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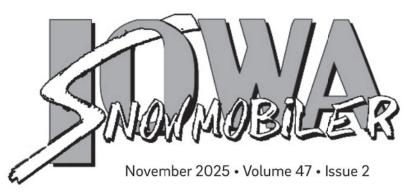
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If your club has elected new officers or if you have an address change, please notify the ISSA office at issasnowmobilers@gmail.com. You can also fill out the form at the bottom of the ISSA homepage at www.iowasnowmobiler.com. Thank you.



Youth Emphasis

Convention activities planned around increasing interest for next generation.





Charity News

Clubs reminded to bring donations to fall convention for 2026 campaign.





Turkey Day Shootout

Scott County club hosts head-tohead competition each November.





Sales Figures

ISMA shares economic data from 2025 season showing sport's impact.





This Month's Map Center Spread:

Humboldt Sno-Skimmers, Region 2



COVER: The Scott County Sno-Seekers host the Turkey Day Shootout grass drags at the fairgounds in Davenport every November. This month's event is planned for Nov. 15. Read last year's recap on page 15. Cover photo featuring Reagan Maher (31) courtesy Scott Vavroch Photography.

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Membership Slump

ISSA numbers follow same curve as snowfall totals; board discusses impact

by Cameron Hanson

The ISSA has lost a third of its members over the past five years. Most of the blame can be placed on low-snow years, as the membership graph seems to follow the same downhill slope as the snowfall totals over that same period.

As of the September board meeting, the ISSA was down to 50 clubs and just 1,337 paid members. Compare that to 63 clubs and close to 3,000 members 15 years ago. Low snow hurts morale, and low interest affects membership recruitment efforts at the local level, causing some clubs to even cease operations as a result.

Over the past half decade, the ISSA has lost six clubs, as those bearing the following county names have all folded: Cedar, Jones, Osceola and Lyon. A fifth, the Dewar Snow Chasers, merged with the Cedar Falls Sno Hawks in Region 4, and now this past summer, the Eastern Iowa Sledheads announced their decision to close up shop, making it three clubs in Region 9 to dissolve since 2020.

Region 1 Director Kevin Winters, who lost two clubs in his corner of northwest Iowa, said the situation boils down to the lack of snow and the closely-related lack of enthusiasm in Iowa. "I hate to say it, but I can see more of this happening if winters don't start to change around here," he said.

Sledheads decision

Located south of Interstate 80, long-time Sledheads President Mindy Scott said poor snowfall contributed significantly to her club's decision to call it quits. Competition from year-round sources of recreation was also pulling interest away from snowmobiling, and she said the club had a difficult time finding volunteers to mark and maintain their 100-mile trail system south of Iowa City.

"The lack of rideable snow in our area, aging membership and the lack of younger riders all had an impact on our decision," she said. "A large number of our members have either sold or traded their snowmobiles for motorcycles and side-by-sides, which can be used longer than six to nine weeks out of the year, and they don't require traveling out of state to enjoy."

The Sledheads were formed in 2000 and, at one point, maintained close to 200 miles of trail, connecting to several neighboring clubs like the Iowa Snowdrifters, the Cedar County Winter Warriors and the Scott County Sno-Seekers. Membership in the

Five-Year Trend

2021	2025
2022	2017
2023	1931
2024	1722
2025	1337

club reached its peak in 2006 at 80 families. For 2024, the club was down to 28 members, and "two-thirds of them never attended a meeting," Scott pointed out.

"We had a great 25-year run as a club, and it's sad to see it come to this, but we also need to be realistic as life moves in different directions for all of us," she said. "But one thing is for sure, the friendships we made throughout the years will remain, and our core members will still get together even though the club has come to an end."

Scott said her club will not be marking trails this fall and will be pulling bridges once the crops are out of the fields. The club has already returned its Polaris Ranger to the Iowa Snowmobile Trail Grant Program (ISTGP) and will be selling its flail mower. The club will be using its leftover funds to make donations to local charities, including the hot lunch program at the school districts in which their members lived.

Starting the conversation

News of the Sledheads' decision to fold as well as the latest five-year downward trend in membership had ISSA board members discussing the current state of affairs at their August and September board meetings. The apparent lack of enthusiasm is concerning, according to several region representatives.

"Everyone's in the same boat," Region 2 Assistant Director Kolby Wagner said. "Clubs used to get 100 people to sign up; now, they're lucky if they get 30. It takes good snow to get everybody excited about the sport again. Until then, it's going to be tough for the ISSA and our clubs."

"It's every club right now," Past ISSA President Chris Willey said. "Until the snow turns around, we're kind of stuck where we're at."

Last season marked the fourth straight winter of below-average snowfall in the state. Couple that with above-average temperatures, and not much riding has happened in Iowa in recent years. Membership totals suffered across the state, and Past ISSA President John Kahler is scratching

his head to find ways improve optimism within Iowa's snowmobile community.

"The question is what can we do as an organization to support clubs to get members back," Kahler said. "We know the popularity of side-by-sides is growing, and we're probably losing members to that. But what can the ISSA do? We need memberships because that's where our budget comes from. We need to entice clubs to go out and look for new members."

"We can have events. We can mail out dues reminders. We can send emails. We can do whatever, but until we get snow, there is not much incentive to get people to join," Wagner said.

One proposal is to reinstate the ISSA's Early Membership Renewal Program, in which members who renew before convention are entered into a winter vacation drawing. Another option is to offer a three-year membership again, so the ISSA doesn't lose out on revenue during lowsnow years.

"There has to be a way for the ISSA to get bigger, even when winters hurt our numbers," Kahler said. "I think we need to find a way to reward clubs that are going out and meeting and trying to get new members."

Recordkeeping

Please note the ISSA's membership year follows a calendar year and does not go by the snowmobile season. Memberships renew each January and close out at the end of June. Therefore, clubs who are collecting memberships this fall should advise members their dues count toward the 2026 campaign.

ISSA Secretary Kelsey Bram, who chairs the ISSA's Membership Committee, said clubs need to turn in their membership lists by June 30 to be eligible for the current year and to be included in the mailing list for this publication.

"Therefore, if a club is just now submitting their information, their members may not make the magazine list until next October," she explained ahead of the ISSA's September board meeting.

