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IOWA SNOWMOBILER

November 2026 • Volume 48 • Issue 2

A Little Lake Racing

Convention
Agenda Set



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Accidents can happen, even to the most experienced riders. Snowmobile insurance offers liability coverage, protecting you from the financial implications of third-party injuries or property damage, up to specified limits. You can relax and have fun in your winter activities, whether riding on trails or exploring the backcountry, when you have the right protection.

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Have fun in the winter with confidence, knowing that you have the proper coverage for your situation. Invest in snowmobile insurance and ensure that your thrilling escapades remain just that—thrilling, safe, and unforgettable. Let the snow-covered landscapes be your playground, and let insurance be your safety net.

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Iowa Snowdrifters

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Drawing - Friday, November 13, 2026
Swisher American Legion
6pm Social -- 8pm Drawing
You do not need to be present to win
You must be 18 or older to win



IOWA SNOWMOBILER

The Official Magazine of the Iowa State Snowmobile Association

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CHANGE NOTIFICATION

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



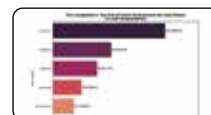
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IOWA SNOWMOBILER

November 2026 • Volume 48 • Issue 2

Convention agenda set

Morning session includes review of recent economic impact study.



6

Riding for cancer

Worth County club members raise funds to benefit patients at local hospital.



9

Ice drags return

Team Iowa hosts annual event in February after weather impacted last two attempts.



13

Late-season getaway

Spring Break means a trip up north for one last ride in March of 2023.



15

This Month's Map Center Spread Sponsor:

- Iowa River Riders, Region 3



COVER: After a two-year break due to poor ice conditions, head-to-head drag racing returned to Little Wall Lake south of Jewell Feb. 7. Team Iowa Snowmobilers in Region 7 have been hosting this event since 2018. Photo courtesy Scott Vavroch Photography.

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SETH BRAM

ISSA
PRESIDENT



Hello, sledders!

Fall is here, and hopefully we're getting closer to a winter full of white gold! It's time to start looking over the sleds, catching up with your clubs and getting ready for another season.

With convention coming up, make sure you get signed up and make plans to join us! It's always good to get everyone together, catch up with friends and talk snowmobiling before the season gets rolling. Whether you've been coming for years or this would be your first time, we'd love to see you there. Bring along a fellow club member and make a weekend of it!

Getting your registration in ahead of time also helps the folks putting convention together. There's a lot of work that goes into these events, and having a good head count makes planning a little easier. Take a few minutes to get signed up while it's on your mind!

This is also a good time to get involved with your local club. A little help goes a long way, as everyone starts preparing for winter, and we appreciate the volunteers who put in the hours to keep our sport going.

Hope to see you at convention! Until then, get those sleds ready and start wishing for snow!

Convention agenda set

Results from recent economic study expected at morning session; afternoon seminars confirmed

by Cameron Hanson

Iowa snowmobilers spend more than \$30 million each year on snowmobile-related activities. The problem is two-thirds of that impressive amount leaves the state, according to recent statistics from Iowa State University.

In May, college students from ISU's CyBIZ Lab released its initial findings on the Economic Impact of Snowmobiling in Iowa. Their research showed \$11 million was spent in Iowa, while \$19 million was spent travelling to other states across the Snow Belt.

The 62-page report—complete with bar graphs and pie charts—cost \$8,500 to complete and was commissioned by the ISSA to update the results from its last study in 2011. ISSA officials plan to use this information to influence legislators, community leaders and recreational stakeholders when discussing trail access and other snowmobile issues in Iowa.

A central theme throughout study was the substantial amount of economic activity lost to other states. Survey respondents said they ride considerably more outside of Iowa than within the state. Neighboring Wisconsin was identified as the most frequent destination.

"The analysis reveals that significant

spending on Iowa snowmobiling activities happens outside of Iowa, with Iowans traveling to multiple states," the study found. "This is driven by several factors, including relatively higher levels of snowfall and more public lands available for snowmobiling."

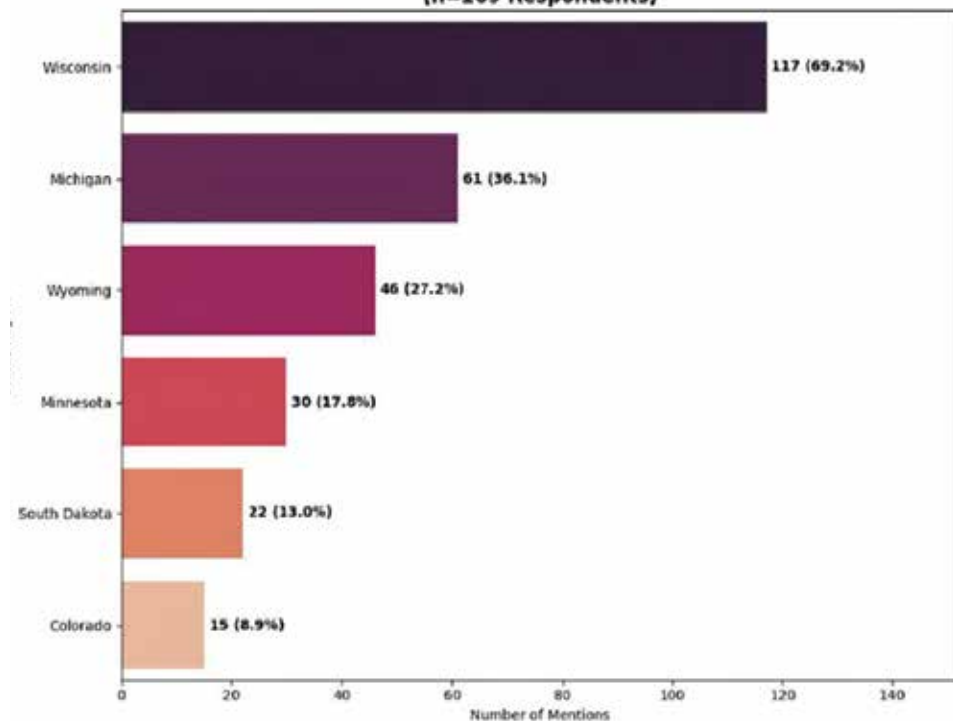
"Snow availability is the primary factor when discussing in-state vs. out-of-state riding," Past ISSA President Jim Willey noted. "Beyond that, riders seek different scenery and riding opportunities, such as the northwoods or the mountains out west. Destination trips also provide dedicated time for friends and family to plan outdoor experiences together."

Willey chairs the ISSA's Legislative Committee and lined up the ISU team to complete the study more than a year ago. He is expected to take a deeper dive into their findings during the Saturday morning Legislative Update at the 2026 ISSA Convention in Clear Lake in November.

