

IOWA SNOWMOBILER

December 2015 • Volume 37 • Issue 4

Exploring Minnesota's North Shore



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Recapping Last Month's ISSA Convention in Storm Lake



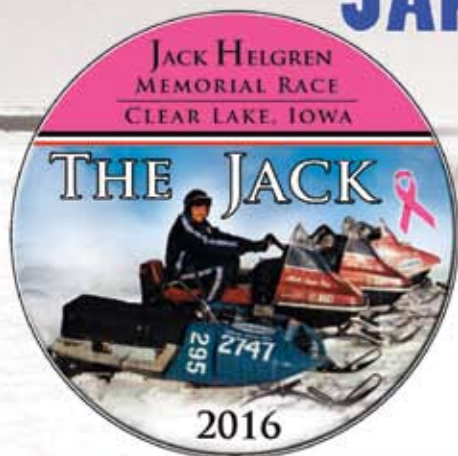
STORM LAKE

7TH ANNUAL - SPONSORED BY NORTH IOWA SNOWSEEKERS

"THE JACK" HELGREN MEMORIAL

IOWA LEMANS CHAMPIONSHIP

JANUARY 15TH & 16TH



FRIDAY NIGHT

6-9PM
Pre-Registration at the VFW Downtown
Cruise Around The Lake

SATURDAY

9am Radar Runs • 10am Lemans Style Racing
Vintage Show • Kitty Kat • 120 races
Clear Lake State Park, South Shore Dr.

SATURDAY NIGHT

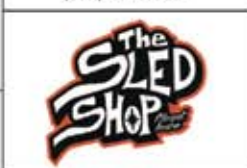
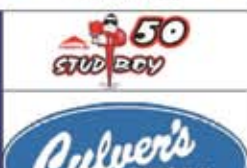
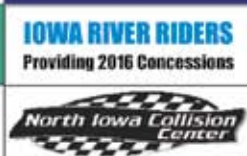
Awards Ceremony - 7pm
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Recapping the 2015 ISSA Convention

Members brave winter storm Bella to talk
snowmobiling for three days at Storm Lake



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Heller Discusses Politics, Downing on Timbersleds

ISSA lobbyist provides legislative update;
IDNR manager cautious of new snow vehicle



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Officials looking for clubs to step forward
this winter, host weekend trail rides



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MichCanSka Raises Money for Diabetes Research

International snowmobile club coordinates
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- Club News
- Associate Members
- Platinum Sponsors
- Calendar Order Form



2015-16 Magazine Deadlines

January	Dec. 18
February (digital)	Jan. 15
March.....	Feb. 12

COVER: Aaron Peterson of St. Michael, Minn., negotiates a curve on the North Shore Trail in the Arrowhead region of Minnesota last February. For more on the ride, turn to page 14.

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Vice President's Message

Trail Sign Order Delayed by Budget Constraints at IDNR

Well, as I write this, it's raining outside. Not the way I wanted to end the month of November. Last week, we had the ISSA Annual Convention in Storm Lake. It was a long six-hour drive to get there in the first big winter storm of the year. But it was worth it to meet with snowmobilers across the state.

Every year, we get together to discuss issues and celebrate this great group during the two and a half days of convention. This year was no different. For those who weren't there, I will hit the highlights.

Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Snowmobile Program Director David Downing discussed the current budget for snowmobiling. In short, the budget is tight going into the coming season. Since last year, five new groomers and three drags were bought. This combined with changes in the way we are allowed to spend National Recreation Trails (NRT) grants and new people within the IDNR has led to the delay in a few things.

The trail signs are ordered and being made by Iowa Prison Industries. Everyone should see the signs in early December. I know this is a lot later than originally promised. We are doing the best we can

to work with the budget and make sure we start building it back up. I assure you we are able to fund the program and all groomers will run as much as possible once Mother Nature decides to let us keep

the snow for more than a couple days. If you have questions, please contact me and I will be glad to answer your questions.