Bram is also asking club officials to submit their membership rosters on a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet or to share a Google Sheets file with the ISSA office at issasnowmobilers.com.

"Please remind all clubs to use the membership template provided to them," Bram requested from Region Directors Sept. 28. "Please do not send membership lists as a PDF and do not include unpaid members on the spreadsheet."

Willey, who serves as co-administrator of the ISTGP, is also working with Nathan Matter from Groomer Tracking Systems on creating a feature to add membership lists through the SNARS program.

"Nathan believes there is a possibility to help with our data collection," he said, following interest at the September board meeting. "He is going to look into it a little deeper and get back to me with cost."



It's not all bad news for the ISSA membership. A pair of Region 2 snowmobile clubs are celebrating their longevity in 2025 with 50th Anniversary parties. The Humboldt County Sno-Skimmers hosted a reception at Joe Sheldon County Park in Humboldt Aug. 16, and on Nov. 22, the Emmet County Driftbusters are planning their get-together.

Above are the sleds and groomer on display at the Sno-Skimmers' Open House. "We appreciate everyone who came out to help us celebrate this special milestone," said longtime club president Shane Braby, who served seven years from 2018 to 2025. The Sno-Skimmers are also this month's map sponsor on the center spread.



Happy Fall, Sledders!

We're finally seeing a cool down, and hopefully that's the start of our turn toward a great snowy winter ahead! The weather guessers are still leaning toward a decent winter for us snow lovers. Here's hoping they get it right this time.

Hay Days was a blast as always, and I may have brought home a few more things than I needed-including another sled. The wife was impressed... but actually, she wants to ride it herself, which is one of the many reasons I knew she was a keeper!

I hope your fall has been productive, with trail marking and prep going smoothly, and groomers getting tuned up for the season. Convention isn't far away, and the details are in this magazine, so make plans to attend! It's sure to be a fun and worthwhile time.



Spending quality time with friends at the Arctic Cat booth at Hay Days in September.

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Planning More Youth Activities at this Month's Convention

by Cameron Hanson

As the ISSA struggles with its membership numbers, organizers for the 52nd Annual ISSA Convention are doing what they can to boost morale and generate interest in the sport, particularly the next generation of riders who clearly represent the future of snowmobiling in Iowa.

Besides entertainment and organized activities for the adults, Convention Planning Committee Co-Chair Craig Krapfl said he is lining up youth events for the Saturday aftermoon timeslot opposite the seminars. He hopes to have games and information on snowmobile safety available to kids in attendance and is also working on lining up a guest speaker for their age group.

"We have set aside some quality time on Saturday to focus on the youth," Krapfl said. "As an organization, I think we need to find out what interests them and gather any ideas they may have for keeping them engaged for the long run."

Region 5 Assistant Director Steven Burke, whose family of seven won the ISSA's Family of the Year Award last year, hopes the youth activities the committee is working on will help with the draw and improve youth attendance at the ISSA's annual gathering.

"I think at last year's convention we were the only family there with kids," he noted at a recent board meeting.

Convention details

This month's convention is set for Nov. 14-16 at the Quality Inn and Suites in Ames, the same venue as the 2021 and 2022 conferences. As the host site rotates to the central part of the state, clubs from

Region 7 are planning all activities. Krapfl, who is the Region 7 Director for the ISSA, is helping to coordinate the event with Region 7 Assistant Andy Lundquist.

As detailed on the forms on page 14 of this month's issue, convention registration for youths between the ages of 5 and 14 is discounted to \$30 and anyone under the age of 5 is admitted for free. Full adult registration costs \$85 with ala carte options available. Registration fees do not cover lodging. To book a room, contact the hotel directly at (515) 425-4115 and ask for the ISSA rate of \$109/night plus tax.

Seminar speakers

A tentative agenda for the weekend also appears on page 14. Besides the youth program, Krapfl said they are planning three seminars for Saturday afternoon. Drew Gaffney from Track Inc. is expected to go over Groomer Maintenance, and Todd Bowman from the Saylorville Dam Snow-

mobile Club is scheduled to discuss Mountain Riding.

"Todd is an experienced mountain rider from Des Moines and will likely go over such topics as avalanche awareness, safety gear and preferred riding areas," explained



Todd Bowman

Krapfl, who is also a member of the Saylorville club. "But he really wants to start out by telling people that riding out west is



not just about getting stuck all the time. He said there are great experiences to be had out there and wants to encourage everyone to try it out."

The third breakout session will be reserved for the engineering students from nearby Iowa State University who compete annually in the SAE's Clean Snowmobile Challenge. As they have at past conventions, the team will review their past season's results and then discuss their project for the 2026 competition.

"Hopefully, after their presentation, we will be able to send some folks down to campus to tour their facility, but we're still working out the logistics for all of that," Krapfl said. "It's a pretty small space where they work out of, so not everybody will be able to go down there."

Donations sought

New this year, Krapfl said they are planning to schedule the afternoon seminars in hour-long blocks consecutive to one another in the same meeting room. Previous conventions featured concurrent seminars, and attendees had to choose between which one to attend. "This way we have a captive audience for each speaker and not everyone is getting up and leaving," Krapfl explained.

Opposite the seminars will be a ladies off-site event to be determined. The Iowa Snowmobile Trail Grant Program update and election will be held at noon, and a Groomer Reception is planned for 5 p.m. ahead of the Awards Banquet at 6 p.m. Saturday morning will include the General Membership Meeting, Region Elections for odd-numbered regions and updates on ISSA programs.

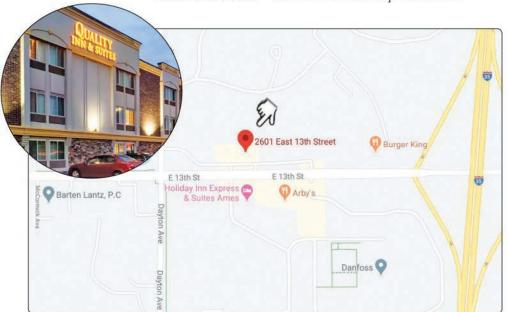
Both Friday and Saturday night will feature a live band and games for entertainment. The ISSA is also raffling off a Ski Doo MXZ 200 youth snowmobile at the Saturday evening banquet.