The study is based on findings from a statewide survey distributed to 25,327 outdoor enthusiasts, including ISSA members, registered snowmobilers and registered ATV/UTV riders. The survey received 1,161 completed responses, representing a 5% response rate.

Students also conducted eight follow-up

**The Competitors: Top Out-of-State Destinations for Iowa Riders
(n=169 Respondents)**



interviews with riders and industry participants to provide context behind the survey results. Their interviews explored riding habits, economic activity, trail access, club participation, regulation and the reasons Iowa riders travel outside the state.

"Overall, Iowa could benefit by undertaking efforts to keep more of the out-of-state spending within the state," the report's Executive Summary states. "Strategic investments in trail infrastructure, marketing and tourism partnerships can help toward that goal. Diversifying trail use and promoting event-based activities can help offset the effects of reduced snowfall in Iowa relative to neighboring states.

"Additionally, the findings suggest that Iowa should prioritize maximizing in-state participation and spending rather than competing directly with higher-snowfall destinations, positioning snowmobiling as part of a broader, multi-use recreational economy," the study concluded.

Clean Snowmobile Challenge update

Also at the upcoming convention, engineering students from ISU's Clean Snowmobile Challenge team will provide ISSA members with an update on their project sled for the 2027 competition.

Since 2015, ISU students have been competing in this national contest against other northern climate schools. The February competition is designed to encourage student innovation and to test new ideas to reduce snowmobile emissions and improve fuel mileage. The ISSA and several clubs help sponsor their participation in the event each year.



Nick Lueder

Regrettably, the team was not allowed to participate in the 2026 competition after the team was found in violation of university policy. According to Project Director Nick Lueder, the infraction stemmed from an early December event on campus, during which a team member rode the project sled from one shop space to another "without prior authorization." The incident occurred after an early snowfall and involved approximately four blocks of travel on 5" of fresh snow on an unplowed road.

"This was a spur-of-the-moment decision because the main shop had been closed the week prior due to the snowstorm, and we wanted to make sure we could get some work done that Sunday," Lueder explained earlier this year. "We did not submit an event authorization due to the limited time frame. We were then seen operating the

sled which led to further consequences."

Lueder said the team pled their case but to no avail. They later met with university officials in an effort to rebuild their reputation so they could start planning for this season. The team was allowed to resume their project for 2027 and reinvested money they would have otherwise spent for the 2026 campaign into this winter's entry. Lueder said the entire situation has been a learning experience for the team.

"It was a pretty disappointing development leading up to competition last year, but we are continuing operations as usual this year. There is still a lot to look forward to," he said. "The last meeting we had in regards to this situation was about regaining trust rather than discussing any reason why we should not have been able to attend the competition last season."

Updated agenda

This year's convention is planned for Nov. 20-22 at the Best Western Holiday Lodge in Clear Lake. An updated agenda appears on page 14. In addition to the Economic Impact Study and the Clean Snowmobile Challenge, the Saturday schedule includes important membership updates, general elections and seminars on trail insurance and snocross.

Following the morning meetings and afternoon seminars, there will be a groomer reception leading up to the Awards Banquet Saturday evening. In early October, the nomination deadline for ISSA awards was extended from Oct. 15 to Oct. 30.

ISSA members looking for fun outside of meetings are encouraged to arrive early Friday evening for a special tour of the legendary Surf Ballroom and Museum. Kids can also partake in youth activities planned for both Friday and Saturday, and a ladies off-site event is planned for Saturday afternoon.

Full adult registration for convention this year costs \$85 with other tiered attendance levels available. Fill out the forms on page 14 or visit the following website at bit.ly/m/2026issa to register. Registration fees do not cover lodging. To book your room, contact the hotel directly at (641) 357-5253 or online at bit.ly/issahotel.

Clubs are reminded to bring their displays for the Snowmobile Iowa showcase and any items for the Silent Auction. Clubs are also asked to bring their donations for charity, legislation and scholarship for presentation at convention. All ISSA beneficiaries are listed on page 12 of this issue.

Clubs interested in sponsoring this year's convention can email committee co-chair Brandon Plaht at bplaht@gmail.com. He can also be reached at (563) 605-0141 for additional questions or for more information on convention weekend.

KATE TAYLOR

ISSA VICE PRESIDENT



Writing this today and it has been raining for what seems like forever in northeast Iowa. Just think if this was snow, we would all be ecstatic.

My short experience with VP has opened my eyes to what many people do that might not get recognized; there are many hands that make this organization what it is. Thank you to all those who volunteer their time and energy.

Get those registrations in for the Convention in Clear Lake this month. The Driftrunners have been putting a lot of time it to make it a great time. Hope to see everyone there.



bit.ly/m/2026issa

Register for convention.

bit.ly/issahotel

Book a room.



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ISTGP relies on timely responses from clubs

by Cameron Hanson

About a third of the snowmobile clubs in Iowa seem to be testing the patience of the Iowa Snowmobile Trail Grant Program (ISTGP). As of Oct. 1, 18 clubs had not signed their cooperative agreements for the upcoming snowmobile season and another two had not submitted trail grant applications at all during the offseason.

“As a reminder, your club must have a completed grant application and signed cooperative agreement to use ISTGP grooming equipment this winter,” ISTGP Co-Administrator Chris Willey wrote by email. “These steps are also required to remain eligible for the per-mile reimbursement and receive trail insurance.”

In June, the ISTGP identified half a dozen clubs which had not submitted trail grant applications by the June 1 deadline. They were given an extension to July 30 to complete their submission, which two clubs still did not. In July, the new cooperative agreements were made available on the Snowmobile Automated Reporting System (SNARS) website at ia.groomertrackingsystems.com/club.



We need to make sure things are sent in on time before deadlines are missed.

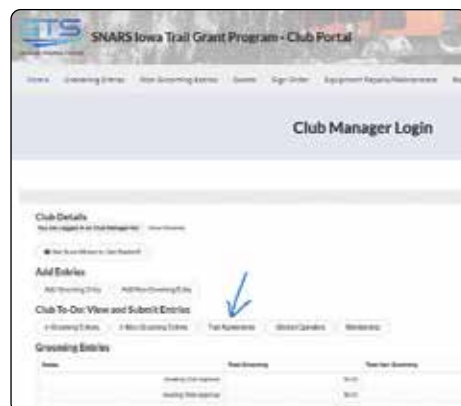


Delinquent clubs have been notified of their status by email. They now have until Nov. 1 to sign the cooperative agreements electronically or risk losing trail funding. As detailed in last month's issue, clubs which met the June 1 grant application deadline are eligible for a mileage reimbursement rate of \$13 per mile this winter. All tardy applicants will receive \$11 per mile.

Besides Willey and co-administrator John Kahler, the ISTGP is governed by a nine-member board of mostly volunteer snowmobilers. Willey said they rely on these committee members to make informed decisions on the groomer fleet, grant applications and major equipment repairs across the state.

