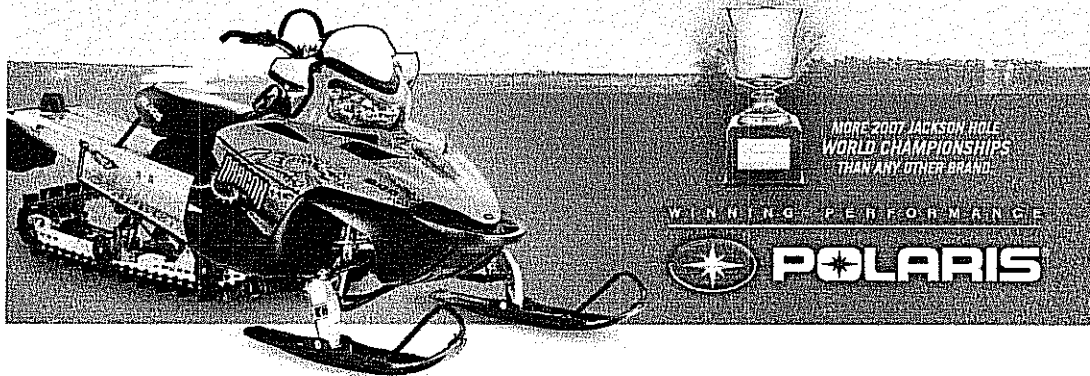
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(406) 541-3651

Polaris recommends that all snowmobile riders take a training course. Do not attempt maneuvers beyond your capability. Always wear a helmet and other safety apparel. Never drink and ride. Rider pictured is a professional on a closed course. ©2007 Polaris Industries Inc.

## *From the Vice President*

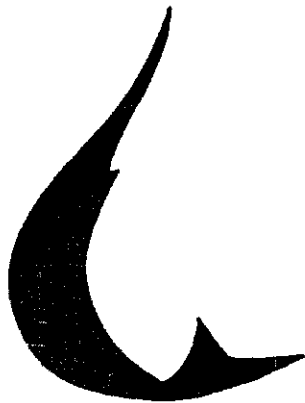
*It has been a very busy fall but fun, too. I want to give a heartfelt, huge THANKS to all who helped with the Pray for Snow Party. No individual can put on a function like this. It definitely takes all hands who can assist. Glenn Kolodejchuk headed up the gathering of donations and acted as host for the party. Ron Caldbeck dedicated many hours gathering up dealer support and arranging for them to bring the sleds to the party for us to see, even picking some of them up for the show. He also arranged for the room and food. Devonna Benware, Tina Rothermel, Kelli Kolodejchuk, and Kathleen Bell took memberships and sold tickets at the door. Tina was also instrumental in the decorating. Matt Rothermel and Sandy and Glenn Ott supplied videos for our entertainment. This party would not be possible without the support of our dealers and local businesses—please show your support to them by patronizing their businesses.*

*We had the party at a new place this year which is always a challenge. Each time you do something new you learn something new. The Flathead Snomobile Association thanks each and every one of you who attended. It is your support and participation that keeps the club going and working for you.*

*We had a float in the Night of Lights parade thanks to Rick David, Glenn and Sandy Ott, myself and Devonna Benware and the Maximum Spirit Cheerleading Club. Kurt's Polaris let us borrow a mini-cat for the float and you sure could tell it was a crowd pleaser with the kids and adults as well.*

*In January, February and March the club hosts a Family Day Ride. We are looking for 3 volunteers to host the rides. Please contact one of the club officers if you would like to host a ride. It is an easy thing to do and lots of fun.*

# CANOS



custom specialties

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*Plan to attend the next club meeting at Penco Power Products. They are having a refresher avalanche class after the meeting. It is a great way to start off the riding season. Learn about safety or update your knowledge.*

*Marie Lewis.*

**SURVIVAL TIP: IF YOU NEED TO  
BUILD A FIRE YOU CAN USE A  
RAG OR PART OF YOUR SHIRT.  
JUST DIP IT IN YOU FUEL TANK.  
YOU CAN LIGHT IT WITH A MATCH  
OR YOU CAN USE THE SPARK  
FROM ONE OF YOUR SPARK  
PLUGS.**

Flathead Snowmobile Association would like to thank the following business for their support with the Annual Pray for Snow party.

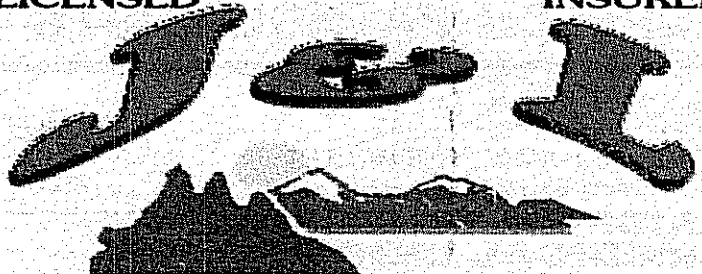
**Jesco Boat Center      Kurt's Polaris**  
**Penco Power Products      Fastoys**  
**Parts Plus—Kalispell      Northwest Tool Repair**  
**Army/Navy      Junction Gas**  
**Western Building Center—Columbia Falls**  
**Nite Owl/Back Room      Glacier Lanes**  
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**Napa—Whitefish      Summit Signs**  
**Alices Whitefish Quick Lube      Oh's Body Shop**  
**Kalispell Transmission**  
**Ricky Anderson      Avid Products**  
**Superior Sled**  
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**S&S Campers**  
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**Haines Drug**  
**Sportsman Ski Haus**  
**Modern Machinery**  
**KOFI & THE MONSTER**

# ATTENTION PLEASE

We are missing one of the brushcutters that the club bought quite a few years ago. It has been loaned out to someone in the club and nobody seems to know who has it. Whoever has the Stihl FS85 brushcutter please contact Rick David so that he can get it back . We would greatly appreciate it.