Throughout convention weekend, clubs will have the opportunity to set up displays in the hotel lobby to brag about their trails and activities during the Snowmobile Iowa showcase. Pre-registration is encouraged by filling out the form on page 14.

Clubs are also reminded to bring donations for the Silent Auction and General Raffle. The planning committee is also soliciting donations to help offset costs for the weekend. For more information or to donate, contact Lundquist at (515) 571-9808 or lunker74.al@gmail.com or Krapfl at (515) 707-7237 or cjksleds@gmail.com.



Sally Carmichael with the Cedar Falls Sno Hawks in Region 4 will once again be raffling off a snow-themed quilt at the ISSA convention. The drawing will be held Nov. 15, and all proceeds benefit the ISSA's Education and Scholarship Foundation.



Convention hotel address is 2601 E 13th St., Ames. Exit 113 off of Interstate 35.

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Clubs Encouraged to Bring **Charitable Donations to Ames**

by Cameron Hanson

The ISSA's fundraising year renews later this month at the annual fall convention in Ames. Clubs are reminded to bring their charitable donations for the 2026 campaign to the Saturday evening banquet for presentation and recognition.

As detailed on the charity list on page 18, snowmobilers in Iowa get behind many worthwhile causes and non-profit groups, but the flagship charity is the Spina Bifida Association of Iowa (SBAIA), an organization the ISSA and its clubs have been supporting financially since 1982.

In 2025, the ISSA's official charity received more than \$4,000 in donations from 15 snowmobile clubs in Iowa. The Driftrunners in Region 5 led the way with \$1,100 in contributions and were followed by the Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club in Region 7 with \$750. This year's total amount to spina bifida was down compared to 2024, which brought in \$7,356.

Financial support is critical to the SBAIA's success, but not everything the ISSA does in relation to spina bifida is economic. In February, the Saylorville Dam club hosts the ISSA's annual Winter Fun Day with SBAIA families at Huxley. In October, those same club members also display snowmobiles at a booth at the SBAIA's Walk-N-Roll at the IowAbility Fair at the Easterseals Camp in Des Moines.

Saylorville club member Craig Krapl, who represents snowmobilers from his area as the Region 7 Director on the ISSA board, also volunteers as the ISSA's liaison with the SBAIA board. He said he is impressed



Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club Secretary Jacob Huber once again provided rides in his UTV for kids with spina bifida.



Spina bifida families gear up for UTV rides during the ISSA's Winter Fun Day at Huxley Feb. 2.

with the philanthropy shown by club members each year, both in terms of financial contributions and volunteer hours.

"Without the generosity of individuals and organizations like the ISSA, the SBAIA would not be able to provide the support it does to families affected by spina bifida," Krapfl said. "We are proud of our strong partnership with the SBAIA and look forward to continuing our relationship with them for years to come."

Long-term commitment

Over the past 40 years, snowmobilers in Iowa have donated close to \$320,000 to the SBAIA. The group earmarks those funds for educational programming, family outreach and expenses related to medical care, including crutches, braces and wheelchairs. They've also been sending kids and adults to summer camps.

"Our donations are vital in helping to improve the lives of individuals and families living with spina bifida in Iowa," Krapfl said. "Through various grant programs, the SBAIA is able to provide assistance for a number of initiatives. It also helps with and promotes advocacy at the state and national level to improve the daily lives of individuals with spina bifida."

Now in his third year, Krapfl succeeded Past ISSA President Bruno Andreini as the ISSA's representative on the SBAIA board.

He works closely with Janet Reiger, board chair, and Sydney Stuart, executive director. As they have in the past, delegates from the SBAIA are expected to staff a booth at this year's convention to help spread the word about their organization. They will also take time to express their gratitude to Iowa snowmobilers and to talk the group about their ongoing work.

WSA supports local family

Spina bifida is a birth defect where the spinal cord does not close properly, and the disability leads to incontinence, mobility issues and other physical limitations. Over the years, families have shared their personal experiences and inspirational stories with snowmobilers, including Mary Helen Biller of Clive, Rhonda Brown of Des Moines and Ali Larson of Webster City.

This month, we meet Kane Bloes, oneyear-old son of Brett and Kelli Bloes of Jesup. The Bloes family is sponsored by the Wapsipinicon Snowmobile Association (WSA), and last February, the Region 5 club "surprised" them with a financial donation toward the end of their regular club meeting. According to President Curt Miller, the WSA has long supported the SBAIA since the club's founding in 1988.

"When we learned there was a newborn child from our community with the birth defect, we knew something had to be done to help assist the family," Miller said. "We had our meeting like normal, and then toward the end, we had Brett and Kelli come forward with Kane and presented them with a financial donation to help with the costs of going to medical doctors."

"We are extremely thankful for what the ISSA does for spina bifida, and our family feels incredibly blessed to have been touched by the Wapsipinicon Snowmobile Association," Kelli Bloes said in a followup Thank You email to Miller.

Kane's story

Kane was born on July 8, 2024, at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics



The Iowa Walk-N-Roll was held Oct. 18 in Des Moines.



Wapsipinicon Snowmobile Association President Curt Miller (far right) with the Bloes family from Jesup last February.

(UIHC) in Iowa City. His parents had been referred there since that April, when ultrasounds at their local clinic began showing brain malformations. "We knew we were expecting a baby boy at the time," Kelli said. "What we didn't know was how the anatomy scan would bring the unknown and the unexpected."

On April 4, their baby was diagnosed with spina bifida, and following extensive consultation and testing, the family decided to pursue in-utero fetal surgery to repair his spine. The May 2 procedure lasted seven hours at Lurie Children's Hospital in Chicago. Following a month of weekly monitoring in Illinois, Kelli was released to return to Iowa and to continue care at the UIHC, eventually giving birth at 34 weeks.

Following his delivery, Kane spent close to a month in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit in Iowa City. Midway through his stay, he underwent surgery to implant a ventriculoperitoneal shunt to drain excess fluid from his brain. He will live with the shunt for the rest of his life, and his mother said he was "a rockstar" throughout the procedure.