“We have great support and help from ISTGP committee members, but we also need the help of each club's leadership team,” Willey said. “We need to make sure things are sent in on time before deadlines are missed.”

The ISTGP will be delivering its annual



To sign the 2026-27 Cooperative Agreement, clubs need to login at ia.groomertrackingsystems.com/club and click on the 'Trail Agreements' button. For help or more information, contact the ISTGP at istgp.rsc@gmail.com

address at the ISSA convention Nov. 21 in Clear Lake. This meeting is open to any legally registered snowmobiler in Iowa, and they do not have to be registered for the convention to attend. Snowmobilers from the eastern third of Iowa will also elect their representative on the ISTGP panel to a three-year term during this session.

Also in October, Willey announced a shipping delay for new trail signs for the upcoming season. The signs were ordered on time in June, but instead of getting delivered to individual club addresses, the vendor shipped the entire order in bulk to the ISTGP warehouse in Thompson. The ISTGP is now in the process of separating club orders and redistributing signs.

“If you would like to get them sooner, please let us know, and we can set up a time to pick them up in person,” Willey said.

Willey reminded clubs the “primary way” to communicate with the ISTGP is through SNARS or by email at istgp.rsc@gmail.com. He said phone calls, text messages, social media messages or any other type of communication is secondary, and timely responses from the committee will depend on the situation.

“If you need parts, guidance on a trail situation or anything else snowmobiling related or not, we are available,” Willey said. “We have a vast knowledge base to help you out, but we need documented communication in SNARS and email to keep track of everything. None of us do this full time. Just like you, we all have jobs, families, hobbies and other volunteer groups we are involved in.”

February ride raises funds for local cancer patients

by Cameron Hanson

Seven members of the Worth County Fence Stretchers in Region 3 participated in the 17th Annual Snowball Cancer Ride in northern Wisconsin last February. The group included two cancer survivors, and together, they raised more than \$20,000 to help establish an endowment fund at a local hospital.

Founded in 2009, the ride is coordinated each winter by the Keller Family Foundation in memory of Mary Jane Keller, who died from breast cancer in 1989. Her son, Nick Keller, started the fundraiser on the 20th Anniversary of his mother's death. He died unexpectedly a year ago at age 71, and now his daughters continue his legacy as co-directors for the Minnesota-based family foundation.

"We know that fighting cancer is an exhausting battle," Melissa Ngeno and Julie Dornbusch said in a press release. "The hidden costs like fuel, lodging and travel expenses should never stand in the way of life-saving care. We want to help lift those burdens and help local families focus entirely on their treatments and getting well."

The ride is close and personal to Fence Stretchers members Tim Charlson of Plymouth and Gary Schotanus of St. Ansgar, both of whom have survived their own bouts with cancer. Schotanus also lost his father to cancer, and he said he rides to "honor his dad's memory and to celebrate my own recoveries."



Worth County club members who participated in the Feb. 12 ride included, from left, Hayden Olson, Scott Wilde, Mike Petersen, Russ Olson, Mike King, Tim Charlson and Gary Schotanus.

their families here and hearing their stories is such an inspiration," said Josh Guyer, the hospital's chief development officer. "This endowment will help remove practical barriers to care and make it easier for patients to get the treatment they need. We're grateful to the Keller family and all of the riders for making this possible."

Snowball Cancer Ride participants raise money through pledges and donations. They are expected to complete one of two legs: 250 miles or 500 miles in a day. On Feb. 12, five members of the Worth County group rode the 500-mile loop, while two others opted for the shorter, 250-mile section. Both rides started in Manitowish Waters, Wis., and travelled through northern Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

The Feb. 12 ride was the second one planned for the 2026 fundraising campaign. The first one took place on Feb. 5 and started in Bergland, Mich. Over both dates, the two-day event brought in a total of \$220,000 for the Keller foundation. For Schotanus, this was his third time participating in the cancer ride. He also rode in 2022 and 2025.

This winter's ride is once again planned for the Bergland and Manitowish Waters areas on Feb. 4 and 11, respectively. For more information, visit snowballcancer.org.

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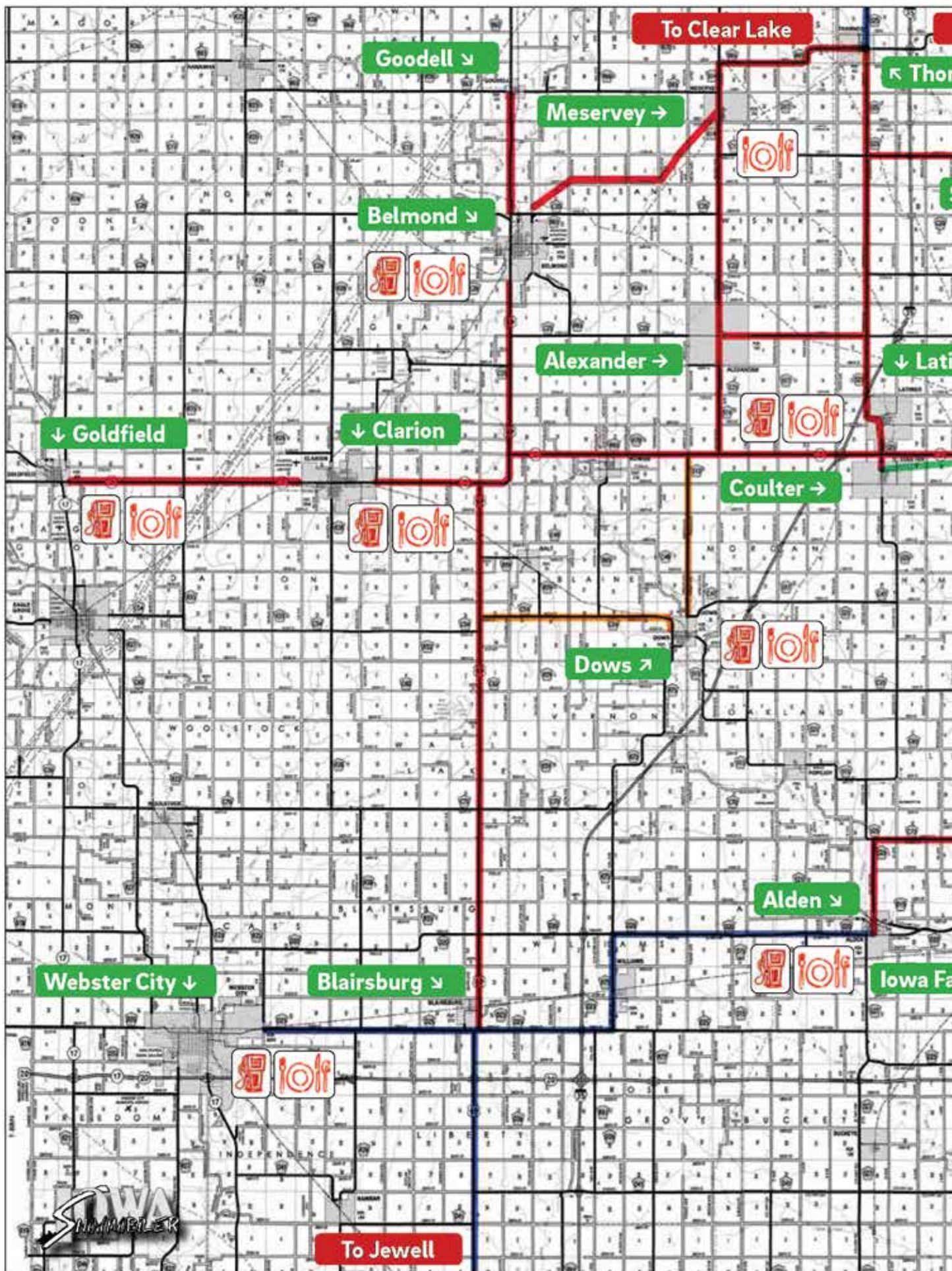
REGION NINE

