

IOWA SNOWMOBILER

December 2014 • Volume 36 • Issue 4

History
Making
ISSA
Elections

**Snowmobile
Safety Week Set**

**SUCCESSFUL
CONVENTION
& SNOW SHOW
IN THE BOOKS**



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Snowmobile Safety Week Set

Klim shares thoughts on riding safe;
observation planned for Jan. 17-25



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ISSA Renews Contract with Lobbyists

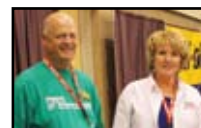
Heller, Felter to begin 12th year of
representing snowmobilers in Iowa



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ISSA matches club donations of \$3,000
to defend snowmobile access



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January.....	Dec. 19
February (digital)	Jan. 16
March.....	Feb. 13

COVER: The Trails Unlimited Prinoth groomer on display at the 2014 ISSA Snow Show at the Grand River Center in Dubuque.

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President's Desk

Merv's Back for More; Be Sure to Attend Charity Ride

Good day, Iowa snowmobilers. Just a quick note about myself. My name is Merv Hoermann, your new president for the next two years, God willing. Yes, I have been here before, and I am back for more. I am sure you all have heard the phrase, "Being at the wrong place at the wrong time." Thanks, Gary McVicker. I am looking forward to working with you all on any issue that arises. I still believe we all need to work together to accomplish what is best for snowmobiling in Iowa. Also, like every other year, we will have legislation to do. This year, there are some changes in the state Capitol with the legislators. If you have a new legislator in your District, take the time to let them know who you are. We may be asking for their help this session.

It was good to see many friends last month in Dubuque. There seemed to be a lot of enthusiasm for the coming winter (or maybe it was just the partying going on) but, whatever, everyone keep up with the snow dance. Some of us have been on the short end of the stick in regards to snowfall these past winters.

A job well done by Andrea Willey and the Region 5 clubs for hosting the convention. It takes a lot of volunteers to pull this off, and it showed on how well

everything went off. Again, a big thanks.

I feel another highlight of the Convention was the Charity Report and the number of clubs who came up front and center with their checks and to see the generosity to help out to those in need. A big thanks to all the clubs that donated and hopefully to see more from clubs that have not done

so.

Speaking of charity, make plans to attend the ISSA's annual Charity Ride with the Spina Bifida Association of Iowa Jan. 11 in Huxley. If you have not been to one before, make a point to attend this year. It will be a great experience for you.



Merv Hoermann
ISSA President

This past year has been busy for the Review and Selection Committee. There has been probably more equipment purchased and many other pieces moved around the state to handle requests from many clubs. Hopefully, most of you will be ready for the first big snow to start grooming in a timely manner.

Well, time for me to close now, have fun out there but be safe.



Exchanging his gavel for Merv's trademark cowboy hat, Jim Willey, right, hands the reins of the ISSA over to Merv Hoermann at the 2014 ISSA Convention in Dubuque last month.

Vice President's Message

Starting out as the Groomer Guy to Becoming First Mate

This is my first column as your ISSA Vice President. I want to use my first column to tell you a little about myself and how I ended up here as first mate of this ship.

It started 34 years ago when my parents did what by today's standards would be considered child endangerment: They took their one-year-old son for a snowmobile ride on a Raider twin track. From that first time the smell of two-stroke filled my nose, I've been hooked on snowmobiling.

In recent years, I've branched out my riding to the deep powder of the west and also build sleds to ride out there as well as sleds for Iowa. This past summer, I teamed up with two good friends to start a snowmobile-based company called Ditch Dockers. This business is to promote the unique aspect of riding that fair amount of Midwest snowmobilers do, combining ditch banging and boondocking.

Snowmobiling has always been a family sport for me, and any one who was at convention will tell you that the tradition continues. My beautiful wife Andrea was Convention Committee Chair. Now I'm biased, but I don't think we could have had a better leader for the Convention Committee. Andrea kept all of us focused and made sure everything was taken care of. The success of the convention was proof of her great leadership. The next generation of snowmobiler in my family is off to a great start. It was great to see my beautiful daughter, Isabelle, receive Youth Snowmobiler of the Year.

Most of you already know me as "The Groomer Guy." I like being that guy. Groomers are the reason I got started in the ISSA in the first place. I wanted to know all the aspects of our grooming program and not just the seat time. To find out, I went straight to the source, the other "Groomer Guy" in the state, Terry Durby. Terry took the opportunity to put me to work, first helping with operator classes and then taking over the training program.

As I have progressed in the groomer program, I have learned a lot. There is a lot of work behind the scenes to make the program work. I know everyone wants to know what's going on with groomers. I promise you the groomer selection committee will continue to keep you up-to-date as we are able, but please keep in

mind that it is a slow process and sometimes we have to wait to see what's going on until we have plans finalized.

You will see or hear from me on other aspects of snowmobiling in Iowa as the needs arise. Some goals I have for the next four years are to see more of the younger riders get involved in the ISSA. Secondly is to keep a good relation between the association and the general population of riders in the state, even if they are currently not an ISSA member. Sharing information through social media, snowmobile forums, and our magazine



Chris Willey
ISSA Vice
President

will show the value of the ISSA to snowmobiling and bring in new members. If you have ideas to help this happen please contact me.

I want to thank everyone who came to the ISSA Convention and Snow Show this year. To everyone who was on the Convention Committee, you guys and gals are the best. Thank you for your hard work. The success of the Convention and Snow Show shows just how great the Snowmobilers and Clubs of Region 5 are. I hope to see this trend continue and more people across the state and even the nation learn how great the Region 5 and Iowa as a whole is for snowmobiling.

Some may wonder that I would say "nation." Well, I can say that because the guys from High Country Octane based out of Elko, Nev., have asked to come back and try "IOWA DITCH BANGING". Anyone who attended the Snow Show should have met Joe Gill and Sam Richards of High Country Octane. These guys are in it for the fun and friendship of the sport. They couldn't believe the work Iowa snowmobilers do every year to put in 8,800 miles of trail across Iowa and that we ride right alongside speeding cars in the highway ditches. Look for a write-up in the Iowa Snowmobiler magazine after we get this adventure put together.

Hopefully, as you read this, you and your clubs have their trails in and sleds ready. We just need snow!!

See you on the snow.

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Making Tracks

A Big Thank You to All I've Met Along the Way

The 2014 ISSA Convention and Snow Show is now history, and my term as your president is in the books.

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to Andrea Willey for a great job as convention chairperson, Chris Willey as Region 5 Director and the Region 5 snowmobile clubs for putting on a great convention this year.

Thanks also to the ISSA Region Directors, Assistants, ISSA Officers, Past Presidents, Committee Chairpersons and their committees who helped me during my time as ISSA President, and most especially to Becky Willey who made this journey with me, as well as Tyler Willey, Emily Adams, Shane Austerman, Jackee Austerman, Isabelle Willey, Wyatt Willey, Isaiah Austerman and Ellie Austerman, without whose support I could not have been successful.

Special thanks to the late Dave Carmichael, and to Dick Melick and Bruno Andreini, ISSA Past Presidents who mentored me and helped me to be a better ISSA President, and to Larry Childs, ISSA Past President and my predecessor as ISSA Region Director, who first got me involved in the ISSA as an Assistant Director.

I would also like to acknowledge a great job done by the editor of the Iowa Snowmobiler Magazine and as ISSA Webmaster Cameron Hanson, who I have worked closely with as ISSA Communications Committee Chairperson. Cam has done a phenomenal job with these responsibilities, making the website and magazine vi-

able and successful with often less than adequate support. Our website and magazine is something we can all be proud of, and is better than many comparable publications from much better funded organizations with many more members. We have a great magazine and website, and it

is almost exclusively due to the efforts of Cameron Hanson. Thanks, Cam.

Lastly, to all of the Iowa snowmobile clubs, I thank you. The greatest pleasure that Becky and I have experienced while leading the ISSA has been the opportunity to meet the club members and get to know



Jim Willey
Past ISSA
President

the clubs across Iowa. There is something special about the folks in snowmobile clubs. They all share a willingness to work for others who may not appreciate or even understand all that they do, and they know how to work together and with others, whether it is in government, state agencies, or local landowners. They care about each other, and they know how to have fun. It has been our pleasure to serve you.

I wish new ISSA President Merv Hoermann the best of luck as he takes on the challenge of ISSA leadership for the second time, and to Chris Willey, as the newly elected ISSA Vice President.