Kane was released from the hospital on Aug. 10 and joined older siblings, Isabell and Carson, at home. For ongoing treatment, he completes outpatient physical therapy weekly and bi-weekly in-home physical therapy. Had he not undergone inutero surgery, his mother said there would have been "a chance" Kane would not have had any mobility below his waist.

"We are so thankful for the research that has been done, which gave us options to consider after receiving this diagnosis," Kelli said. "We continue to be Kane's biggest advocates, and today, he is the happiest little boy, showing amazing strength despite the odds he was given."

Dave Carmichael (1995-96) Deceased

Scott Kooiker (1993 -94) 261 160th Ave. Ellsworth, MN 56129 (507) 360-4667 sjkooiker@hotmail.com



Dick Melick (1989-90) Deceased

Roger Muth (1987-88) Deceased

Larry Childs (1986) Deceased

Dan Martin (1984-85) Deceased

Mary Heikens (1982-83) Deceased

Chuck Colegrove (1981) 5606 6th Ave., Armstrong, IA 50514 (712) 864-3170

Rich Moench (1980) Deceased

Gary Fairchild (1979) 933 170th St., Ogden, IA 50212

Bill Nordstrom (1978) Deceased

Gary Bruns (1977) Deceased

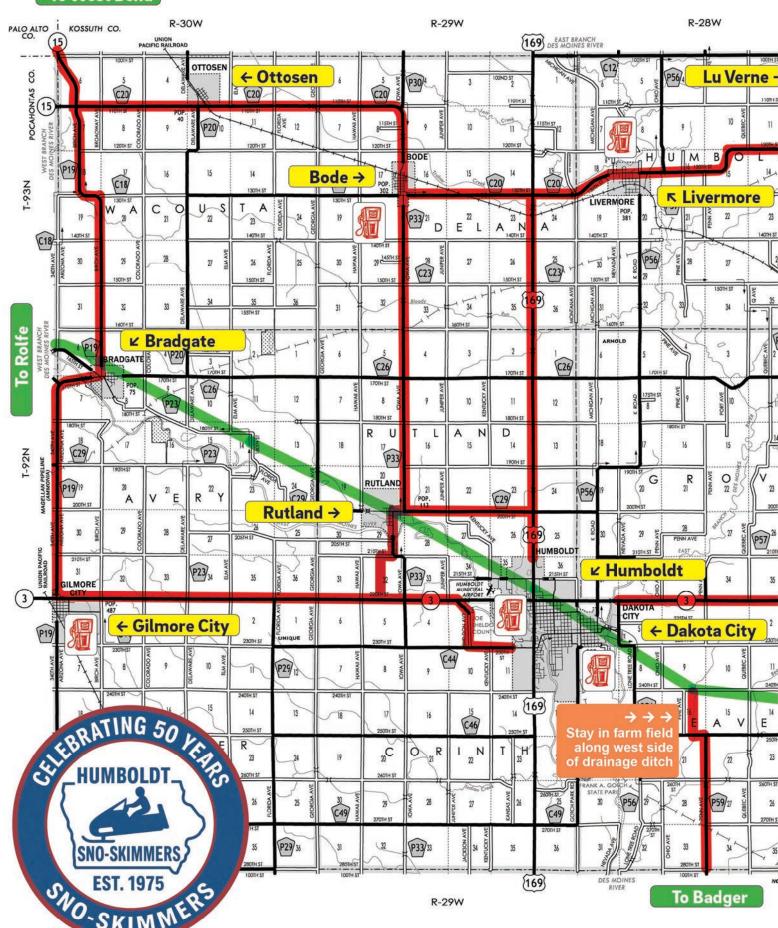
Richard Grosse (Mar 1975-Dec 1976) 7543 Ford Rd., Janesville, IA 50647

Larry Huntley (Nov 1973-Mar 1975) 401 East 1st St., Alta, IA 51002





To West Bend



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2025 ISSA Annual Convention Nov. 14-16, Ames, IA

Tentative Agenda

Friday, Nov. 14

4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Convention Registration Snowmobile Iowa Set-Up

6 p.m. Hospitality

Saturday, Nov. 15

8 a.m. to Noon
8:30 a.m.
Opening Ceremonies
8:45 a.m.
Region Meetings & Elections
General Membership Meeting
10:30 a.m.
Brunch. Silent Auction opens

Noon ISTGP Update 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Youth Program 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Seminars:

Groomer MaintenanceMounting Riding

- Clean Snowmobile Challenge

4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Convention Registration 5 p.m. Groomer Reception

6 p.m. Dinner

6:30 p.m. Silent Auction closes 7 p.m. Awards Banquet 8:30 p.m. Entertainment

Sunday, Nov. 16

9 a.m. ISSA Board of Directors Meeting

2025 ISSA Annual Convention Nov. 14-16, Ames, IA

Snowmobile Iowa Club Showcase

Club Name		Region
Contact Person		
Address		
Phone Number	Email	

Mail completed form to:

ISSA Convention c/o Craig Krapfl 3614 SW 29th St. Ankeny, Iowa 50021 cjksleds@gmail.com.

Official Notice of ISSA Elections & Proposed By-Law Changes

Who: Officers & Directors from Odd-Numbered Regions

When: ISSA General Membership Assembly

ISSA Annual Convention, Nov. 15, 2025

Where: Quality Inn & Suites, Ames

2025 ISSA Annual Convention Nov. 14-16, Ames, IA

Registration Form

Name		
Address		
City	State	Zip
Phone Number		
Email		
Snowmobile Club _		
Organization		
Full Registration Friday Night-On Saturday-Only F Youth Registrati Children Under	nly Registration Registration on (5-14 years old 5	\$25 \$75 d)\$30 Free
Amount Enclosed		s
Registration fees do		

at (515) 425-4115. Be sure to tell them you are with the ISSA Convention to receive the block room rate of \$109/night plus tax.