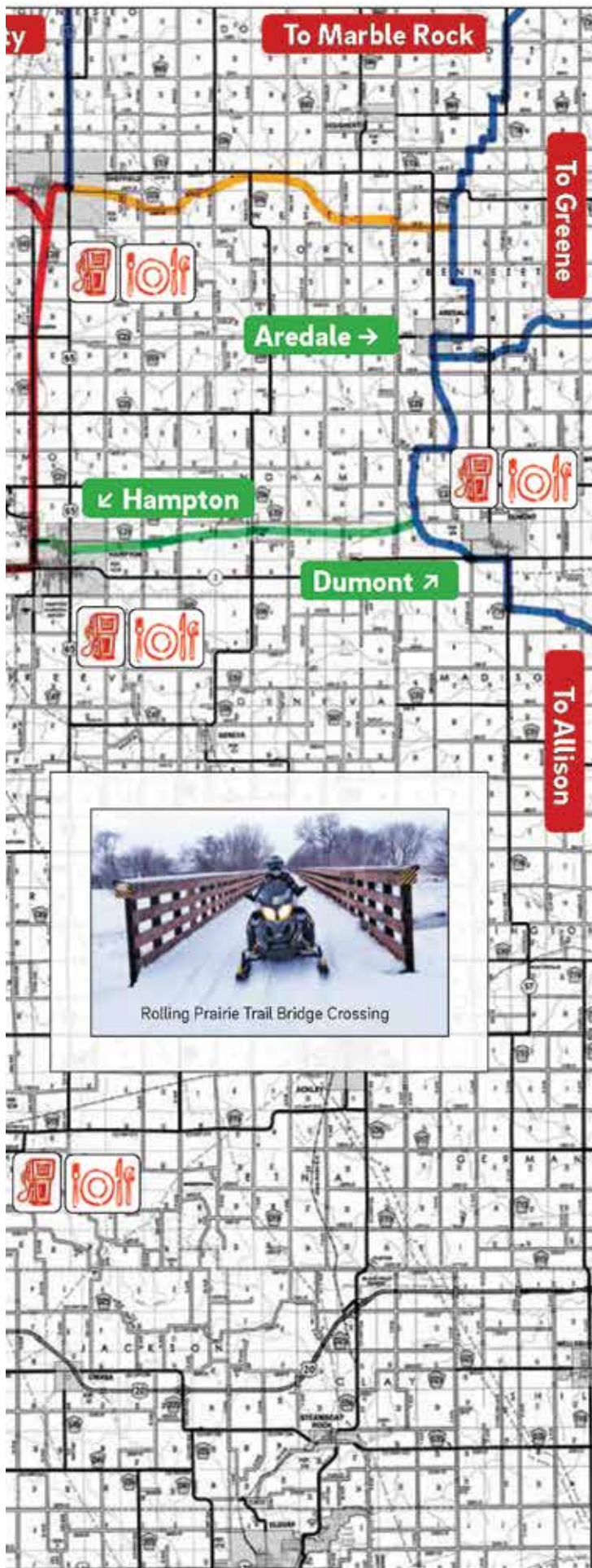
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LEGEND

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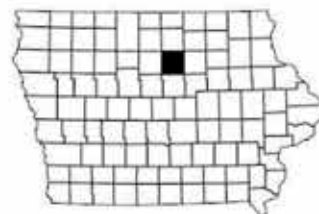
- █ Primary Trail
- █ Secondary Trail
- █ Neighboring Club Trail
- █ Rolling Prairie Trail



Fuel Available



Food Available



SNOWMOBILE TRAIL MAP Franklin County, IA



100% Member

2026 DONATIONS

Spina Bifida Association of Iowa

Driftrunners.....	\$1,000
Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club.....	\$750
Hancock County Snowmobile Association	\$500
Howard County Stump Jumpers.....	\$500
Worth County Fence Stretchers	\$500
Bremer County Sno-Knights.....	\$300
Floyd County Groomers Association	\$300
Central Iowa Snowmobilers.....	\$250
Iowa River Riders	\$200
Snow Pioneers	\$200
Cedar Falls Sno Hawks	\$100
High Bridge Trailblazers	\$100
Raccoon Valley Snow Chasers	\$100
Team Iowa Snowmobilers.....	\$100
Tri-County Snowmobile Association	\$100
Webster County Ice Breakers.....	\$100

ISSA Lobbyist Club Challenge

Central Iowa Snowmobilers.....	\$350
Floyd County Groomers Association	\$300
Sno-Pak.....	\$300
Snow Pioneers	\$300
Worth County Fence Stretchers	\$250
Iowa River Riders	\$200
Tri-County Snowmobile Association	\$200
Cedar Falls Sno Hawks	\$100
High Bridge Trailblazers	\$100
Raccoon Valley Snow Chasers	\$100
Team Iowa Snowmobilers.....	\$100
Webster County Ice Breakers.....	\$100

ACSA Legal Defense Fund

Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club.....	\$250
Worth County Fence Stretchers	\$250
Floyd County Groomers Association	\$200
Iowa River Riders	\$200
Raccoon Valley Snow Chasers	\$100
Team Iowa Snowmobilers.....	\$100
Webster County Ice Breakers.....	\$100

ISSA Scholarship Foundation

Central Iowa Snowmobilers	\$250
Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club	\$250
Worth County Fence Stretchers.....	\$250
Floyd County Groomers Association	\$200
Dickinson County SnowHawks	\$100
Cedar Falls Sno Hawks	\$100
Raccoon Valley Snow Chasers.....	\$100
Team Iowa Snowmobilers.....	\$100
Webster County Ice Breakers	\$100

ISU Clean Snowmobile Challenge

Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club.....	\$250
Dickinson County SnowHawks.....	\$250
Worth County Fence Stretchers	\$250
High Bridge Trailblazers	\$100
Raccoon Valley Snow Chasers	\$100
Team Iowa Snowmobilers.....	\$100
Webster County Ice Breakers.....	\$100

ALS of Iowa

Worth County Fence Stretchers	\$250
Dickinson County SnowHawks.....	\$100
High Bridge Trailblazers	\$100
Team Iowa Snowmobilers.....	\$100
Webster County Ice Breakers.....	\$100

Fundraising year renews each November. Please mail donation checks or Venmo receipt to the ISSA Treasurer on page 5.