At its 2014 Annual Convention in Dubuque last month, the ISSA presented Jim and Becky Willey with a plaque of appreciation for their time and efforts related to Jim's service to the ISSA over the last four years.

Guest Editorial

Snowmobile Safety is a Must this Winter

Safe, responsible riding is actively supported and promoted by organized snowmobiling. Snowmobile safety trainers have been conducting snowmobile safety classes for decades in the United States and Canada, and in 1995, the community embraced the Safe Riders! You Make Snowmobiling Safe® safety campaign—the guidepost for safe snowmobiling behavior.

Sponsored by the International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association (ISMA), the Safe Riders! campaign highlights that individual behavior and responsibility is the key to making snowmobiling safe. Snowmobilers understand that snowmobiling is fun, but it is work too. It challenges the body and the mind and you need to be attentive while snowmobiling. Safe snowmobilers know their abilities and understand not to go beyond them.

Snowmobile safety begins with the machine, which is built to the highest standards. It is the responsibility of snowmobilers to keep their machine in top running condition following all of the recommended pre-ride checklists found in the owner's manual and making sure the vehicle is in top-notch shape before riding.

Snowmobilers also understand the need to dress appropriately while snowmobiling. Individuals must wear warm clothing, generally supplied through the snowmobile manufacturers and dealers. The clothing includes, dressing in layers with high quality jackets, bibs, boots, gloves and a certified helmet.

Snowmobilers need to think ahead and prepare where they are going to ride. It is

best to file a plan with family or friends and let people where you are going to snowmobile. You need to be familiar with the riding area and or ride with individuals who have been there before.

Safe snowmobilers follow the key guidelines of the Safe Riders! campaign:



Ed Klim

ISMA President

- Snowmobiling and alcohol don't mix - don't drink and ride

- Ride safe, stay on the trail and respect private property

- One is the loneliest number. Never ride alone

- When riding on the trail, ride right and ride smart. Stay in Control

- Smart Riders are

safe riders and they take snowmobile safety training/refresher courses.

- Snowmobilers know before they go and always check local ice conditions

- When night riding, safe riders slow down and expect the unexpected

Safe mountain riders know that avalanche safety training and awareness is of special importance. There are five key avalanche safety guidelines which should always be remembered when riding in the mountains:

1. Get the Gear: Ensure everyone has an avalanche transceiver, shovel and probe on their person and knows how to use them

2. Get the Training: Take an avalanche course which will highlight key issues.

3. Get the Forecast: Make a riding plan based on the current avalanche and weather forecast.

4. Get the Picture: If you see recent avalanche activity, unstable snow exists. Riding on or under slopes is dangerous.

5. Get Out of Harm's Way: One at a time on all avalanche slopes. Don't go to help your stuck friend, the extra weight could initiate an avalanche. Also, don't group up in runout zones or at the base of mountains.

Snowmobile safety training courses are available throughout North America and can be found by visiting your state or provincial snowmobile association website. For a list of all of the snowmobile associations/federations, visit our web site at www.snowmobile.org.

To interact with other snowmobilers, visit and "Like" our Facebook page.

REMEMBER TO ALWAYS BE A SAFE RIDER!!!!



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Snowmobile Safety Week Set for Jan. 17-25

The ISSA is joining the International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association (ISMA) in observance of Jan. 17-25 as International Snowmobile Safety Awareness Week. A safety proclamation has been requested from Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad, and club-related activities and safety classes are being encouraged at the local level.

"The purpose of International Snowmobile Safety Week is to expose people to safe snowmobiling practices and to demonstrate how operating safely can prevent mishaps," explained ISMA President Ed Klim. "Snowmobiling is a fun and exciting family activity enjoyed by over four million people across the United States and Canada. The sport is a safe and enjoyable form of recreation if done properly and with respect."

In Iowa, snowmobiles are operated by men, women and children of all ages. Depending on weather conditions, approximately 8,000 miles of snow-covered trails are maintained and groomed by snowmobile club volunteers across the state and enjoyed by a variety of winter recreationists.

Activities and events held during Snowmobile Safety Awareness Week will promote responsible attitudes and actions that will foster the safe, family image of snowmobiling.

"Safe Snowmobiling means riding within your own capabilities, operating at safe and appropriate speeds for the terrain and never drinking alcoholic beverages before or while driving," explained ISSA President Merv Hoermann. "Always wear a helmet and ad-

equate clothing, stay within designated riding areas and always snowmobile with another person, never alone."

Occasionally, problems occur, and snowmobilers should be prepared for all possible scenarios.

"Take along a spare belt, spark plugs and tools to do basic repairs. You also should carry emergency supplies, such as a basic first aid kit, and overnight survival provisions, such as food, matches, flashlight and extra batteries, and shelter building materials," Hoermann recommended. "Most importantly, always use common sense and keep a clear head. Learn all you can about responsible snowmobiling and keep safety as your top priority."

Hoermann said the ISSA is encouraging its member-clubs to sponsor youth snowmobile safety courses and to host other safety-related activities. Ideas and suggestions are available online through ISMA's Campaign Action Manual at www.snowmobile.org. Also posted there is information on ISMA's Safe Riders! program.

Materials that are available from both programs include the following: posters, fact books, a safety video, public service announcements, a website and decals that highlight safety messages and enhance safety education efforts.

"We hope that you will find this web-based information useful in your organization's snowmobile safety campaign," Klim said. "The suggested activities contained there can be modified to meet your club's needs. Any suggestions or ways to improve this manual are welcome. Have a great snowmobile season!"

Upcoming Youth Snowmobile Safety Courses

- Saturday, Dec. 13, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Hancock County Courthouse, Law Enforcement Center, Garner. Bring a sack lunch. Must pre-register with instructor: Ross @ 641-923-2871
- Saturday, Dec. 13, at 9 a.m. at the U.A.W. Hall, Marshalltown. Lunch provided by Central Iowa Snowmobilers. Pre-register with instructor: Kevin @ 641-485-0123
- Saturday, Dec. 27, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wical's, Reinbeck. Lunch provided. Pre-register with instructor: Scott @ 319-345-6638.
- Saturday, Dec. 27, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Delaware County Extension Office, Manchester. Lunch included in course fee of \$20. Pre-register with Larry or Diane Childs (563) 927-5934 or Eugene Wulfekuhle (563) 929-1639.
- Tuesday, Dec. 30, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dickinson County Expo Center, Spirit Lake. \$10 registration fee. Lunch, beverages, & snacks will be provided. To register, contact: Dan Delperdang at (712) 330-2609 or dandelperdang@hotmail.com.
- Tuesday, Jan. 17, at Northwest Iowa Community College, Sheldon.

Safe Snowmobiling Tips to Share ...

Download SafeRiders!
Campaign Action Manual
at www.snowmobile.org.



1. Never consume alcohol or drugs.
2. Become familiar with the snowmobile you ride.
3. Operate at safe and reasonable speeds.
4. Stay on trails and areas where snowmobiling is permitted.
5. Avoid travel on unfamiliar frozen bodies of water.
6. Use extra caution at night.
7. Keep your snowmobile properly maintained.
8. Become familiar with the terrain you will travel on.
9. Listen to the weather forecast before you leave.
10. Always wear a helmet and proper clothing.
11. Never ride alone and let someone know where you are going and when you plan to return.
12. Carry emergency supplies and learn survival skills.

New Regulations for Youth Riders Take Effect this Winter

by Cameron Hanson

Thanks to legislation supported by the ISSA, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources has been able to relax some of its requirements for youths riding snowmobiles on public trails this winter.

Effective this past July when signed by Gov. Terry Branstad, the language parallels the regulations for the state's ATV program and, according to then-ISSA President Jim Willey, makes it more family friendly.

The new law allows youth under the age of 16 to operate their own snowmobile on state snowmobile trails and public property when under the supervision of an adult.

"Families will be able to ride snowmobiles together on Iowa trails legally for the first time with everyone driving their own sled," Willey noted. "This means a five-year-old without a safety certificate can ride on a 120 on a public trail with a parent supervising on a full-size sled. The 120 will have to have a valid Iowa snowmobile registration and a trail pass, however."

The law remains unchanged for youths aged 12 to 17 years who need to have completed the IDNR's youth safety course to operate their sled on state trails and public property, clarified IDNR Snowmobile Program Manager David Downing.

"Operators under 12 years of age do not have to have an education certificate. This is similar to how we treat youth hunters under the age of 12, hunting under the supervision of a responsible licensed adult," Downing further explained. "Choosing the size of the snowmobile for a minor operator is the decision of the parent or guardian. There is no legal requirement."