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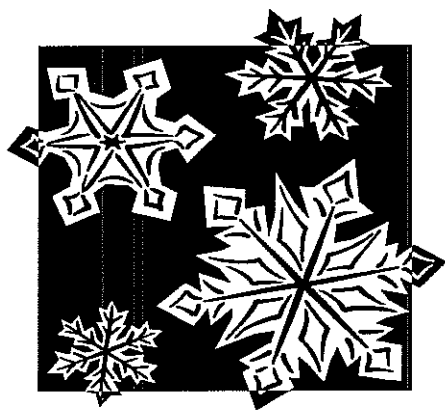
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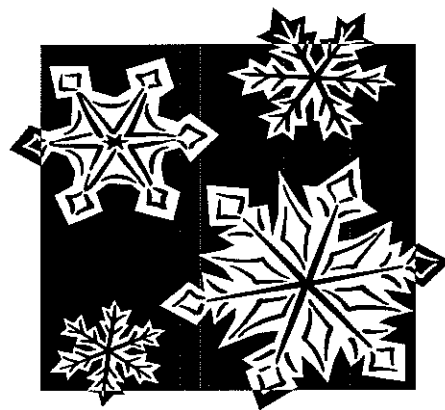
Be sure to join us for the club meeting at Penco Power Products on December 11th at 7pm. Penco will serving chili and after the club meeting there will be an avalanche refresher class.



Each month for the club meeting Kurt's Polaris donates a \$75 gift certificate for a door prize.

Attend the meetings for a chance to win.

November's winner was  
*Glenn Ott.*



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## **PARKS: Groups sue over Yellowstone snowmobile rule (11/26/2007)**

**Dan Berman, *Greenwire* senior reporter**

Six environmental groups have filed lawsuits in federal court challenging last week's decision by the Bush administration to continue to allow snowmobiles in Yellowstone National Park.

The National Park Service officially adopted a plan last Tuesday allowing up to 540 snowmobiles per day in Yellowstone. Up to 720 machines have been allowed under an interim rule the past three years, but an average of 258 snowmobiles have entered the park daily during that time.

The Greater Yellowstone Coalition, Wilderness Society, Natural Resources Defense Council, Winter Wildlands Alliance and Sierra Club, represented by Earthjustice, challenged the Park Service's record of decision in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia Circuit.

Judge Emmet Sullivan, who four years ago attempted to restore a Clinton-era rule snowmobile ban in Yellowstone, is reviewing the petition. In December 2003, Sullivan noted environmental studies conducted under the Clinton and Bush administrations by the Park Service and U.S. EPA suggested a snowmobile ban is the best way to increase air quality and protect wildlife in the parks. Sullivan's ruling was later blocked by a federal judge in Wyoming, who said a complete ban would damage the local economy.

Separately, the National Parks Conservation Association filed a lawsuit with Judge James Robertson of the D.C. court. If the cases are combined, it is unclear which judge would handle the litigation.

Yellowstone spokesman Al Nash said the agency has not seen the lawsuits. "A legal challenge was not unexpected based on the history of this issue," Nash said.

A similar last-minute ruling from Sullivan is unlikely, as the environmentalists did not ask for a preliminary injunction to stop the use of snowmobiles. NPS plans to open Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Park for the winter season using the interim limit of 720 snowmobiles on Dec. 19, Nash said.

### **'A politically savvy decision'**

Under the plan, 540 snowmobiles utilizing best available technology (BAT) standards will be allowed in the park daily, along with up to 83 multipassenger snowmobiles. All snowcoaches will have to meet BAT emission and sound level requirements in 2011.

However, only an average of only 258 snowmobiles have entered the park daily during the past three years, and environmentalists say NPS is effectively doubling the number of machines.

"One of the problems with the record of decision is rather than comparing the last several winters it rests its case on the old terrible past where snowmobile use was unrestricted, speed limits were not enforced and the park was choked by two-stroke engines," said Kristen Brengel of the Wilderness Society.

"It was a politically savvy decision," Brengel said. "It's always easy to look far in the past and say we had dirtier practices before the law was enforced."

Snowmobile advocates were calling for restrictions on guided travel to be removed. BlueRibbon Coalition President Jack Welch said he is disappointed by the decision to require access through commercial tour operators, but is "thankful that the agency has decided to allow for some level of continued snowmobile access to the parks."

The Yellowstone snowmobile battle has been one of the most intense land-use fights during the Bush administration, as environmentalists and seven former Park Service directors argue for a ban, citing damage to air quality, threats to air quality and unacceptable noise levels. Snowmobile advocates and local communities say the service should continue to allow the machines, with continuing improvements in technology.

The plan marks the fourth formal winter use rule in seven years for Yellowstone. The Clinton administration proposed an outright ban on snowmobiles in 2000, while the Bush administration countered with a plan that would have allowed over a thousand machines in the park daily.

Earlier this year, U.S. EPA said the draft plan would not go far enough to protect the park's human health, wildlife, air or quiet spaces, and would cause a five-fold increase in carbon monoxide emissions and a 17-fold increase in hydrocarbon emissions in the park.

# Flathead Snowmobile Association

PO Box 5041  
Kalispell, MT 59903-5041

Return Service Requested



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