

IOWA SNOWMOBILER

March 2013 • Volume 34 • Issue 6

**Exploring
Ashland's
Iron Belt**

**Reimburse
Our Gas Tax**

**Iowa snowmobilers
want their state fuel
taxes earmarked for
trails...not roads**



Spina Bifida Kids Bundle
Up for ISSA Charity Ride

Father-son duo ride
from central Iowa to
northern Minnesota



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Father, Son Ride to Northern Minnesota

Weidemanns depart Dows for family fishing cabin in February of 2011



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ISSA Stumps for Fuel Tax Reimbursement

Iowa snowmobilers hope to join neighboring states in increased trail funds



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Spontaneous Trip to Wisconsin

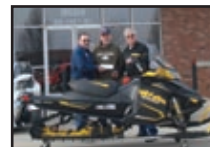
Iowa riders come across some unusual sightings during five-day mancation



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Grand Raffle Renewed; Charity Ride Profiled

Clubs recognized, chip in with Spina Bifida in this month's Club News



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COVER: Brent Weiner of Rockwell cruises the trail system near Cable, Wis., in March of 2012.

CONTRIBUTORS: We welcome unsolicited materials and letters for possible publication. Iowa Snowmobiler accepts no responsibility for returns, losses or damage of unsolicited materials. Iowa Snowmobiler is the official publication of the Iowa State Snowmobile Association under the direction of the ISSA Magazine Committee. It is published seasonally six times a year in September, October, November, December, January/February and March. The magazine is printed and distributed by Pioneer Graphics, Waterloo, IA.

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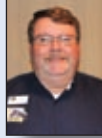
IOWA SNOWMOBILER

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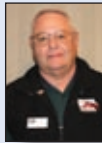
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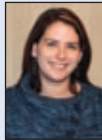
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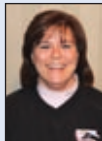
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President's Message

Eternal Optimism

Here we are in March, close to the end of a mostly disappointing snowmobile season for the second year in a row. With all of the work Iowa snowmobile clubs put in to maintain and sign the trails across the state, it is disheartening when week after week goes by without rideable snow. It is part of being a snowmobiler in Iowa, waiting out the long dry spells until the white stuff comes and we have reason to celebrate. I guess that is why I am a Cubs and Packer fan: I am an eternal optimist and always believe that better times are just around the corner.

Even so, I have spent a lot of time this winter thinking about all of the faithful people in the Iowa clubs and on the ISSA board and wishing that there was something we could do to get more snow. Alas, the snowfall, however, is under control of a much higher authority than the ISSA.

These are not the first bad snow years, and they will not be the last, and even as I am beginning to think in terms of next season, I find myself hoping that the loss of membership in the clubs and the ISSA will not be too damaging, as it always falls off after a couple bad snow years.

Next season a lot of snowmobilers will not renew their club and ISSA memberships, will not buy trail passes and some will not even renew the registrations on their sleds. All of this will make it more difficult if 2014 is a good snow year, as we will be planning the season projecting less

funding for groomers, fuel, repairs and even signs.

For those still reading this magazine and my humble words in this column, I urge you to remember the joy of an Iowa snowfall, and going out of your home and hitting the trails that you helped create and maintain for yourself, and the satisfaction of seeing others enjoy the trails you make possible. It will snow again in Iowa—it always does—and we will be ready.



Jim Willey
ISSA President

Also to look forward in the coming season is the celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the ISSA. The 40th Anniversary Committee and the ISSA Convention Committee are making plans to have special events in the coming season—watch the fall issues of the *Iowa Snowmobiler* for special announcements and events!

Fuel tax initiative

Another symptom of poor snowfall amounts has been the lack of enthusiasm among Iowa snowmobilers to make the needed contacts to their legislators to support the Iowa state snowmobile program with the gas tax from fuel used in snowmobiles.

As of this writing, **Turn to page 5**

Vice President's Desk

Stay Tuned on Gas Tax

The January thaw did its damage here in Iowa. We lost all our snow by Jan. 13, but the team managing the Spina Bifida Ride was thinking ahead and got some UTVs lined up so the kids got their ride without snow.

We have also had some serious accidents while snowmobiling in the state by Jan. 13. My condolences go out to the families of those riders.

Our state legislators are back at work and our lobbyists have a careful eye on any and all legislation that might affect our sport. One thing they are watching for is an increase in our gas tax in the state of Iowa. If that happens the ISSA is ready to ask that an amendment to that bill asking that gas tax sold for snowmobile use be given back to state snowmobile program for snowmobile trail improvement.

Please know we are not asking for a gas tax increase; we are just asking to get the tax you already pay for your snowmobile

returned to the snowmobile program for the purchase of new groomers, trail maintenance and other equipment needed to maintain and groom our trails.



Thayne Lowman
ISSA Vice President

All of the surrounding states get this tax refund to help their snowmobile trail systems, and Iowa boaters also get the tax for the gas used in their boats for boating programs and projects. We are just asking to be treated the same.

If the tax issue comes up, we will be asking all the snowmobilers to contact their legislators and ask them to support the refund amendment.

More to come on that, but meanwhile, pray for snow and ride safe.

Quarter-A-Day Promotion

Hello to all my fellow snowmobiling friends. This is Guy Overland, your Region 3 Director. It's my turn for a column this month so I thought I'd write an article about what I brought up at last November's convention.

Being that ISSA is a major sponsor of Spina Bifida and that we are always looking for new ways to raise money for them, I brought up what I do for my grand daughter each year. I put 25 cents a day in a jar each day. At the end of a year, I have saved up to \$91.25. I then use this money to buy her a savings bond. It is a lot easier to raise money this way rather than all at on time.

If I can get some of my fellow snowmobilers to get on board and put a quarter a day in a jar or container, it would



Willey

my appeals to Iowa snowmobilers to contact their legislators and attend their forums and listening posts have gone largely unfulfilled. By the time you read these comments, we will have a pretty good idea if enough effort was mustered by snowmobilers to make the provisions in the legislation happen.

Hopefully, the efforts will be successful, putting the fuel tax proceeds from snowmobiles used on Iowa snowmobile trails into the state snowmobile program fund. Snowmobilers are paying tax being used on roads that they cannot operate their snowmobiles on. Designating the fuel tax to the snowmobile fund will not increase the amount of tax that anyone pays; the tax amount will be the same amount whether the snowmobile program is supported or not.

What we are asking would only make sure that tax on fuel used in snowmobiles was designated for use on the snowmobile trails. It is no different than fuel used in farming operations not being taxed for road use, and the Iowa boaters receiving the tax for the fuel that they use. It is snowmobilers' money and it should be used for snowmobiling programs.

Another valid point is that designating the gas tax from snowmobiles to the snowmobile program is a good investment. In Iowa, \$81 million is generated each year directly from snowmobiling. As documented in studies by Iowa State University, the average Iowa snowmobiler consumes 60 gallons of fuel per year in Iowa. This is \$350,000 in the state gas tax that needs to be allocated back to support snowmobiling

be great. 100 people could raise \$9,125.00. If we got half of our membership of over 3,000 members, which would be roughly 1,500 people, we could raise \$136,875.

WOW! Just think of what a difference that could make and, with just a Quarter a



Guy Overland
Region 3
Director

land@hotmail.com, to let me know.

Thanks, everyone.

Day.

I'm bringing my jar to the next convention. If you like this idea and want to help out, let your region director know and they can bring the money to the convention if you can't make it.

I plan on continuing to do a quarter a day. If you are with me, drop an e-mail at guyover-

Continued from page 4

and the recreational opportunities and economic impacts it creates. Continuing to invest in the snowmobile program continues to support the much larger economic impact of snowmobiling in Iowa.

ISSA fundraising activities

Of course, we also do other activities to raise funds for Iowa snowmobiling. I recently had a region director tell me that he was starting to feel like the hated traveling salesman. When attending club meetings, offering ISSA calendars, ACSA calendars, raffle tickets, and whatever else was going on at the time, he would hear: "Hey, Ron, what are you trying to pawn this month?"

ISSA Board members, club members and other supporters sometimes feel that they are trying to sell something everywhere they go, and it is not an easy sale. The question is, would it be better to sell a calendar or two or to have ISSA dues increased?

The real reward is not the calendar or even being the lucky winner of a raffle. The real reward is Iowa snowmobile trails, access to road ditches, signs and groomers. Consider what would club members be paying if they had to buy the groomers, landowner insurance, signs, etc., out of their own pockets? I do not think anyone really enjoys selling items, but I can guarantee you that someone who bought a calendar and won a prize felt pretty good about supporting ACSA, as did the ISSA raffle winner now riding a new sled. I hope no one feels they have to apologize for efforts to sell calendars or raffle tickets to support the ISSA and ACSA. I can assure you that

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Meeting with Snowmobilers from Coast to Coast

Editor's Note: Past ISSA President Terry Durby is in his second term as president of the American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA), of which the ISSA is a member. What follows here is his winter report to the ACSA membership. For more information on ACSA, visit www.snowmobilers.org. Durby can be reached at tdurb@yahoo.com.