Brian Carmichael and I were happy to announce the new David Carmichael Memorial Region Director of the Year Award. The new award is now sponsored by



Chris Willey
ISSA Vice President

A-Maize-Ing Kustoms in Cedar Rapids. The winner gets a complete rebuild of all shocks on their sled. The winner this year was John Kahler. John is the region director of Region 7, but he doesn't stop there. He also keeps in touch with clubs in Regions 10 and 11 since there is currently not a director in those regions.

I also want to congratulate Nathan Gudenkauf from my **Turn to page 7**



ISSA Vice President Chris Willey explains the Sons of Snowmobiling (SOS) program at the 2015 ISSA Annual Convention in Storm Lake in November. Aimed at inspiring the next generation of snowmobilers, the program was conceived by Willey and ISSA Region 4 Director Scott Nauman (right) and Region 4 Assistant Director Brian Carmichael (center). All three are sons of past ISSA presidents. They plan to support their program through the sale of \$25 blue buttons.

Unique Partnership Between Manufacturers, Customers

The snowmobile manufacturers have a unique relationship with their customer base. The relationships and the friendships begin on the trails and in the mountains. The manufacturer employees—beginning with the chief executive officers, marketing managers, accountants and production teams—love to snowmobile.

Folks involved in the production, the promotion and distribution of a snowmobile go snowmobiling so they understand the excitement of snowmobiling and the fun it brings to winter. Enthusiasts involved in snowmobiling at any level are active students of the weather and watch for snowy winter forecasts on a continuing basis. We all cheer together when the snow begins and always hope for just a little more.

The manufacturers are financial supporters of snowmobile clubs and associations across North America. They attend many events sponsored and coordinated by club members—their customers. The manufacturers participate in snowmobile shows open to the public along with racing events and more.

To help support the education of the general public and the media, the manufacturers help sponsor and participate in enlightenment snowmobile rides and introductory rides for new customers and the media. Through the International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association (ISMA), they help to sponsor and coordinate military rides, recognizing the dedication and service that so many young men and women provide in the United States and Canada.

The military personnel and their families are thanked for their service and sacrifice and they also have a great time snowmobiling on some of the amazing trails and riding areas available for all snowmobilers to enjoy.

ISMA, with input from the customer base, created the Safe Riders! You Make Snowmobiling Safe safety campaign. The campaign encourages snowmobilers to make safety a top-of-mind issue and en-

courages safe riding behavior. The Safe Riders! campaign provides, free of charge, information that can be used for educational and promotional use.

The manufacturers, through ISMA, are major sponsors of the American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA) and the Canadian Council of Snowmobile Organizations (CCSO)—two national enthusiast associations representing snowmobilers throughout North America. The manufacturers have established a very active



Ed Klim
ISMA
President

grant program available to all association members of ACSA and CCSO. The program is used to support many activities undertaken by the enthusiasts. The manufacturers and snowmobilers join together in defending their right to snowmobile and enjoy the great outdoors. They also work together on a consistent basis to promote responsible snowmobiling and reasonable input into land use discussions with public land managers.

The unique partnership between the manufacturers and their customer base began more than 50 years ago and was initiated by the common desire to develop a snowmobile trail system and riding areas throughout North America. The years of hard work and partnership have paid off as there are more than 220,000 miles of groomed and marked trails available for snowmobilers to enjoy throughout the Snow Belt of North America.

The same trails that are used on a daily basis in the winter by snowmobile enthusiasts are also enjoyed by snowmobile industry employees—who like the rest of snowmobilers—enjoy their weekends participating in their favorite winter pastime ...snowmobiling.



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Director position is open. If you are interested in serving, please contact ISSA President Merv Hoermann or Region 7 Director John Kahler.

REGION ELEVEN

Director position is open. If you are interested in serving, please contact ISSA President Merv Hoermann or Region 7 Director John Kahler.