Here are the rules governing youth operation of a snowmobile:

- Persons under the age of 16 may operate their own snowmobile under the direct supervision of a responsible person of at least 18 years of age experienced in snowmobile operation who possesses a valid driver's license or an education certificate issued or recognized by the DNR.
- Persons 12 through 17 must have a valid snowmobile education certificate in their possession when operating.
- Persons 16 to 17 may operate unsupervised, but must have a valid education certificate. Restrictions on operating a motor vehicle also

apply to persons in this age group.

- Persons 18 and older may operate without an education certificate if their privilege to operate a motor vehicle has not been barred or revoked.



Visit the ISSA's Youth Safety page at www.iowasnowmobiler.com/idnr/safetyeducation.

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For quotes or more information, contact Publisher Cameron Hanson at (641) 330-5565 or editor@iowasnowmobiler.com.

ISSA Renews Contract with Lobbyists

by Cameron Hanson

The ISSA Board of Directors has renewed its contract with Mike Heller and Paula Feltner to serve as the organization's lobbying team at the State Capitol in Des Moines for 2015.

This January will mark the 12th legislative session the lawyers will be working on behalf of snowmobiling interests in Iowa. They were first hired in November of 2003 for \$17,500 per year. Next year's contract will be worth \$23,000.

"We really appreciate the opportunity to represent you," Heller said at the October ISSA Board of Directors meeting. "It has been an interesting ride for us, and I do think you should be commended because, whether you realize it or not, you are one of the most successful legislative groups in the state."

The need for a full-time lobbyist dates back to May of 2002, when the Iowa Legislature de-appropriated nearly \$1 million in snowmobile registration fees. Nobody was minding the till back then, and lawmakers found the off-season stockpile easy pickings for their budget shortfalls.

The snowmobile funds were eventually reimbursed, thanks to the hard work of the ISSA and its Emergency Funding Committee, which still oversees the organization's lobbying efforts.

"There's absolutely no way we could get along without our lobbyists," Past ISSA President and charter EFC member Bruno Andreini said. "We would have never accomplished what we have done without them."

"One of the things I never thought we would accomplish when we first started representing you was getting that money restored to the fund, but we did it," Heller said. "That happened because of all of the hard work from you guys and your constituency. You

were very persistent, and you didn't take no for an answer.

In addition to restoring the robbed snowmobile funds, the lobbyists—along with the grassroots efforts of ISSA members—have worked to increase snowmobile registration fees, moved to an annual registration system and implemented a trail permit program, with all the proceeds benefitting snowmobile trails in Iowa.

"Another example of your diligence was the registration fee increase," Heller said. "Take a look at that. If you go back over the last few years—compare it to hunting fees, compare it to fishing license fees, compare it to anything else—the climate has not been very conducive to any kind of fee increase over the last 10 years.

"We want to thank you for your efforts and we're proud to be a part of it," he continued. "It's been interesting. If you would have asked us, we would have told you that a lot of those things were probably not going to happen. But you didn't ask us. You told us what to do."



ISSA lobbyist Mike Heller addresses the crowd at the 2014 ISSA Annual Convention in Dubuque in November.

One legislative hurdle the lobbyists and the ISSA have not been able to clear is securing state gas tax reimbursement on the fuel used in snowmobiles. This effort has been ongoing throughout the lobbyists' tenure with the ISSA and will doubtfully gain any traction in the future.

Heller, instead, recommends that the organization now pursue the sales tax paid on snowmobiles. Past ISSA President and EFC member Terry Durby agreed.

"That's where the bulk of the money is available in the general fund moreso than through gas tax," he pointed out.

"We should be trying for that every opportunity we can," then-ISSA President Jim Willey said.

While the gas tax initiative has stalled, Willey was still pleased with the legislative successes last season, including the DNR "clean-up bill" which relaxed youth snowmobile age requirements and made it easier to register vintage snowmobiles.

"Vintage registration is huge to a lot of our members," Willey said. "They are becoming more and more popular all the time, but it was becoming virtually impossible to get a sled registered which hadn't been recently registered. Mike and Paula worked to get the wording right and partnered with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) to get that done."

Reflecting gradual cost-of-living increases over the last decade, the lobbying fees are paid directly out of the ISSA General Fund, and any grant money the EFC receives from the IDNR cannot be earmarked for legislative initiatives. Instead, the ISSA relies on its Club Challenge to help offset the lobbyist price tag.

Last year, ISSA-member clubs raised \$7,253 through donations to the Club Challenge, and thanks to checks turned in at the ISSA Annual Convention last month, more than \$4,000 has been raised for the 2015 lobbying expense so far this year.

ISSA Club Challenge

	2014	2015
Wapsipinicon Snowmobile Association.....	\$1000	
Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club.....	\$500	\$500
Frozen Few.....		\$500
Floyd County Groomers	\$500	\$300
Eastern Iowa Sledheads.....	\$500	\$500
Dickinson County Snowhawks	\$400	
Iowa River Riders		\$400
Tri-County Snowmobile Association	\$351	\$351
Central Iowa Snowmobilers.....	\$350	\$350
Sac County Snow Lovers	\$301	\$301
Snow Pioneers	\$300	\$350
Humboldt Sno-Skimmers.....	\$300	
Snowmobilers of Jackson County	\$300	
Worth County Fencestretchers.....	\$300	
Clayton County Snowbirds	\$300	
Bremer County Sno-Knights.....	\$250	\$250
Lyon County Sno-Lyons	\$250	
Snowdrifters, Inc.....	\$250	
Chickasaw Sno-Riders	\$250	
Jones County Snow Chasers	\$201	
Sno-Pak.....	\$200	
Cedar Falls Sno Hawks.....		\$200
Palo Alto Rough Riders	\$150	
Winneshiek Trail Twisters	\$100	
Driftrunners.....	\$100	
Trails Unlimited	\$100	

Fundraising campaign renews at the annual ISSA convention.

All donations benefit the ISSA's lobbying efforts at the State Capitol in Des Moines. Send your contribution to your Region Director or ISSA Treasurer Kim Herman.



Iowa Snowmobilers Donate \$6,000 to ACSA Legal Defense Fund

by **Cameron Hanson**

Snowmobilers in Iowa have donated more than \$6,000 to the American Council of Snowmobile Association's (ACSA) Legal Defense Fund since a renewed fundraising campaign began statewide in August of 2013.

Over the course of the past 15 months, ISSA-member clubs have kicked in \$3,200, and late last month, the ISSA fulfilled its part of the challenge with a match of \$3,000 from the proceeds of its hosting of the International Snowmobile Congress in 2010.

"We may be considered a marginal snow state, but we certainly are not marginal in our enthusiasm for snowmobiling and what we are willing to do to support our sport," said Past ISSA President Jim Willey at the 2014 ISSA Convention in Dubuque in November.

The purpose of the donations is to help finance legal battles over snowmobile access to public lands. While Yellowstone National Park normally catches the headlines in this arena, the most recent wrangling stems from a lawsuit brought by the Winter Wildlands Alliance (WWA), a cross-country ski group which alleges that snowmobiles were not being managed by the U.S. Forest Service in Idaho.

"The recent court ruling in Idaho threatens snowmobile trails in every national forest," ACSA Executive Director Christine Jourdain explained. "This ruling will be very expensive to challenge, but ACSA is committed to fight along with others for your access to public lands."

According to Jourdain, ACSA, the Idaho State Snowmobile Association and the International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association have been defending this snowmobile access since April of 2013 and have cumulatively paid in excess of \$120,000 in attorney fees.

A draft rule was released this past summer, and a final rule is expected in January. "We are optimistic that the final rule will be one the snowmobile community can comply with, and that it satisfies the WWA's concern over snowmobile management," Jourdain said in her November update to members.



ACSA members at the 2014 ISSA Snow Show in Dubuque Nov. 22, from left: Bob King of Council Bluffs, Executive Director Christine Jourdain of Michigan and Secretary/Treasurer Judy King of Council Bluffs.

In August of 2013, Past ISSA and ACSA President Terry Durby urged the ISSA Board of Directors to help fund this fight and to keep pace with donations from their counterparts in South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Washington.

"These court challenges seem to be lining up against us right now," Durby said at the time. "They will affect Iowans' ability to ride elsewhere. Those areas are all dependent on continuing the fight, and that fight takes money."