Please make check payable to the

2025 ISSA Convention.

or pay by Venmo

lowa State Snowmobile Assn @lowaState-SnowmobileAssn



venmo

Mail payment (or Venmo receipt) and completed registration form to:

ISSA Convention c/o Craig Krapfl 3614 SW 29th St. Ankeny, Iowa 50021

For more information, contact:

Andy @ (515) 571-9808 lunker74.al@gmail.com

Craig @ (515) 707-7237 cjksleds@gmail.com



Region 9 hosted their Sixth Annual Turkey

Day Shootout on Saturday, Nov. 16, 2024, at the Mississippi Valley Fairgrounds in Davenport. Racers usually come from Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois, and last year, as far away as Muskegon, Mich. As the racers arrived, the sound of snowmobiles and friendly competition filled the air.

The Turkey Day Shootout got its start as a backyard, drop-of-the hand drag race where racers just drove what they brought. Now it has grown into a competition with basic classes and a starting light. Everyone who signs up to compete is racing for two things: the laser cut metal trophy, and bragging rights, but the main reason remains to have fun.

The main objective for the Sno-Seekers is to have a fun event and draw attention to snowmobiling and to get interest for new riders and to grow or keep the love current riders have for the sport. This event has definitely started drawing a crowd. Public spectators, who have little to no experience with snowmobiles, enjoy coming to watch and talking with experienced riders.

The Sno-Seekers have definitely achieved a positive atmosphere. That is evident in the interviews of fellow racers.

Stephanie Lasak, the racer from Muskegon, Mich., has been riding sleds for seven years. It was her first time coming down to the



The Turkey Day Shootout features two-lane competition.



Kirk Meyer and Sebastian Meyer patiently wait their turn.

Turkey Day Shootout. She spoke very highly of the event's atmosphere and how well the event was run. When asked if she would be back next year, her response was, "Yes. Absolutely."

While a majority of the event is organized competition, grudge match racing is a crowd favorite. Those races are a first come, first served scenario where anyone can challenge anyone on any sled. For many, this is not seen anywhere else.

For Kirk Meyer, a local rider, this is one of the best parts of racing. He meets up with the same guys he's been racing with for 20 years, and they just go at it with each other for the bragging rights.

Meyer started racing when he got his first sled, an F7 Firecat in 2003. It's the thrill that keeps him coming back.

"It's just like a drug. Once you get it in your veins, just can't get it out. It's fun as heck," he said.

It's great to see people who tried snowmobiling get hooked, but for just as many, they're born into it. Parents pass down the love for riding onto their kids and those kids keep the tradition going.

Bexley West was the youngest racer at last year's Turkey Day Shootout. She made passes on her Arctic Cat 120 at just seven years old. It was Bexley's third time coming to the fairgrounds to race with her family. She said that her favorite part was going fast.

After a successful day of racing, the SnoSeekers club members and volunteers begin to pack up for the day. As the day comes to a close and the track is taken down, one can notice the straggling trailers of riders socializing with others.

This event wouldn't be possible without everyone who gets involved from the club members and other volunteers who work the starting light and finish lines, to working the entrance gates and setting up the track. The other critical component are the racers who bring their sleds to race and show-off and have fun.

We hope to see you all later this month for the seventh annual grass drags. The event is planned for the fairgrounds once again on Nov. 15. For more information, contact Kevin Toft at (309) 798-8802.



Spectators line the pits and cool-down lane.



ISTGP Election Notice

The Iowa Snowmobile Trail Grant Program will be electing its Central Region representative at noon on Saturday, Nov. 15, at the Quality Inn and Suites in Ames during the 52nd Annual ISSA Convention.

Registered snowmobilers who live in the Central Region outlined above are eligible to vote. They do not need to be registered for the convention and do not need to be a dues-paying member to the ISSA to cast a ballot.

Nominees were due to the ISTGP office by Oct. 15. Incumbent John Gallentine currently serves in that role. For more information on the program, visit www.iowasnowmobiler.com/ istgp or email ISSA.RSC@gmail.com.

Emmet County Driftbusters, Region 2

by Jason Harvey, President

The Driftbusters are planning our 50th Anniversary slated to be held at the Elks Lodge in Estherville on Nov. 22. This will include live music, snowmobiles on display, camaraderie, fun and games to go with the evening. Come celebrate with us; all are welcome. No need to be an Emmet County Driftbuster member and we are not charging anything to get in the door.



I'd also like to share that Emmet County is home to the world record ET and MPH for Pro Extreme 55 class on grass in 500 feet. ISH Racing along with Aaron Casler piloting took this title at Chi-Town.

Driftrunners, Region 5

by Zach Gooder, Board Member

Fall is in the air, and crops are coming out of the area. Soon, members will be out working on trails-marking with signs, clearing brush, fixing and replacing bridges—all in hope of a great snowmobile season!

We recently held our annual meeting with good attendance for our brunch. Our board elected a new President in Steven Burke, with Chris Shimek moving into a one-year term as Past President. We also elected a new Vice President to a two-year term in Darius Jones.

The board also received nominations from members for new board members, and we elected two new members to fill our board openings.

Good luck to all of the area clubs and members getting prepared for this season's activities!

Snowmobile Hall of Fame Founder Passes Away

Elmer Cone of Bovey, Minn., the founder of the International Snowmobile Hall of Fame, passed away Sept. 25. He was 88 years

Born in Park Rapids, Minn., Cone lived north of Grand Rapids, Minn., and worked in the mine, logging and construction industries of northern Minnesota.

His passion was recreation, and he was instrumental in the development of the multipurpose Taconite Trail, which stretches 165 miles from Grand Rapids to Ely, Minn. He was a charter member of the Lawron Trail Riders as well as other trail user groups.



In 1984, Cone founded the International Snowmobile Hall of Fame at Bovey. The

first inductees were announced in 1990, and since then, more than 130 distinghished snowmobilers have been inducted into the prestigious organization.

The ISHOF recognizes pioneers, trailblazers, industry executives as well as members of the organized snowmobile community who have worked tirelessly to keep the sport alive and well. Several snowmobilers from Iowa are counted among its enshrinees, including five past ISSA presidents.

The ISHOF is now housed at the World Snowmobile Headquarters in Eagle River, Wis., and is independent of the International Snowmobile Racing Hall of Fame at nearby St. Germain, Wis. Learn more at ishof.org.



Smith Shares Data on Sport's Economic Impact

Last winter, 92,387 new snowmobiles were sold worldwide, according to figures released by the International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association (ISMA).