REGION TWELVE

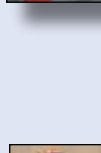
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February 5-15, 2016

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Partner of Vikings Stadium**

Polaris Industries announced in November they will be a Founding Partner of U.S. Bank Stadium and an official partner of the Minnesota Vikings.

"As a Minnesota-born company, Polaris is thrilled to partner with the Vikings and support the new stadium. On Sundays during the football season, if our customers aren't out riding, they're likely cheering on the Vikings," said Scott Wine, Polaris Chairman & CEO. "Vikings fans are our current and future customers, and we share a passion for sports and the outdoors. We look forward to exposing even more Vikings fans to Polaris off-road vehicles, motorcycles, snowmobiles and work vehicles through our partnership."

Polaris' extensive offering of powersports, motorcycles, utility and work vehicles will be featured in and around U.S. Bank Stadium on Vikings game days. Polaris is also exploring unique game-day features for fans, such as chauffer services from tailgates to the stadium.

To kick off the partnership, Polaris is giving away a limited-edition Vikings RZR® 1000 to benefit the United Way, a long-time philanthropy partner of Polaris and the Vikings.

"With Polaris' strong reputation as a vibrant Minnesota brand and their significant community presence, this partnership was a natural fit," said Mark Wilf, Vikings Owner/President. "Not only will Polaris enhance the game experience for fans, we will also collaborate on community outreach efforts, including two offseason Vikings Children's Fund events. We look forward to working together both to create exciting opportunities for Vikings fans and to have a positive impact throughout Minnesota."

**ACSA Cash Calendars Now
Available; Winners Drawn Daily**

The 2016 American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA) Cash Calendars are now available for purchase. All state snowmobile Associations have a supply and are actively selling them. The proceeds from the cash calendar sales are a fundraiser for ACSA and the state snowmobile associations.

Place your calendar order today, celebrate our 20th anniversary and get 12 months of snowmobile events and activities. In addition, there are 365 prizes awarded throughout the year. Calendars are available for a tax deductible \$20 contribution.

Your \$20 contribution will not only get your 2016 ACSA Cash Calendar, but it will also support our work to help connect and defend snowmobile trails across the country. These calendars also make great gifts...especially when the recipient receives a check in the mail for their winnings.

Make sure you don't miss out—order yours today! Contact the ACSA office at info@snowmobilers.org or your state snowmobile association to purchase one.

**Polaris Redesigns Snow Trails
App Based on Rider Feedback**

Polaris Industries has completely redesigned its Snow Trails by RiderX app. At the core of this must-have mobile application for snowmobile enthusiasts, is a new map, purpose-built with feedback from over 250,000 hardcore riders.

"The all-new Snow Trails by RiderX takes the riding experience to the next level with offline functionality," reads the Polaris press release. "The app's new mapping engine is specially designed for areas with no or low cell service. Snow Trails even offers statewide trail downloads so riders can rest assured they always have the right trail maps with them—no matter what kind of cell coverage area is ahead."

Snow Trails also features in-depth information on locales, including trailheads and parking areas. Riders can view snow depth to determine the best places to ride, and find nearby medical, fuel, food and lodging so they're always prepared, no matter what.

"Riders even gain access to their own virtual garage, where they can create personalized maintenance logs for all their outdoor recreational vehicles, so their equipment is always ready for the next adventure," the release stated.

To view trails and maintenance options online, visit riderx.com. To download Snow Trails by RiderX, visit your app store and search for "RiderX."



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Plans Underway for Second Annual David Carmichael Memorial Ride

After getting snakebit by last winter's inconsistent snowfall and poor trails, friends and family of the late David Carmichael are attempting another memorial ride this winter, conditions permitting.

Instead of a three-day ride across Iowa, organizers are planning a two-day event in the Cresco area the last weekend in February. Base camp will be the Super 8 motel, and there is a \$25 minimum donation to ride. Additional sponsorships are encouraged.

