

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Woody's Golf Outing Gives Back to Snowmobiling

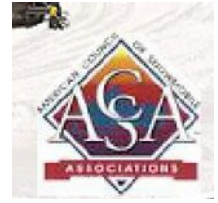


Many thanks to Woody's for their annual golf outing that gives back to organized snowmobiling!

It was a hot and sunny day with 144 snowmobile-related golfers out on the golf course participating in many fundraisers throughout the day.

Thank you, Woody's!

144 golfers • a full day of fundraising • support for organized snowmobiling



BELIEVE IT OR NOT...

Betting on Forest Fires!?!?

Oregon Senator Jeff Merkley and eight other Democratic senators have called on federal regulators to crack down on prediction markets that allow people to bet on wildfires, arguing the practice raises public safety concerns and could create opportunities for insider trading.

In a letter to Commodity Futures Trading Commission Chairman, the senators urged the agency to take action against event contracts tied to natural disasters, including wildfires.

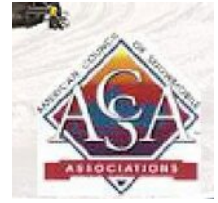
“Offering bets on destructive wildfires threatens to minimize communities’ suffering all so the rich and powerful can profit.”

— Letter from the senators

They requested restrictions on the current unrestricted betting on wildfires and that safeguards be established to prevent people from profiting from natural disasters.

They warned that wildfire betting markets could create incentives for criminal activity.

“There’s also the heightened risk—according to state and local fire officials—that individuals could be tempted to commit arson in order to make sure their bets are successful,” the letter states. “By offering contracts on fires, prediction market sites run the risk of encouraging people to influence fires that have already started, creating additional concerns around public safety and insider trading.”



WILDFIRE UPDATE

Wildfires Across the US

Spokane Washington is the latest hot spot this week with fires burning out of control, burning hundreds of structures and causing over 60,000 people to evacuate. DNR officials said Eastern Washington forests were “overstocked” after decades of fire suppression as catastrophic wildfires force thousands from their homes and trigger a massive state and federal response. The WSSA has cancelled their meeting this weekend due to the fires.

As wildfire season intensifies across the West, the Helena US Forest Service Air Tanker Base plays a critical role in getting firefighting aircraft into the air quickly. The facility accommodates everything from single-engine air tankers (SEATS) and helicopters with buckets to very large air tankers better known as VLATs, like the DC-10. Operations began on July 1. Key pieces of the base are high-capacity pumps and off-load tanks to reload large aircraft in under 30 minutes.

OREGON

The Oregon State Snowmobile Association has been busy moving grooming equipment due to the wildfires. As dozens of wildfires continue to burn across Oregon, state officials say fire suppression efforts this year have cost the state more than \$150 million so far, a number likely to grow significantly in the coming months.

Meanwhile, the Oregon Board of Forestry recently decided to reduce logging in Oregon by 20% and “restrict logging” on about 50% of Oregon’s state forests.

Meanwhile...In DC...

The Senate has accomplished a few things as they hustle before breaking, including passing a budget that will extend beyond the September 30th year end.

Unfortunately, passage of the Farm Bill was not completed.

The Senate will only be in session for 3 weeks between now and the November elections, allowing them time back in their districts.



CLUB BUSINESS

Nonprofit vs. Tax-Exempt

People often use “nonprofit” and “tax-exempt” as though they mean the same thing, but they do not.

NONPROFIT

Nonprofit status usually refers to how an organization is formed under state law: it is organized for a mission-driven purpose and does not distribute profits to owners or shareholders. There are 29 classifications for nonprofits in the subcategory of 501(c).

TAX-EXEMPT

Tax-exempt status is a separate federal tax recognition from the Internal Revenue Service that exempts the organization from federal income tax on income related to its exempt purpose.

In short, nonprofit status concerns the legal structure; tax-exempt status concerns federal tax treatment.

What is your club's status?

UPCOMING EVENTS		
DATE	EVENT	LOCATION / NOTE
August 7 - 9	Washington Summer Meeting/Campout	CANCELLED
August 25	New York Board Meeting	Online
August 30	Nebraska General Membership Meeting	Norfolk, NE
September 1	POLARIS TRAIL GRANTS Deadline	
September 18 - 20	International Snowmobile Hall of Fame	Eagle River, WI
September 19	Wyoming Board Meeting	Dubois
September 23	Michigan Board Meeting	Zoom
October 3	Montana Board Meeting	Helena
October 23 - 25	Minnesota Fall Workshop	Alexandria
November 6 - 8	Illinois Convention	Galena
November 20 - 22	Iowa Convention	Clear Lake
	Nebraska Convention	Kearney
December 3 - 5	South Dakota Convention	Aberdeen