U.S. sales were reported at 41,588 sleds, while Canadian sales were 34,828 units. Additionally, 1.3 million snowmobiles were registered in the U.S., and more than 559,000 snowmobiles were

> registered in Canada. Iowa typically averages 20,000 registered snowmobiles each season.

> ISMA President Jaret Smith shared this data in June at the 2025 International Snowmobile Congress at Prince Edward Island in Canada, where he also discussed the economic impact of snowmobiling.

> Smith said the sport contributes \$26 billion annually in the U.S. and another \$20.6 billion in Canada. Overseas in Europe, the sport contributes \$4 billion annually to the economy.

> "Over 100,000 full-time jobs are generated by the snowmobile industry in North America," Smith said. "Those jobs are involved in manufacturing, dealerships and tourism-relat-



ISMA President Jaret Smith during a roundtable discussion at the 2025 ISC in PEI.

Other statistics reviewed by ISMA at Congress revealed the median age of a snowmobiler at 54 years old, and each one, on average, spent close to \$2,500 last year on snowmobile-related recreation.

ed businesses."

"Half of all snowmobilers trailer their snowmobiles to ride, and half snowmobile from their primary residence or have a vacation home where they keep and use their snowmobiles," Smith pointed out.

Worldwide, there are more than 3,000 snowmobile clubs involved in trail maintenance and preparation, charity fundraising and family activities. Together, they raised over \$3 million for charity last season. "Snowmobilers are caring neighbors," Smith

Smith also said snowmobiling is great exercise and brings people outdoors to interact with nature as well as each other. He described snowmobiling as an "invigorating sport, great for stress release and good mental health."

ACSA Represents Snowmobile Interests at National Level

The American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA) was established more than 30 years ago to represent and to be a voice for snowmobiling at the national level. ACSA serves as a watchdog organization that monitors and acts on snowmobile issues across the Snow Belt.

State snowmobile associations, such as the ISSA, are members and hold seats on the ACSA Board. They also participate in the Trails Riding Region and Mountain Riding Region. ACSA is led by Executive Director Christine Jourdain.

The Trails Riding Region focuses on issues that impact snowmobiling in those states that primarily have established trail systems for snowmobilers. They will be holding their annual meeting and Ride-In at Watersmeet, MI, Jan. 28-Feb. 1.

The Mountain Riding Region works with western states traditionally known for off-trail riding in the mountains. They will be holding their annual meeting and Ride-In at West Yellowstone the third weekend in February.

ACSA organizes the Washington, D.C. Snowmobile Fly-In each year. This allows snowmobilers from across the U.S. to visit their Congressmen and Senators, along with their staff, in Washington to discuss issues back in the districts they represent. "Snowmobilers Tell the Truth" to the legislators and agency decision makers about issues such as CRP, trail bridges, RTP and PFAs-all snowmobile-related issues.

"ACSA provides a common, collective voice in defending public land access, federal regulations, local challenges, snowmobile safety issues and promoting snowmobiling as a family sport," Jourdain said.

Available online at www.snowmobilers.org and on Facebook, ACSA has a weekly electronic newsletter that shares information with snowmobilers about hot topics, legislative initiatives, and other snowmobile-related information.

"We are committed to the future preservation of our sport and rely on snowmobilers at the grassroots level," Jourdain said. "By working together, we all accomplish more."

CALENDAR

November

- Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club Vintage Show Nov. 8 at 10 a.m. in Elkhart.
- ISSA 52nd Annual Convention Nov. 14-16 at the Quality Inn & Suites, Ames.
- Scott County Sno-Seekers Turkey Day Shootout Grass Drags Saturday, Nov. 15, at the Mississippi Valley Fairgrounds, Davenport. Call (563) 340-9671.
- · Club News deadline Nov. 14.
- · ISSA Grand Raffle Drawing Nov. 15 at the Awards Banquet at the ISSA Convention in Ames.
- ISTGP Central Representative Election at noon on Nov. 15 at the Quality Inn & Suites, Ames.
- · ISSA Board of Directors meeting Nov. 16 at 9 a.m. at the Quality Inn & Suites, Ames.
- Emmet County Driftbusters 50th Anniversay Nov. 22 at the Elks Lodge, Estherville.
- Driftrunners annual Toy Drive Nov. 28 in Cresco.

December

Club News deadline Dec. 12.

Arctic Cat Resumes Sled Production in Minnesota

Snowmobile production has resumed at Thief River Falls following the acquisition of Arctic Cat by a new ownership group.

The purchase agreement was announced last April, and according to Arctic Cat officials, the entire powersports industry was able "to breathe a huge sigh of relief," knowing one of the most iconic brands in powersports was poised to inject new energy into what felt like a questionable future.

"Arctic Cat is in the hands of believers," Arctic Cat CEO and President Brad Darling said in August. "From day one, I knew everyone involved was ready to roll up their sleeves and dig in.

"That proof continues to show itself every day," he continued. "Now, we have not only released a new offroad lineup but also hit the start button on the production line. I couldn't be prouder of the efforts put forth and every-



New ZR with power steering unveiled at Hay Days in September.

thing we have been able to accomplish in the first 90 days."

The first unit to come off the line was a Wildcat XX, and the snowmobile product line started to move forward producing the Kitty Cat youth snowmobile. Arctic Cat's St. Cloud engine facility is also ramping up for what looks like a very busy season, producing "some of the finest engines" to be put in the next generation of Arctic Cat machines, according to an Arctic Cat press release.

The company's strategy is simple. "It all starts with understanding the mind of the rider," the company statement reads. "This brand is now run by people who ride, and our products are built for those who live to ride. We know where to go next. Every decision, every machine, every message comes from the trail up, not the boardroom down.

"Arctic Cat's relentless drive to produce quality products that are built right and built in Minnesota will continue to usher in new ideas and deliver new ways to enjoy the outdoors."



Load of new Arctic Cats heading to dealers.

