

# “Take a Friend Snowmobiling Week” Feb. 14-22 Third Annual Ride Across Iowa to Coincide with Inaugural GoSnowmobiling Promotion

by Cameron Hanson

**S**lated to begin the second Saturday in February, the Iowa Snowmobiler’s Third Annual Ride Across Iowa will coincide with “Take a Friend Snowmobiling Week,” a national promotion from the International Snowmobile Manufacturers’ (ISMA) GoSnowmobiling! campaign.

Open to ISSA members as well as other snowmobilers and especially non-snowmobilers, the four-day ride begins at LeMars in northwestern Iowa on Saturday, Feb. 14, and ends in Manchester in eastern Iowa on Tuesday, Feb. 17. Tentative overnight stops on the four-day run will be Humboldt, Waverly and Manchester.

Recognizing its start on Valentine’s Day, the snowmobile tour will be renamed from the “Top of Iowa” to the “Heart of Iowa.” Please refer to the map graphic for the general route, which is subject to change, pending snow cover and trail conditions. As allows, the path will follow marked and groomed trails only.

“We are dropping further south than the previous two years and hope to incorporate multi-purpose trails along the way, including the Three Rivers Trail by Humboldt, the proposed Rolling Prairie Trail east of Hampton (if approved) and Backbone State Park near Strawberry Point,” explained Iowa Snowmobiler Editor Cameron Hanson.

“We encourage area club members to join us to show us the local trail loops as well as other points of interest. This is not a race. We have all day to tour the various trail systems along the way,” emphasized ISSA President Merv Hoermann, a

veteran of the first two rides and co-coordinator of the 2009 event.

Pre-registration is encouraged to help facilitate planning and accommodations. There is no fee to participate, but riders are expected to cover their own expenses, including meals, fuel and overnight lodging. The magazine assumes no liability for participants and does not guarantee trail conditions. A Special Events Permit has been granted for the event by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

“We are once again seeking sponsorships for the ride to help offset some expenses, either through financial contributions or by providing a support or chase vehicle or simply serving as a local guide,” Hanson said.

Each individual who participates in the event (either as a snowmobiler or non-snowmobiler) is also being asked to register online on the GoSnowmobiling! Web site at [www.gosnowmobiling.org](http://www.gosnowmobiling.org) or the American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA) Web site at [www.snowmobilers.org](http://www.snowmobilers.org).

“Individuals who fill out a registration form will be eligible to win a free snowmobile that will be given away to one of the lucky participants in the event,” confirmed ISMA President Ed Klim. “The main goal of the event is to encourage snowmobilers to take their non-snowmobiling friends snowmobiling.”

For more information on the 2009 Ride Across Iowa, contact Hanson at (641) 330-5565 or [editor@iowasnowmobiler.com](mailto:editor@iowasnowmobiler.com) or ISSA President Merv Hoermann at (712) 260-4810 or [mebeefeater@hotmail.com](mailto:mebeefeater@hotmail.com). \*



Registered participants are eligible to win a new snowmobile from the International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association.

## REGISTRATION FORM Heart of Iowa Snowmobile Tour Iowa Snowmobiler’s Third Annual Ride Across Iowa Feb. 14-17, 2009

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Snowmobile Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I am (check one)  an ISSA member  
 not an ISSA member

If not riding, I would like support the tour as a (check one)

Financial sponsor

Chase vehicle

Local guide

Mail completed form and donations to:  
Cameron Hanson  
312 Second Avenue  
Charles City, IA 50616

Please RSVP by Feb. 1.  
Thank you.



The 2009 planned route basically follows Highway 3 but is subject to change, pending snow cover and trail conditions.