



PANHANDLE RIDERS ASSOCIATION INC.

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Email to:
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Just a reminder, if you have not already mailed in your Club Membership renewal dues for 2011, please do so. Dues are not prorated; membership is from **January** through **December**.

New members who join during the last quarter of any year (October through December) are the only exceptions. Their renewal is not due until one year from the first day of January following their joining.

Please mail your dues renewal to the above address with the enclosed *Application Form*. **Please complete this Application Form in order to confirm current contact information on file. (i.e. address, email and phone.)**

A big thank you to all those that have already paid their dues; your support is greatly appreciated.

Original and renewal dues are as follows:

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR ALL MEMBERS IS DUE IN JANUARY (with the exception as noted above for *new* members) and is:

Individual Member	\$15.00
Family Membership	\$20.00
Business Sponsor	\$25.00

**PRESIDENT'S LETTER
BY
BRIAN DUNHAM**

Wow, it's that time again...time to put together another President's Letter! At least we're getting closer to riding season. In case you're wondering, there is still a LOT of snow in the high (and not so high) country.



The photo above was taken up on Hoodoo Mountain between Blanchard and Priest River. There is a road under there somewhere! There is probably 4-6 feet of snow on the level. The good part is that the base is really firm; you can go a lot of places without getting stuck. With a little effort, there are still plenty of places where it's possible to get stuck and give the winches a workout! On a positive note, grooming for snowmobile operation is pretty much over, and the Forest Service expects to remove groomer restrictions in the near future. At least with a little luck, we can get a few days without white stuff; keep an eye on the website for an update.

WELL, WE LOST ANOTHER RIDING OPPORTUNITY

Last month we talked about the proposed closure of the **614 road** leading south from **4th of July Pass** for winter use. This was a popular winter route to Harrison for a hot lunch, and was one of the very few roads open to ATV operation in the wintertime. The operative word is **“WAS.”**

The Nordic Ski Club had requested the closure of 614 in order to groom it for their exclusive use. Never mind that there are a great number of miles of closed roads in this area currently open to non-motorized operation, but closed to us.

All three ATV clubs in the area (Panhandle Riders, North Idaho ATV Association and Backcountry ATV Association) publicized the comment period in their meetings, newsletters and web sites. Together, we have a membership in excess of 700 individuals. **Yet, the total number of letters submitted that opposed this closure was only 16...yep 16! That's about 2% of the combined membership of these organizations.** The skiers managed in excess of 30 comments. With this kind of performance, we have no one to blame but ourselves. If we can't be bothered to take 10 minutes to write a quick letter/email, we can't expect the Forest Service, or any other land manager or public official, to take us seriously as a user group.

One item to keep in mind is that one letter counts as one letter, regardless of whether it's from an individual or from a club of XXX members. **If we want to be heard, everyone must do their part and submit INDIVIDUAL comments.**

As we discussed last month, the “Roads of Concern” are still, well, a concern. I talked with the Forest Service last week. Comments on this issue are still being tallied. While we were promised that the most extreme actions in the Sandpoint Ranger District were to be signage, we have no way of knowing if that's the case in other districts. I hope we had a better response on that issue.

On a more fun note...the ride schedule is being developed. We should have something for our next meeting (Wednesday, April 6th). It will be a busy summer! Let's hope the weather clears and gets the white stuff out of the mountains.

Regards,

Brian Dunham

UPDATE ON RECENT LEGISLATION!! **Motorized Mixed Use Analysis on Forest Service Roads in Idaho**

Update: The Senate Passed Bill S1001AA on March 29th. Now it will be forwarded onto the **House Transportation Committee** (HCT) and then onto the House Floor for all the Representatives to consider for a vote. However, each of us needs to help

keep the pressure on the House Transportation Committee. The committee members are who will decide whether or not to pass this Bill on for a vote to the entire House Reps Floor.

Please contact the members of the HCT as soon as possible and tell them why this legislation is worth supporting. You can do this by email. Keep it short and simple...but polite. Ask them to **“support S 1001 because it is a responsible piece of legislation that will help protect access to Forest Service roads for Idaho Families.”** Leave your name and address and give them some personal information like how important OHV riding is to your family or how often you ride. You can send the one email to everyone below. Just copy the email addresses below and paste into your email message TO line. Easy.

HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE			
Chairman	Leon Smith	Twin Falls	lsmith@house.idaho.gov
Vice Chair	Phil Hart	Hayden	plhart@house.idaho.gov
	JoAn Wood	Rigby	jawood@house.idaho.gov
	Scott Bedke	Oakley	sbedke@house.idaho.gov
	Rich Wills	Glenns Ferry	rwills@house.idaho.gov
	Bob Nonini	Coeur D'Alene	bnonini@house.idaho.gov
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	Joe Palmer	Meridian	jpalmer@house.idaho.gov
	Linden Bateman	Idaho Falls	lbateman@house.idaho.gov
	Julie Ellsworth	Idaho Falls	jellsworth@house.idaho.gov
	Frank Henderson	Post Falls	fhenderson@house.idaho.gov
	Jeff Nessett	Lewiston	jgnessett@house.idaho.gov
	Shirley Ringo	Moscow	sringo@house.idaho.gov
	Phylis King	Boise	pking@house.idaho.gov
	Bill Killen	Boise	bkillen@house.idaho.gov

Thank you to those who took the time to help notify the Senate with Comments of Support. According to North Idaho Country ATV, *“At least two senators mentioned all the messages they had received from users so we know it makes a difference, now you need to work your magic on the House Transportation Committee.”*

If you forgot what this Bill is all about, please refer to the letter sent by the Idaho Recreational Council covering this subject or go to the PRA Website before sending your email to the House Transportation Committee. Thanks very much.

<http://www.northidahoatv.org/legislativefacts/S%201001%20information.pdf>

**SAFETY LETTER
BY
LLOYD POTTER**

When We Ride - - Remember It's Safety, Safety, Safety...don't gamble with it!



Many times we do something incorrectly and get away with it without accident or injury. However, if repeated over and over again, sooner or later things have a way of catching up, and our luck runs out....then we have that accident that ruins our entire day.

So let us review the **right** and the **wrong** way of loading and unloading your ATV.

First: We should look at the types of ramps that are out there. The ***one-piece*** ramps, preferably the ***tri-fold***, are preferred over the ***two-piece***, because the latter are prone to sliding to one side or the other potentially causing a tire to drop off the ramp. The ***tri-fold*** ties everything together, so there is no sliding or separating. Also the ***tri-fold*** ramp is easy to carry as it is all connected and folds up to a compact package.

Second: Now that we have a good ramp, don't forget to ***strap that ramp to the truck or trailer***. This will keep it from possibly dropping off the moving vehicle if things shift for some reason. (*This could seriously ruin the day of someone driving behind you too!*)

Additionally, ***if your ramp is too steep***, this could cause the tires to loose traction and slide or possibly you could flip the ATV backwards. OUCH!

Third: Always make sure your machine is ***in four-wheel drive when loading or unloading***. This will balance the traction and take some stress off the rear wheels. Again, putting all the stress on the rear wheels could cause you to loose traction and slide off one side or the other.

Fourth: ***Never use smooth ramps, such as boards or solid metal***. You may get away with them on a dry day, but if your tires are wet or muddy you could be in trouble.

Remember, take that extra minute to tie the ramps in and be safe. We are out there to have fun and don't need any problems to spoil our day.

Ride Safe,

Lloyd E. Potter

***RIDES COMMITTEE
GEOFF SMITH
CHAIRMAN***

If you wish to participate or give input to the Rides Committee, please contact Geoff Smith, *Rides Committee* Chair at: gls5150@msn.com or call him at *SANDPOINT MARINE & MOTOR SPORTS (POLARIS)*: (208) 263-1535.

Until then, here are a couple of "green" shots to look at and dream.





BUSINESS SPONSOR DISCOUNTS

Please see our newly revised PRA website where a complete list of all our sponsors are now listed.

<http://www.panhandleriders.com/PRA%20Sponsors.html>

We greatly appreciate the following *Business Sponsors* for extending discounts to the members of our club upon presentation of their *Club Card*.

MAY'S HONDA in Sagle gives a **10%** discount to our club members on all parts and accessories.

SANDPOINT MARINE & MOTOR SPORTS (Polaris Dealer in Ponderay) gives a **10%** discount to our club members on all parts and accessories.

PONDERAY YAMAHA gives a **10%** discount to our club members on all parts and accessories.

GENERAL MEETING INFORMATION

The next *General Membership Meeting* will both be held at the Elks Lodge Bar area

on Wednesday, April 6, 2011.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS: Meetings start at 7:00 PM on the first Wednesday of each month unless otherwise advised.

Notice: Dinner is on your own @ the Elks starting at 6:00 PM.

We strongly encourage you to attend our General Membership Meetings' as your input is very important to our Officers and Board Members. Also, it's a great opportunity to meet other members and form new friendships.

Go to for more information & directions:

<http://www.panhandleriders.com/PRA%20Meetings.html>

2010-2011 CLUB OFFICERS/COMMITTEES

This information can now be found with contact information and photos at the PRA Website. Go see what we look like at "Who We Are:"

<http://www.panhandleriders.com/PRA%20Who%20We%20Are.html>

WANTED CLASSIFIED SECTION

Until such time as the Classified Section is moved to the PRA Website, it will continue to be published in the Newsletter.

FOR SALE

1. **DUST MASKS:** I have many colors and designs of dust masks. They are adjustable to fit and work great in the cold, pollen and dust and washable. Only twelve dollars (\$12.00); call Bert at 683-0526.

2. **CLUB SHIRTS:** We have club shirts for your enjoyment for sale. You can see the shirts and purchase them at our monthly meetings or call John Fitzgerald @ 266-0218 to order.