



TRAILBLAZER

NEWS OF THE GALLATIN VALLEY SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION
JANUARY 2012 on the web <http://gvsam.net> EMAIL gvsamt@hotmail.com

2011-2012 OFFICERS

President Todd Meagher Treasurer Sandi Fehrer
Vice President Wes Fehrer Corresponding Secretary Sharon Harvey
Recording Secretary Tim Shanks Public Lands Director Kerry White

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Technical Director Wes Fehrer
Rob Balke Tom Fehrer

GROOMING COMMITTEE

Chairman Wes Fehrer
Jim Kristensen Kerry White Rob Balke
Wayne Rowe Tom Fehrer Todd Meagher

SAVE THE DATE

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

GENERAL MEETING

(4th Wednesday of the month, 7:00PM)

Meetings held at the Groomer Building

February 22

March 28

We strongly encourage everyone to attend the general meeting. "Active participation as a whole will accomplish more than the work of just a few"

BOARD MEETING

(2nd Wednesday of the month, 7:00PM)

Meetings held at the Groomer Building

February 8

March 14

Directions to the GVSA Groomer Building

At Four Corners, travel south 1/4 mile to 4th Street. It is also identified by the small "GVSA" sign. Turn right onto 4th and approximately 1/8-mile down the road, you will see the Groomer Building on the left.

Our address:

**Gallatin Valley Snowmobile Association
PO Box 3164
Bozeman, MT 59772**

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well there is finally some snow falling and I hope everyone is getting some riding in. As many of you are aware, the new groomer that we got necessitated an overhaul on our trailer. Thank you, thank you to Jim Kristensen and Curtis Wilkinson for all of their efforts in getting this done. They spent many, many hours on it for us and we do appreciate all their hard work.

Please check out all our upcoming events on the inside page. We have many events coming up and would like to see as many people at them as possible.

Remember we will again be having our "stuck" contest this year so be sure to get your pictures in of all your family and friends at their worst...stuck!

Finally, we have many ways to connect with GVSA now...check them all out below.

Check us out on Facebook as we will be posting times and dates of club events there.

Also, if you look up g.v.s.a. on the internet, you should be able to find our webpage or just visit us at <http://gvsam.net>. Thanks a million to Bryan Capdeville for all his hard work in making this happen...awesome job.

Also remember that we can also be contacted through the email address gvsamt@hotmail.com.



UPCOMING EVENTS



January 28—Break out the Big Sky Trail.

Anyone interested in helping out, please contact Wes or Todd for more information.

February 4—Buck Creek Fun Run..

Rumor has it that we will have a news crew at this so a large turnout would be great to see. Registration is from 9AM until noon and we will finish up at the Corral Steakhouse at 4PM for prizes and drawings.

March 3 & 4—Big Sky Trail Ride

On the 3rd, meet at Storm Castle ready to ride at 9AM and finish the day at the 320 Ranch. On the 4th, leave the Wapiti Y parking lot in Taylor's Fork at 9AM, have lunch at Eno's and finish back at the parking lot around 4PM.

March 17—West Fork of Madison Ride

Meet at the groomer shed at 7AM or the parking lot of the West Fork at 9AM ready to ride.

March 28—Annual Chili Feed

Start working on your recipes as this is always a close contest, or just come out and be a judge and enjoy some great food.

Hope to see you on the trails enjoying the snow of the season.



700 RMK Polaris with electric start for sale by Jack Ziegler. Asking price is \$3800.00.

Home phone: 406-586-9004
Work phone: 406-587-1266
Cell phone: 406-580-2416

GROOMER SCHEDULE

Monday and Thursday—Taylor's Fork and Buck Creek

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday—As needed

Little Bear, Squaw Creek, Moose Creek/Swan Creek,

Moose Creek/Portal Creek

Fairy Lake & Olson Creek, as needed

We have two new operators this year and they seem to be doing well with the conditions that they have had to work with.



Gallatin National Forest 9th Circuit Appeal Decision,

The 9th Circuit of Appeals issued their opinion on December 1, 2011 in regards to our appeal of Judge Molloy's ruling on the Gallatin National Forest Travel Plan

Judge Fisher wrote in his opinion that the Forest Service failed to address 1502.22 (b)(2) of the Administrative Procedures Act and NEPA. 1502.22 (b)(2) directs the Agency "to provide a statement of relevance of the incomplete or unavailable information to evaluating reasonably foreseeable significant adverse effects on the human environment". The Forest Service claimed in the Travel Plan DEIS and FEIS that no historic use data was available and therefore did not need to be considered. The court disagreed.

CBU provided the Forest Service with a substantial amount of historic use data during the comment period of the DEIS but this information was ignored. Clearly our historic information was important to our continued use of the WSA but under Forest Supervisor Becki Heath, and her closure agenda team at that time, they were not interested in historic use of the WSA. Their decision to ignore our historic use documentation was a mistake and the courts have centered on this issue in their rulings.

The decision by Judge Molloy in the original case provided direction to the Forest Service to close additional areas to motorized and mechanized use to protect the "Wilderness Character". The 9th Circuit disagreed with Judge Molloy and his reasoning by writing the following opinion.

"We do not necessarily agree with the district court, for example, that the only way (the service's) decision can survive the arbitrary and capricious standard of review is to substantially reduce the overall area for vehicle use or to reduce overall motorized and mechanized vehicle access. Although the Service might reasonably compensate for an increase in the volume of motorized use by reducing the overall area of impact, we do not assume that this is the only proper response to the increased volume of use when relevant data are scarce. We do assume there may be other reasonable management responses to the problem the Service faces."

This statement in the court's opinion supports our additional litigation which is continuing in Judge Hayden's court. We challenged the additional closure of the WSA through the Interim Order issued for the last three years by GNF Supervisor Mary Erickson. Her Interim Order closed additional area in the WSA to winter motorized use.

We expect a ruling on our Interim Closure case from Judge Hayden in the near future.

The Forest Service will need to start the Travel Planning process all over again on the HPBH WSA. We should again have the opportunity to comment on the Forest Service's new proposal and submit additional historic use data of this area prior to 1977. We ask everyone to dig through your old photos and talk to folks that used this area. Gather signed affidavits and statements of use of the HPBH WSA prior to 1977 and provide this information to CBU. We have historic use information which we will again submit to the Forest Service but any additional information we can provide will help in our fight.

Sincerely

Kerry White

Executive Board

CBU



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PO Box 3164
Bozeman, MT 59772

Reminder Dates:

Feb 4—Buck Creek Fun Run

Feb 22—General Meeting

Mar 3&4—Big Sky Trail Ride

Mar 17—West Fork of Madison Ride

Mar 28—Chili Feed