Floyd County Groomers, Region 4

by Mallorie Nauman, Club Reporter

Well, here we are again. The temperatures are dropping, the sleds are starting to get pulled out of storage and every snowmobiler in Iowa is about to start obsessively checking the forecast like that will somehow make it snow faster.

The Floyd County Groomers have been busy getting things lined up for the 2026–27 season. Earlier this fall, we held our first club meeting with 11 members in attendance and talked through what's coming up this winter.

We discussed a few upcoming trail changes and tossed around some ideas for getting more youth involved in the club. We'd love to see more younger riders get involved, because somebody has to keep this whole thing going, and apparently none of us are getting any younger.

We also recapped our Landowner Appreciation Meal and want to give another big 'Thank You' to all of our landowners. They're the reason we're able to have the trail system we do each winter. Without them, we'd just be a bunch of people with snowmobiles, trailers and nowhere to go.

Now, November is here, which means it's about time to get serious. Trails need to be prepped, signs need to go up, changes need to be made and sleds that were definitely going to get fixed over the summer are suddenly becoming a little more urgent.

All that's left after that is the one thing we can't control: Iowa weather.

So here's hoping Mother Nature is a snowmobiler this year and gives us enough of the good stuff to make all that trail work worth it.

Until next time, think snow!

CALENDAR

November

- Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club Third Annual Vintage Snowmobile Show Nov. 7 in Elkhart. Follow the club on Facebook for more details.
- Club News deadline Nov. 13.
- Scott County Sno-Seekers 8th Annual Turkey Day Shootout Saturday, Nov. 14, at the Mississippi Valley Fairgrounds, Davenport. For details, call (563) 340-9671.
- ISSA 53rd Annual Convention Nov. 20-22 at the Best Western, Clear Lake.
- ISSA Grand Raffle Drawing Nov. 21 at the Saturday Evening Banquet at the ISSA Convention in Clear Lake.
- ISSA Board of Directors meeting Nov. 22 at 8:30 a.m. at the Best Western, Clear Lake.
- Driftrunners Toy Drive Kickoff Nov. 27 at Dan's Roadhouse, Cresco.

December

- Club News deadline Dec. 11

January

- Snowfest Jan. 28-31 at Cresco. Follow the Driftrunners on Facebook for more details.
- 47th Annual University of Okoboji Winter Games Jan. 28-31. Visit www.uofowintergames.com for more information.

February

- Okoboji vintage snowmobile ice drags Feb. 6.
- Charlie's Chili Feed Feb. 13 on the trail near Florenceville.
- Midwest Sled Fest Feb. 13 at Clear Lake.

Scenes from Team Iowa's Feb. 7 race. Photos courtesy Scott Vavroch Photography.



Ice Drags at Little Wall Lake

by Cameron Hanson

A two-year dry spell ended last February when Team Iowa Snowmobilers were finally able to host their annual ice drags on Little Wall Lake south of Jewell. The Region 7 club has been sponsoring head-to-head action there since 2018 but had to hold off the last two seasons due to poor weather and unsafe ice.

Even last winter's event appeared to be a game-day decision as slushy conditions were reported the day before. An overnight freeze helped to firm up the track, and the club was able to get their entire event in the books. A Facebook plea from Team Iowa President David Eide helped to get competitors to the track ahead of schedule on the morning of Saturday, Feb. 7.

"We had a good freeze last night; however, ice conditions are not perfect," wrote Eide, who also serves as race coordinator. "As you might have seen on yesterday's post, we worked on an inch of slush with some water on top. Races are still on, and we will do what we can to get them in today. Come early so we can start early. We have plenty of ice, but thawing is a concern."

Ranging from vintage and youth to improved stock and four-stroke machines, the 2026 event included nine classes with hardware handed out to the two top finishers in each. The top speed of 113 mph claimed the King of the Ice title. The club also offered radar runs, concessions and a 50-50 raffle at its annual fundraiser.

Eide said the club charges for \$5 at the gate and \$25 for each class. As it has since the beginning, the club uses proceeds from their event to help with trail grooming expenses, charitable donations and reinvesting in the event itself, including a new starting tree three years ago. He said it takes about 30 club members to put on their annual races.

Track prep typically starts the weekend before raceday, and Eide said he appreciated the club's partnership with the Hamilton County Conservation Board for letting the club hold the event on Little Wall Lake. As in years past, the club built its 660-foot, two-lane track in front of the boat ramp and fishing jetty on the north end of the lake.

"We want to thank everyone who came out yesterday for a fun day of racing and to support our club," Eide posted on Facebook Feb. 8. "Thank you to all of our sponsors that make it possible for us to put these events on. Last but not least, thanks to the club members and volunteers for all of the hard work the last few days."



Run what you bring.



Classes for all ages.



Last-minute visit with starter Colton Osmundson.

2026 ISSA Annual Convention Nov. 20-22, Clear Lake, IA Tentative Agenda

Friday, Nov. 20

3:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Registration
Snowmobile Iowa Setup
Vendor Setup
Hospitality Room
Bus Shuttle (Surf & Bowling)
Surf Ballroom & Museum Tours
Youth Bowling and Arcade

5:00 pm to 11:00 pm
6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Saturday, Nov. 21

6:00 am to 9:00 am
8:00 am to 5:00 pm
8:30 am
8:45 am
8:55 am
10:00 am
11:00 am
11:00 am to 2:00 pm
12:00 pm to 2:00 pm
1:00 pm to 1:50 pm
2:00 pm to 2:50 pm
3:00 pm to 3:50 pm
5:00 pm to 6:00 pm
6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
6:30 pm
8:30 pm to 10:30 pm

Complimentary Hotel Breakfast
Registration
Opening Ceremonies
Region Meetings & Elections
ISSA Annual Membership Meeting
Brunch; Silent Auction Opens
ISTGP & SNARS Membership Update
Youth Activities & Swimming
Ladies Porch Pot Workshop
ISU Clean Snowmobile
V&V Insurance
Snocross - The Ins & Outs
Groomer Reception Social Hour
Dinner & Awards Banquet
Silent Auction Closes
Dueling Pianos

Sunday, Nov. 22

6:00 am to 9:00 am
8:30 am

Complimentary Hotel Breakfast ISSA
Board of Directors Meeting

2026 ISSA Annual Convention Nov. 20-22, Clear Lake, IA

Mail-in Registration Form

Adult Name(s) _____
Youth Name(s) _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone Number _____
Email _____
Snowmobile Club _____
Organization _____

Include quantity for each that apply:

___ Full Adult Registration \$85
___ Friday-Only Adult Registration \$35
___ Saturday-Only Adult Registration \$70
___ Youth Registration (12-17 years old) \$40
___ Youth Registration (6-11 years old) \$25
___ Children 5 and under Free
___ Surf Ballroom & Museum Friday Night Off-Site

Included with Adult and Youth registrations

Select preferred bus departure time below.