2025 DONATIONS

Spina Bifida Association of Iowa

Spina Bifida Association of Iowa
Driftrunners \$1,100 Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club \$750 Bremer County Sno-Knights \$300 Floyd County Groomers Association \$300 Snow Pioneers \$300 Cedar Falls Sno Hawks \$250 Central Iowa Snowmobilers \$250 Clay County Sno Broncs \$100 Dickinson County Snowhawks \$100 Iowa River Riders \$100 Raccoon Valley Snow Chasers \$100 Southwest Iowa Snow Scooters \$100 Team Iowa Snowmobilers \$100 Webster County Ice Breakers \$100 ISSA Lobbyist Club Challenge Central Iowa Snowmobilers \$350
Floyd County Groomers Association \$300 Snow Pioneers \$300 Cedar Falls Sno Hawks \$250 Clay County Sno Broncs \$100 Dickinson County Snowhawks \$100 lowa River Riders \$100 Raccoon Valley Snow Chasers \$100 Team Iowa Snowmobilers \$100 Webster County Ice Breakers \$100
ACSA Legal Defense Fund
Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club.\$250Floyd County Groomers Association\$200Iowa River Riders\$100Raccoon Valley Snow Chasers\$100Team Iowa Snowmobilers\$100Webster County Ice Breakers\$100
ISSA Scholarship Foundation
Central Iowa Snowmobilers\$250Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club\$250Floyd County Groomers Association\$200Cedar Falls Sno Hawks\$100Raccoon Valley Snow Chasers\$100Team Iowa Snowmobilers\$100Webster County Ice Breakers\$100
ISU Clean Snowmobile Challenge
Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club(\$250+\$500 match) \$750 Dickinson County Snowhawks
ALS of Iowa
Raccoon Valley Snow Chasers\$100Team Iowa Snowmobilers\$100Webster County Ice Breakers\$100



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Fundraising year renews each November at convention. Please mail donation checks or Venmo receipt to:

> ISSA Treasurer 21263 Prairie Stream Dr. Adel, IA 50003.

President: John McKenna

REGION 1

Buena Vista Blizzard Busters President: Jeffrey Sassman 709 Hudson St., Storm Lake, IA 50588

(712) 299-1001

Clay County Sno Broncs

President: Phillip Claus 1805 Highland St. P.O. Box 225 Ruthven, IA 51358 (712) 363-1004 pclaus14@gmail.com

Dickinson County SnowHawks www.dickinsoncountysnowhawks.com P.O. Box 504, Spirit Lake, IA 51360 President: Skyler Hartwig 1661 280th St. Spirit Lake Iowa 51360 (712) 330-7559

O'Brien County Snowtrackers

Steven Wiersma 5801 370th St, Primghar, IA 51245 (712) 461-2774 steelpack2017@yahoo.com

Powder Players Inc. P.O. Box 154, Remsen, IA 51050

www.powder-players.com President: Jesse Schroeder 23376 Marble Ave., LeMars, IA 51031 (712) 548-8384

jesséschroeder1980@gmail.com Sioux County Snowmobile Club

President: Ben Van Der Brink 3471 Eagle Ave Rock Valley, IA 51247 (712) 470-1176 ben@bklandscape.com

REGION 2

Emmet County Driftbusters

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emmetcodriftbusters@gmail.com Humboldt Sno-Skimmers

President: Leo Reigelsberger

2275 Elm Ave., Gilmore, City, IA 50541 (515) 368-5396 Kossuth County Drift Skippers

President: Taylor Erpelding 619 6th St., Whittemore, IA 50598 (515) 320-5658 erpeldingt423@gmail.com

Palo Alto Rough Riders

President: Adam Kerr P.O. Box 118, Cylinder, IA 50528 (712) 298-0338 adamkerr1@outlook.com

Sno-Pak P.O. Box 122, Rockwell City, IA 50579 Find us on Facebook President: Tyler Wagner 2635 280th St., Rockwell City IA 50579 (712) 297-0062

REGION 3

Hancock County Snowmobile Assn. President: Dan Stromer 1840 Hwy 69, Klemme, IA 50449 (641) 587-9903, stromerd@yahoo.com Iowa River Riders

President: Joe Harrah 505 Rowan Rd., Dows, IA 50071 (515) 851-8516 iowariverriders@gmail.com

Lakota Sno-Eagles

President: Michael Smidt 3509 185th Ave., Titonka, IA 50480 (515) 320-4052, myiq599@gmail.com North Iowa Śno-Jammers

P.O. Box 103, Lake Mills, IA 50450 www.northiowasnojammers.com President: Matt Trunkhill 135 310th St., Woden, IA 50484 (515) 320-0737, mtrunkhill@wgo.net North Iowa Snow Seekers

President: Chad Brouwer 15 Williamsburg Cir Mason City, IA 50401 (641) 425-4872

northiowasnowseekers@yahoo.com

Worth County Fence Stretchers P.O. Box 27, Northwood, IA 50459 President: Mike Peterson P.O. Box 97, Kensett, IA 50448 (641) 390-1499 petersonex@wctatel.net

REGION 4

Bremer County Sno-Knights President: Nick Shepherd 120 Prestien Dr., Denver, IA 50622 (319) 215-8243 Nick.Shepherd668@gmail.com

Butler County Snow Snoops President: Seth Bram P.O. Box 484, Allison, IA 50602 (641) 512-1932

snowsnoops@gmail.com

Cedar Falls Sno Hawks

President: Gary Matthias 3205 McClain Dr., Cedar Falls IA 50613 (319) 235-7667

gmkm2161@gmail.com

Chickasaw Sno-Riders President: Bill Kout 2902 Ridgeway Blvd., Lawler, IA 52154 (641) 220-1056

billkout67@gmail.com Floyd County Groomers Association President: Joe Obermeier

1301 Missouri Ave Charles City, IA 50616 (641) 330-6225 www.floydcountygroomerswebs.com Howard County Stump Jumpers President: Scott Schumann

10071 Oak St., Lime Springs, IA 52155 (641) 220-3508

Mitchell County E-Z Riders, Inc., President: Denny Salz

112 N. Main St. St. Ansgar, IA 50472 (641) 220-6087 dieseldennis1@gmail.com

REGION 5

Allamakee Sno-Blazers

Allamakee Sno-Blazers PO Box 94 Waukon, IA 52172 President: Brandon Fahey snoblazers@yahoo.com

Dubuque County Snowhawks President: Tom Spalla

3309 Brook Hollow Dr., Asbury, IA 52002 (563) 582-8893, tnspalla@hotmail.com Clayton County Snowbirds 12469 Hwy. 18, Postville, IA 52162 President: Dan Torkelson

302 E Church St. Farmersburg, IA 52047 (563) 880-2422

Driftrunners, Inc.