Held Feb. 26-27, the two-day ride is intended to commemorate the contributions of Carmichael and to honor his legacy to organized snowmobiling in Iowa. He served as ISSA President from 1994 to 1995 and remained active in the association for 40 years.

Carmichael, a charter member of the Cedar Falls Sno Hawks snowmobile club of Region 4, passed away Dec. 23, 2013, at his rural Tripoli home following a short battle with ALS. He was 70 years old.

Carmichael's son and current Sno Hawks President Brian Carmichael is spearheading the ride along with other Sno Hawks members and close family friends and ISSA officers Scott and Dennis Nauman.

Proceeds from the ride will benefit the ISSA Education and Scholarship Foundation. Funds raised from last year's event went toward the Iowa ALS Chapter. While the ride did not take place last year, participants still met in Osage for an evening meal and fellowship, thus making the 2016 attempt the Second Annual David Carmichael Memorial Ride.

For more information on this year's event, contact Brian Carmichael at (319) 215-5006, Scott Nauman at (641) 425-9898 or Dennis Nauman at (641) 425-4141.



Willey

Continued from page 4

home club, the Snow Pioneers, for winning the Young Adult Snowmobiler and to the Trail Blaz-ers for winning Snowmobile Club of the Year. Both represent Region 5 very well.

Brian Carmichael, Scott Nauman and I also announced at convention a new support group we have started. All three of us are sons of past ISSA presidents. We have new ideas and are inspired to take the ISSA and snowmobiling into the future. We are calling it S.O.S. or Sons Of Snowmobiling. We are looking to work with clubs to get more of the younger snowmobilers involved in the sport along with supporting the ISSA charities. Contact one of us for more info. I am very excited about some of the ideas we have along with my adventures riding and filming with the Ditch Dockers and Highcountry Octane here in Iowa and out West.

It looks to be an exciting and busy winter. I hope everyone finds what they asked for under their Christmas tree and have a safe New Year. See ya on the trails.



ISSA Awards Committee member Brian Carmichael, left, son of the late Past ISSA President David Carmichael, presents ISSA Region 7 Director John Kahler with the ISSA's inaugural David Carmichael Memorial Region Director Award. The award replaces the region director award previously sponsored by Sly Dog Skis.

42nd Annual ISSA Convention Recap

Members Survive Bella for Three Days of Seminars, Presentations and Banquet Festivities

by **Cameron Hanson**

Storm Lake lived up to its name the third weekend in November as storm system Bella moved through western and central Iowa, dumping up to a foot snow in some parts. While creating a great kick-off to the 2015-16 snowmobile season, the winter weather did cause some travel concerns for ISSA members attending the 42nd Annual Convention there.

According to event organizers, 120 members did survive the icy trek to King's Pointe Resort for three days of seminars, presentations and banquet festivities; but the turnout was roughly half of last year's convention, and 2015 Convention Committee Chair Merv Hoermann did acknowledge the inclement weather hurt attendance.

Representing an organization which should not complain about getting too much snow, however—especially after last winter—Hoermann, who also serves as president of the ISSA, said he was still pleased with how many dedicated members showed up and how the weekend shaped up.

"We're glad many of you made it over to Storm Lake safely, and we hope you enjoyed everything we had in store for you," said Hoermann, who entered the second half of his two-year term convention weekend. "As a group, the committee felt all of the seminars went over really well, and I thought our presenters were also very good."

While the Friday night entertainment lineup had to be scrapped due to the treacherous travel conditions, the Saturday afternoon seminars went off without a hitch, and the keynote speaker later that night also captivated the audience. As planned, each session was held consecutively to one another in the resort's main ballroom so attendees did not have to choose between events.

"The whole idea was to keep everyone together so people didn't have to scramble between rooms and seminars," Hoermann explained. "Our presenters knew exactly how much time they had on stage as well. As a committee, we were trying to think outside

Fresh snow blankets two new groomers on display in front of King's Pointe Resort, Storm Lake

Looking Ahead from Convention Weekend

This Month...

