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This is part of an occasional series by the Sanpete Country Travel and Utah Heritage Highway 89 Alliance on the people and places along U.S. Highway 89.

Snowmobiling State Ride Coming Up, Sanpete's Great Outdoors Making Headlines, Hitting the 'Waves'

The Utah Snowmobile Association's annual "State Ride" is coming up Feb. 24 & 25, and Fairview Canyon is the chosen site for this year's festivities.

The ride couldn't come at a better time. Sanpete County's many outdoor recreation opportunities are making the headlines of national newspapers these days and being broadcast over the airwaves.

The snowmobiling event is expected to attract people from all over the state. It will include back country and groomed trail rides, a "poker ride," a special dinner, winter carnival, door prizes and more.

Fairview Canyon will be the gateway to it all.

Brian Howarth, president of the Skyline Sno-Riders, the local snowmobiling organization that has twice been named "Snowmobile Club of the Year" by the Utah Snowmobiling Association, said Fairview was chosen for several reasons. It has some of the best trails in the entire country. It also has a paved canyon road that leads to a trail head that provides access to more than 50 miles of trails to the north at Skyline Drive and some 30 miles to the south to Joe's Valley. There is also a paved parking lot and warming shelters.

The great access, coupled with the great snow and diversity in the riding terrain made it a prime choice, he said. For information on the state ride, contact Howarth at (435) 427-3620 or Darlene Mortensen at 427-3353. Information is also available on the website www.skylinesno-riders.com.

The ride comes on the heels of a story in a national newspaper that focused on the outdoor opportunities of another spot in Sanpete County, Skyline Drive.

Earlier this month, the New York Times printed an article on the sport of "snowkiting," mentioning that one of the "hot spots" for the increasingly popular sport is Skyline Drive.

In addition, new radio and television advertisements will be drumming up even more enthusiasm for the region. The Sanpete County Travel and Heritage Council has teamed up with KUTV outdoors reporter Doug Miller for a new marketing campaign aimed at spreading the word about the outdoor sports opportunities in Sanpete County. The ads focus on the fact that there are year-round options, including snowmobiling and skiing in the winter to boating, horseback riding and golf in the warmer months.



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