The fall and winter for ACSA has been a very busy one. As part of ACSA's initiative laid out at last summer's Congress to get more exposure for ACSA, many members of the Executive Committee and beyond have attended many events and meetings.

My first fall event was a trip to Green Bay, Wis., to meet with the International Snowmobile Congress (ISC) Planning Committee. ACSA Vice President Duane Sutton and Executive Director Christine Jourdain also participated in the meeting. This is the meeting each year where the ISC Planning Committee reviews the ongoing plans for the upcoming ISC. We also do a walk-through of the facilities and visit the off-site venue. I thought the Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs has assembled a wonderful staff and put forth a lot of great plans. I am looking forward to ISC 2013 in Green Bay.

My first promotional event was in September when I attended the Hay Days Grass Drags and Swap Meet in Minnesota and was the first to fly the new ACSA feather banner and table banner we had designed and purchased. There is one table banner for each Chapter and one feather banner that will be housed at the office. Just let your Chapter chairs know when you are having an event you would like the table banner for and contact the ACSA office for the feather banner.

Most of the ACSA effort at Hay Days was to get information to attendees about ACSA and what we do for snowmobiling and access. We also sold Sled Warrior wrist bands for the ongoing access battles in Idaho and other states. I would like to thank the Iowa contingency for helping staff the booth as an extension of the ISSA booth. I would also like to thank Mark Steinmueller and the Minnesota United Snowmobilers Association (MnUSA) who also helped promote ACSA and sold Sled Warrior bracelets at the MnUSA booth on the other side of the event.

In October, I was able to attend the MnUSA Fall Workshop and was given some

time at their meeting to tell the ACSA story and what we are moving forward with. This weekend event was slightly shortened for me as I was feeling under the weather. Nonetheless, it was a very rewarding event for me to attend. I took many ideas home with me.

In November, I attended the annual meeting for the Illinois Association of Snowmobile Clubs along with ACSA's Executive Director Christine Jourdain, where we were given an hour to do a presentation highlighting ACSA achievements, challenges and the direction we are moving. We also fielded questions from the group in attendance. Throughout the weekend, we had many one-on-one and group discussions. I felt I got to know many more passionate snowmobilers with great ideas.

Later in November, I attended the Iowa convention along with Judy King. This was the first year ACSA had been given time to give a short presentation on what ACSA is all about and what it is doing for snowmobiling.

Northeast Chapter visit

In January, just after the New Year, Duane Sutton and I went to New York to attend a New York State Snowmobile Association Board meeting and a Northeast Chapter meeting with New York, New Hampshire, Vermont and Massachusetts representatives in attendance. ISMA's Ed Klim was also in attendance and Pennsylvania was able to participate by phone.

The floor was opened up for discussion and comments on a large number of topics that had been brought forth previously through letters of concerns. When the meeting was over, I believe everybody felt the meeting was very beneficial to all and well worth everyone's time.

All of the information was documented and taken back to the Executive Committee which formed a response letter to the states in the Northeast with some actions that had been taken, others that could possibly be done and yet others that could possibly be discussed in future meetings.

Another highlight of that trip was the Friday snowmobile ride with a large number of newly-found friends from New York.



Terry Durby
ACSA
President

It was great riding and they showed great hospitality the entire weekend.

In early February, I met Christine in Wyoming to participate in the Western Chapter meeting/Access Summit. We met on Friday to discuss challenges in each state attending the Summit. They allowed us to offer suggestions and asked questions in an open and relaxed meeting format. We found that not only are there challenges in the west for access and lawsuits, but there was also much information sharing on OHVs on trails, habitat challenges, IRS 501(c) status, registration and legislative challenges.

Also in attendance was Ron McKinney, the new state trails program manager for the Division of State Parks for Wyoming, along with Rick Schuler who is in the Evanston/Mountain View Ranger Districts for National Forests in Utah. Kim Raap provided information on projects and challenges in Wyoming.

We also spent time reviewing the ACSA FHWA project and seeking ideas for future access and safety projects. It was a long day of meetings but well worth the time spent. The entire group felt it was very worthwhile so it was decided to start planning for next year's Summit.

On Saturday, those of us who were able to ride went for a day of riding in the Bridger National Forest just outside of Alpine, Wyo. Mother Nature treated us to 6-18" of fresh snow and eventually bright sunshine. With an abundance of deep powder and open spaces, it proved to be a great day of riding and a real education for one out-of-shape flatlander. Well, somebody had to provide some comic relief.

Along with great riding, we were treated to a view of about 900 elk that were feeding on hay provided by the Box Y Guest Ranch through Fish and Wildlife contracts. Tim, from the Box Y, provided us with some great insight on their inoculation, tagging and GPS tracking of the elk. The size of the herd was very impressive, considering that just to the north of the Bridger National

Forest around Yellowstone, it was reported that wolves had diminished the elk numbers down to 30 or 40.

I would like to thank Duane, Judy, Christine, Mark and Kay for representing ACSA at many of the events around the Snow Belt this year. I am sure I missed others who helped ACSA at different events this year. Everywhere we went, we found great hospitality and friendly people. Along with that, there was a passion for snowmobiling and sincere interest in supporting and helping ACSA.

Face-to-face is best

In the effort for the Executive Committee to attend more events, I have taken one thing away this year: It is the fact that you cannot totally replace good old-fashioned "in person" meetings with online webinar meetings and conference calls. The webinar meetings and conference calls can fill the gaps in between "in person" meetings to stay in touch in a very cost-effective way.

Over the last few years, in an effort to save everyone time and money, we started embracing webinar meetings and conference calls. One of ACSA's successes through webinar meetings is that we been able to hold monthly Executive Committee meetings.

I feel it is important to go out and meet with each Chapter at least once a year in their regional settings. I think it is important for the Chapters to meet and network. I also think it is important for ACSA to be there to listen, learn and participate in those discussions. We all learn from each other.

I have had some personal challenges of late dealing with aging parent issues and increased workload at the county level and was glad I had a strong and helpful Executive Committee to help me keep ACSA moving forward during some difficult times. Always feel free to contact anyone of us with questions and issues. We are all there to help you and ACSA.

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D.C. Fly-In, ISC 2013 Planned

Upcoming snowmobile-related events on the national level include the ACSA D.C. Fly-In April 20-23 in Washington, D.C., and the International Snowmobile Congress (ISC) in Green Bay, Wis., June 6-8.

The ISSA will be represented at both events. The Fly-In is ACSA's annual trek to Capitol Hill for three days of business meetings, guest speakers and visits to Congressional offices.

The 2013 ISC will be hosted by the Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center in Green Bay. The Congress is a gathering of dedicated snowmobilers from across the U.S., Canada, Sweden and Russia.

The three-day ISC event features seminars, updates from ACSA and the International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association, ACSA chapter meetings and an awards ceremony.

For more information on ISC 2013, visit www.isc2013.org. To register for the ACSA D.C. Fly-In, visit www.snowmobilers.org.



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Willey

Continued from page 5

someone objecting to buying one has spent money in much less constructive ways.

Concerns from club visits

Another concern that I encountered as I attended snowmobile club meetings across the state this season was that the funds generated by the gas tax reimbursement would be used for additional enforcement officers for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR).

I get it that no one likes to get a ticket. But I hope you will agree that IDNR enforcement is a very important part of the Iowa snowmobile program, most importantly for enforcing laws for snowmobiler safety, keeping trails safe by ensuring un-

It is accurate that all of the funds which come from registrations, permits, and hopefully the gas tax all go to the IDNR, who administers the state snowmobile program, purchases the groomers, pays for the trail signs and provides the funding to the clubs through the operating grants.

The ISSA membership dues which individuals and clubs pay directly to the ISSA are used for the things that the DNR cannot pay, such as lobbyist fees and the direct costs which DNR rules do not allow them to pay. The ISSA administers the education programs, the sign ordering and distribution, communications to clubs and stakeholders, and many other countless responsibilities carried out by Region Directors, their assistants, committee members, ISSA Officers and Past Presidents.

The ISSA/IDNR snowmobile program is one of the most successful partnerships between a government entity and a non-profit organization in Iowa.

Additional legislation

Other legislation the ISSA has been working on with the DNR for upcoming seasons includes changing the rules to make it MUCH easier to register vintage sleds, particularly those which have not been registered for a number of years and those for which a prior registration cannot be found, requiring only the snowmobile serial number and bill of sale to make the vintage registration possible.

Another important revision being supported by the ISSA is to make it legal for young snowmobile riders to ride on trails and public areas on an appropriate-sized machine while under the direct supervision and control of an adult, consistent with rules for ATVs and boats.

Other, less impactful changes usually occur with rules updates, but no other updates are currently planned as of this writing. We will know later this year if these revisions were successfully implemented.

Snowmobiling in Iowa is available and well organized because of all of our efforts. Thank you for your support. I hope as you read this a good March snowstorm has left a thick blanket on Iowa, and the next thing you will do is get a good ride on great Iowa trails! See you on the trail!

Special Note—The ISSA was saddened on Feb. 25 to learn of the passing of Karen Lowman, wife of ISSA Vice President Thayne Lowman. Our condolences and sympathy go out to Thayne and the Lowman family for their loss.