By October this year, ACSA had spent \$37,500 on legal fees in this battle and had depleted its Legal Defense fund to just \$2,600. Alarmed by this, Willey immediately issued 'A Call to Action' to Iowa snowmobile clubs to drum up donations for the cause.

"This is an ongoing battle which snowmobilers cannot afford to lose," Willey said. "If this battle is lost, snowmobiling access on all federal land is endangered. Even if you never ride in any of the other states who are lucky enough to have federal land, access to all public land could be lost if this precedent is set."

Following Willey's plea, the Chickasaw Sno-Riders of Region 4 was the first club to step up with a \$100 donation. Its club members also issued a challenge for other clubs in the state to match their donation, resulting in eight additional clubs following their lead this fall.

The generosity continued at last month's convention. Another \$500 was raised through the spontaneous donation of a Colorado vacation package, and Past ISSA President Dale Vagts of V&V Insurance, Cresco, issued a check for another \$200, urging clubs and businesses to match his donation.

"This is a much-needed fund," Vagts told convention-goers. "We need all the help we can get. And I challenge all clubs and businesses to match or beat that amount."

"It has never been more critical to support organized snowmobiling," ACSA pleads on its website at www.snowmobilers.org. "Become a Friend of ACSA and help to keep public lands open!"

To donate or for more questions, please contact Durby at (641) 590-7007 or email him at tdurb@yahoo.com. Donor forms are also available online at www.snowmobilers.org/docs/become-a-friend-of-ACSA-kit.pdf.

2014 ACSA Legal Defense Challenge

Eastern Iowa Sledheads.....	\$1000
North Iowa Sno-Jammers.....	\$700
Snowdrifters.....	\$500
Iowa River Riders.....	\$200
Floyd County Groomers.....	\$200
V&V Insurance.....	\$200
Chickasaw Sno-Riders.....	\$100
Cedar Falls Sno Hawks.....	\$100
Central Iowa Snowmobilers.....	\$100
Bremer County Sno-Knights.....	\$100
Humboldt Sno-Skimmers.....	\$100
Sac County Snow Lovers.....	\$100
Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club.....	\$100
Snow Pioneers.....	\$100
Tri-County Snowmobile Association.....	\$100

2014 ISSA Election Results



Hoermann becomes first multi-term president; Willey follows in father's footsteps

by Cameron Hanson

History was made last month in the organized snowmobile community of Iowa when Merv Hoermann of Sutherland became the first multi-term president of the ISSA following elections at the 2014 Annual Convention in Dubuque.

Hoermann, who served as ISSA president from 2006-08, was re-elected to another term after serving a year as vice president under outgoing President Jim Willey. Hoermann was elected to the VP post in November of 2013 to fill the vacancy created by the sudden resignation of Thayne Lowman.

"We are very pleased, Merv, that you have agreed to step up and serve again for the ISSA," Willey said Saturday evening, Nov. 22, at the convention banquet.

"I want to thank everybody for their support and I will give the best I have for the next two years," Hoermann vowed. "This is not a one-man show. I am the kind of guy who likes to work with other people, and I hope all of you will work with me over the next two years."

ISSA resident historian Dick Melick confirmed this is the first time in the 41-year history of the ISSA that a past president has been re-elected to another term. Melick, a past president himself, admired Hoermann's commitment to the organization.

"ISSA officers serve as volunteers and receive no compensation other than 'out of pocket' expenses incurred in fulfilling the duties of the office," he pointed out. "It takes a person who is fully committed to the ISSA to step into such positions which require a major dedication of time and money. With Merv agreeing to take the office again, it indicates his full commitment to the association and snowmobiling in Iowa."

After his first term ended in 2008, Hoermann has remained active in the ISSA. He has served on several committees and represents snowmobilers on the Iowa Department of Transportation's Recreational Trails Advisory Board. He also participates on the Western Iowa Tourism Region board.

"I've made a lot of relationships with a lot of people outside of the ISSA, especially with tourism," he said after the convention. "They just don't shun away from me when I show up because I represent motorized. I'm making some friends in non-motorized areas, and I think that's a big, big plus for our organization."

Hoermann feels his leadership experience will benefit the ISSA, and that's one of the reasons he decided to step up at the Altoona convention last year. Anyone other than a former past president would have had only one year in office before expecting to take over.

Hoermann acknowledged the progress the organization has made over the last six years, and he is not looking to perform any course correction. Instead, he wants to keep "our membership excited about what we are planning to do."

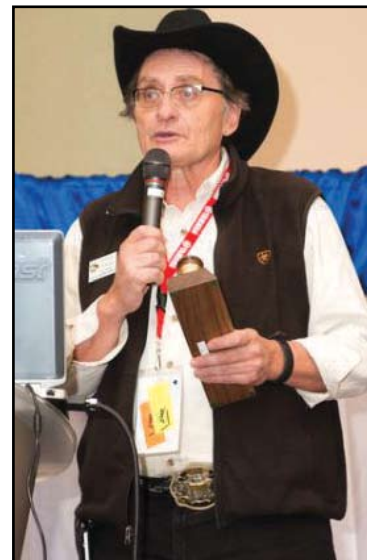
At the December ISSA Board of Directors meeting, Hoermann plans to set his agenda for the next two years and will accept feedback from board members on what they want to accomplish legislatively and otherwise.

"There have been a lot of changes since I last served," he said. "We haven't been sitting on our hands, and we have accomplished a lot. From that, it took a lot of work from the clubs, especially legislatively. I'm not going to go in there and demand we do this or that. I want it to be a collective goal."

Like father, like son

Joining Hoermann in a new leadership role with the ISSA will be former Region 5 Director Chris Willey of Manchester. The eldest son of Jim and Becky Willey, Chris continues to follow in his father's footsteps in his ascension up the ISSA ladder.

Like his dad, Chris Willey first served as a Region 5 assistant before assuming the director role in 2010, when his father was elected vice president. Despite



ISSA President
Merv Hoermann

Rave Reviews from 41st Annual Convention

Photos courtesy
Jackee Austerman
Photography



IDNR Director Chuck Gipp



Colton Weese and Bret Rasmussen



Gene Gerdes and Ron Stenknecht



Largest attendance in decades;
snow show packs Dubuque venue

First of two stories

by **Cameron Hanson**

Michigan resort owners Tim and Sarah Long travelled six hours to Iowa the fourth weekend in November to pitch their property to snowmobilers and prospective guests at the 2014 ISSA Snow Show in Dubuque.

Owners of The Timbers Resort on Lake Gogebic, the Longs left behind 100 inches of snow back home to also spread the word about snowmobiling in the Upper Peninsula. They were pleased with the warm reception they received in Iowa.

"We have not done much promotion in Iowa in a long time," Sarah said. "We get a lot of Iowa customers in our area, and we love them. The Iowans have really treated us well down here this weekend. We have received so many Thank Yous for being here. It's been unbelievable."

Recognizing Iowa as a farming community with spare time in the winter, the Longs felt it was important to make an appearance at the snow show, which was held at the Grand River Center in conjunction with the 41st Annual ISSA Convention Nov. 22.

"You guys are really into your snowmobiling," Tim said. "We realize that winters are your time for vacation, and you want to find a destination to go snowmobiling. We can help you find that winter home."

Also representing the Lake Gogebic Chamber of Commerce and the Western U.P. Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Longs boasted their area keeps three groomers in operation at all times to keep the trails manicured and ready for

visitors.

"The Upper Peninsula is really known for the quality of their trails as well as the beauty and scenery," Sarah said. "From the Lake Gogebic area, you can ride in any direction and just ride for hours and hours."

"We have the best grooming operation in the area, and we get a lot of compliments from our customers," Tim said. "It's worth the drive to come up here."

High praise

The Longs were one of 54 vendors at the Snow Show. In addition to tourism, the day-long show featured apparel, sled supplies, custom wraps, antique sleds, grooming equipment and snowmobile club displays as part of the annual Snowmobile Iowa showcase.

"We had vendors from all over the Midwest and even Nevada and Idaho," exclaimed Andrea Willey, chair of the 2014 ISSA Convention Planning Committee. "They loved the location and loved the venue being inside. We even had vendors calling the week of the show, but we had to turn them away as we were full."

Willey, who worked closely with clubs from Region 5 to plan and host the snow show and convention, reported the show not only drew crowds from the nearby convention but people from the tri-state area as well.

"The floor was always very busy," she noted. "Everyone seemed to love the location, and the facilities and the event center were top notch to work with. Being on the Mississippi River was a plus for scenery as well."



