

Hoermann Named ACSA Snowmobiler of the Year

As the ISSA's 2009 Snowmobiler of the Year, Past ISSA President Merv Hoermann of Sutherland was nominated for and received the American Council of Snowmobile Association's (ACSA) Snowmobiler of the Year Award at the 2010 International Snowmobile Congress in Coralville in June.

His award represents the second year in a row an Iowan has won the national award, following up ISSA President Gary Burger's honor last year. A snowmobiler for four decades, Hoermann was recognized for his contributions to the sport of snowmobiling in Iowa.

"As an active member in seven Iowa clubs, Merv has been instrumental in convincing local snowmobilers to have 100 percent individual membership in the ISSA," said ACSA Awards Committee Chair Bill Manson. "He has fostered relationships with the local law enforcement, and to promote tourism, he was instrumental in organizing the first cross-state ride."

Hoermann has represented Iowa at the SAE Clean Snowmobile Challenge the past five years and has lobbied on behalf of snowmobiling interests at the State Capitol in Des Moines as well as during the ACSA D.C. Fly-In in Washington. Hoermann said the national recognition came as a "big surprise."

"Snowmobiling is something I've always loved and I think a lot of you know that," he said during his acceptance speech. "It's a sport that you want to leave in better shape than when you found it. I try to make a difference with a lot of snowmobilers that I've met. I learned a long time ago that they are no strangers here but only friends you haven't met yet. I know there are a lot of deserving people out here tonight so I am very honored and humbled by this award."



Hoermann with ACSA President Fred Wiley

Mid-States Earns Top Dealer Honors at ISC



Jon and Janine Seibert with ACSA President Fred Wiley

Similar to its Snowmobiler of the Year Award, the 2010 ACSA Snowmobile Dealer of the Year Award also went home to Iowa with Jon and Janine Seibert of Mid-States Powersports, Grimes, earning the recognition. They, too, followed up another Iowa dealership winning the award in 2009: Keunen's House of Power, Maynard.

After many successful years in the real estate business, the Seiberts opened their Arctic Cat dealership in 2004. From their first day of business, Mid-States pledged to support the local club to the best of their ability. Their community involvement includes open houses, keeping their shop open for groomer repairs and storing the groomer when necessary.

"The Seiberts have been instrumental in keeping snowmobiling in the forefront of their area," said ACSA Awards Committee Chair Bill Manson. "They are not just interested in selling a new sled, but are truly interested in exposing everyone to snowmobiling."

"Jon works just as hard at selling a 25-cent bolt as he does a \$10,000 snowmobile. He's relentless," Janine said, paraphrasing an observation by shop employee Randy Claude.

"On behalf of all small dealers who put quality ahead of quantity, I thank you for this award," Jon said. "It was definitely a surprise to us. Being down on the southern end of the Snow Belt in Iowa, I do appreciate this award and appreciate all of the local clubs who work with us."

Carmichael Receives Iron Dog's Eisenhuth Award

Past ISSA President Dave Carmichael of Tripoli was speechless the night of June 12 when his fellow members of the Iron Dog Brigade honored him with the George A. Eisenhuth Award at the 2010 International Snowmobile Congress in Coralville.

"Wow, I don't know what to say. This is unbelievable, and it doesn't get any better than this," a stunned Carmichael said from the podium.

The award recognizes "distinguished" service to snowmobiling and is presented in honor of "significant contributions to the advancement of winter recreation and the sport of snowmobiling."

The Iron Dog Brigade formed in 1975 when several early pioneers in the sport of snowmobiling thought it would be good idea to form an "old timers club." Over the years, the organization has grown to 125 members with new members joining each June at their annual meeting at ISC.

Membership is by nomination. Snowmobilers who have served their sport for at least 15 years either in industry, journalism, government or as a volunteer or pioneer are eligible for an invitation. Many of the "dogs," including Carmichael, have also been inducted into the International Snowmobile Hall of Fame.



2010 Award Winners at Convention



Justin Overland with daughter Liberty and then-ISSA President Gary McVicker

Snowmobiler of the Year

Justin Overland, Lake Mills

Nominated by North Iowa Sno-Jammers

Justin is very active in his local club, excelling in membership recruitment and fundraising for the Spina Bifida Association of Iowa among other tasks. He has led the North Iowa Sno-Jammers to being one of the top fundraisers every year.

His leadership in the club, other local organizations and governmental agency relationships create respect in the community for himself and all snowmobilers as being the most organized group you can count on.

Justin has been active in snowmobiling for 27 years and currently serves as his club's president, leading by example in trail marking, club recruiting and volunteering.

"I was very surprised at the banquet to receive the ISSA Snowmobiler of the Year Award," Justin writes in this month's Club News. "I had NO clue. A big Thank You to everyone involved!!"



Mike Hauan (center) and Earl Cavett with then-ISSA President Gary McVicker

Snowmobile Dealer of the Year

Lake Mills Motor Sports, Lake Mills

Nominated by North Iowa Sno-Jammers

Lake Mills Motor Sports co-owners Mike Hauan and Earl Cavett believe in grass-roots snowmobiling. The Polaris dealership has been a long-time supporter of the local club, the North Iowa Sno-Jammers, and maintains an associate membership in the ISSA.

The dealership supports numerous club activities, including apparel sales, trail maps, event calendars and memberships. In fact, Hauan serves as the club treasurer, employing persuasive tactics to convince customers to join the club and, of course, the ISSA. Meanwhile, Cavett lends years of experience to club programs.

"Earl and I appreciate this award more than anyone really knows," Mike said. "We love snowmobiling. We made a commitment years ago to stay in it and to go after it, and our patrons have been outstanding."

Groomer Operator of the Year

Stanley Wolf, Waterloo

Nominated by Cedar Falls Sno Hawks

A mechanic by trade, Stan has served as the chief groomer mechanic for the Five Star Snow Trails Association since 1987. His vast knowledge the Tucker machines that the Five Star has been operating since 1985 comes in handy every winter.

The Five Star is a club alliance that maintains snowmobile trails in Black Hawk and Bremer counties. In addition to his mechanical duties, Stan is the group's treasurer and maintains much of the grooming paperwork and recordkeeping.

A member since 1977, Stan is a staunch supporter of the Cedar Falls Sno Hawks, the ISSA and snowmobiling in general. He rarely misses a club or ISSA function and is a tireless worker for the sport, always willing to lend a hand when any project comes up.



Stan Wolf with his new Tucker jacket and then-ISSA President Gary McVicker

Snowmobile Family of the Year

Dick and Anne Melick, Cedar Falls

Nominated by Cedar Falls Sno Hawks

Individually, Dick and Anne have each been recognized by the ISSA with the organization's Lifetime Achievement Award. Now as husband and wife, they have been honored with the 2010 ISSA Family of the Year Award.

The Melicks began their snowmobiling experience over 40 years ago and quickly realized the importance of organized snowmobiling as the backbone of the sport. They are faithful and tireless members of their club and have held nearly every possible office, many several times.

Both have served on the ISSA Board of Directors in numerous capacities and have donated hundreds of volunteer hours to support club and ISSA charities and the scholarship foundation.

They have received numerous awards and recognitions during their many years of involvement with organized snowmobiling, including their 2001 induction into the International Snowmobile Hall of Fame.

"This is one of those 'gotcha' moments," Dick said in accepting this most recent award. "We did not have a clue. We appreciate it and thank everybody for this award. We have a lot of fun snowmobiling but also know it's a lot of work. Having said that, we would gladly do it all over again."



Dick and Anne Melick with then-ISSA President Gary McVicker