2013 ISSA Club Challenge

Wapsipinicon Snowmobile Assn.....	\$ 1,000*
Sac County Snow Lovers.....	\$601
Frozen Few.....	\$525*
Central Iowa Snowmobilers.....	\$350
Webster County Ice Breakers.....	\$350
Floyd County Groomers.....	\$300
Eastern Iowa Sledheads.....	\$300
North Iowa Sno-Jammers.....	\$300
Snow Pioneers.....	\$300
Bremer County Sno-Knights.....	\$250
O'Brien County Snowtrackers.....	\$250
Chickasaw Sno-Riders.....	\$250*
Eastern Iowa Sno-Riders.....	\$210
Sno-Pak.....	\$200
Palo Alto Rough Riders.....	\$150
Winneshiek Trail Twisters.....	\$100

All donations benefit the ISSA's lobbying efforts at the State Capitol in Des Moines. Send your contribution to: ISSA, c/o Dave Carmichael, 2212 190th Street, Tripoli, IA 50676.

* 2012 donation not recognized in 2012.

safe or riders intoxicated or impaired do not cause injury or death to themselves or others. But IDNR enforcement also ensures compliance with registration and trail pass (user permit) requirements, which are the primary funding source for the snowmobile program. Without enforcement, there would be little compliance for safety or funding.

Having said that, there are no plans to expand the enforcement spending from the overall funding with the success of the gas tax efforts or not, just as there has not been any specific increase from the trail pass (user permit) funds. While there will always be a need for, and very high priority placed on IDNR enforcement, the increases in funding realized with the trail passes and those sought from the fuel tax are targeted to provide funding for groomers, trail development and maintenance.



Editor's Note: The following ride story was submitted by Ryan Weidemann, then of the Iowa River Riders of Region 3, about a backpacking trip he and his father Merle made in February of 2011, the last practical winter Iowans could ride from home north into Minnesota by snowmobile trail.

by Ryan Weidemann

Special to the Iowa Snowmobiler

Every President's Day weekend, my dad Merle and I trailer up to somewhere in northern Minnesota—usually to our family's fishing cabin about 15 miles east of Bigfork—for four to five days of riding the vast trail system of northern Minnesota.

We've always talked about riding from my hometown of Dows, but most years, there was always somewhere between our home and the northwoods with little or no snow. But the winter of 2010-11 was an exception. For most of January and early February, there was at least a foot of snow between Franklin County (Iowa) and Itasca County (Minnesota).



The goal: The family fishing cabin near Bigfork.

So that season was our opportunity to try it. We had originally planned to leave on Tuesday, Feb. 15, but after the warm weekend and highs predicted to be in the 50s by Tuesday in Iowa, we decided to bump up the departure date a day and headed out.

On the trail before sunrise

It's 6 a.m. Monday morning, Feb. 14. As we left my dad's shop in Dows before sunrise, the snow was slushy at best. It was 35°F outside, not exactly prime riding conditions to begin a snowmobile trip.

The weekend had not been kind to the snow in Iowa. Forty-degree weather had pretty much decimated the snow in the fields, but the ditches were still full, and we had faith as we travelled north that we'd find more snow.

We started out due north down county road ditches to Highway 107, on up to Ventura Bay on Clear Lake, west on Highway 18, then north to Fertile. Puddles had been

Seizing the Opportunity

Father-son duo backpack from central Iowa to northern Minnesota in February of 2011

gathering in the ditch bottoms, but an overnight cold front had firmed things up a bit.

Most of the fields were already black, but as we got near Highway 9, the snow got better, and we hooked up with the local trail system to take us across the border into Minnesota.

We crossed into the North Star State at a little past 9 a.m. near the town of Emmons. From there we found Minnesota state trail #17 and followed that right on up past Waseca and Waterville to Le Center.

By now, it was 1:30 p.m., and having made good time so far with the most of the running being ditch and fence lines, we decided to stop for lunch at a small family café right along the trail.

By 2:30 p.m., we were back on the trail, moving northwesterly towards Henderson on the Minnesota River. From there, we went north and found Corridor Trail #37. After a couple more hours, it was getting dark, and we were getting tired.

After speaking to a friendly gas station attendant, we decided the Americinn in Annandale would be our overnight destination for the night. We rolled into Annandale at about 7 p.m. 290 miles in the first day, and most importantly not a squeak, scratch, or busted leg between us.

Crossing the Mississippi River

The next morning, the temperature had yet to drop below freezing, so we wasted no time and were on the trail by sun-up. One of the biggest challenges for the entire trip lies close ahead. The Mississippi River is an obstacle most take for granted in a car, but on sled, it presents an impassable border. It doesn't freeze over in that part of the

country due to power plants, and most of the bridges don't allow sled traffic.

After talking to some local snowmobilers before our trip, I learned about the Highway 24 bridge at Clearwater, Minn.



Stopping in Le Center on Day 1.

It's a quarter-mile of concrete but rideable. We cleared it by 8:30 in the morning, and after finding some puddles to cool our sleds down in, we were back on track.

Day 2 found a mixture of ditches, cross-country fields, woods, and river valleys all the way from Becker, on north to the gap between Mille Lacs and Brainerd. Staying on mostly local club trails, we made good time throughout the morning.

At noon, we did stop for our lone mechanical calamity of the trip. Most of my carbides were left ingrained in the concrete back on the Clearwater bridge, and my sled was pushing like a snowplow. Luckily that was one of the dozen or so spare parts we had strapped to our overloaded sleds, and in 20 minutes, we were northward bound again.

The afternoon was great riding, as we pressed on to the Cuyuna Range, Aitkin, and Hill City. In Aitkin, we crossed the Mississippi for the second time, but no bridges and concrete, as it was frozen.

Staying ahead of the mud

Up to this point, I'm pretty sure we were about 45 minutes ahead of the mud, but by the time we were in Itasca County, the snow had gone from barely adequate to plentiful, and a quick step off the trail would leave you in snow well above your knees. We ended our day at the Americinn in Grand Rapids, another 260 miles, and the end in sight.

The next morning we were eager to finish up so again we were on the trail before the sun broke. The third time across the Mighty



Ryan on the trail.

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ISSA Award Nominations Due June 1

by **Mindy Scott**

Chair, ISSA Awards Committee

It is once again time to think about nominating some very worthy Iowa snowmobilers for the ISSA's prestigious annual awards program.

We would like to urge every Iowa snowmobile club to look carefully at your membership and to start the nomination process now. Nomination forms are available on the ISSA website iowasnowmobiler.com/issa/awards.

All nominations must be sent via email (preferably) or via U.S. Postal Service by no later than June 1. Please note this new deadline is two weeks later than the normal May 15 cut-off.

Nominations should be emailed to both snohawk101@ymail.com and scott4@iowatelecom.net or mail hard copy nomination to ISSA Awards, 2212 190th Street, Tripoli, IA 50676-9686.



Crossing the Mississippi River for the third time of the trip, this time via the Bill Powers Memorial Bridge at Grand Rapids.

Father-son trip

Continued from page 9

Miss this time was via the Bill Powers Memorial Trail Bridge at Grand Rapids.

Once through town, we started out on the Taconite Trail, northern Minnesota's Interstate for snowmobilers. A quick 40 miles to the Herb Brandstrom Trail, a stop at the Scenic Pines Store, and some forest road riding, and we had made it.

It was 603 miles to the front door of our family's cabin, the steps to which were buried under three feet of snow.

Being only Wednesday, we still had five days before we had to be back in Iowa (where I believe it was in the 70s). A couple of my dad's friends came up to do some ice fishing and were nice enough to drag our trailer up with them. They hauled us back to Iowa on Monday, Feb. 21.

In total, we finished with 1,285 miles of riding in one week...by far the most we had ever done and the best trip we've ever had.



Merle checking the snow depth on the trail near Togo, Minn.

Your nominations should include photos of your nominee(s), letters of support from your club, community, etc., and any available news articles, videos or other information pertinent to the nomination.

If you have any questions about any of these nominations, please contact us at the above email addresses.

In 2012, the following outstanding snowmobilers were honored by the ISSA. Snowmobiler of the Year: Joe Paulus, Floyd County Groomers, Rockford; Lady Snowmobiler of the Year: Andrea Willey, Snow Pioneers, Manchester; Snowmobile Family of the Year: the Steve and Sherri Vorwald family, Snow Pioneers, Manchester; Young Adult Snowmobiler of the Year: Mike Paulus, Floyd County Groomers, Rockford; Groomer of the Year: Chris Willey, Snow Pioneers, Manchester; Dealer of the Year: Leer's Cycle Center, Waterloo; ISSA Club of the Year: Floyd County Groomers, Region 4.

The "winning" nomination packets of the 2013 Snowmobiler, Lady Snowmobiler, Snowmobile Family, Youth Snowmobiler and Dealer of the Year will be sent to the American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA) for consideration in their annual national awards that will be presented at the International Snowmobile Congress in early June.

The Groomer of the Year nomination will be sent to Arctic Cat for consideration in its International Groomer of the Year program at the International Snowmobile Hall of Fame ceremonies held at Eagle River, Wis., in September.