The snow show was the first held in conjunction with convention since 2011. Willey and her team began working on vendors more than a year ago, and their efforts did not go unnoticed by convention-goers.

Among the fans was former Region 7 Director Steve Klinkefus, who knows all too well the trials and tribulations of hosting a large event like this. Klinkefus was co-chair of the 40th Anniversary ISSA Convention last year in Altoona and also helped to coordinate the snow show for the 2010 International Snowmobile Congress in Coralville.

"Andrea and the clubs and the workers who put on this convention really need to be commended for the job they did. They did a tremendous job," Klinkefus said. "For the number of vendors they had here, she probably had to contact twice as many. A lot of times, we all come to these conventions and think that it just happens. It doesn't. There are people behind the scenes working their buns off, and they need to be recognized."

Planning committee member Robin Schultz of Decorah, a

member of the Trails Unlimited snowmobile club, also publicly thanked Willey at the convention and presented her with a gift of appreciation from the committee.

"Andrea's dedication, powers of persuasion, persistence, attention to detail and innovative ideas have made this event such a success," Schultz said. "I was one of the lucky ones from Region 5 involved in this process of planning this year's convention and snow show along with a great group of people from this area, many of whom I met for the first time this year."

Great turnout

Thirty-two of the state's 61 snowmobile clubs were represented at this year's convention, and the final tally for convention registrations was 280, the largest turnout since the late 1980s.

In addition to hospitality Friday night and elections and general membership meeting Saturday morning, the convention featured Saturday afternoon seminars and the Saturday evening awards banquet.

Bret Rasmussen of Idaho was the featured speaker Saturday night and presented a slideshow on his life in mountain riding. Rasmussen is a backcountry snowmobiling expert and promotes his Ride Rasmussen Style through clinics and seminars.

According to his website, Rasmussen teaches skills on location to snowmobile groups around the country and Canada such as riding groups, dealership groups, corporate retreats, search and rescue groups, military, as well as individuals and many others.

"We want riders to get off the trail, challenge themselves and explore the backcountry in a safe manner," Rasmussen explained during his convention presentation. "Prior to our techniques, the trails out west all went uphill and downhill, and a lot of times people would find themselves at the bottom of a ravine or at the bottom of a gully and they would have to spend the night because they couldn't get back out."

Rasmussen described his technique as a style that allows riders to get into the backcountry and do things and go places "with control" that most riders have been unable to do before.

"Most non-sledders do not think that snowmobiling is not athletic and that all we do is go out for a joy ride," he said. "Out in the mountains, snowmobiling is very athletic, very tiring so why is it fun? Because it's a challenge. That's the reason."

Meat and potatoes

The annual awards ceremony followed Rasmussen's presentation, and the award winners will be featured in the January issue of this magazine.

Earlier in the day, fellow backcountry expert Julie-Ann Chapman of British Columbia led a seminar on women in snowmobiling and



Tim and Sarah Long

cold-weather survival. Her convention offerings were among 10 informative seminars available that weekend.

Other seminars featured motivational speaker Dee Dee Raap of Sioux Falls and vintage sled restoration by the Antique Snowmobile Club of America.

High Octane Productions offered tips on recording and editing snowmobile action video, and the ISSA Awards Committee provided instruction and insight on the club recognition and awards program.



*2014 ISSA Convention
Committee Chair
Andrea Willey*

"We had great attendance, and I heard great things about the entire weekend, including our seminars."

As part of its triannual rotation, next year's convention returns to western Iowa. Regions 1 and 2 will be coordinating the event Nov. 20-22 at King's Pointe Resort in Storm Lake, the host site of the 2010 convention. Plans are also in the works for a separate snow show at Dubuque next October.

Also Saturday afternoon, ISSA Trail Sign Coordinator Matt Miner discussed trail planning, signing and landowner leases, and earlier in the day, David Downing of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources provided an update on the state snowmobile program.

Educational opportunities continued Sunday morning with an avalanche awareness seminar with Mike Duffy, a groomer operator recertification course and a youth snowmobile safety instructor course.

"I thought the convention went extremely well," Willey said.



Duane Taylor of the Trail Blaz-zers, Inc., snowmobile club of Region 5, sells raffle tickets by the arm length at the 2014 ISSA Annual Convention.

Elections

Continued from page 12

how it may appear, Chris said his election as VP last month was not scripted.

"This was not the plan at all. I wanted to continue on as region director and groomer director and was not planning on being elected vice president," he said.

Still, when the 35-year-old is elected president in two years, he will become one of the youngest leaders of the ISSA in its history, and he and his father will become the first father-son duo to lead the association, a fact that was not lost on his dad.

"We are very proud of Chris," Jim Willey said. "He has accomplished a lot at a much younger age than most in organized snowmobiling. We are confident that he will bring the the same professionalism and enthusiasm as he has at all levels of involvement in snowmobiling."

Willey admits his parents are the reason he is involved in the sport but takes credit for luring his folks into organized snowmobiling. He was the first to join his local club, the Snow Pioneers, and quickly brought his father into the fold.

"It kind of snowballed from there," the junior Willey said.

Willey said he learned a lot about leadership from his father as well as from many of the past presidents who have taken him under his wing. His role as the ISSA's Groomer Training Coordinator has also helped to hone his skills.

"The list is long as for what I learned from him from a leadership perspective, and a lot of the guys have been role models for me," Willey said. "I've always tried to learn everything I could from everybody. I don't think there is any of the past presidents who are

still active that I haven't learned something from."

Looking ahead to the next four years, Willey said he plans to work with Hoermann on the future direction of the ISSA and remains committed to keeping the lines of communication open between the state level and club level.

"Letting people know what's going on at the state level is one of the reasons I became active in the ISSA," he explained. "I wanted to know why groomers went where they did. Groomers are something I've always had an interest in, and I wanted to learn more about the process."

Succeeding Willey as Region 5 director is his assistant, Matt Miner of Lime Springs. Other board elections convention weekend include those from the even-numbered regions.

Including Secretary Sue Paulus and Treasurer Kim Herman, incumbents remained in office for Regions 2, 4 and 6. Craig Smith has replaced Ron Sienknecht as director for Region 8 and Bob Scott has stepped down as Region 12 director.

Vacancies remain in Regions 10, 11 and 12. If you are interested in serving in that capacity, please contact Hoermann at 712-260-4810 or email him at mebeefeater2@yahoo.com.



*ISSA Vice President
Chris Willey*



ISSA CLUBS

Clubs in red reported

100% ISSA Membership

REGION ONE

Buena Vista Blizzard Busters

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

Clay County Sno Broncos

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

Dickinson County SnowHawks

www.dickinsoncountysnowhawks.com
P.O. Box 504, Spirit Lake, IA 51360
President: Kathy Fahy
411 Hill Avenue, Spirit Lake, IA 51360
(605) 359-7177, kfahy@mchsi.com

Lyon County Sno-Lyons

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

O'Brien County Snowtrackers

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

Osceola County High Point Riders

www.highpointriders.com
President: Jeremy Wollmuth
5992 200th Street, Melvin, IA 51350
(712) 461-1510, wollmuth@mtcnet.net

Powder Players Inc.

P.O. Box 154, Remsen, IA 51050
www.powder-players.com
President: Steven Wiersma
708 Petrich Ave., Sanborn, IA 51248
(712) 461-2774

Sioux County Snowmobile Club

www.siouxcountysnowmobileclub.com
Search Sioux County Snowmobile Club on
Facebook under club info in Iowa Snowmobiler
President: Dave Taylor
313 Hunter Ridge, Rock Valley, IA 51247
(712) 449-5556, Dave.Taylor@interstates.com

REGION TWO

Emmet County Driftbusters

President: Tyson Enerson
4591 195th St., Estherville, IA 51334
Enerson747@gmail.com

Humboldt Sno-Skimmers

President: Brian Ricklefs
P.O. Box 72, Dakota City, IA 50529-0072
(515) 368-0384, bricklef@goldfieldaccess.net

Kossuth County Drift Skippers

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

Palo Alto Rough Riders

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

Sno-Pak

P.O. Box 122, Rockwell City, IA 50579
www.snopak.com
President: Kolby Wagner
749 South Street, Rockwell City, IA 50579
(712) 830-3821, kolbywagner@yahoo.com

REGION THREE

Hancock County Snowmobile Assn.