☐ 6 pm ☐ 7 pm ☐ 8 pm

___ Ladies Porch Pot Workshop

Price starts @ \$40; Extra Items Available. Pay at Event

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Please make check payable to
ISSA 2026 Convention

or pay by Venmo below

@IowaState-SnowmobileAssn



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

ISSA Convention
c/o Brandon Plaht
617 4th Ave W.
Cresco, IA 52136

Hotel Accommodations

A block of rooms has been held at the
Best Western Holiday Lodge until October 20th.

To Book Your Room:

Phone: (641) 357-5253 Online: bit.ly/issahotel

When booking by phone, please mention you are
with the ISSA Convention to receive the discounted
room rate of \$106/night, plus tax.

Registration fees do not cover lodging

For more information, contact:
Brandon Plaht at (563) 605-0141
bplaht@gmail.com

2026 ISSA Annual Convention Nov. 20-22, Clear Lake, IA

Mail-in Snowmobile Iowa Club Showcase

Club Name _____ Region _____
Contact Person _____
Require Power ☐ Yes ☐ No # Chairs (if need) _____
Address _____
Phone Number _____ Email _____
Mail completed form to:

ISSA Convention
c/o Brandon Plaht
617 4th Ave W.
Cresco, IA 52136
bplaht@gmail.com

Online Registration Option

Skip the hand writing and
mailing the registration forms!

Scan the QR Code to:

- Register online
- Pay online
- Book your hotel
- Ladies Porch Pot Workshop
- Register for Snowmobile Iowa Club Showcase
- Review current schedule



Direct website: bit.ly/m/2026issa



Making a Break for Late Season Riding

by Cameron Hanson

When most families fly south for Spring Break, my youngest son, Brady, and I have been known to travel north to find some late-season riding opportunities. A couple of times, we landed in the Barron, Wis., area, and in 2023, a pair of mid-March snowstorms lured us straight up Interstate 35 to Hinckley, Minn.

Both destinations are an easy three-hour drive from home, the perfect length for a simple day trip or an extended weekend escape when you don't want to commit to too long of a stay. Rising temperatures this late in the season often impact road crossings and gas station access, so you need to be willing to adapt to changing trail conditions.

What brought us to Hinckley on March 18, 2023, was a clipper system that dumped up to a foot of snow in the area seven days ahead of our arrival. Then two days before our father-son getaway, another eight inches of snow fell on this central Minnesota community, adding another delightful layer of white frosting.

A stark contrast to the brown landscape back home, the abundant snow cover—coupled with easy access from the interstate—made



Trailside shelter on the Willard Munger Trail north of Hinckley.



A 1967 Cobra helicopter on display near the entrance to the Moose Lake airport.

Hinckley a great choice for this beachless break from school and work. But what made it really convenient was its proximity to the Willard Munger State Trail. Named for a Minnesota state legislator in 1988, this multi-purpose rail-trail starts at Hinckley and stretches 70 miles north to Duluth.

Day trip

We arrived at the Munger trailhead around noon on Saturday and quickly realized we were not the only snowmobilers looking to squeeze in one last ride for the season. The parking lot there was full, and we ended up unloading in a municipal parking lot not too far away. Once back in the saddle, we found enough local tracks to follow to hook right up with the state trail.

Open to four-season recreation, the Willard Munger Trail is paved its entire length, although you would not have known it on this weekend with more than a foot of snow covering most of it. Part of the larger Minnesota 47 corridor, this main artery follows the abandoned main line of the Northern Pacific Railway and intersects with the popular Soo Line Trail at Moose Lake.

At Moose Lake, we passed by the historic Soo Line Depot as



*Note the helmet-mounted GoPro.
A YouTube video of our ride can be found here:
youtu.be/BosbbAYrCCA?si=KMmHXavsimWJ0Jhp*

well. More than a century ago, this original 1907 structure survived the 1918 Cloquet fire which leveled 38 towns and destroyed more than 52,000 homes in the region. The depot was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1994 and serves today as a museum for the catastrophic fire.

The unplowed parking lot told us the museum was not open the day we rode by, but since we were already stopped in Moose Lake, we decided to scrape through town to grab a bite to eat. While the tree-lined Munger trail had plenty of snowcover, the city streets here were fairly bare from the warm afternoon sun. Needless to say, we stopped at the first place we could find in town.

On the map, Moose Lake is located about halfway to Duluth, and after our break, we continued northeast on the state trail. The snow was soft and hadn't been groomed, but it really didn't need it. We also didn't meet much sled traffic and had most of the trail to ourselves for the afternoon, despite the full parking lot back at Hinckley.

After fueling in Carlton, we decided to turn around and head back to the truck with another 55 miles to go southbound. I later learned we missed some pretty good scenery after Carlton in the Jay Cooke State Park with river gorges and deep rock cuts. Not knowing that at the time, the decision to head back south seemed right given the time of day and the amount of miles ahead of us.



The Willard Munger Trail intersects with the Soo Line Trail at Moose Lake near the historic Soo Line Depot.



This MNDNR map shows how this multi-purpose trail follows the abandoned main line of the Northern Pacific Railway, running 70 miles from Hinckley to Duluth.

With roughly 110 miles to show for the day trip, we made it back to the truck around 8 p.m. After loading our sleds and refueling with gas and a quick meal, we were back home by midnight, providing plenty of time to recuperate on Sunday before heading back to school and work on Monday.



3rd Annual

SAYLORVILLE DAM SNOWMOBILE CLUB



Vintage SNOWMOBILE SHOW NOVEMBER 7TH, 2026

REGISTRATION:

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

SHOW:

12:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Snowmobile Judging ballots will need to be turned in by 2:00 PM.



AWARDS

- First Place per Class
- Best of Show
- People's Choice (Spectator Chosen Award)

Vintage FASHION SHOW

1:00 PM

Wear your favorite vintage gear. Voting will take place immediately following the fashion show — voted on by spectators and participants.



CLASSES:

- 1969 and earlier
- 1970's
- 1980's
- 1990's
- 2000-2006 (No sleds newer than 2006)
- Custom built sled (open class up to 2026)
- Race sled (open to all years up to 2026)



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Ruthven, IA 51358
(712) 363-1004
pclaus14@gmail.com

Dickinson County SnowHawks

www.snowhawkssdc.com
P.O. Box 504, Spirit Lake, IA 51360
President: Brodie McKeown
2726 Francis Sites Drive
Spirit Lake IA 51360
(507) 360-4816

O'Brien County Snowtrackers

Steven Wiersma
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(712) 461-2774
steelpack2017@yahoo.com

Powder Players Inc.