Let's make this a banner year for the ISSA's awards program. Help your club make a commitment to nominate at least one Iowa snowmobiler today. Remember, your club's nomination could be the one that names the next Snowmobiler of the Year, Groomer of the Year, etc.

2013 ISSA Grand Raffle

Win the Sled of Your Dreams!



Win the snowmobile of your choice valued up to \$10,000 from any ISSA Associate Member Dealer.

Winner is responsible for all taxes, titles and fees. ISSA will provide payment to dealer for up to \$10,000.

**Grand Prize Drawing
at 40th Annual ISSA
Convention in November**

Tickets cost \$20 each or six for \$100. Contact your Region Director to purchase.

Questions? Contact ISSA Raffle Committee Chair Gary McVicker at (641) 425-1375.

Reimburse Our Gas Tax

Iowa snowmobilers want their state fuel taxes earmarked for trails...not roads

by **Cameron Hanson**

Proponents of a 10-cent gas tax hike in Iowa were expected to rally in support of the measure at the Statehouse in Des Moines the last week in February, claiming the increase was needed to offset a \$215 million budget shortfall to repair the state's ailing transportation infrastructure.

The bill, if introduced, is expected to start in the House Transportation Committee and, according to ISSA Lobbyist Mike Heller, needs to be reported out of committee by March 8 to remain eligible for consideration this legislative session.

For the record, the ISSA would support the increase on one condition only: that language would be added to any bill that would earmark a small fraction of the state's gas tax askings for snowmobile trail maintenance and grooming.

"If the portion of the tax used in snowmobiles is not designated for the Iowa snowmobile program, then an increase in the fuel tax would be an unfair increase in cost to Iowa snowmobilers without any benefit to Iowa recreation," explained ISSA President Jim Willey.

"Snowmobilers across Iowa and the (ISSA) do not support the fuel tax increase unless it dedicates the fuel tax revenue used in snowmobiles to a secure snowmobile fund," Willey continued. "The fuel tax from snowmobiles should be used for snowmobile programs, not used on the roads."

ISSA leaders have pushed for this reimbursement for more than a decade now and finally believe the momentum is in their favor. Successfully completing a two-year campaign to increase trail funding through a \$15 user permit last season, officials feel

they have a good rapport with legislators at the Capitol building.

"We made great progress last year with the trail pass legislation, and we have an opportunity to build on that success with getting our fair share of the fuel tax that is not used on roads," Heller said. "The message is simple: We are being taxed for fuel that is not used on the roadways, and it should be dedicated to a snowmobile fund."

Boaters already get their share

Bolstering the ISSA's case for a fuel tax reimbursement program is the fact that the boating community in Iowa has reaped the benefits of a similar fund for more than a decade. Water enthusiasts use this funding source for new docks, boat ramps and other shoreline improvements.

Another point to consider is many of the state snowmobile programs in Iowa's neighboring Snow Belt states already have access to gas taxes, including South Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin. Michigan is also on that list.

Weighing all these factors, the ISSA membership—by a show of hands—unanimously endorsed a measure to pursue a so-called Snowmobile Fuel Tax Fund at the November convention in Okoboji.

"Iowa's snowmobile program is totally user-funded," explained Past ISSA President Gary Burger, a member of the ISSA's legislative team. "This allocation would be similar to Iowa's Marine Fuel Tax program and would reflect the tax on fuel consumed by snowmobiles on Iowa snowmobile trails and not vehicles on Iowa roads."

Opposition exists

For the readers of this magazine, the ISSA is preaching to the choir when it comes to justifying the need for gas tax reimbursement for the snowmobile program. Working against the leadership, however, are some key figures in the debate, including Mother Nature.

It's hard to argue for additional trail funding when the last two winters (this one included) have yielded poor to non-exis-

tent riding conditions. But always the optimist, Willey has his eye on the future and wants to be prepared for the season when nature pays the state back in white gold.

"It will snow again in Iowa—it always does—and we will be ready," he writes in this month's column.

A more surprising opponent to the snowmobile fuel tax reimbursement idea is state Rep. Josh Byrnes, R-Osage, who sponsored the trail permit legislation in 2012 and, as a result, has been considered a "friend of Iowa snowmobiling."

Now chairing the House Transportation Committee, Byrnes supports the gas tax increase but is opposed to setting any funds aside for any user groups, including snowmobilers. He explained his position to the *Iowa Snowmobiler* magazine on Feb. 17 and later sent a pre-emptive mass email to the snowmobiling constituents residing in his district.

"I have been very supportive of your organization even though I don't own a snowmobile nor have I ever driven one," Byrnes acknowledged. "I respect your thoughts on this, but the fuel tax increase is going to be a heavy lift the way it is now."

"If I open it up to carve-outs for snowmobiles, then I open it up to all," he continued. "I may have golf courses wanting money from gas-burning golf carts and four-wheelers saying they want a piece of the pie."

"We have a major issue in our state with aging roads and bridges, and they are my first priority. This infrastructure affects all Iowans during all seasons of the year."

Call to action

Byrnes' comments shocked some within the ISSA, given his advocacy for snowmobiling in the past. Past ISSA President Terry Durby said Byrnes "carried the ball for us last year" and believes snowmobilers residing within his district may be the only faction able to influence his position on a snowmobile tax fund.

"I feel, at this point, the snowmobilers in his district can certainly contact him with facts and

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State	Gas Tax	2011
South Dakota	Yes	\$427,460
Minnesota	Yes	\$6,867,106
Wisconsin	Yes	\$3,627,320
Michigan	Yes	\$2,300,000
Iowa	No	\$0

Snowmobile Gas Tax Allocation by state





invite you to the ...

2013 ISSA Summer Campout

Floyd County Groomers Association, Region 4
2013 ISSA Campout Host

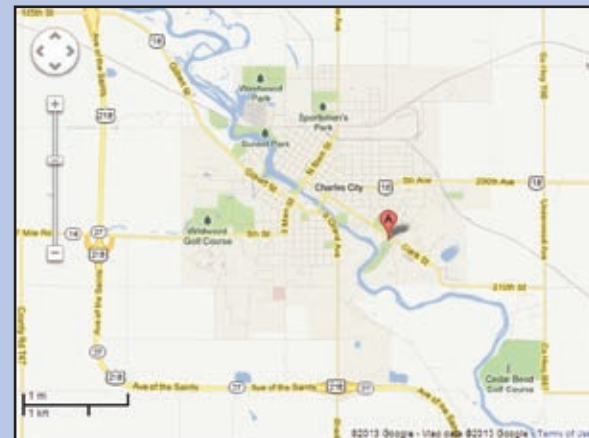


- Snowmobile show
- Horseshoe tournament
- Three-acre pond with beach
- Hiking/biking trail
- Whitewater course upstream
- Canoe rentals available
- Laundry facilities

July 12-14
R Campground
Charles City, IA



Directions to R Campground
1910 Clark St
Charles City, IA 50616



- From the East: Stay on HWY 18 until the second stop light. Turn Left onto Clark St.
- From the North and West on the Avenue of the Saints: Take the first Charles City exit 212. Follow HWY 18 east to the second stop light. Turn Left on HWY 18 crossing the Cedar River to Clark St. Turn Right on Clark St.
- Entering Charles City from the west on HWY 14: Follow Hwy 14 to the stop sign. Turn Left on South Main St. Follow South Main St to the first stop light. Turn Right on Hwy 18 to the first stop light. Turn Left on HWY 18 crossing the Cedar River to Clark St. Turn Right on Clark St.
- From the South on the Avenue of the Saints: Take the first Exit 218. Turn Right following Business 218 to the first stop light. Turn Right onto Hwy 18. Cross the Cedar River to the first stop light. Turn Right on Clark St.

2013 ISSA Summer Campout Registration

Names: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone Number: _____ Email: _____
 Number of Children Attending: _____ (Kids 12 and under are free!)

Campsite fees:

- Full hook-ups for 2 nights \$56
- Electric only for 2 nights \$40
- Tent for 2 nights \$32

Registration fees:

\$25 per adult. Includes Saturday night meal, and 1 T-shirt.
 Number of Adults ____ X \$25 per person = \$ ____
 Shirt Size/Quantity: SM ___ MED ___ L ___ XL ___ XXL ___ XXXL ___

Additional Shirts cost \$15 Each:

Adult: SM ___ MED ___ L ___ XL ___ XXL ___ XXXL ___
 Kids: SM ___ M ___ L ___

Snowmobile Show Registration (no fee)

Vintage: _____ Race: _____
 Trail: _____ Mountain: _____

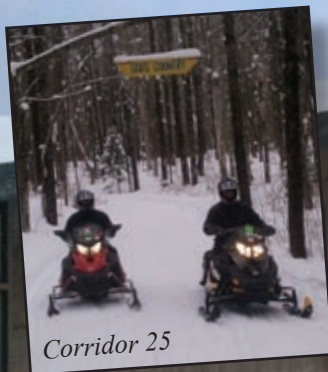
Total for Camping: \$ _____
 Registration: \$ _____
 Additional Shirts: \$ _____
 Total of all Fees: \$ _____

Make check payable to Floyd County Groomers Association.

