

HOWA Snowmobiler

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Ride Across Iowa

Second annual trip skirts
Minnesota border

Avalanche Awareness

Special seminar on tap for this
month's state convention

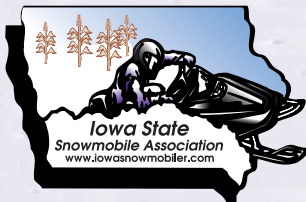
Networking at Boise

ISSA officers return from 2008
ISC with valuable information



Experienced mountain rider
Mike Duffy of Colorado will be in
Waterloo later this month for a
special training class on avalanche
awareness and avoidance.

ISSA Vice President Gary McVicker stops to visit with the North Iowa Snow Seekers groomer west of Rockwell en route to Vinje to meet up with the "Top of Iowa" snowmobile tour last February.



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Issue	Editorial	Advertising	Club News
December 2008	November 4	November 10	November 19
Jan/Feb 2009	December 9	December 15	December 28
March 2009	January 30	February 5	February 16

Snowmobiling is Our Way to Connect

Merv Hoermann



As I write this column, there is talk of much change in the weather coming. Snow is falling in western South Dakota, and rain and colder temps are in our forecast for today. Fall is finally here and winter is around the corner.

With weather changes comes the time to get the trail system ready for this winter. Clubs are starting to meet again, and planning is being organized to start getting the trails ready for another snowy season. When you are doing the signing, remember to sign well and often. We all have many visitors who ride our trails, and we do not need them to be riding where they should not. We all work with many landowners, and need to keep that good relationship with the landowners, so we can continue to ride on their property. RESPECT at all times.

Many clubs in eastern Iowa experienced high creeks and rivers in June this year. The October issue of the *Iowa Snowmobiler* shared with all of us the much work needed to replace and repair bridges in those areas. Mel Rinehart said it best by saying, "If only the folks who enjoyed the trails so much last season would volunteer to help, we certainly need it now." VOLUNTEER! This is what the ISSA is made up of. Many of us have done so over the years, but more of us need to help. The trail system we all enjoy here in Iowa just did not happen overnight but came about through a lot of hard work by many volunteers who wanted to make a difference. Make a difference and volunteer.

Why Should I Join a Club?

Clubs are starting to meet, and much planning is going on for the coming snow season. Retaining members is a challenge we all face every year. Do not forget to ask and invite them to your meetings. Have a variety of activities for the membership to participate in. Do not forget rides or activities that are family-oriented.

There is a question we all hear a lot when recruiting new members and that is, "Why should I join?" There are many reasons we all need new members. We all should be constantly promoting our sport of snowmobiling. After the successful spring legislation ISSA achieved this year, we need to remind all snowmobilers of the importance of their voice. We may be a minority in numbers, but we were heard throughout the state by our legislators.

At the last ISSA board meeting, Diane Childs gave her membership report for the past year. Family memberships were up 86 from the year before at 1,965 and associates down five from the year before at 21. ISSA has a concern with associate membership. Why only 21? We all do business with many dealerships, parts stores, restaurants, C-stores, gas stations, motels, etc., throughout the state. We all should be asking for their support in the ISSA. We are not selling ourselves to these businesses. Many of you clubs have businesses that just join the local club, and we should ask them to support ISSA also. When asking for membership, do not forget to ask if they can also advertise on ISSA's Web site, www.iowasnowmobiler.com.

Safety Education

Rhonda Fowler of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) has been receiving many calls on what are the club's needs for safety instructor training. Over the years, we have had many of our instructors resign or retire from teaching the course to our young snowmobilers. The ISSA feels this is very important program that needs to continue. Every club should be hosting a safety course for the youth in your communities. I do not think that referring our youth to go to the DNR Web site to take an open book test is the same as having the course instructed by certified instructors from our clubs. The hands-on instruction, having a snowmobile to view and driving a course for the proper procedure for safe handling of a snowmobile has more value. Contact Rhonda, or any of us here at ISSA, with members interested in being certified to be safety instructors.

Do not forget to get your registrations in for the upcoming ISSA Convention, Nov. 21-23. The *Iowa Snowmobiler* has all the information you need to complete. Many activities and seminars are scheduled to make for a good time for you and your family. This year we will be celebrating the 35th Anniversary of the ISSA.

Ask a Friend to Snowmobile Campaign.

When is the last time any of you have done this? Research conducted by the snowmobile manufacturers shows that over 50 percent of all North American adults living in the Snow Belt would like to go snowmobiling. The research shows us our neighbors, friends and acquaintances who do not snowmobile would love to go snowmobiling and are waiting for us to ask them. Non-snowmobilers know nothing about our trail system,

Continued on page 21

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Get Involved to Accomplish More

Gary McVicker

Get involved with state and local issues concerning snowmobiling. The more you get involved, and the more of you who get involved, the more we can accomplish for our sport.

Cameron tells me it's about time I write a short note for the *Iowa Snowmobiler*. It has been a while since I last wrote, and we (the association) have had a busy summer and early fall. We have found that if we speak with one voice, we can get things done. It took hard work by a number of snowmobilers and our lobbyists to get our funds, which were swept in 2002, restored. Great job!

My club, the Iowa River Riders, had two big events last summer. The first one was our booth at the Franklin County Fair. It was a big success with 40,000-50,000 people coming through during the five-day run. We did well selling ISSA grand raffle tickets for the ATV, and our club sold raffle tickets for a 32-inch TV. We donated the entire proceeds from the TV raffle to Spina Bifada. Our eye-catching display sat on a prime spot giving us a lot of outstanding exposure.

Next we hosted the ISSA Summer Campout in late July with the David Downing wedding and reception on Saturday night. The little church in the historic village on the Franklin County fairgrounds was the site of the nuptials. There was then a dinner and karaoke. Our club had a wonderful time playing wedding planners.

In August, I was appointed to the Franklin County Conservation Board, which is working on a multi-use trail through our county. With a lot of work by our club members over the past three years, we're seeing progress toward making this trail a reality.

I could keep writing, but I will instead end with this thought: Get involved with state and local issues concerning snowmobiling. The more you get involved, and the more of you who get involved, the more we can accomplish for our sport. *



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Free Class to ISSA Members

Snowmobile Specific

Colorado's Duffy to lead four-hour seminar on avalanche awareness, avoidance and rescue at November's ISSA convention

Most snowmobile avalanche fatalities could easily have been prevented by following what is taught in a snowmobile-specific avalanche class. — Mike Duffy, Eagle, Colo., Level I & II Avalanche Instructor, Colorado Mountain College

by Cameron Hanson

Sledders from Iowa with a penchant for mountain riding are not afraid to spend a little extra cash to enhance the experience of snowmobiling in vertical terrain. Cutting their teeth on ditches and cornfields, these flatlanders can easily justify the added expense of extended tracks, handlebar risers and adequate tow vehicles to get them to the coveted and elevated winter playgrounds west of the Missouri River.