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www.powder-players.com
President: Jesse Schroeder
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jesseschroeder1980@gmail.com

Sioux County Snowmobile Club

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Rock Valley, IA 51247
(712) 470-1176
ben@bklandscape.com

REGION 2

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President: Jason Harvey
4680 190th St., Estherville, IA 51334
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emmetcodriftbusters@gmail.com

Humboldt Sno-Skimmers

President: Leo Reigelsberger
2275 Elm Ave., Gilmore, City, IA 50541
(515) 368-5396
snoskimmers@gmail.com

Kossuth County Drift Skippers

President: Taylor Erpelding
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erpelding423@gmail.com

Palo Alto Rough Riders

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

Sno-Pak

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

REGION 3

Hancock County Snowmobile Assn.

President: Nick Upmeyer
2085 260th St., Garner, IA 50438
(641) 512-5068
hancockcountysnow@gmail.com

Iowa River Riders

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

Lakota Sno-Eagles

President: Michael Smidt
3509 185th Ave., Tiltonka, IA 50480
(515) 320-4052, myiq599@gmail.com

North Iowa Sno-Jammers

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

President: Keith Sutcliffe
15499 230th St.
Mason City, IA 50401
(641) 420-3225
northiowasnowseekers@yahoo.com

Worth County Fence Stretchers

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President: Mike Peterson
P.O. Box 97, Kensett, IA 50448
(641) 390-1499
petersonex@wctatel.net

REGION 4

Bremer County Sno-Knights

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

Butler County Snow Snoops

President: Cody Nederhoff
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(515) 571-4594
snowsnoops@gmail.com

Cedar Falls Sno Hawks

President: Gary Matthias
3205 McClain Dr., Cedar Falls IA 50613
(319) 235-7667
gmkm2161@gmail.com

Chickasaw Sno-Riders

President: Bill Kout
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(641) 220-1056
billkout67@gmail.com

Floyd County Groomers Association

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(641) 330-6225
www.floydcountygroomerswebs.com

Howard County Stump Jumpers

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(641) 220-3508

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

REGION 5

Allamakee Sno-Blazers

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

Dubuque County Snowhawks

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

Clayton County Snowbirds

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President: Dan Torkelson
302 E Church St.
Farmersburg, IA 52047
(563) 880-2422

Driftrunners, Inc.

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

Dyersville Driftskippers

www.dyersvilldriftdrivers.net
President: Ryan Ameskamp
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Dyersville, IA 52040, (563) 599-6312

Snow Pioneers

President: Mitchell Heims
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(563) 920-2141, heims@live.com

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trailblazzerssnowmobileclub@gmail.com
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President: Kevin Downing
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wtrailtwisters2022@gmail.com

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President: Jamie Rohlf
408 Center St., Wall Lake, IA 51466
(712) 830-2196

Southwest Iowa Snow Scooters

President: Trent Larson
25817 208th St., Crescent, IA 51526
(712) 309-1516, trentlarsn@gmail.com

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(515) 290-2348

Raccoon Valley Snow Chasers

President: Mike Patten
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(641) 755-3863, mjpatt76@aol.com

Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club

P.O. Box 3133, Des Moines, IA 50316
www.saylorvilledamsnowmobileclub.org
President: Zac Parry
4685 Merle Hay Rd Suite 106
Des Moines, IA 50322

Team Iowa Snowmobilers

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

Webster County Ice Breakers

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

REGION 8

Central Iowa Snowmobilers

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Tri-County Snowmobile Association
P.O. Box 231, Traer, IA 50675
President: John McKenna
5164 23rd Ave., Mt. Auburn, IA 52313
319-721-5895, jnmckenna1@gmail.com

REGION 9

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

Eastern Iowa Sno-Riders

President: Logan Goettsch
1945 278th St., Calamus, IA 52729
easterniowasnoriders@gmail.com

Frozen Few

P.O. Box 612
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406-0612
President: Jamie Prull
1101 First St., Palo, IA 52324
(319) 981-0397, jprull@prullgroup.com

Scott County Sno-Seekers

scottcountysnoseekers@gmail.com
1312 Middle Rd Bettendorf, IA 52722
President: Kevin Toft
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Snowdrifters, Inc.

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Independent Inputs

— 111 N. 1st. Breda IA 51436

Iowa State Bank

— 419 Main St. Lake View IA 51450

JA Concrete Construction

— 101 Main Street Jewell IA 50130

JACG, Inc.

— 1789 Grouse Ave Latimer IA 50452

Jacobsen Seed

— 128 9th St. Lake View IA 51450

Jewell Farm & Home

— PO Box 428 Jewell IA 50130

JJ's Bar & Grill

— 107 2nd St Bradford IA 50041

JM Pork LLC

— 3677 Hwy 9 Buffalo Center IA 50424

Joe's Tire & Shop

— 749 High St Rockwell City IA 50579

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— 1292 310th St Ventura IA 50482

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— PO Box 327 Kiester MN 56051

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— 905 3rd Ave NE Clarion IA 50525