Mail form and payment to:
 Steve King-FCGA, 219 South River Street, Marble Rock, IA 50653

Campout Contact: Steve King, (641) 330-9755, svk@myomnitel.com
 Campground Info: R Campground, (641) 257-0549, www.rcampground.com

Exploring Wisconsin's Iron Belt



Corridor 25



Corridor 17



March 2012 snowmobile trip across northern Wisconsin begins, oddly enough, at former ski resort

by Cameron Hanson

It's shortly after 5 a.m. on Thursday, March 1, 2012. My computer at work is booting up—slowly as usual—and the coffee-maker is gradually coming to life. It's a fairly peaceful morning until my cellphone begins to vibrate on the desk. It's a text message: "r u ready to go?" Without hesitation, I simply reply: "yes."

Nothing else needed to be said. A leap-year snowstorm had just dumped more than a foot of snow across the northern plains, and starved for riding for much of the winter in Iowa, my snowmobile companions and I were eager to squeeze in some seat time before the season officially ended.

There was just one little problem, though: I didn't have a sled. Coming off of four generous riding seasons, the odometer on my 2006 Polaris had duped me into believing it was time for a new chariot in December. An early season snowfall had brought with it the promise of a fifth good season, and I found the market ripe for a private sale.

Albeit two years past my normal upgrade rotation, I sold my Fusion a week before Christmas and began shopping for its successor. Unfortunately, we all know what happened next. Another significant snow event never returned to Iowa, and thus the need to replace my sled disappeared like the snow on the chisel-plowed field across the road.

Eventually, manufacturer incentives renewed my interest in a new ride, and this late season snowstorm led to an impulse buy two days later. After securing the requisite time off from work and following a local club meeting that Saturday morning, we swung by the dealership, loaded up my new Ski-Doo and headed north to Wisconsin.

The decision to visit the Badger state was an easy one. The northern part of the state had received up to 18 inches of snow during the blizzard, and as seasoned flatlanders, we were all fairly familiar with the area.

A little out of place

Joined by the usual suspects of Steve King and Randy Stiles, we eventually ended up near Cable around supper time at the Telemark Lodge. Waiting for us there already were Randy's friend, Tim Cole from Okoboji, and Tim's son-in-law, Brent Weiner of Rockwell.

I know. It seems a little odd a bunch of snowmobilers from Iowa chose this former downhill ski resort as base camp, but considering the trip was thrown together in just two days, we didn't care. We had left the brown landscape of Iowa behind and had five days of snowmobiling ahead

of us. Besides, there was plenty of other trailers in the parking lot to make us feel right at home.

Also supporting our decision to stay at Telemark was the vast network of trails which intersected near the resort, including Corridor 8 and Trails 70, 63 and 15. Within an hour of our arrival, our sleds were off the trailer, and we were back in the saddle, ready to squeeze the throttle. The intoxicating odor of two-stroke exhaust mixed with the snowdust in the crisp, evening air had never smelled sweeter.

With my purchase from earlier in the day now fully justified, we headed north on the merged 63/15 route, eventually reaching the Otter Bay Resort for a late dinner of frozen pizza. At this point, Trail 63 continued north across Lake Owen, while 15 split off east toward the topside of Lake Namakagon. Given the time of night, we headed east, intending to loop back down toward Telemark.

After refueling at the Pioneer Bar, we cut down Lake Namakagon to the south, disembarking at the landing at Lakewoods Resort, where earlier in the day the famed World's Longest Weenie Roast had been held. From here, it was short jaunt west on Trail 70 to Telemark and a well-deserved rest.

Back north for Day Two

The next morning, we retraced our tracks back to Lakewoods for breakfast before continuing on north to Ashland by way of Corridor 25 and Trail 13 in Ashland County. Once we distanced ourselves from the weekend traffic of Lake Namakagon, the trail conditions improved greatly. There



Taking advantage of the abandoned ski runs.

was plenty of snow, and even though the temperature by noon had crept above freezing, the trails were holding up great, thanks to the shade of the Chequamegon National Forest.

By mid-afternoon, we had reached the Neighborly Bar on Main Street in Ashland, and what began for me at the time was a history lesson on the area. Adorning the walls of the tavern were several black-and-white photographs depicting the town's earlier life as a bustling ship port in the Chequamegon Bay of Lake Superior. Of particular interest was the photo of the ill-fated SS Edmund Fitzgerald moored at the harbor's massive oredock.

Extending 1,800 feet into the bay, the oredock had been built in 1916 to load the iron ore mined in the area onto freighters bound for ports elsewhere in the Rust Belt. Hailing from a community which once produced Oliver and White Farm tractors, I could relate to the impact the iron ore trade once had on this community in northern Wisconsin. In fact, the high school's team name, the Oredockers, even honors that heritage.

The oredock was last used in 1965 and has undergone several stages of demolition in recent years. Hoping for a pre-dusk glimpse of this impressive structure, we departed the comfort of the bar and cruised west on Corridor 2 for a short clip before taking a spur trail down to the frozen harbor. Not knowing for sure what to expect when we got down there, we were definitely surprised by what we saw next.

Instead of witnessing an industrial monument from the past, we were immediately distracted by what turned out to be a cruiser class of demolition cars sliding around a makeshift oval out on the ice. I'm no expert on the matter, but it was definitely a sight to see and not something any of us were anticipating. We did get a picture in front of the oredock in the distance but spent the remainder of our time gawking at this spectacle on ice.

Leaving us scratching our helmets

Still scratching our helmets from what we had just observed, it was back to Corridor 2, otherwise known as the Tri-County Corridor. Continuing west from Ashland, we stopped for supper at the Pine Creek Pit Stop at Moquah and then headed south on Trail 63 back to Telemark, meandering through Mason, Grand View and Drummond and crossing Lake Owen along the way.

We ended Sunday night just shy of 200 miles on the trip meter. A good day of riding and Monday's agenda called for more of the same. In fact, the morning of our third day found us enjoying breakfast south on Trail 63 at Seely.

We knew the trails to the north had suffered from the pressure of the weekend, and heading in the opposite direction seemed to be the order of the day. Our decision was validated with the first groomer sighting of the trip.



Second groomer sighting of the day near Delta.



Above, Ashland's oredock in the background. Below, local ice racers out for a Sunday afternoon drive on Chequamegon Bay.



After breakfast, we travelled further south to Hayward to fuel our sleds and then picked up Corridor 31 east out of town. As Brent had to leave by noon on this day, we stayed close to camp and worked our way back to Telemark so he could get back home in time. Now down to a foursome, we embarked on what would become the top half of our figure-eight trail ride for the day.

Once we were back across Lake Owen, we split from Trail 63 at Drummond and headed northwest toward Iron River. Taking in some nice wide logging and fire roads, we eventually picked up Corridor 31 again. Initially intending to make it all the way to Iron River, we decided to stop short at the intersection with Trail 18 and cut over east to Delta.

It turned out to be a smart move as we encountered our second groomer of the day. From Delta, we navigated Trail 4 over to Mason, and after that, our flight plan was the same as it had been the previous night.

Quick overnighter to Mercer

At some point during the day on Monday, we decided on an overnight trip to Mercer in Iron County to wrap up our five-day mancation. The previous two seasons, we had grown accustomed to backpacking our way through Wisconsin and Minnesota, and with the end of the 2011-12 season looming large, we agreed to stretch our legs for the last two days of our current trip.

Come Tuesday morning, we checked out of the resort, hooked up with Corridor 8 and wound our way toward Clam Lake and beyond. The groomers had continued their work throughout the night, and the weekday traffic was light so we were able to make good time. Our only detour was a late lunch at the Bear Chasers Lodge on the south shore of Island Lake.

By now, though, the afternoon sun was causing some of the road trails to get a little thin, so rather than double back to 8, we cut across Island Lake and followed Trail 13 east for a dozen miles over to the north-south Corridor 17. For those of you who have been in this area before, this is the intersection where the Mercer

Snow Goers welcome sign straddles the trail overhead.

One photo opportunity and a short five miles later, we had reached our overnight destination, and it could not have come soon enough. Temperatures were continuing to rise, and the trail conditions were suffering as a result. After supper, it was early to bed and early to rise for a pre-dawn departure back to Clam Lake.

By 9 a.m. the following morning, we were eating breakfast at the Elkhorn Lodge at Clam Lake. Our early start was paying dividends as it was starting to mist outside. Luckily, two-thirds of our return trip was behind us so we knew we would not run out of snow before arriving back at our trailer at Telemark.

And just as we were preparing to leave the Elkhorn, in walks a familiar face in ISSA Region 6 Director Gene Gerdes. Gene was up with a friend taking advantage of the same snow we were as well, and it was good to have a cup of coffee with a guy I normally see every second Sunday of the month at ISSA board meetings. Ironically, Gene also works as a mechanic for Black Hawk Marine in Lake View, which is where Tim bought his new Ski-Doo, so this chance encounter in the Northwoods of Wisconsin made for a real small world for all us.