But before they embark on an eight-to-12-hour trip to the mountains of his home and neighboring states, there is one additional investment experienced mountain rider Mike Duffy of Colorado would like to see his Midwestern counterparts make: Spend some quality time in a snowmobile-specific avalanche awareness course to ensure they safely make the return trip back home to Iowa.

According to Duffy, a leading avalanche awareness expert as well as an experienced mountain rider for the past 20 years, last winter was a record year for avalanche fatalities in the U.S. The two prior years, snowmobilers accounted for 50 percent of the avalanche fatalities in the country, and roughly half of them were snowmobilers from the upper Midwest.

"Riders traveling great distances to ride are at a distinct disadvantage in avalanche terrain since they cannot see the day-to-day changes in weather before their trip that contribute to an unstable

snowpack," Duffy explained. "Most snowmobile avalanche fatalities could easily have been prevented by following what is taught in a snowmobile-specific avalanche class."

Duffy knows what he is talking about. Besides his personal experiences, he is a certified Level I & II avalanche instructor at Colorado Mountain College and is a rescue/avalanche team leader for the Vail Mountain Rescue Group. During the snowmobile season, he tours the Snow Belt extensively, bringing a message of safety, preparedness and survival. Among his stops last winter was a visit to Ames Feb. 11.

In attendance that night was ISSA Vice President and fellow mountain rider Gary McVicker of Hampton. So impressed with Duffy's presentation was McVicker that he pushed for a return visit this November at the ISSA Annual Convention in Waterloo. Booking the avalanche expert is expected to set the ISSA back \$2,000 but McVicker promised that, "He's well worth the money."

ISSA Convention Committee Chair Dave Carmichael said Duffy's information is so valuable that ISSA members will not be charged for the special seminar, which begins at noon on Sunday, Nov. 23, the last day of the convention at the Five Sullivan Brothers Convention Center. The course is open to the public, but non-members will be assessed a nominal \$15 admission fee (the price of an ISSA membership). Last year's class at Ames cost \$45 per person so this month's appearance

at Waterloo is "truly a bargain," Carmichael and McVicker said.

Duffy also emphasized that snowmobilers who attend his class are "getting a good deal," as he has condensed a 24-hour course into four-hour seminar. According to Duffy, participants can expect to learn how to avoid the most common mistakes, what equipment works best, how to rescue effectively, evaluate terrain, avoid terrain traps, analyze stability and increase riding skills in the mountains.

"Common mistakes among snowmobilers are not carrying all the essential avalanche gear and not being trained and proficient in rescue," Duffy said. "Many are not knowledgeable in recognizing unstable conditions, terrain traps, trigger points and using good group management.

"There are many techniques that may be used to increase your odds tremendously in avalanche terrain," he continued. "My students can expect to learn the key elements in avalanche awareness and rescue to save their own lives and the lives of others. As you can imagine, I cover a substantial amount of information in four hours."

In addition to the seminar's free/low-cost admission, Duffy said www.snowbigdeal.com will be offering a discount on avalanche gear to all class participants. Pre-registration to the seminar is encouraged by filling out the form below. For more information, contact McVicker at (641) 425-1375 or Carmichael at (319) 610-5265. *



Avalanche avoidance expert Mike Duffy of Eagle, Colo., basks in the afternoon sun aboard his Arctic Cat M7. Duffy has been riding snowmobile in the mountains for the past 20 years and weaves that experience into his touring avalanche classes.

SEMINAR REGISTRATION FORM

Avalanche Awareness Seminar • 2008 ISSA Annual Convention
Five Sullivan Brothers Convention Center, Waterloo • Sunday, Nov. 23, 2008

Name(s): _____

Snowmobile Club: _____

Address: _____

City: State: Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

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

I would like to have an ISSA region director contact me or my club.

I am willing to contact my local legislator regarding snowmobile-related issues.

Mail completed form to: Gary McVicker, 1120 110th Street, Hampton, IA 50441

Recounting first half of 2008 Iowa Snowmobiler presents

“TOP OF IOWA”

snowmobile tour from Rock Rapids to Osage

by Cameron Hanson
First of two stories

A mere suggestion at an ISSA Board of Directors meeting in the fall of 2006 to ride across Iowa to showcase the state’s offering of snowmobile trails evolved this past February into the second annual *Iowa Snowmobiler* presents the “Top of Iowa” Snowmobile Tour.

Similar to the inaugural trip in 2007, the semi-planned event coincided with President’s Day weekend, but unlike the first season’s loop ride from Okoboji to McGregor, 2008’s version was a true west-to-east ride from Rock Rapids in north-west Iowa to Waukon in the northeast corner.

By car, the trip would have taken less than six hours and covered 285 miles. But keeping in the true spirit of the ride, the trails-only snowmobile journey covered four days and 445 miles. By unwritten rule, banging the road ditches was not an option for the trip, just as the stipulation had been in February 2007.

As many as 25 snowmobilers participated in the event, most of who partnered up for just a day’s journey. The only adventurer to conquer the entire route was, fittingly enough, ISSA President Merv Hoermann, given the holiday weekend on which the ride was taking place.

Blessed with ample snow cover and excellent trail conditions, the 2008 route basically followed Highway 9 with overnight stops in Estherville, Osage and Waukon. Several ISSA-member clubs assisted as guides along the way, beginning on Friday, Feb. 16 with members of the Lyon County Sno Lyons.

From Rock Rapids, Hoermann carried the proverbial banner through Iowa Great Lakes Region, and after laying down in Estherville for the night, he continued on toward Thompson in central Winnebago County, where he met up with Past ISSA President Terry Durby and members of his home club, the North Iowa Sno-Jammers.

Continued on page 10



Bob Owen of the Howard County Stumpjumpers leads the way through the woods of the Pinicon Alders Wildlife Area in Region 4.

“Our trails in Winnebago County utilize the edge of many filter strips adjacent to water ways, and these make for enjoyable cross country routes where we share our trails with lots of wildlife.”

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

by **Cameron Hanson**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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Snowmobile Club: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

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Cameron Hanson
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Charles City, IA 50616

*Please RSVP by Feb. 1.
Thank you.*



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

TOP OF IOWA

Continued from page 8

Playing Catch-up

As co-coordinators of the ride, myself and ISSA Vice-President Gary McVicker could not join the ride until Saturday, Feb. 16, due to previous work commitments. We met in the late morning in Rockwell and hightailed it to a small bump in the road along the Minnesota border called Vinje.