President: Dan Stromer
1840 Hwy 69, Klemme, IA 50449
Stromerd@yahoo.com

Iowa River Riders

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

Club News

Region 1

O'Brien County Snowtrackers

by Zelda Buse Christensen

Much of Iowa got a few inches of snow about a week ago. Here in northwest Iowa? There were some signs of a trace of snow, but one almost needed a magnifying glass to see it. Today (Nov. 14), Spencer has announced that we are under a "winter weather advisory" for tomorrow, with a possible two or three inches of snow and some wind. The snow's arrival is not at all certain, but if it comes, it shouldn't immediately melt. Unseasonably cold temps seem here to stay, with Spencer at two degrees this morning, setting the low for the state!

Obviously the Snowtrackers should have all their trail signs planted by now, but unfortunately, the job is well started but NOT done. Nothing like a little more challenge of frozen ground!

Any young people wanting to take the youth safety class are welcome to join the one taught by the Snowtrackers at Northwest Iowa Community College in Sheldon Jan. 17. Just call the college to register.

Think positive...think snow!

Dickinson County Snowhawks

by Jantina Carney

Today, it officially feels like winter is here. As I am typing this, we are experiencing freezing rain and our neighbors to the north are getting some snow! Let's hope for a winter with a lot of snow and mild temperatures! Wouldn't that be wonderful.

On Nov. 14, we held our annual Membership Mixer, and we had a wonderful time and we signed up quite a few new members! I guess giving away a 48" TV is a good way to get new people interested in our club!

We've been busy getting our groomer ready and marking all of our trails so we are ready for snow here in the Iowa Great Lakes! Polaris Industries and the club have teamed up again to raffle off a 2015 Polaris 120 Youth Snowmobile. If you are interested in purchasing some tickets, you can contact one of our board members which are listed on our website at www.dickinsoncountysnowhawks.com.

Mark your calendars for Winter Games Weekend Jan. 23-25. You can check out all of the events at www.uofowintergames.com. For updated trail information and club events, check out our website at www.dickinsoncountysnowhawks.com. We hope you all have a wonderful holiday season and a wonderful New Year!!

Region 4

Cedar Falls Sno Hawks

by Dick Melick, Secretary

Greetings from Cedar Falls. Well, it appears that winter is getting a head start around Black Hawk County. If the forecasts hold true, it is going to be way below the average for several days.

At our Nov. 4 meeting, officers for calendar year 2015 were elected to take office on Jan. 1. Brian Carmichael was re-elected for another term as president. The balance of the current officers were re-elected except for the Vice President and Secretary positions. Justin Buseman was elected as Vice President and Ryan Bushbaum was elected as Secretary.

Club members set up a table at Leer's Cycle Center in Waterloo during the store's Open House on Saturday, Nov. 1, to promote the club and ISSA and distribute some informational literature.

We are pleased to welcome new members Joe and Kari Velez to our club and ISSA. They live in Waterloo and ride 2006 Ski Doo Touring snowmobiles. Steve Deeds is now the proud owner of a shiny new 2015 Ski Doo snowmobile. He is excited to get out on the trails as soon as possible.

There will be an ALS Memorial Ride honoring Sno Hawks club founder Dave Carmichael Feb. 26-28. More information will be available later.

We are looking forward to seeing many of our ISSA friends at the ISSA Convention Nov. 21-23 at the Grand Harbor Resort and Waterpark in Dubuque. Be sure to stop by and check out our table in the "Snowmobile Iowa Club Showcase" at the convention.

The next club meeting will be Tuesday, Dec. 2, at the Cedar Falls Pizza Ranch on University Avenue at 6 p.m. This meeting will serve as our annual Christmas Party. Club meetings are normally held the first Tuesday of the month, September through April, starting at 7 p.m. except for special meetings that may start at another time and/or date.

Club News



Club members from Region 5 hosted the 41st Annual ISSA Convention in Dubuque Nov. 21-23.

As usual, all interested snowmobilers and ISSA officers and directors are invited to attend any of our meetings.

For more information about our trails, the club and/or meetings, contact club president Brian Carmichael at (319) 215-5006 or activities director Stanley Wolf at (319) 240-2188.

Floyd County Groomers Association

by Mike Paulus, Reporter

It doesn't seem possible that we're already back into the routine of regular meetings planning for winter events, marking trails, renewal of 2015 dues, etc. Some of us have already even seen some snow and cold temperatures! Before we know it, 2015 will be here! Maps are nearly completed for the year again and the Floyd County Groomers are hoping for another year of good snow with plenty of good riding conditions. Many of our members are also preparing to attend ISSA Convention again already as well. Our club will also be marking trails following ISSA Convention, along with planning many of our upcoming events that are held each year.

As always, we try to keep our website up-to-date with any upcoming events at www.floydcountygroomers.webs.com and you can also find us on Facebook! Thanks to those

ISSA CLUBS

Clubs in red reported
100% ISSA Membership



Lakota Sno-Eagles

President: Jordan Valvick
4410 Highway 169, Lakota, IA 50451
(515) 538-0290, jordanvalvick@gmail.com

North Iowa Sno-Jammers

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

North Iowa Snow Seekers

President: Angie Lien
northiowasnowseekers@yahoo.com
(641) 494-6133

Team Iowa Snowmobilers

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

Worth County Fencestretchers

P.O. Box 27, Northwood, IA 50459
President: Steve Arnold
(641) 390-0567, k44arnold@gmail.com

REGION FOUR

Bremer County Sno-Knights

President: Dennis Koehler
805 9th St NW, Waverly, IA 50677
(319)352-5576, (319) 240-5756
koehler805@gmail.com

Cedar Falls Sno Hawks

President: Brian Carmichael
14784 290th St., Aplington, IA 50604-9368
319-215-5006
bcarmichael@industrialfab.net

Chickasaw Sno-Riders

President: Steve Schulz
2584 220th St., New Hampton IA. 50659
(641) 330-0677(c), (641) 394-5186(h)
steve_leeann@hotmail.com

Dewar Snow Chasers

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

Floyd County Groomers Association

President: Philip Schrage
P.O. Box 7, Marble Rock, IA 50653
(641) 397-2775, schrage@windstream.net
www.floydcountygroomers.webs.com

Howard County Stump Jumpers

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

Mitchell County E-Z Riders, Inc.,

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

Snow Snoops Snowmobile Club

President: Derek Buss
(641) 228-0954
drb@butlerrec.coop

REGION FIVE

Allamakee Sno-Blazers

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

Asbury Snowhawks

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





ISSA CLUBS

Clubs in red reported
100% ISSA Membership

Clayton County Snowbirds

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

Driftrunners, Inc.

Join Us on Facebook under 'Groups'
President: Dean Zakostelecky
124 Fourth Ave. SW, Cresco, IA 52136
dean@decorahautocenter.com

Dyersville Driftskippers

www.dyersvilledriftskippers.net
President: Phil Helle
610 6th Ave NE, Dyersville, IA 52040
(563) 590-0549, philhelle@yahoo.com

Snow Pioneers

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

Trail Blaz-ers Inc.

President: Tim Arthur
20197 130th St., Sumner, IA 50674
(563) 578-5417, trail.blazzers.inc@gmail.com

Trails Unlimited

Trails Unlimited
15778 282nd St., West Union, IA 52175
President: Bud Winter
(319) 231-3337, bwinter@acegroup.cc
Wapsipinicon Snowmobile Association
P.O. Box 802, Independence, IA 50644
www.wsaiaowa.com
President: Morgan J. Kuper
1916 Central Ave., Jesup, IA 50648
(319) 239-0590, mkuper3@jtt.net

Winneshiek Trail Twisters Inc.

P.O. Box 154, Decorah, IA 52101
President: Jake Ludeking
2005 Centennial Rd, Decorah, IA 52101
(563) 380-6747, jakeludeking@gmail.com

REGION SIX

Sac County Snow Lovers

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

REGION SEVEN

High Bridge Trailblazers

President: Jason Moorman
614 West Oak, Ogden, IA 50212
(515) 230-4171, jmmoorman@netins.net

Raccoon Valley Snow Chasers

President: Mike Patten
5204 Neva Pt., Panora, IA 50216
(641) 755-3863, mjpatt76@aol.com

Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club

Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club
P.O. Box 3133, Des Moines, IA 50316
www.saylorvilledamsnowmobileclub.org
President: Craig Krapf
3614 SW 29th, Ankeny, IA. 50023
(515) 707-7237, ckrapf@gmail.com

Webster County Ice Breakers

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

REGION EIGHT

Central Iowa Snowmobilers

P.O. Box 1751, Marshalltown, IA
50158, President: Kevin Weese
(641) 485-0123, yamaha.family@yahoo.com

Jasper County Ditch Bangers

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

Club News

of our members who continue to support our club and the ISSA with your membership dues and we hope you will join us again in 2015 by renewing your club dues by the end of the year... it's a great organization to be involved with!