Gene had just come up from the Lake Namakagon area and suffered through some of the mist as well. He reported the trails were seemingly holding up, and although we could have talked shop all day, we decided to not chance it, and after bidding farewell to Gene and his friend, we started to head back to the Cable area.

Eventually the mist turned in to rain, and as if we had planned it that way, we were glad this was our last day of riding. Satisfied, we ended the trip at 634 miles and were able get our snowmobiling fix in for the season. Now I just had to justify my new sled purchase for the remaining 51 weeks of the year.



Closing in on Clam Lake on Day 5, just before the mist and eventual rain hits.

Fuel tax

Continued from page 11

persuasion,” Durby elaborated. “We just don’t want to lose Rep. Byrnes as a friend of snowmobiling. With eventual pressure from other legislators, I think he could come around. Let’s make some noise to all our legislators.”

Several calls to action have been sent out to the ISSA membership, asking them to contact their legislators and to request

their support of a snowmobile fuel tax reimbursement.

“The time to contact your legislators is NOW,” wrote Heller in his weekly update to the ISSA on Feb. 23. “Please let them know that you want them to put your tax into our snowmobile trail fund. You are paying a tax for on-road use when the fuel is being used off-road. It is no different than if fuel used in farming operations were taxed as on-road use. It is your money, and it should be in the snowmobile

trail fund.”

“The tax amount from snowmobilers is miniscule in the entire Iowa Department of Transportation budget, but it would represent a 53 percent increase in funds available to Iowa’s snowmobile program, promoting Iowa tourism and recreational opportunities in Iowa,” Willey said. “Please ask lawmakers to support designating the fuel tax used in Iowa snowmobiles to the Iowa snowmobile program when considering the Iowa gas tax issue.”

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March

- 2013 SAE Clean Air Snowmobile Challenge March 4-9 at the Keweenaw Research Center at Michigan Technological University in Houghton, MI. This year, 21 teams have registered for the event
- ISSA Board of Directors meeting Sunday, March 10, at 9 a.m. at Mayne’s Grove Lodge, 946 Highway 65, Hampton (four miles south of Hampton).
- Mitchell County E-Z Riders annual meeting Saturday March 23, at 3 p.m. at the home of Larry and Barb Bissen, 2076 State Line St., Stacyville.

April

- 2013 Scholarship Applications due April 15 to the ISSA Education and Scholarship Foundation. Application materials available online at www.iowasnowmobiler.com/issa/scholarship.
- 2013 ACSA D.C. Fly-In April 20-23 at Washington, D.C. Three-day event features business meetings, guest speakers and visits to Congressional offices. For more information, visit www.snowmobilers.org.
- 2013 Go Snowmobiling! Take-A-Friend Snowmobiling Contest entries due April 30. Grand prize is \$5,000. For contest information, visit www.snowmobile.org.

May

- ISSA Board of Directors meeting to be announced.

June

- ISSA award nominations due June 1. Forms available online at www.iowasnowmobiler.com/issa/awards.
- 2013 International Snowmobile Congress June 6-8 at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center in Green Bay, Wis. Hosted by the Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs. The three-day ISC event features seminars, updates from ACSA and the International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association, ACSA chapter meetings and an awards ceremony. For more information, visit www.isc2013.org.

July

- ISSA Summer Campout July 12-14 at the R Campground in Charles City. To register, see the flyer on page 12. For more information, contact Steve King at (641) 330-9755 or svk@myomnitel.com
- ISSA Board of Directors meeting Sunday, July 14, at 9 a.m. at the R Campground, Charles City.



ISSA CLUBS

Clubs in red reported
100% ISSA Membership

REGION ONE

Buena Vista Blizzard Busters

President: Jeffrey Sassman
709 Hudson St., Storm Lake, IA 50588
(712) 732-6500

Clay County Sno Broncs

President: Doug Alger
912 E 14th St., Spencer, IA 51301
(712) 260-6855, eliteautodoug@hotmail.com

Dickinson County SnowHawks

www.dickinsoncountysnowhawks.com
P.O. Box 504, Spirit Lake, IA 51360
President: Stephanie Duncan
2281 165th St., Spirit Lake, IA 51360
(712) 330-6162, ssd@mchsi.com

Lyon County Sno-Lyons

P.O. Box 576, Rock Rapids, IA 51246
President: Eric Borman
405 N. 4th Ave, Rock Rapids, IA 51246
(712) 470-0190, ebconst@yahoo.com

O'Brien County Snowtrackers

President: Merv Hoermann
P.O. Box 22, Sutherland, IA 51058
(712) 260-4810, mebeefeater@hotmail.com

Osceola County High Point Riders

www.highpointriders.com
President: Brian Monier
1990 Hwy 59 Sibley, IA 51249
(712) 461-0421, bmooner@hotmail.com

Powder Players Inc.

P.O. Box 154, Remsen, IA 51050
www.powder-players.com
President: D.J. Kellen
23657 Marble Ave., LeMars, IA 51031
(712) 540-5723, president@powder-players.com

Sioux County Snowmobile Club

www.siouxcountysnowmobileclub.com
Search Sioux County Snowmobile Club on
Facebook under club info in Iowa Snowmobiler
President: Dave Taylor
1520 North Main Ave., Sioux Center, IA 51250
(712) 449-5556, Dave.Taylor@interstates.com

REGION TWO

Emmet County Driftbusters

President: Tyson Enerson
4591 195th St., Estherville, IA
712-209-3330, enerson747@gmail.com

Humboldt Sno-Skimmers

President: Brian Ricklefs
209 4th St.S., Dakota City, IA 50529
(515) 604-6128

Kossuth County Drift Skippers

President: Jeremy Walker
1402 170th St., LuVerne, IA 50560-8552
(515) 295-8721, jlkwalk@gmail.com

Palo Alto Rough Riders

President: Kurt Bonnsetter
111 Iowa St., P.O. Box 62, Cylinder, IA 50528
(712) 424-3011, kbonnste@iowatelecom.net

Sno-Pak

P.O. Box 164, Pocahontas, IA 50574
snopak@hotmail.com, www.snopak.net
President: Kolby Wagner
749 South Street, Rockwell City, IA 50579
(712) 830-3821, kjwagner@iowatelecom.net

REGION THREE

Hancock County Snowmobile Assn.

President: Ben Diekhuis
2115 Nash Ave., Britt, IA 50423
(515) 291-2329, diekhuis@gmail.com

Iowa River Riders

President: Al Muhlenbruch
206 Highway 3, Alexander, IA 50420
(641) 425-2790, iowariverriders@yahoo.com

Club News

Region 1

O'Brien County Snowtrackers

by Zelda Buse Christensen

Going on a snowmobiling trip is like anything else attempted in life—sometimes everything seems to go so smoothly, but sometimes there seems to be no end to unlucky happenings. For example, when four people hauled their sleds west to Togwotee in late December, one guy's luck faltered. No one else hit any foreign object under the snow, but this guy hit two different rocks. The first one threw him over the handlebars, resulting in a very bruised stomach. The second again threw him over the handlebars, resulting in \$2,000 damage to his new Ski-Doo.

Getting the injured sled back to a road where it could be picked up was a major problem, but most of the distance was covered by dragging with other machines. However, when more parts fell off, it was necessary to physically push, pull, drag, manhandle what was left of the sled to reach the road.

In the midst of all this turmoil, before leaving the wreck, the owner went back to it to retrieve forgotten gloves. He was trying to climb back up a six-foot-high vertical bank of snow on the side of a narrow plowed road, having trouble finding footing. He heard a snowplow coming fast—coming very fast! He couldn't climb, he couldn't outrun the plow, his out-of-sight companions were unaware of the situation, and he was desperate! He faced the wall of snow and leaned himself against it, flattening his body like a pancake. After the plow had sped by and the flying snow had settled, he pulled his snow-covered body clear—and resumed breathing again.

Back at camp and after making some phone calls, he made the 42-mile round trip on mountain roads to Jackson Hole for repair parts. But another problem arose when they were putting the new parts on the sled: The lower A-arm he got was for the left side—but he needed the one for the right side. Back to Jackson Hole—another mountainous 42-mile round trip.

You might assume that by now the drama had eased and things were going smoothly. That might be right, except for the buffalo! Driving faster than he should have been (I wonder why), he all of a sudden was facing a large herd of buffalo crossing the road in front of him. Slamming the brake so hard that the A-arm in the back ended up beside him, he barely escaped buffalo steak for supper!

After repairs were made on the new sled, he enjoyed a couple more days of riding—with almost no more major problems. They weren't the only ones using the road while driving out of the mountains though. They had to wait once for 10 elk to cross the road, and later they had to swing to the other lane as a moose loped across the road. Back in Iowa, life got back to normal.

Several other Snowtrackers—in search of the elusive white stuff called SNOW that seems to pretty much miss O'Brien County—have ventured west to find some. Although most mountain spots have not been setting any new snow depths, many Iowans (including myself) have found enough to gleefully play in (with rocks sufficiently and safely covered).

Keep thinking snow for Iowa—we still have about half of winter left!