As we left Rockwell westbound on the North Iowa Snow-Seekers trail system, we came across what would be a promising start to the weekend's ride: a big blue groomer coming at us. We stopped to visit with the operator before continuing on down what was now a glass-smooth ditch surface.

Eventually making it over to Highway 69, we turned north and followed the trail through Garner and Forest City. After two straight hours of hauling you-know-what, we arrived at the Vinje Pub and Grill for a late lunch and, for myself, a much-needed break from choking on McVicker's snow dust most of the morning.

The combination feed store and watering hole was a predetermined meeting point for our two parties. Sled traffic was fairly consistent this early Saturday afternoon, and as Durby pointed out, the community is a popular destination for motorcyclists in the summer and for snowmobilers from every direction in the winter.

"It seems Vinje has been the center of the universe for some time," Durby said, jokingly. "Just two miles north of here, we connect with Minnesota trails to Kiester, and at nearby Emmons, we connect with Minnesota trails in Freeborn County."

Quickly inhaling a snowmobiler's staple meal of a cheeseburger and some fries, we darted

east out of Vinje toward Scarville. Once outside of the second town, we turned south on the Sno-Jammers trail system, skirting Winnebago County's Hogsback Wildlife Area and remaining respectful of its mixed oak forest and native grasses.

According to the Winnebago County Conservation Board Web site, "the timbered areas here are especially popular with deer, squirrel, and turkey hunters and waterfowl hunters take advantage of the extensive wetlands at the foot of the bluff."

The Sno-Jammers trail system borders this conservation land on private property but still enjoys the same scenery as the hunting preserve. That's why Durby, an ISSA trails specialist and a member of the national American Trails board, is a proponent of creating cross-country trails whenever possible.

"They make trail riding so effortless," he said. "Our trails in Winnebago County utilize the edge of many filter strips adjacent to water ways, and these make for enjoyable cross country routes where we share our trails with lots of wildlife."

Tri-County Fun Day Ahead

The Sno-Jammers trail system also features a southern route from Forest City out to Pilot Knob State Park that, according to Durby, includes a loop through the park on the seasonal blacktop road only open to hikers, cross-country skiers and snowmobiles in the winter months.

Opting out of a Pilot Knob tour, our group, now numbered at six, continued north along the state-line en route to Lake Mills. By now, the scenery was beginning to look familiar, as from Lake Mills, we took a similar route as the 2007 ride to Northwood and Carpenter.

On the way, we picked up a member from my home club, the Floyd County Groomers, and



Who needs to travel to Bemidji in northern Minnesota to find Paul Bunyan and Babe? Just head north on Highway 69 toward Forest City to find the legendary lumberjack and his blue ox greeting visitors to Clark's Sawmill.

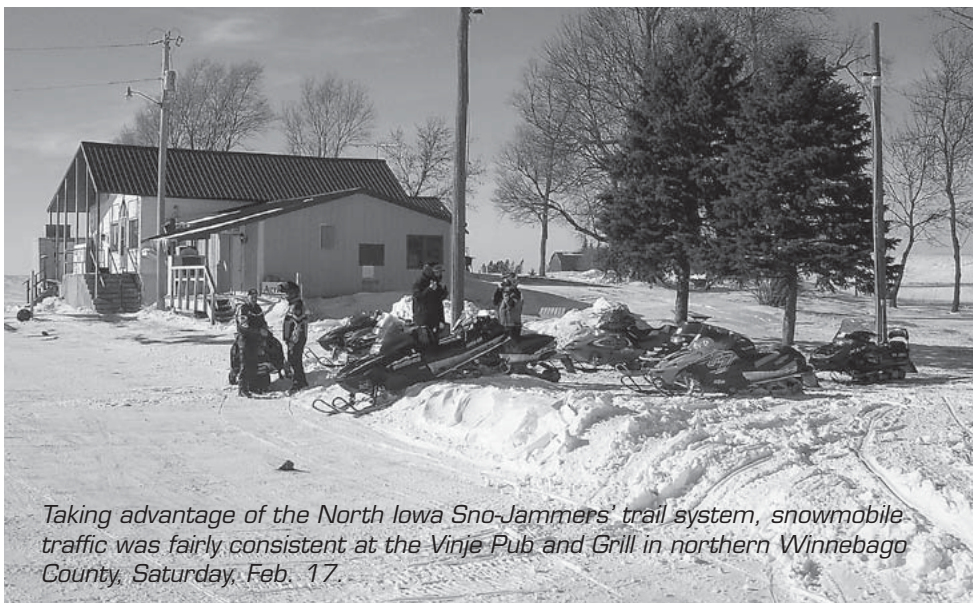
continued on to St. Ansgar and Stacyville to participate in the Tri-County Fun Day hosted by the neighboring Worth County Fence Stretchers, the Mitchell County E-Z Riders and the Howard County Stumpjumper.

Serving as the ending point of the fun run, a packed house at the bowling alley in Stacyville was a glimpse of years past in this snowmobile-friendly community in northern Mitchell County. We knew we were in good company this night as snowmobiles lined the streets and filled nearby parking lots.

After a full day of riding and hob-knobbing with Region 3 and 4 snowmobilers, we bid adieu to Durby and company and thanked them for tagging along and, more importantly, showing us the way. They headed back home, while we took a quick spur to the Super 8 motel in Osage for the second overnight stop of the four-day ride.

A far cry from the previous day's sun-drenched sky, Sunday morning unfortunately greeted us with blizzard-like conditions. As a result, the trail back to Stacyville was not as easily navigable as it was 12 hours earlier. At half-throttle, we pressed on and eventually met up with Nate Hale and Bob Owen of the Howard County Club who served as guides for day 3.

Convincing them to join us the night before during Fun Day festivities, they had agreed to hook up with us at the Pinicon Alders Wildlife Area near McIntire. Due to the weather and one unforeseeable "mishap," we arrived about an hour late. To find out what happened next, please turn to the December issue of the *Iowa Snowmobiler*. ❄️



Taking advantage of the North Iowa Sno-Jammers' trail system, snowmobile traffic was fairly consistent at the Vinje Pub and Grill in northern Winnebago County, Saturday, Feb. 17.

News Briefs

Charity Ice Oval Snowmobile Races, Swap Meet Return to Lyon County Speedway Dec. 12-14

Sanctioned by the World Snowmobile Association Racing Circuit and sponsored by the Lyon County Sno-Lyons of Region 1, the third annual charity Extreme Ice Oval snowmobile races and swap meet are returning to the Lyon County Speedway in Rock Rapids on Dec. 12-14.