DriftrunnersSnowmobileClub@gmail.com President: Steven Burke 7246 Unity Ave., Cresco, IA 52136 steven@burkecresco.com

Dyersville Driftskippers

www.dyersvilledriftskippers.net President: Ryan Ameskamp 29465 Dyersville E Rd. Dyersville, IA 52040, (563) 599-6312

Snow Pioneers

President: Mitchell Heims 917 N. 7th St, Manchester, IA 52057 (563) 920-2141, heims@live.com

Trail Blaz-zers Inc. trailblazzerssnowmobileclub@gmail.com P.O. Box 162, Sumner, IA 50674 President: Dustin Taylor (563) 920-4634 Double.d.taylor@gmail.com

Trails Unlimited

1222 Hwy. 150, Festina, IA 52144 President: Chris Holthaus (563) 380-5460 holthauselectric@hotmail.com

Wapsipinicon Snowmobile Association P.O. Box 802, Indepedence, IA 50644 www.wsaiowa.com President: Curt Miller 1225 9th St., Jesup, IA 50648 (319) 240-1106 snowcat@jtt.net

Winneshiek Trail Twisters Inc. P.O. Box 154, Decorah, IA 52101 President: Kevin Downing 2404 Tamarack Dr Rd. Decorah, IA 52101 (563) 380-6779 wtrailtwisters2022@gmail.com

REGION 6

Sac County Snow Lovers P.O. Box 464, Lakeview, ÍA 51450 President: Jamie Rohlf 408 Center St., Wall Lake, IA 51466 (712) 830-2196

Southwest Iowa Snow Scooters President: Trent Larson 25817 208th St., Crescent, IA 51526

(712) 309-1516, trentlarsn@gmail.com

REGION 7

High Bridge Trailblazers President: Nate Guess 689 190th St., Ogden, IA 50212 (515) 290-2348

Raccoon Valley Snow Chasers President: Mike Patten 5204 Neva Pt., Panora, IA 50216 (641) 755-3863, mjpat76@aol.com Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club P.O. Box 3133, Des Moines, IA 50316

www.saylorvilledamsnowmobileclub.org President: Zac Parry 4685 Merle Hay Rd Suite 106 Des Moines, IA 50322

Team Iowa Snowmobilers

www.teamiowasnowmobilers.com President: David Eide 3339 Stagecoach Rd. Stratford, IA 50249 teamiowasnowmobilers@gmail.com (515) 835-8000

Webster County Ice Breakers

President: John Gallentine P.O. Box 193 Dayton, IA 50530 (515) 351-7859 jgallentine86@gmail.com

REGION 8

Central Iowa Snowmobilers

P.O. Box 1751, Marshalltown, IA 50158 President: Rob Schneider 1864 Marsh Ave. Marshalltown, IA 50158 (641) 750-7927 17schneider@gmail.com Tri-County Snowmobile Association P.O. Box 231, Traer, IA 50675

5164 23rd Ave., Mt. Auburn, IA 52313 319-721-5895, jnmckenna1@gmail.com **REGION 9**

Cascade Snowmobile Club

President: Steve Peiffer 916 6th Ave. SE, Cascade, IA 52033 (563) 599-1875

Eastern Iowa Sno-Riders President: Logan Goettsch 1945 278th St., Calamus, IA 52729 easterniowasnoriders@gmail.com

Frozen Few P.O. Box 612 Cedar Rapids, IA 52406-0612 President: Jamie Prull 1101 First St., Palo, IA 52324

(319) 981-0397, jprull@prullgroup.com Scott County Sno-Seekers scottcountysnoseekers@gmail.com 1312 Middle Rd Bettendorf, IA 52722

President: Kevin Toft (563) 340-9671, toft800ac@gmail.com Snowdrifters, Inc.

P.O. Box 5735, Coralville, IA, 52241 www.iowa-snowdrifters.org President: Duane Sadler 87 135th St. Lisbon, IA 52253 (319) 651-6097 jdsadler02@gmail.com

Snowmobilers of Jackson County President: Dale Sieverding 30939 320th St., Bellevue, IA 52031 (563) 451-6625 dalesieverding@yahoo.com

REGION 1 Van's Power Center LLC 517 Brown St. Hull, IA 51239

(712) 439-6060 REGION 2 Algona Machine 2204 Plum Creek Rd. Algona, IA 50511 (515) 341-3967 amsinc@ncn.net Becker Diesel 1951 Van Buren Ave. Manson, IA 50563 Big Ride Restoration 2031 Tabor Ave. Manson, IA 50563 (712) 210-1267 (712) 210-1267 bigriderestoration@ yahoo.com City of Manson 1015 13th Ave. Manson, IA 50563 (712) 469-3759 Flipside Pizza & Pub 11 Dewitt St. LuVerne, IA 50560 (515) 882-9303 (515) 882-9303 **Hwy 7 Café** 815 Queen St. Fonda, IA 50540 (712) 288-5898 **Joe's Tire & Auto** 749 High St.
Rockwell City, IA 50579
(712) 297-8818
Johnny's Bar & Grill
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Autism Society of Iowa P.O. Box 65311 West Des Moines, IA 50265 (515) 327-9075 autism50ia@aol.com autismia.com **Edward Jones** Justin M. Bjerke 2575 N Ankeny Blvd. Ste. 217

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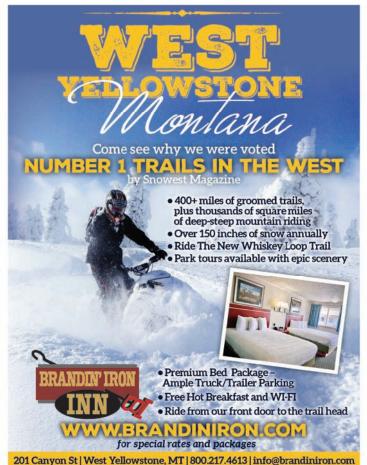
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