Region 4

Cedar Falls Sno Hawks

by Dick Melick, Reporter

Greetings from Cedar Falls. Not sure if we are going to have any real "winter" in this part of the state. Most of the snow that fell around here was blown into piles along fences and into the road ditches, leaving most of our trail with little to no snow. The groomer has been over most of the Five Star system once, but there just isn't enough snow in most places to do much good. Then to make things worse, we get rain instead of snow when there is moisture in the air.

The club is again participating in the Younkers Community Day program working through the Cedar Falls store in the College Square Mall. We have an ambitious goal of selling 100 coupon books which will raise \$500.00 for the ISSA Scholarship Foundation. Other than the lousy snowmobiling weather, not much else happening around here.

We welcome Jon Becker and friend Rhonda Schmit as members. Jon who was a member of the club back in 1980s decided to get back into the sport. They live in rural Cedar Falls north of town and very near our trail system. They have a 2003 Yamaha Viper, 1998 Ski Doo Formula and 1995 Polaris Classic. Hope to see a lot of them at club meetings and functions in the future.

We were pleased to have our new Region 4 Director, Scott Nauman, and Past ISSA



President Dennis Nauman attend our January meeting. As always, all interested snowmobilers and ISSA officers and directors are invited to attend any of our meetings. Our meetings are normally held at 7 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month, September through April. The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 5. For more info about the trail, club and/or meetings, contact club President, Michael Maney at (319) 464-2442 or Secretary, Dick Melick at (319) 231-0819.

Guess that is all for now. THINK SNOW!!!

Floyd County Groomers Association

by Mike Paulus, Reporter

Our new groomer has been ready to go for a while now but unfortunately hasn't done anything yet. The weather has been less than favorable for snowmobiling lately and also caused our club to have to cancel our annual Family/Kids' Ride due to the lack of snow. As I'm writing this article, rain is in the forecast for the weekend! It is hard to believe this is the last article of the season and trail sign removal will soon be the topic of discussion at our club meetings.

However, the ISSA Campout is still coming up this summer, and there will be plenty of fun for all. Our club is hosting the campout this year, and it will be held at R Campground in Charles City June 12-14. You can check out our website (www.floydcountygroomers.webs.com) for more information or to find the registration form. We hope many of you are able to attend!

Mitchell County E-Z Riders

by Nancy Mayer, Secretary

Our annual meeting will be held Saturday, March 23, at 3 p.m. at the home of Larry and Barb Bissen, 2076 State Line St., Stacyville. The club will provide hamburgers. You are asked to bring your own beverage and a dish to share.

We will be holding elections for the following offices: vice-president, secretary and trailmaster. So if you have any interest in one of these positions or know of someone you would like to see fill them, please come to the meeting.

We still have T-shirts and hoodies already made up if anyone is interested. If we don't have your size, color, etc., you can still order one. Prices are as follow: T-shirts, \$10; long-sleeve shirts, \$15; crew sweatshirts, \$20; and hoodies, \$25.

We also will be getting window stickers for your sled or car.

Region 5

Driftrunners Inc.

by Bob Martinek, Board Member

Hello from Cresco. Hard to believe this is the final magazine issue of the season. What season? Almost enough snow for good riding and then all gone. Then back again almost. Anyway, it did look a lot more like winter this year and most people were able to get some riding in (many travelled to do it).

Not going to get too long-winded this time but wanted to say "Thank-you" one more time to everyone involved with our 42nd Annual Snow Fest this past January. Club members, board members and many sponsors all chipped in to make it very successful. And fun! I will add that if Mother Nature would have done her part (snow), it would have been huge.

Finally, our last event of the season coming up is our Landowner Appreciation supper. It will probably will be the fourth weekend in March. Site to be picked yet.

Thanks. 'Til next fall.

Region 7

Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club

Janine R. Seibert, Secretary

Greetings, fellow snow enthusiasts from the Heart of Central Iowa! What a joy it was to meet the groomer recently on the Heart Of Iowa Trail. The gentlemen who put in the hours in the seat could probably see our smiling faces through our helmets, and we waved and gave them huge "thumbs up" as we passed.

Our last club meeting was a jovial time of sharing stories from recent trips enjoyed by many of our club members. Our diverse group spent time in Canada, Wisconsin, Michigan, Wyoming, Colorado, Minnesota and spots in between with hair and eyebrow raising stories!

The Spina Bifida "ride" went off again this year with many happy children and families.



Lakota Sno-Eagles

President: Jordan Valvick
410 HWY 169, Lakota, IA 50451
(515) 538-0290

North Iowa Sno-Jammers

P.O. Box 103, Lake Mills, IA 50450
www.northiowasnojammers.com
President: Valere Holtan
38320 210th Ave., Forest City, IA 50436
(641) 567-3674

North Iowa Snow Seekers

President: Brad Johnson
3800 4th St SE Mason City IA 50401
(641) 210-0550
baj1956@live.com

Team Iowa Snowmobilers

www.teamiowasnowmobilers.com
teamiowasnowmobilers@hotmail.com
3468 Olsen Ave., Jewell, Iowa 50130
President: Nicki Kempe
teamiowasnowmobilers@hotmail.com
(515) 230-0389

Worth County Fencestretchers

P.O. Box 27, Northwood, IA 50459
President: Al Fredricks
107 Seventh St., Northwood, IA 50459

REGION FOUR

Bremer County Sno-Knights

President: Dennis Koehler
805 9th St. NW, Waverly, IA 50677
(319) 240-5756

Cedar Falls Sno Hawks

President: Michael Maney
3637 Hammond Ave., Waterloo, IA 50702-5519
(319) 464-2442 (Cell), maney@uwalumni.com

Chickasaw Sno-Riders

President: Benny Brincks
101 West Prairie Street Ionia, IA
50645, (641) 394-5561 (h)
(641) 990-3628 (c)

Dewar Snow Chasers

President: Cory Allspach
4016 Round Street
Cedar Falls, IA. 50613 (319) 404-2878

Floyd County Groomers Association

President: Philip Schrage
P.O. Box 7, Marble Rock, IA 50653
(641) 397-2775, Schrage@iowatelecom.net

Howard County Stump Jumpers

President: Nathan Hale
4145 Hillcrest Dr., Riceville, IA 50466
(641) 985-2699.

Mitchell County E-Z Riders, Inc.,

President: Keith Popp
1408 Pleasant St., Osage, IA 50461
(641) 732-3625

Snow Snoops Snowmobile Club

President: Dave Fisher
121 Cedar Hill Ave., Nashua IA 50658
(319) 269-3703, (319) 240-8531
lorifisher@q.com

REGION FIVE

Allamakee Sno-Blazers

Allamakee Sno-Blazers
PO Box 94 Waukon, IA 52172
President: Mary Dehli
1830 Hwy 76 N, Waukon, IA 52172
(563) 568-6111, rmdehli@live.com

Asbury Snowhawks

President: Tom Spalla
3309 Brook Hollow Dr., Asbury, IA 52002
(563) 582-8893. tnspalla@hotmail.com



ISSA CLUBS

Clubs in red reported
100% ISSA Membership

Clayton County Snowbirds

12469 Hwy. 18, Postville, IA 52162
President: Mark Bries
21352 Highway 18, Monona, IA 52159
(563) 539-4555

Driftrunners, Inc.

126 Fourth Street East, Cresco, IA, 52136
driftrunnersia@yahoo.com
Join Us on Facebook under 'Groups'
President: Matt Miner
17879 State Hwy 9, Lime Springs, IA 52155
(563) 380-7142, mmmfarms@hotmail.com

Dyersville Driftskippers

www.dyersvilledriftskippers.net
President: Jeff Reinert
PO Box 143, Dyersville, IA 52040
563-599-7428, jeff.reinert@yahoo.com

Snow Pioneers

President: Steve Vorwald
1582 210th St., Manchester, IA 52057
(563) 927-5362

Trail Blaz-zers Inc.

President: Trail Blaz-zers Inc
President: Randy Kaune Sr.
11419 90th St., Fayette, IA 52142
(563) 920-8491, randysr05@hotmail.com

Trails Unlimited

105 Dessel St., Ossian, IA 52161
President: Bud Winter
bwinter@acegroup.cc
(319) 231-3337

Wapsipinicon Snowmobile Association

P.O. Box 802, Independence, IA 50644
www.wsaiowa.com
President: Morgan J. Kuper
1916 Central Ave., Jesup, IA 50648.
(319) 239-0590, mkuper3@jtt.net

Winneshiek Trail Twisters Inc.