"This year we are taking what we have been done in two weekends and putting it all into one plus adding to it," said Sno-Lyons President Craig Wynia. "We have added a few new things to make it a little more interesting. On Saturday, we are hosting a swap meet and are currently looking for vendors and people interested in having a booth to sell out of."

The three-day weekend is open to the public, and the price of admission covers racing as well as the swap meet. Friday is the open snowmobile test-n-tune sessions. Saturday morning will be additional testing sessions followed by antique and vintage racing at noon sharp.

"It will be the same show as last year's vintage show," Wynia said. "We had 120 vintage racers last year and expect more this year. After the vintage races are done, then we shift gears and move right into the first round of qualifiers for the WSA Extreme Ice racers. Saturday will be a big day, and qualifying will most likely carry into the evening."

Continued on page 21

Calendar of Events

November

Eastern Iowa Sled Heads Swap Meet Nov. 9 at the Muscatine County Fairgrounds in West Liberty. Hours are from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Food and beverages will be served. Open to snowmobile and ATV parts and/or vehicles, clothing, and equipment. All gate proceeds will be donated to the Spina Bifida Association of Iowa.

Mitchell County E-Z Riders annual dance Friday, Nov. 28, from 8 p.m. to midnight at the Osage VFW. Drawing for raffle prizes throughout the event, including three Grand Raffle prizes valued in excess of \$2,000.

34th Annual ISSA Convention, Nov. 21-23, at the Five Sullivan Brothers Convention Center, Waterloo.

ISSA Board of Directors meeting Sunday, Nov. 23, at 8:30 a.m. at the Ramada Inn, Waterloo

ISSA-sponsored Avalanche Awareness Seminar Sunday, Nov. 23, noon to 4 p.m. at the Five Sullivan Brothers Convention Center, Waterloo. Featured speaker will be Mike Duffy of Colorado. Admission is free to ISSA members. Non-members will be charged \$25. For more information, contact ISSA Vice President Gary McVicker at (641) 425-1375.

Highbridge Trailblazers Youth Snowmobile Safety Course Saturday, Nov. 29, in Boone.

For more information, contact Bob Reutter at (515) 432-1188.

Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club grass drags Sunday, Nov. 30, at Todd's Airfield, Ankeny. For more information, contact Gary Burger at (515) 707-3000 or visit www.saylorvilledamsnowmobileclub.org.

December

2008 EMR drawing deadline Dec. 1. Join the ISSA by Dec. 1 and enter to win a three-night vacation package to Pat's Landing at Hayward, Wis. For more information, contact ISSA EMR Chair Guy Overland at (641) 293-5936 or guyoverland@hotmail.com.

North Iowa Sno-Jammers Snowmobile Youth Safety Certification Course, Saturday, Dec. 13, at 9 a.m. at Lake Mills City Hall, Lake Mills.

Third annual charity Tri-State Extreme Ice Oval snowmobile races Dec. 12-14 at the Lyon County Speedway, Rock Rapids. Sanctioned by the World Snowmobile Association Racing Circuit, and sponsored by the Lyon County Sno-Lyons of Region 1. Swap meet vendors wanted. For more information, contact Sno-Lyons President Craig Wynia at (712) 470-0799 or visit www.snolyons.com.

ISSA Board of Directors meeting Sunday, Dec. 14, at 9 a.m. at the Comfort Inn, Story City (if needed). *

ISSA Standing Committees

CHARITY

Angie Sprung and Kim Herman, co-chairs, Mitchell County E-Z Riders,
E-mail: travang@myclearwave.net or booksrusbookkeeping@yahoo.com

CONVENTION

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E-mail: snohawk101@gmail.com

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E-mail: snohawk101@gmail.com

Bruno Andreini, co-chair, 2306 230th St., Dallas Center, IA 50063, (515) 240-3858
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Cameron Hanson, chair, 312 Second Ave., Charles City, IA 50616, (641) 330-5565
Fax: (270) 747-9321
E-mail: editor@iowasnowmobiler.com

PROMOTION & RAFFLE

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SNOWMOBILERS PRESERVING OUR RECREATIONAL TRAILS (SPORT)

Bruno Andreini, chair, 2306 230th St., Dallas Center, IA 50063, (515) 240-3858
E-mail: awbrunoa@excite.com

SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

Dave Carmichael, president, 2212 190th St., Tripoli, IA 50676, (319) 610-5265
E-mail: snohawk101@gmail.com

Bruno Andreini, executive director, 2306 230th St., Dallas Center, IA 50063 (515) 240-3858, awbrunoa@excite.com

Judge Vacates Yellowstone Winter Use Rule

Fresh off of International Snowmobile Congress meetings in June, snowmobilers return from Boise to read disappointing news out of Washington, D.C.

by Cameron Hanson

Three major snowmobile watchdog groups have weighed in on a controversial decision by a Washington, D.C., District Court Judge to vacate the National Park Service's Winter Use Rule, effectively choking off snowmobile access to Yellowstone National Park and other public areas of interest this winter.

The rule had been in place since Dec. 13, 2007, and provided for recreational access to Yellowstone by up to 540 snowmobiles per day as long as each machine met best-available-technology (BAT) standards. On Sept. 15, Judge Emmett Sullivan remanded the rule back to the National Park Service (NPS).

According to the American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA), Judge Sullivan stated that "... snowmobile use in Yellowstone National Park violates the fundamental legal responsibility of the NPS to protect the clean air, wildlife and natural quiet of national parks, including Yellowstone, for the benefit of all visitors."

Within a day of the decision, ACSA, the International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association (ISMA) and the BlueRibbon Coalition had all responded to the decision, each vowing to protect snowmobilers' access to Yellowstone in what they describe as the first round of "what is likely to be a busy fall of litigation."

"Judge Sullivan's ruling represents a radical departure from established legal principles and interpretations of governing statutes," began ISMA President Ed Klim. "His broad-ranging and novel interpretations of the NPS Organic Act and the Yellowstone National Park Act prohibit the NPS from approving nearly any visitor activity causing impacts to natural park resources.

"This has the potential to bar a broad range of visitor activities in national parks year round, including car, truck, RV, motorcycle and other motorized vehicle access during the spring, summer and fall months," Klim continued. "It also has the potential to do so throughout the park system, not just in Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks."

Judge Sullivan's ruling is only the latest in a long history of litigation surrounding the NPS's Winter Use Rules for Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Memorial Parkway. A second related case, challenging the Winter Use Rule as being too restrictive of snowmobiling, is ongoing in the U.S. District Court for the District of Wyoming.