Region 5

Trails Unlimited

by Bud Winter

Greetings from Trails Unlimited. At the time of this writing, we've had a few days of flurries and COLD temperatures. Our club had been as busy as ever this fall with a trailer raffle, chicken dinner and membership drive as well as our normal trail work.

Our trailer raffle concluded Friday, Nov. 7, during our chicken dinner at The Zipper. It was a huge success as we ended up selling \$3,150 worth of tickets. Congratulations to Bill Wenthold who was the winner.

The chicken dinner and membership drive itself was another successful event. We served almost 200 people, which was down a little from the past two years, but unlike those years, this year we butted heads with high school football playoffs. Fortunately, the support and donations were as good as ever! Fifteen new members joined that night along with many current members showing up and paying their dues.

In addition to the trailer raffle, we also had a 50/50 and silent auction, which both went great. A huge thanks to everyone who helped out and came to support us. There were a lot of folks there from neighboring clubs which is always nice to see. A special thanks to Chris and Andrea Willey for making the trip and also for all their work planning the state convention.

The next big event for Trails Unlimited is our clubs 30th Anniversary Celebration! We are planning on having a BBQ and DJ Saturday night, Jan. 10, at The Waucoma Events Center. This will obviously be a big club event but also open to the public. We look forward to seeing a lot of former club members, those who groomed the way for what we have today.

Until then, think snow!

Allamakee Sno-Blazers

by Brandon Fahey

The trails bosses are busy putting the trails in up here in Allamakee County. It looks like the majority of the crops are out, and we have an inch or two of snow on the ground. The temps have been cold with a slight warming trend coming up this weekend.

Our meeting attendance has been really good for the pre-season with an average of 20 members at the last two meetings! We recently set Saturday, Jan. 17, as our designated club ride, and we are planning to have a dance that evening at Green Valley Getaway just north of Waukon. We have many trails that end up near this location, and GV Getaway has trailer parking which is really convenient.

There will be more event details to follow on our website at snoblazers.lrtwebservice.com. Please check our site frequently for more information on snowfall and events. We are planning to get our trail system on GPS yet this fall as it's been a couple of years and some trails have changed. I hope that everyone was able to make the ISSA Convention

Region 7

Highbridge Trailblazers

by Bob Reutter, Trail Boss

We had our first snow of the year Nov. 10. We got an inch and a half. My sleds are about ready to go. I have one trip lined up for the coming winter. My girlfriend and I are going to the Snowy Range west of Laramie, Wyo. There are about 25 going on this trip. We are staying at Ten-Mile Resort on the western side of the Medicine Bow Range. We are going to arrive on Super Bowl weekend and stay for five days.

The Highbridge Trailblazers are going to make and sell pizzas again this year for a fundraiser. The club has been marking trails and getting the groomer ready to go. The next meeting will be Dec. 1. We are going to have potluck at that meeting.

I was at the meeting in Des Moines the other night, and there were about 12 people from the Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club who were planning to go to the ISSA convention in Dubuque Nov. 21-23. Looks like it is going to be a good one, kinda like the old days. I am going to go.

I see Ishpeming in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan just got 36.1 inches. Looks like we are off to a good start.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December

- ISSA/IDNR Groomer Operator Recertification Course Dec. 11 at 6:30 p.m. at the Coulter Community Center, Region 3.
- Youth Snowmobile Safety Course Saturday, Dec. 13, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Hancock County Courthouse, Law Enforcement Center, 855 State Street, Garner. Bring a sack lunch. Must pre-register with instructor: Ross @ 641-923-2871.
- ISSA/IDNR Groomer Operator Recertification Course Tuesday, Dec. 16, at 7 p.m. at Pizza Ranch, Spencer. For more information, contact Merv Hoermann at (712) 260-4810.
- ISSA/IDNR Groomer Operator Recertification Course Wednesday, Dec. 17, at 7 p.m. at Culver's, Sioux Center. For more information, contact Merv Hoermann at (712) 260-4810.
- ISSA/IDNR Groomer Operator Recertification Course Thursday, Dec. 18, at 6:30 p.m. at Schumacher Well Drilling, 2201 Slagle Dr., Algona. Contact Jerry Kramer at (515) 890-1099 or Jeremy Walker at (515) 341-1626 with any questions.
- Youth Snowmobile Safety Course Saturday, Dec. 13, at 9 a.m. at the U.A.W. Hall, 411 Iowa Avenue W, Marshalltown. Lunch provided by Central Iowa Snowmobilers. Pre-register with instructor: Kevin @ 641-485-0123
- Snow Pioneers Youth Snowmobile Safety Course, Saturday, Dec. 27, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Delaware County Extension Office, 1417 N Franklin Street, Manchester. Lunch included in course fee of \$20. Pre-register with Larry or Diane Childs (563) 927-5934 or Eugene Wulfekuhle (563) 929-1639.
- Youth Snowmobile Safety Course Saturday, Dec. 27, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wical's, 1012 Park Street, Reinbeck. Lunch provided. Pre-register with instructor: Scott @ 319-345-6638.
- Dickinson County Snowhawks Youth Snowmobile Safety Course Tuesday, Dec. 30, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dickinson County Expo Center, Spirit Lake. \$10 registration fee. Lunch, beverages, & snacks will be provided. To register, contact: Dan Delperdang at (712) 330-2609 or dandelperdang@hotmail.com or www.iowadnr.gov/training or www.dickinsoncountysnowhawks.com. Snow date is Dec. 31.

January

- Trails Unlimited 30th Anniversary celebration Saturday, Jan. 10, at the Waucoma Events Center.
- ISSA Board of Directors Meeting Sunday, Jan. 11, at 9 a.m. at the Citizens Community Center, Huxley.
- ISSA Charity Ride with the Spina Bifida Association of Iowa Sunday, Jan. 11, at 11 a.m. at the Citizens Community Center, Huxley.
- Sixth Annual Jack Helgren Memorial Lemans Race Jan. 16-17 Clear Lake. Back-up dates are Jan. 18 and Feb. 6-7.
- O'Brien County Snowtrackers Youth Snowmobile Safety Course Tuesday, Jan. 17, at Northwest Iowa Community College, Sheldon.
- ISSA/IDNR Groomer Operator Recertification Course Tuesday, Jan. 6, at Cresco at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Matt Miner at (563) 380-7142.
- Driftrunners 44th Annual Snow Fest Jan. 22-25 Cresco.
- University of Okoboji Winter Games Jan. 23-25. For more information, visit www.uofowintergames.com.
- Travel Federation of Iowa Legislative Showcase Jan. 27 Iowa State Fairgrounds, Des Moines.

February

- Driftrunners Charlie's Chili Feed Saturday, Feb. 14.
- David Carmichael Memorial Ride Feb. 26-28. For more information, contact Brian Carmichael at (319) 215-5006 or Dennis Nauman at (641) 425-4141. Ride will begin in Spencer and end in Cresco. Proceeds benefit the Iowa chapter of ALS.

March

- ISSA Board of Directors meeting Sunday, March 15, at 9 a.m. at Farm Bureau office, Hampton.
- ISSA snowmobile club retreat to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Tentative dates are March 2-6.

April

- ACSA D.C. Fly-In.

ISSA CLUBS

Clubs in red reported
100% ISSA Membership



Tri-County Snowmobile Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 231, Traer, IA 50675
President: Jamie Erhardt
312 Mill St., Traer, IA 50675
(319) 415-8189, jhardt88@yahoo.com

REGION NINE

Cascade Snow Punchers

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

Eastern Iowa Sno-Riders

President: Dylon Bousset
2687 178th Ave., Calamus, IA 52729
(563) 210-4002, Polarisdude90@gmail.com

Frozen Few

P.O. Box 184, Coggon, IA 52218

President: Jamie Prull
1101 First St., Palo, IA 52324
(319) 851-2522, jprull@aol.com

Jones County Snow Chasers

P.O. Box 492, Anamosa, IA 52205
President: Brett Benter
607 N. Birch, Monticello, IA 52310
brettbenter@hotmail.com
(319) 480-0586

Snowmobilers of Jackson County

President: Aaron Michels
39014 308th St., Bellevue, IA 52031
brittany-farrell@hotmail.com

REGION TEN

Southwest Iowa Snow Scooters

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

REGION ELEVEN

Appanoose County Trails, Inc.