P.O. Box 154, Decorah, IA 52101
President: Jake Ludeking
2005 Centennial Road, Decorah, IA 52101
(563) 382-2027, ludeking@neitel.net

REGION SIX

Sac County Snow Lovers

P.O. Box 464, Lakeview, IA 51450
President: Bradley Garrels
307 Adams St., Lake View, IA 51450
(712) 210-4262, garrelsbrad@hotmail.com

REGION SEVEN

High Bridge Trailblazers

President: Jason Moorman
614 West Oak, Ogden, IA 50212
(515) 230-4171

Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club

Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club
P.O. Box 3133, Des Moines, IA 50316
www.saylorvilledamsnowmobileclub.org
President: Alex VanDerKamp
(641) 521-5488, advanderkamp@gmail.com

Raccoon Valley Snow Chasers

President: Eric Chrystal
705 West Sunset Road, Jefferson, IA 50129
(515) 201-8604, chrystal@netins.net

Webster County Ice Breakers

President: Jim Suchan
3374 Garfield Ave., Gowrie, IA 50543
(515) 352-3039, jsmgr@lvcta.com

REGION EIGHT

Central Iowa Snowmobilers

P.O. Box 1751, Marshalltown, IA
50158, President: Kevin Weese
(641) 485-0123

ISSA Renews Grand Raffle for 2013



Al Zuehlke of Council Bluffs picked up his new Ski-Doo from Leisure Life Sports in Omaha in late November following his winning ticket in the ISSA's Grand Raffle at convention in Okoboji. Zuehlke won \$10,000 toward the purchase of a new sled from a current ISSA associate member. Presenting the check to Leisure Life owner Marty Smith is ISSA Raffle Committee Chair Gary McVicker.

As an incentive for clubs to sell more raffle tickets, the ISSA offered \$500 to the top-selling club. The Eastern Iowa Sledheads of Region 12 outsold the rest of their counterparts in the state and received a kickback from the ISSA Raffle Committee. Above right, accepting the check from McVicker is club president Greg Martin.

Net proceeds from the 2012 'Win the Sled of Your Dreams' raffle approached \$12,000, up five-fold from the inaugural drawing in 2011. The ISSA is once again sponsoring the raffle this year with the same format and same grand prize of \$10,000 toward the purchase of a new sled from an ISSA associate member dealer.

Tickets cost \$20 each or six for \$100. There will be early bird drawings at the ISSA Summer Campout in July in Charles City as follows: \$500 in snowmobile accessories from any ISSA associate dealer for the first drawn; \$300 in snowmobile accessories for second place; and \$200 in accessories for third drawn.

Those names will then be re-entered into the grand prize drawing at the 40th Annual ISSA Convention in Des Moines in November. The club incentive continues this year as well. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact McVicker at (641) 425-1375.

Club News

The lunch, cookies, rides and fun were enjoyed by many. Our club appreciates the help from all of you who help make this a festive event.

Tammy is busy finalizing the annual club trip to Dubois, Wyo., in March. Time marches on!

Region 12

Snowdrifters, Inc.

by Ron Roe

Here we are again waiting for snow and not many results. I guess I should only speak for my area. I believe some areas have had plenty of snow or more than here anyway.

My wife and I went for a short ride on Saturday, Feb. 2. After two hours, I had enough corn stalks and gravel shoulders to last me for a season.

We always have next year for the good snow. It is only Feb. 7 so there is still a good chance for a nice snow in this area. This is a little early to throw in the towel. Think Positive (sometimes I forget that). I know we will get a good snow now: I am going on a two-week cruise of the Panama Canal. Perfect time to snow.

I have watched the lakes around this area, and I see the ice fisherman out on the ice. At least the whole winter is not lost for everyone. Our club has been trying to get in a few fun runs. Everyone here is still thinking snow.

Well, this is about it for this season. Hope to meet some of you on the trails yet this season, and if not, have a nice summer. Remember that all signs need to be removed by April 15.

Saylorville Club Hosts Annual ISSA Charity Ride in January

by Stacy Picard

Spina Bifida Association of Iowa

With or without snow, every January, the ISSA and the Spina Bifida Association of Iowa (SBAI) get together to regale in Iowa's outdoors and celebrate the relationship between the two organizations at the annual Spina Bifida Charity Ride, hosted by the Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club of Region 7.

This year's event, held Jan. 13 at the Huxley Fire Department, showcased a new activity: side-by-side utility vehicle (UTV) rides. Absent the powder needed to snowmobile, members of the ISSA from across the state hauled their UTVs to Huxley to give rides to SBAI members.

Following a delicious meal provided by the ISSA, 10 UTVs paraded down the



Six-year-old Addison Dane bundles up for a UTV ride with Tyler Willey at the 2013 Spina Bifida Charity Ride at Huxley in January. Addison's sister, two-year-old Brooklyn, suffers from spina bifida.

snowmobile trail and around town, grand marshalled by the Huxley chief of police.

The generous cooperation of the Huxley police and fire departments made this exciting excursion possible, as UTVs are not normally allowed on the trail. A few lucky boys even got to ride in the police car after their UTV ride!

"Thank you so much for the super fun day today," mother Jessica Dane wrote in an email to ISSA President Jim Willey. "(Our family) had a great time! It was nice to meet you and your family and friends! Everything



Past ISSA President Dave Carmichael (left) and current ISSA President Jim Willey grill up burgers and hot dogs at the ISSA Trail Break Trailer for the hungry charity ride participants.

was great, the girls loved the crafts, the fire trucks, the atvs, and the burgers were awesome too! Thanks again and we hope to see you again at another event soon!"

The generosity of the town of Huxley and especially the ISSA was nothing less than remarkable.

"Every good organization has a good cause to support," said Past ISSA President Bruno Andreini, who serves as a liaison between the two groups.

In recent years, the ISSA has raised enough money to fully fund SBAI's reimbursement programs. These programs help families affected by spina bifida by reimbursing them for out-of-pocket expenses, such as wheelchairs, leg braces, crutches and walkers, travel to medical appointments, lodging for overnight stays related to hospital stays, and scholarships for children with spina bifida to attend camps geared especially for them.

ISSA's support is invaluable to the SBAI, and touches the lives of every member of

SBAI. It is because of the ISSA that the SBAI has been able to reach so many individuals and to help ease the burden of living with spina bifida.

For this beneficent support and for the good time shared at the 2013 Spina Bifida Ride, the Spina Bifida Association of Iowa would like to thank the members of the ISSA!

2013 Spina Bifida Donations	
Hancock County Snowmobile Association	\$2,000
Cedar Falls Sno Hawks	\$600
Bremer County Sno-Knights	\$500
Trails Unlimited	\$500
Central Iowa Snowmobilers	\$300
Allamakee Sno-Blazers	\$250
Cedar County Winter Warriors	\$250
Winneshiak Trail Twisters	\$100

ISSA CLUBS

Clubs in red reported
100% ISSA Membership



Jasper County Ditch Bangers
President: David Huffaker
P/O/ Box 311, Baxter, IA 50028
(641) 751-0622, huffaker-dave@hotmail.com

Tri-County Snowmobile Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 231, Traer, IA 50675
President: Brian Sienknecht
2805 130th St., Buckingham, IA 50612
(319) 478-8099, samm0000@traer.net

REGION NINE

Cascade Snow Punchers
President: Steve Peiffer
916 - 6th Ave. SE, Cascade, IA 52033
(563) 852-7171, (563) 599-1875 (cell)

Eastern Iowa Sno-Riders
President: Ron Benhart
1772 140th St., Lowden, IA 52255
(319) 784-708, famous@netins.net

Frozen Few

P.O. Box 184, Coggon, IA 52218
President: Jamie Prull
1101 First St., Palo, IA 52324
(319) 851-2522, jprull@aol.com

Jones County Snow Chasers
P.O. Box 492, Anamosa, IA 52205
President: Raven Ricketts
(563) 485-4209 (h), (563) 570-6922 (c)
ravenricketts@aol.com

Snowmobilers of Jackson County
President: Ryan Lott
PO Box 32, Sabula, IA 52070
(563) 687-3037

REGION TEN

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

REGION ELEVEN

Rathbun Snow Riders
www.rathbunsnowriders.com
President: Gene Paris
21845 458th St., Centerville, IA 52544
(641) 895-0259

REGION TWELVE

Cedar County Winter Warriors
ccwwarriors@yahoo.com
President: Jerry Meier
1241 Jackson Ave., Tipton, IA 52772
(319) 325-6021, jmeier@hupp-electric.com

Eastern Iowa Sledheads
P.O. Box 519, Lone Tree, IA 52755
easterniowasledheads@aol.com
President: Greg Martin
1714 Davis Ave., Nichols, IA 52766
(319) 723-4365

Snowdrifters, Inc.
P.O. Box 5135, Coralville, IA, 52241
President: Thayne Lowman
820 Club House Rd, North Liberty, IA 52317
thayne_lowman@msn.com

Scott County Sno-Seekers
www.snoseekers.org
P.O. Box 2332, Davenport, IA 52809-2332
President: Joshua Voss
(563) 505-7044, vossbrosracing@hotmail.com

Southeast Iowa Ridgeblasters
President: Mike Rauenbuehler
2509 Hwy 78, Winfield, IA 52659
(319) 931-3344, michaelrauenbuehler@gmail.com

Please note: From September to December, the ISSA via the *Iowa Snowmobiler* magazine asked its clubs to report if their by-laws called for 100 percent membership in the ISSA. If your club was listed incorrectly above, please email editor@iowasnowmobiler.com or issa1257@yahoo.com.





ISSA ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

REGION 1

Glen's Sport Center, Inc.
208 16th St., Sheldon, IA 51201
glens1@qwestoffice.net

REGION 2

Byron's
112 S Main St., Pomeroy, IA 50575
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www.byronsbars.com
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