Growing Weary of Yellowstone Debate

The judge's ruling six weeks ago "may ultimately result in there being no snowmobile or snowcoach use in Yellowstone this winter, depending on the

response from the NPS, a possible appeal of the ruling and the Wyoming litigation," Klim said. "(We) strongly object to Judge Sullivan's ruling and recognize that this ruling is not the last word on Yellowstone winter use."

For snowmobilers returning from the 2008 International Snowmobile Congress (ISC) in Boise, Idaho, the news coming out of Washington, D.C., is another disappointing setback. Weary of the decade-long struggle for access to Yellowstone, they had grown somewhat comfortable riding within the confines of the 2007 NPS rule and were ready to focus on other initiatives.

Spending the second week of June at the Boise Centre on the Grove convention center, an estimated 400 Congress attendees celebrated new measures employed last season to grow the sport of snowmobiling, both in terms of snowmobile sales and heightened participation.

"Sales remain steady, the snowmobile business is strong and we're in very, very good shape financially," Klim said before a morning crowd of snowmobile enthusiasts. "We need to consider maintaining this current strength, and doing so will require effort on our part to draw others into this incredible sport."

During his annual Congress address, Klim described ISMA's GoSnowmobiling! campaign and its mantra last winter to "Take a Friend

Rhonda Fowler, new administrative assistant for the snowmobile and OHV program at the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and her colleague from the International Association of Snowmobile Administrators, Chris Brewer, president and CEO of the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association, enjoy the sports-themed banquet the final night of ISC 2008.



On display in the lobby area of the Boise Centre on the Grove convention center during the week of Congress were several vintage snowmobiles, including this 1963 Arctic Cat 450 Deluxe



Snowmobiling” as momentum to propel snowmobiling’s popularity. His research has shown that more than 50 percent of all North American adults living across the Snow Belt would like to hop on a sled.

“In many ways, we are a mystery to much of the population,” Klim said. “Non-snowmobilers identify and thirst for the family-fun activity that snowmobiling provides, but they simply know nothing about it — all the more reason for all of us to expand our friendships and form new friendships by inviting somebody to go snowmobiling with us this winter.”

Testifying to the positive impact of ISMA’s new outreach program, Lt. Col. Don Hamilton of the Wisconsin Air National Guard landed in Boise to discuss the Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs’ version known as “Military Takes to the Trails.”

Unveiled last winter, this spin-off program was designed to draw in the state’s service men and women into snowmobiling, and according to Col. Hamilton, organizers achieved their objective. “Direct marketing efforts like the one implemented in Wisconsin last year are well-received and go a long way in helping to grow your sport,” he said.

Networking for 2010

Keeping that message in mind, Congress attendees also spent a great deal of time discussing the ACSA budget and identifying new revenue streams to support such media campaigns as enhanced Web site exposure and the SnowTrails TV series on public television.

For the past six seasons, “Video Mike” Grant of Grand Rapids, Mich., has produced 30-minute, commercial-free segments on snowmobile trail riding and tourism across the Snow Belt

states. ISC delegates recognized his efforts by pledging financial support for future episodes of SnowTrails TV.

“Our show positively and publicly represents organized snowmobiling to everyone and is working with club volunteers to show the public what real snowmobiling is about and to give our recreational passion a more consistent, positive public media image,” Grant said.

Twelve ISSA members attended this year’s Congress and were impressed by what they heard. They have purchased the entire DVD video series from Grant for distribution to Iowa Public Television (IPTV) and to member-snowmobile clubs across the state.

Besides the SnowTrails TV program, the Iowa delegation also brought home valuable information on the GoSnowmobiling campaign as well as networked with Idaho and ACSA officials on the efforts and resources needed to host a Congress event. Iowa takes its turn in 2010 at the Coralville Marriott Convention Center in Region 12.

Building Coalitions for the Future

While the public lands debate did not take center stage at this year’s Congress like the conversation has been in years past, such rhetoric did eventually make its way to the podium in Boise. With 2008 a Presidential election year, the discussion was inevitable and arose during the ACSA general membership meeting.

“You all have to agree this is going to be a major political year for the U.S.,” said newly re-elected ACSA President Todd Wilkinson of South Dakota. “Regardless of your political views, I encourage you to get involved. Our organization is going to face huge changes as a result of the outcome of this election, and everyone needs to be involved on their local level in working with not just elected officials but also with federal and state officials who affect your ability to ride and recreate.”

During an ISC seminar on Coalition Building, Brian Hawthorne, public lands director for the Blue Ribbon Coalition,

ISSA President Merv Hoermann debates the American League East with ??? of the Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts.



ISSA Vice President Gary McVicker visits with “Video Mike” Grant during the Groomer Reception at ISC 2008. The ISSA has purchased Grant’s entire six seasons of SnowTrails TV in an effort to get the program aired on Iowa Public Television (IPTV). The ISSA has also initiated a write-in campaign to IPTV to support that airing. For more information, contact McVicker at (641) 425-1375.

echoed Wilkinson’s sentiment on the snowmobile community’s role in the political arena. He said snowmobile owners cannot afford to not build relationships with their legislators as well with groups who sit on the other side of the fence.

“You have to do it. You have no other choice,” Hawthorne said. “It’s part of the commitment we have to our sport. Resolve to do it. Go in there with a sense of humor. Maybe your goal should be to build a relationship with your elected official. Find out their spouse’s name rather than make your point about snowmobiling. That may pay dividends for you down the road.”

One such coalition showcased at Congress was the Idaho State Snowmobile Association’s partnership with wolverine researchers from the USDA Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Center. Famed wildlife biologist Jeff Copeland said he appreciates the collaboration between his colleagues and snowmobilers to find common ground on wolverine habitat.

“The Forest Service is constantly having to make decisions about wildlife-related issues,” Copeland said during his featured presentation. “You have to really distinguish between opinion and science based on the scientific method. If we don’t have the science, we’re not going to make an opinion on it.

“If we’re truly an intelligent species as we like to think we are, then we have to recognize the things that we do impact other organisms,” he continued. “It’s no longer a matter of whether I care or don’t care; we know the general public cares. If we can truly work together on these problems, I think we can continue to recreate and have fun, and the wolverine can continue to persist. That may be a little idealistic, but that’s where I think we need to go.” *



ISSA Snow Show

Nov. 21-22, 2008

**Five Sullivan Brothers Convention Center
Ramada Inn, Waterloo**

Free Admission

Friday: 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Saturday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Attention, Vendors and Dealers:

RSVP by Nov. 1.

Booths are filling up fast.

Reserve your 10-foot by 10-foot space today.

\$100 for one spot

\$140 for two spots

\$180 for three spots

\$220 for four spots

To register, fill out the form below. If you have any questions, contact 2008 ISSA Convention Chair Dave Carmichael at (319) 610-5265 or at snohawk101@ymail.com.