P.O. Box 825, Centerville, IA 52544
Snowmobile Trail Coordinator: Gene Paris
21845 458th St., Centerville, IA 52544
(641) 895-0259, gbpar@sirisonline.com

REGION TWELVE

Cedar County Winter Warriors

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

Eastern Iowa Sledheads

P.O. Box 519, Lone Tree, IA 52755
easterniowasledheads@aol.com
President: Mindy Scott
P.O. Box 435, 204 W. Dougherty Dr.
Lone Tree, IA 52755
scott4@iowatelecom.net
(319) 629-4630(h), (319) 325-8917(c)

Snowdrifters, Inc.

P.O. Box 5135, Coralville, IA, 52241
www.iowa-snowdrifters.org
President: Jeff Wardenburg
1745 Radio Rd, Marion, IA 52302
Jeff.Wardenburg@Titanmachinery.com

Scott County Sno-Seekers

www.snoseekers.org
P.O. Box 2332, Davenport, IA 52809-2332
President: Kevin House
(563) 505-3385, khouse805@yahoo.com

Southeast Iowa Ridge Blasters

President: Aaron Dorothy
502 E. Cedar Ln., Mt. Pleasant Ia 52641
(319) 986-5188(h), 319-671-0329 (c)
aaron65@hotmail.com





ISSA ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

REGION 1

Glen's Sport Center, Inc.

208 16th St., Sheldon, IA 51201
glens1@qwestoffice.net

Project Mayhem Power Sports

509 Inc.
133 W 1st St, Sioux Center, IA 51250
(712) 441-0934
jesse_wynia@hotmail.com

REGION 2

Byron's

112 S Main St., Pomeroy, IA 50575
(712) 468-2372
www.byronsbars.com
Best live music in northwest Iowa!

Fonda Golf

13251 Hwy 7, Fonda, IA 50540
(712) 288-6419, www.fondagolf.com
Family rec center.

J & K Snowmobile

2703 7th Ave. S., Estherville, IA 51334
(712) 362-3031

KDM Trucking

Ken Miller
2726 220th St., Manson, IA 50563
(515) 408-8001
kdmtrucking@hotmail.com

Rasmuson Electric

2781 Valley Ave.
Rockwell City, IA 50579
(515) 467-5748

Ramthun Trucking, Inc

2271 Upland Ave., Manson, IA 50563
(515) 480-3970

Sedlacek

Snowmobile Salvage

135 Lake St., Rockwell City, IA 50579
(712) 210-0718
Find us on Facebook!

Shore Side Pub&Grub

1029 Main St., Manson, IA 50563
(712) 469-0017
Shoresidemason@gmail.com
Open 7 days a week!

Southern Calhoun Ag Services, Inc.

3598 Ogden Ave., Lohrville, IA 51453
tom.mcclue@plantpioneer.com

Vinny's BBQ

P.O. Box 118, Dakota City, IA 50529
(515) 332-2046

REGION 3

Advance Concrete

420 Helgren St., Thompson, IA 50478
(641) 584-2080

Agvantage FS

206 Ash St., Thornton, IA 50479
(641) 998-2112
rhalsne@agvantagefs.com

Allen Seed and Grain

2059 Olive Ave, Sheffield, IA 50475
(641) 892-4058

Antique Pontiac Parts & Accessories

14083 P Ave.
Iowa Falls, IA 50126-8686
641-648-9086

Auto Parts Wholesale

621 4th St SE, Hampton, IA 50441
(641) 456-2594
apwhampton@yahoo.com

Buffalo Lanes, LLC

120 1st St. NW
Buffalo Center, IA 50424
(641) 562-2611

Chappy's on Main

122 S Main St, Clarion, IA 50525
(515) 532-2727
racingcy@yahoo.com

Crystal Lake Bar

130 State Ave, Crystal Lake, IA 50432
(641) 565-3030

Countryside Turf & Timber

11328 Hwy 65, Iowa Falls, IA 50126
(641) 648-2382
countrysidettp@prairiein.net

Dave's Auto Service

101 W Main St., Lake Mills, IA 50450
(641) 592-9951, daves66@wctatel.net
Non Ethanol Premium Fuel

DK Arndt, PC

116 East I St., Forest City, IA 50436
(641) 585-4631
dkatc@dkamrdtpa.net
www.dkamrdtpa.net

Don's Motor Mart

401 W. Main St., Lake Mills IA 50450
(641) 592-9966
www.facebook.com/dons_motor_mart

Donna's Lounge

427 1st St, Meservey, IA 50457-1004

Dows Farmers Coop

304 Ellsworth, PO Box 410
Dows, IA 50071
(515) 852-4136

Duck's Bar & Grill

112 E Main/PO Box 4
Aredale, IA 50605
(641) 894-3312, ducksbar@live.com

Dudley's Corner

648 Highway 3, Latimer, IA 50452
(641) 866-6999

Dura Clean by Doug

1003 S. Washington
Lake Mills, IA 50450
(641) 592-5772

E & E Repair

1410 Olive Ave., Hampton IA 50441
(641) 425-4553

Fahrman

Plumbing & Heating

1678 Grouse Ave, Latimer, IA 50452
(515) 290-9605

Farm & City Insurance

PO Box 248, Forest City, IA 50436
(641) 585-2925
www.rvadantage.com

Forest City Ford-Mercury, Inc.

P.O. Box 448, Forest City, IA 50436
(641) 585-5555

Goody's Welding & Metal Art

304 S. 4th Ave E., Lake Mills, IA 50450
(641) 909-4660
agundmonson@hotmail.com

Gorder's Service

201 Main St PO Box 95
Bradford, IA 50041
(641) 425-0975

Hair Designs

236 E J St., Forest City, IA 50436
(641) 585-2405
sbenson@wctatel.net

Hansell Ag Repair Inc.

1612 Vine Ave., Hampton, IA 50441
(641) 456-2034
dannek2034@gmail.com

Happy Time Resort

526 470th St., Lake Mills, IA 50450
(641) 592-2267, smantha@wctatel.net
www.happytimeresort.com

Hickman Chiropractic

820 4th St NE, Hampton, IA 50441
(641) 456-2280
hickmanjr@hotmail.com

Holland Contracting

1400 S. 4th St., Forest City, IA 50436
(641) 585-2231
www.hollandcontracting.com

Hometown Market

11717 Hwy 9, Thompson, IA 50478
(641) 584-2300

Hometown Pizza & Pub

103 Main St, Coulter, IA 50431
(641) 866-6771

House of Sports

Hwy 122 W., Mason City, IA 50401
(641) 424-2861
houseofsportsmc@gmail.com

Howie Equipment

Trailer & Tire Sales
1273 Mallard Ave, Hampton, IA
50441 (641) 456-5651

Jed's Jalopy Joint

2059 Olive Ave, Sheffield, IA 50475
(641) 892-4058

J-T Machine & Tool Co.

602 S Federal St/PO Box 304
Hampton, IA 50441
(641) 456-4513
jtmachinetool@iowaconnect.com

Kirschbaum

Heating & Cooling

609 S. Winnebago
Lake Mills, IA 50450
(641) 592-8831

Lake Mills Motel

402 N Lake St, Lake Mills, IA 50450
(641) 592-3711
barb_james69@yahoo.com

Lake Mills Motor Sports

Polaris
45563 C Hwy 69, Lake Mills, IA 50450
(641) 592-2145
www.lakemillsmotorsports.com

Little Willie's Bar & DJ

114 S Main St, Clarion, IA 50525
(515) 532-9781

Manufacturers

Bank & Trust Co.

106 W Main St, Lake Mills, IA 50450
(641) 592-0041, www.mbtbank.com
www.mbtbank.com/email

Mother's Place

115 N Akir, Latimer, IA 50452
(641) 579-6401
nlparks@frontiernet.net

Mason City Powersports

4499 4th St SW, Mason City, IA 50401
(641) 423-3181
mcps@netconx.net

Muhlenbruch Insurance

PO Box 426, Dows, IA 50071
(515) 290-2968
buck@trvnet.net

Mulford Concrete Inc.

1312 Hwy 3 West, Hampton, IA 50441
(641) 456-5200

Overtime DJ Service

208 S. Lake St., Lake Mills, IA 50450
(641) 592-2089
justinoverland@hotmail.com

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