Lake Mills Family Dental

— 206 E Main St Lake Mills IA 50450

Lake Mills Motor Sports

— 45563C Hwy 69 W Lake Mills IA 50450

Lake View Motors

— 2885 330th St. Lake View IA 51450

Martinson Auto Parts

— 201 1st Ave NE Buffalo Center IA 50424

Mason City Powersports

— 12499 265th St Mason City IA 50401

Mathahs Farms

— 3677 Hwy 9 Buffalo Center IA 50424

MBT Bank

— PO Box 450 Forest City IA 50436

Mid Iowa Towing

— Fort Dodge IA 50501

Muhlenbruck Insurance

— 110 East Ellsworth Dows IA 50071

Murra Farms

— 4209 240th Ave Buffalo Center IA 50424

Old Fire Liquor

— 113 1st St NW Buffalo Center IA 50424

Pat's Landing

— 7476 N Pat's Landing Rd Hayward WI 54843

Phil McCrevis

— 15872 Avy Ave. Breda IA 51436

Pizza Plus

— 130 W. 1st. Wall Lake IA 51466

Pralle's Wash City

— 1271 Jonquil Ave Hampton IA 50441

Quality Truck Service

— 2419 Airport Rd Denison IA 51442

Quirk Seed

— 2355 330th St. Wall Lake IA 51466

Rasmuson Electric

— 2781 Valley Ave Rockwell City IA 50579

Red's Place

— 116 Main St. Breda IA 51436

Rex Chevrolet

— 805 S. Des Moines St. Odebolt IA 51458

Rink Trucking

— 3004 Lee Ave Woolstock IA 50599

Russ Knobbe Spraying

— 23339 110th Carroll IA 51401

Scarville Bar

— 201 Main St Scarville IA 50473

Scheck's Plumbing & Heating

— 20714 200th St. Carroll IA 51401

Schroeder Dentistry

— 210 W. 1st. Wall Lake IA 51466

Schroeder Seed

— 609 Main St. Wall Lake IA 51466

Security Savings Bank

— PO Box 189 Gowrie IA 50543

Sedlacek Snowmobile

— 2356 260th St Rockwell City IA 50579

Seiler Appliance Inc

— 317 N Main Street Pocahontas IA 50574

Shamrock Boat Sales

— 217 370th St. Camavon IA 51466

Shorty's D-Town Lounge

— PO Box 335 Dows IA 50071

Sietsema Family Monument Sales

— PO Box 172 Hampton IA 50041

Smith Crop Insurance

— 2285 Taylor Ave Rowan IA 50470

Smoke Shack

— 212 River Ave S Belmond IA 50421

Smokin Joe's BBQ

— 1108 15th St NE Mason City IA 50401

Soaked

— 301 Vine St. Lake View IA 51450

Spray48, LLC

— 1601 3rd St NE Belmond IA 50421

Spring Lake Golf Course

— 3286 Karr Ave Wall Lake IA 51466

Swearingen Outdoor Service

— 35058 180th Ave Forest City IA 50436

The Bru

— 215 6th St SW Clarion IA 50525

The Corner Bar

— PO Box 185 Belmond IA 50421

The Dock It

— 111 Boulder Drive Lake View IA 51450

The Pressroom Brewery

— 224 E Main St Belmond IA 50421

The Shop-Precision Repairs

— 2362 Hancock Ave Eagle Grove IA 50533

Tiefenthaler Ag-Lime

— 11975 Hawthorn Ave. Breda IA 51436

Timber Tree Service

— 3217 Hwy 69 Forest City IA 50436

Tim's Corner

— 101 N Mill St Lake Mills IA 50450

TP, Inc.

— 1741 Balsam Ave Alexander IA 50420

Trackside Welding

— 904 Main Street Jewell IA 50130

Trophies Plus

— 115 Main St Breda IA 51436

Tweed Renovations

— 14314 180th Ave Glenville MN 56036

Uptown Liquor

— 306 Hwy 69 South Forest City IA 50436

USA Chemical

— PO Box 234 Belmond IA 50421

Van's Power Center LLC

— 517 Brown St Hull IA 51239

Veasquil

— 902 Central Ave E Clarion IA 50525

VIP Too

— 3360 Maple Ave Forest City IA 50436

Voortmann Seed

— 6450 390th St Buffalo Center IA 50424

Voss Grill & Chill

— 4801 Idaho Circle Ames IA 50014

Wagner Custom Rolling

— 749 South Street Rockwell City IA 50579

Wall Lake Lumber Company

— 201 W. 1st. St. Wall Lake IA 51466

Weaver's Leather Store

— PO Box 236 Buffalo Center IA 50424

West Scott Farm

— 1332 Eagle Ave Latimer IA 50452

Westside Restaurant & Lounge

— 1214 Water St, Alden, IA 50006

Whatcha Smokin BBQ & Brew

— 403 Iowa Ave Luther IA 50152

Whiskey Run

— 17499 Ivy Ave. Carroll IA 51401

Winstead Construction

— 22577 480th St Lake Mills IA 50450

Ziegmann Farms

— 3115 Fox Ave Odebolt IA 51458

Zinnel

— 716 S Main Street Pomeroy IA 50575

5

Five Great Ways to Support Snowmobiling in Iowa



1

ISSA Platinum Sponsor: \$500

- Four display ads in the *Iowa Snowmobiler* (see sample for actual size)
- Same ad with link in rotation at www.iowasnowmobiler.com
- Best option for website advertising with the ISSA
- Current-year subscription to the *Iowa Snowmobiler*

2

ISSA Club Sponsor: \$350

- Same benefits as Platinum Sponsor
- Only open to snowmobile clubs and non-profit organizations
- Current-year subscription to the *Iowa Snowmobiler*

3

Friend of the ISSA: \$250

- Open to businesses, individuals, clubs and other sustaining partners
- Directory listing in each issue of the *Iowa Snowmobiler*
- Current-year subscription to the *Iowa Snowmobiler*

4

ISSA Associate Member: \$25

- Open to businesses only
- Directory listing in each issue of the *Iowa Snowmobiler*
- Current-year subscription to the *Iowa Snowmobiler*

5

ISSA Individual Member: \$20

- Current-year membership to the Iowa State Snowmobile Association
- Current-year subscription to the *Iowa Snowmobiler*



Platinum/Club Sample Ad Size

Sign Up Today!

Send this sponsorship form and payment to:

Iowa Snowmobiler magazine
2552 Woodland Place
Charles City, IA 50616

Additional advertising opportunities available.
 View the *Iowa Snowmobiler* rate card at
www.iowasnowmobiler.com under 'Advertise'
 tab or email editor@iowasnowmobiler.com.

For questions or more information,
 call or text (641) 330-5565.



Iowa State Snowmobile Association Sponsorship Application

Please remit with payment. Make check payable to the ISSA. Mark appropriate box:

☐ Platinum ☐ Club ☐ Friend ☐ Associate ☐ Individual

Name of Business, Club or Individual: _____ Contact Person: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____ Website: _____

If signing up through a club, list club name here: _____

Anything you'd like to add to your listing in the magazine? _____



Support ISSA Programs

WITH THESE GREAT AUCTION & RAFFLE ITEMS

at the 2026 ISSA Convention

Live Auction

Following the awards presentations, the ISSA will hold a live auction for two vacation packages to northern Wisconsin: a \$1,000 gift certificate to Four Seasons Resort on Lake Namakagon near Cable and a three-night getaway to Pat's Landing on the Chippewa Flowage near Hayward. Proceeds from both auctions benefit ISSA programs.

Grand Raffle

For its annual Grand Raffle, the ISSA is selling tickets for a 30" Weber outdoor griddle as a First Place prize and an Igloo cooler for the Second Place prize. Tickets cost \$10 each and are available ahead of time from your Region Director. For more information, contact ISSA Raffle Committee Chair Leo Reigelsberger at (515) 368-5396.



FIRST PLACE
30" Weber
Outdoor Griddle



Four Seasons Resort
LAKE NAMAKAGON • CABLE, WI



Pat's Landing
CHIPPEWA FLOWAGE • HAYWARD, WI

*Great Prizes.
Greater Support
for ISSA!*



SECOND PLACE
Igloo Cooler



SATURDAY, NOV. 21



BEST WESTERN CLEAR LAKE



For more information, contact
ISSA Raffle Committee Chair
Leo Reigelsberger at (515) 368-5396.