Business/Dealer Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Contact Person: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

of booth spaces (see rates above) 1 2 3 4

Electricity required (please circle) Yes No If yes, add \$45

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Make check payable to:

ISSA Convention

Mail payment and completed registration form to:

Theresa Pothast, Snow Show Chair

23053 Terrace Avenue

Clarksville, IA 50619

Email: pothast@butler-bremer.com

"Snowmobile Iowa" Club Showcase

Nov. 21-22, 2008

**Five Sullivan Brothers Convention Center
Ramada Inn, Waterloo**

Free Admission

Friday: 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Saturday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Attention, ISSA Clubs:

Showcase Your Trails, Generate Membership.

Sign Up for a Booth Today. It's Free.

Award for Top Display!

RSVP by Nov. 1. Booths are filling up fast. Reserve your 10-foot by 10-foot space today. Electricity extra. To register, fill out form below.

If you have any questions, contact 2008 ISSA Convention Chair Dave Carmichael at (319) 610-5265 or at snohawk101@ymail.com.

Snowmobile Club Region : _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Contact Person: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Electricity required (please circle) Yes No If yes, add \$45

Mail completed registration form (and electricity fee if applicable) to:

Theresa Pothast, Snow Show Chair

23053 Terrace Avenue

Clarksville, IA 50619

Email: pothast@butler-bremer.com

ISSA Convention Registration Form

**Nov. 21-23, 2008 • Five Sullivan Brothers Convention Center
Ramada Inn, Waterloo**

Name: _____

Spouse: _____

Club: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Full Adult Registration (Please Indicate Number Attending)

_____ Early Bird* \$50 per person before Nov. 1 _____ \$60 per person thereafter

Included in Convention Registration:

* Early Bird Registrants eligible for \$100 meat certificate drawing.

- Friday night hospitality and entertainment
- Saturday brunch
- Saturday afternoon seminars
- Saturday evening banquet
- Snow Show admission
- Avalanche Awareness Seminar Sunday

Saturday Registration (Must Pre-Register. Please Indicate Number Attending.)

_____ \$45.

Please Note: Registration does not include lodging. For hotel reservations, dial (319) 233-7560. Ask for ISSA rate of \$79 plus tax.

Youth Registration

_____ \$30 per youth

Name: _____ Age: _____

Name: _____ Age: _____

Included in Youth Registration:

- Friday night hockey game (chaperoned)
- Pizza party following hockey game

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Make check payable to: ISSA Convention

Mail payment and completed registration form to:

Theresa Pothast

23053 Terrace Avenue

Clarksville, IA 50619

Email: pothast@butler-bremer.com

If you have any questions, contact 2008 ISSA Convention Chair Dave Carmichael at (319) 610-5265 or at snohawk101@ymail.com.

35th Annual ISSA Convention

**Nov. 21-23, 2008 • Five Sullivan
Brothers Convention Center
Ramada Inn, Waterloo**

Friday, Nov. 21

4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Registration

7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Hospitality and DJ Dance

3 p.m. to 8 p.m. ISSA Snow Show,

Five Sullivan Brothers Convention Center

- Sled Display
- "Snowmobile Iowa" Club Showcase
- Vendor Booths

Saturday, Nov. 22

8:15 a.m. to 10 a.m. Registration

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ISSA Snow Show,

Five Sullivan Brothers Convention Center

- Sled Display
- "Snowmobile Iowa" Club
- Showcase
- Vendor Booths

8:30 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. Opening Remarks

8:50 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Region Meetings/
Director Elections

9:35 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. General Membership
Annual Meeting

- Brunch at 10:30 a.m.

1 p.m. to 5 p.m. ISSA Seminars

Saturday Afternoon Seminars

1 p.m. to 2 p.m. To Be Determined

1 p.m. to 2 p.m. IDNR Paperwork and Trail Insurance

2 p.m. to 3 p.m. IDNR Report

3 p.m. to 4 p.m. Legislative Update

4 p.m. to 5 p.m. To Be Determined

Saturday Evening Banquet

5:30 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. Social

6:15 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. Dinner

7:15 p.m. to 10 p.m. Program

- Awards
- Silent Auction

Sunday, Nov. 23

8:30 a.m. ISSA Board of Directors regular meeting

Noon to 4 p.m. Avalanche Awareness Seminar

- Times and/or activities subject to change.

ATTENTION ISSA MEMBERS

**OFFICIAL NOTICE OF ELECTION OF OFFICERS
AND PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE ISSA BY-LAWS**

ISSA ANNUAL CONVENTION • NOV. 21-23, 2008

RAMADA INN AND FIVE SULLIVAN BROTHERS CONVENTION CENTER, WATERLOO

MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND.

2008 Club Challenge Donors

\$1,000

Wapsipicon Snowmobile Association

\$702

North Iowa Sno-Jammers

\$501

Sac County Sno-Lovers

\$500

Central Iowa Snowmobilers
Cedar Falls Snow Hawks

\$400

Iowa River Riders

\$300

Buene Vista County Blizzard Busters
Floyd County Groomers

\$250

Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club
Lyon County Sno-Lyons
Snow Pioneers
Snow Drifters
Eastern Iowa Sledheads
Mitchell County E-Z Riders

\$200

Frozen Few

\$100

Tri-County Snowmobile Association
Snowmobilers of Jackson County

Join the ISSA Today

If you enjoy the sport of snowmobiling in Iowa, you are not alone. There are an estimated 35,000 sleds registered with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and more than 50 clubs around the state which work to preserve a 5,000-mile trail system.

The glue that bonds us together is the Iowa State Snowmobile Association and its network of 1,932 dedicated family members and associates. Since 1973, our organization has helped to maintain an expansive fleet of groomers and lobbied on behalf of snowmobile-friendly legislation.

Without the ISSA over the past 30 years, snowmobiles—for example—would have been held to a 15 mph speed limit, and there would not have been any night riding, ditch riding nor access to state parks. Our efforts continue, and your support would be greatly appreciated. Fill out the form below and join the ISSA today.

With your paid, annual membership, you will receive a free subscription to the Iowa Snowmobiler magazine (our official publication) as well as a complimentary accidental death and dismemberment insurance policy. In order for husband and wife to receive the full \$2,000 benefit, though, please list each member in the space provided.

Official ISSA Membership Application Form

Detach and mail with your remittance

Single/Family (\$15) Associate/Business (\$25) Associate/Business w/website link (\$50) Three-year family membership (\$40)

#_____ Decals at \$2.35 each

Name: _____ Spouse: _____

List each child under 18 at this residence: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ County of Residence _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

I hereby apply for membership in the Iowa State Snowmobile Association and enclose: \$15 for a single year or \$40 for three years (a savings of \$5).
Included in membership is a subscription to the official publication of the ISSA.

If you are a member of a snowmobile club, list club name: _____

Membership year runs from Jan. 1 thru Dec. 31. Send your membership form and dues today to:
ISSA Membership, c/o Diane Childs, 709 Buchanan St., Manchester, IA 52057, e-mail: issasnow@mchsi.com

Scholarship Donation \$ _____
Charity Donation \$ _____
Legislative Action _____
Fund Donation \$ _____



There was a time when getting away from it all was called exploring.

While bears, and the majority of tourists, have gone into hibernation, Wyoming has not. An unmatched wonderland of winter adventure and extraordinary wildlife awaits you. From the snowcapped Big Horn Mountains across pristine snow swept plains to the powdery Medicine Bow range, Wyoming delights in making your escape a reality. Visit www.gosledwyoming.com or call 1.800.225.5996.



Forever West™

Region 1 O'Brien County Snowtrackers

by *Zelda Buse Christensen, Reporter*

Writing this mid-October, I observe in northwest Iowa some bright fall colors with leaves changing, some lawns still growing and bright green from timely rains, practically all bean fields harvested, and many corn fields in the process of going from stalk to bin. The radio reported snow in the Black Hills last week, and we have a strong chance of frost here tonight.

With snowmobiling season soon to arrive, we have our annual membership supper scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 15, at The Dugout in Granville, with social hour at 6 p.m. and meal at 7 p.m.

Besides spreading the word in an attempt to entice new members (They eat free), the Snowtrackers have set Feb. 8 as the date for the snowdeo and radar run at Archer. Also, some members have recently worked on signing many miles of the trail system — with many miles still left to do.

Hopefully, we will all be ready for winter snow when it comes, and we do hope it comes!

Region 3 Iowa River Riders

by *Jason McVicker, President*

The Iowa River Riders has a busy schedule planned for this winter. We have fun runs, snowmobile safety training and a club trip to Laramie, Wyo., in the works.

We had our first meeting of the season Oct. 1 and had an excellent turnout. The interest level for the club trip is high and will be an excellent time. Thanks to all our club members who have already renewed their memberships.

The Rolling Prairie Trail is still a work in progress, but it looks very good for a multi-use dual corridor trail. There is still a lot of work ahead on this project. We are just happy to be included and are excited to work with the Franklin County Conservation Board to make it happen. Right now, planned construction for the trail is slated for 2010.

The club trip is planned for Feb. 18-21 in Laramie, Wyo. Anyone interested in going can contact Tony Knoll or Jason McVicker.

Thank you to Pat's Landing for discounting the trip for the early membership renewal program.

I encourage everyone to support the ISSA and join a club.

Let's hope for a good fall to get the crops out, and then we can have some fun in the white stuff.

North Iowa Sno-Jammers

by *Michael Rygh*

Hello, from the North Iowa Sno-Jammers! The crops are being taken out, and before you know it, we will be setting up trails for snowmobiling. They say this year's supposed to be better than the last.

We had a meeting Oct. 11, trying to get ready for this winter. For the most part, we've got people lined up to mark out the trails in the northern part of the county, but if there's anywhere you would like to help out, please get a hold of Trail Director Terry Durby. Our groomer is being cleaned as we speak and being checked over to see if there's anything to fix. The next part of business we talked about was being able to get some of those big pallets that the windmill people use to haul all the parts on. We would like to make at least one bridge which we would like to put north of Flugum's bin site, so we don't have to climb that ditch anymore.

Important news: On Nov. 29, there will be a potluck at Squids celebrating that all trail signs are in. On this date, we also need all those early memberships in to get a chance to win the Pat's Landing stay. On Dec. 14, we will be having our Christmas party at the Legion in Emmons, Minn. At both of these events, the social will be at 6 p.m. and the meeting will be at 7 p.m.

The other item of business is that we have decided to schedule fun runs starting Jan. 17 and going every other weekend. March 14 will be our last fun run. Spots have been decided on and will be posted as soon as all information is finalized.

The final item of business is that in our last club news, the club trip date was incorrect. The correct date is Jan. 22-25 at Pat's Landing in Hayward, Wis. Sorry for the mess up.

Region 4 Cedar Falls Sno Hawks

by *Dick Melick, Reporter*

Greetings from Cedar Falls! As the snow season is rapidly approaching, it was really refreshing to open an e-mail from a young friend who lives in the west: Subject: *Pictures of our first snow*. A person could drool over the amount

of snow. The pictures were beautiful, and she and her family looked liked they were really enjoying the fresh deposit of over a foot of "white gold."

We had our first club meeting on Oct. 6. The turnout was a little disappointing, but we were able to get a little business accomplished. Our new meeting place is the Chuck Wagon Restaurant, and the location seemed to work out OK, except the restaurant closes at 8:30 p.m., so we really have to hurry to get everything taken care of. All snowmobilers are welcome to attend the meetings, which are the first Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. The December meeting may be at a different location and/or time as we will try to have that meeting in conjunction with our annual Christmas party. We order from their regular menu at the start of the meeting.

We are still waiting for approval of the trail permits for the highway crossing from the IDOT. The signed applications have been in the hands of the DOT for some time and hopefully will be approved and returned by the time this publication reaches your mailbox.

Our immediate project is to try to determine the landowners along the section of trail which for which we are responsible. We have received information on at least three changes and will probably detect more as we get into the official records. The deadline to get the insurance application to V & V Insurance Agency is fast approaching. We understand that if the deadline is not met, there will be no insurance for this coming season.

Again this year, the Sno Hawks will be working on the Younkers Community Day Event to raise money for the ISSA Scholarship Foundation. It is an easy way to increase the funds for the foundation and all that is needed is to sell as many of the store's coupon books as possible and work a couple of hours at the store. The books sell for \$5 which we keep for the Foundation. The purchaser gets a coupon in the book that is good for \$10 off on any single qualifying item priced over \$10. It is a win/win situation for everyone. All stores in the Boston group, which includes Younkers, Herberger's, Boston Store, Carson Pirie Scott, Elder-Beerman and Bergner's, participate in the program. Any club who has any of those stores in the general locale can participate. You need to contact the store to sign up to be involved, and most of the stores can accommodate many groups. Anyone wanting more information may contact Anne Melick at (319) 231-2095, and she will be more than willing to help you.

Don't forget to register for the ISSA Convention, which will be in Waterloo the weekend of Nov. 21-23. Hope to see a large turnout this year as this is the 35th Anniversary of the ISSA.

Region 5 Allamakee Sno-Blazers

by Mary ????

Well, it's time to get back planning for hopefully a snowy winter. We had a fair turn out for our landowners' supper this year. We had it at the Waukon Park and cooked steaks/hamburger on the grill. That evening, we drew for the four-wheeler raffle that we were doing as a fundraiser. A special thank you goes out to Waukon Power Sports for working with us on this. Some are still working on the trail to connect us to Dorchester, which would connect us with Minnesota. Trail bosses are working on updating landowners' info. Think Snow!

Driftrunners Inc.

by Bob Martinek, Board Member

Hello, to everyone from the Driftrunners in Cresco! As I sit to write this column on Oct. 13, the Driftrunners have just completed our Fourth Annual Grass Drags, and boy did we have a great turnout of racers and spectators. Our races have gotten a little bigger and better every year. The weather this year certainly didn't hurt either as it was sunny and 78 degrees. Heck, we even had KWWL news there to cover the races! I also would like to take this chance to personally thank the Humpals and Pecinovsky's for allowing us to have the drags on their land for the second straight year.

Ahead to the ISSA Convention coming up Nov. 21-23 in Waterloo: If you've never been to one, I would highly encourage it. Besides being a great place to meet and make new friends, it gives everyone a chance to see the inside workings of the ISSA. You can read more about convention in this issue of the *Iowa Snowmobiler*.

Also coming up on Dec. 6 is our annual Kickoff Dance and Toys for Tots drive. We have booked the DJ *No Passengers Allowed* and will hold the dance at our clubhouse. As always, admission will be either a new unwrapped toy or a cash donation that would go toward purchasing more toys.

Also remember coming up this season will be our 41st Annual Sno-Fest on Jan. 22-25; more about Sno-Fest later. To find out more about any of our events or check on any of our meet-

ing times or dates; please go to our Web site at www.geocities.com/driftrunnersia.

I would like everyone to know that they are free to contact any board member (cell phone numbers are listed on the Web site), with their ideas or suggestions. Well that's enough rambling, so take care — 'til we meet on the trails this winter.

Region 7 Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club

by Gary Burger, President

Wow! What a great turnout we had in September for our first meeting of the year. There was standing room only as the meeting began. Was it the appetizers that were served to commemorate the 35th Anniversary of our club or the anticipation of another great year of snowmobiling in central Iowa? I'd like to think it was the latter.

We'd like to welcome the new members who attended our first meeting. For them and all the membership, there will be a lot of opportunities to participate in a variety of club activities this year. Our annual grass drags are beginning to take shape as the various committees are being formed. On the social front, Tammy has planned a number of trips and social gatherings for us all to get to know each other better and enjoy our common interest in snowmobiling. You can hear more about the trips she has planned at upcoming meetings.

Our trail system is the backbone of our club. With the addition of the Heart of Iowa Trail, we have a trail system that rivals any other in the state. If you have never ridden it, you're missing a great ride. Working with John and Rob in preparing the trails for the upcoming season is a great way to see the trail and meet fellow members.

There are unlimited opportunities to help out. On the charity front, most of you know that our club and the state association (ISSA) have raised significant funds for the Spina Bifida Association of Iowa for many, many years. In addition to a 50/50 raffle at each meeting, we help to host the Annual Spina Bifida Ride every year in Huxley. Also, the majority of our profits from our Grass Drags go to Spina Bifida each year. This year will be the second year we help raise funds for the ISSA Scholarship fund through the sale of Younkers discount books. The proceeds are used to fund scholarships that are awarded

to the children of ISSA members. You can hear much more about this year's activities at our future meetings.

Highbridge Trailblazers

by Robert Reutter, Trail Boss

The Highbridge Trailblazers are having a Halloween Party on Nov. 1. Costumes are highly recommended. At the September meeting, we also set up crews to do the signing on our trail system. We scheduled the safety certification course for 12 year olds on Saturday, Nov. 29. It starts at 9 a.m. at my shop, 1804 First Street, Boone. For more information, call me at (515) 432-1188 or Bill Nordstrom at (515) 432-5695.

The club recently sent \$100 to the BlueRibbon Coalition. They are the ones fighting to keep places like Yellowstone open. It is slowly getting worse there. In the 1990s, 68,000 sleds would go through the park in a year; now we're down to 540 sleds per day, and they have to be guided and meet certain restrictions. The ones who really get hurt are the residents of the town of West Yellowstone. Motels and stores are closing from a lack of snowmobiles.

I have my poker sheets all printed and ready for sale. There are 21 stops on it and it is open all winter. It ends March 31 so this gives everyone a chance to get it done. I also just sent in my registration for the ISSA convention and got a room reserved as well. The ISSA Snow Show is also Nov. 21-23, so I will leave the convention early Sunday morning and go to Minneapolis for the show there before heading home. *

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NEWS BRIEFS

Continued from page 11

Another morning of test-n-tune session kicks off Sunday's activities along with a second round of qualifying. Feature racing will start at noon on Sunday with the Pro 440 Champ Class (Eagle River Championship Class) race as close to 3 p.m. as possible.

"If you didn't get to see enough vintage sleds on Saturday, the 340 Super Stock Class will be running a special memorial race on Sunday for one of our late club members who raced in that class and was killed in a snowmobiling accident," Wynia said.

There will be concessions on the grounds, including an adult beverage gardens. As in years past, proceeds from the racing and related events will benefit local, state and ISSA charities. For more information, contact Wynia at (712) 470-0799 or visit www.snolyons.com. *

PRESIDENT'S DESK

Continued from page 4

about snowmobile clubs and about all the fun-family activities that we enjoy in the winter and year round. Non-snowmobilers identify and thirst for the family-fun activity that snowmobiling provides, but they simply know nothing about. All the more reason for all of us to expand our friendships and form new friendships by inviting somebody to go snowmobiling with us this winter.

Snowmobiling is our way to connect. We snowmobile to connect with old friends and to make new ones. We snowmobile to connect with winter on its snow-covered trails. We snowmobile to connect with our families and to create memories. We snowmobile to connect with our communities and to make a difference. And lastly, we snowmobile to connect with ourselves, to relax and recharge.

In closing, I want to say thank you to all of you for the past two years serving as your president of the ISSA. I have met many new friends, all with a common interest, to make our sport of snowmobiling better. There were many challenges that came up and were met with many dedicated volunteers wanting to make a difference. There is still much work to be done, and I am confident the new board and directors for next year will continue to make the ISSA stronger and better. This happens with all of you supporting and helping out when and where you can.

"We can't always repay the people who help us on our way through life but all of us ... no matter what we possess ... can pass on the payment." *

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