- **Lobbyist Provides Legislative Update**
- **Plans to Expand Snowmobile Iowa**
- **Groomer Cards Finally Issued**
- **Raising Awareness for Diabetes**

Next Month...

- **Motivational Speaker Talks Survival**
- **Downing Explains Budget Shortfalls**
- **Award Winners Profiled**
- **ISU Team Solicits Support**

of the box as to how to keep everyone engaged. Our speakers were diverse, we felt, and everything kept moving along."

As detailed in either this issue or upcoming issues, all sessions were roughly 30 minutes long and featured local snowmobile events, groomer discussions and international speakers. Earlier in the day, the general membership meeting saw very few leadership moves with only Region 3 reporting a change in directorship. Assistant Matt Trunkhill now replaces Ben Diekhuis there.

As always, ISSA members stepped forward with several financial contributions throughout the weekend. At the top of the list, nine clubs donated \$3,200 toward the Club Challenge to support the ISSA's lobbying efforts. Coming close to that total were the donations to the Spina Bifida Association of Iowa, and another \$2,600 was raised for the scholarship program through various raffles and auction items.

More from convention weekend now follows here.

Gas Tax, Sales Tax, Timbersleds

by Cameron Hanson

ISSA Lobbyist Mike Heller ran for office some 35 years ago and still remembers which voters let him put up campaign signs in their yards. It's that kind of relationship he encouraged snowmobilers at Storm Lake last month to build with the candidates for the Iowa Legislature during next year's election season.

Appearing at the 42nd Annual ISSA Convention at King's Pointe Resort Nov. 21, Heller reported all seats are up for re-election at the Statehouse in Des Moines next fall. Republicans currently

control the House, 57-43, while Democrats hold a slim margin in the Senate, 26-24.

"The key point I want to make today is grassroots contacts," Heller said. "You should take the opportunity to invite these candidates to one of your club meetings. Try to get to know them. It doesn't matter if they are a Democrat or Republican. Our issues are pretty bipartisan.

"If they get to know you, these politicians can be crucial to our efforts...if not in the upcoming session but for future sessions for sure," Heller continued. "You would be amazed at the little things they remember.

Let them put a yard sign up. It shows that you are interested in them and care about their campaign, which is what really motivates politicians."

Advocates Since 2003

Along with Paula Feltner, Heller has been representing the ISSA at the state capitol since the winter of 2003. The Des Moines-based lawyers were retained in response to the Iowa Legislature's deappropriation of \$1 million from the state snowmobile program coffers. Thanks to their lobbying efforts and snowmobilers' grassroots contacts, the money was eventually reimbursed.

That hard-fought victory kicked off a string of positive legislation for the state snowmobile program. Among the many achievements since then have been the annual registration period and fee increase, the introduction of a snowmobile trail user permit three years ago and last session's preservation of snowmobile access across primary and divided highways.

"That last bill (S.F. 218) passed with broad bipartisan support," Heller noted. "The legislation was important because you had one creative individual who read the law literally and the attorney general agreed with him that existing law didn't allow snowmobiles to cross primary

highways."

Most notable among the defeats, however, has been the lack of a refund program for the fuel taxes paid by snowmobilers in their off-road machines. The ISSA has been stumping for this reimbursement for the past 15 years, and with the passage of the 10-cent gas tax hike last session, many leaders

in the organized snowmobile community felt 2015 was their best chance at earmarking that money.

"But when we brought up the fuel tax to legislators last year and presented the idea of dedicating a portion of it to the



Mike Heller
ISSA Lobbyist

snowmobile fund, it was just not something they really wanted to do because if they did it for us, they would have to take every group's amendment," Heller said.

The proposal was an uphill battle from the beginning, he noted.

"Let's be honest," Heller began. "Last session's gas tax bill was drafted in a way that we couldn't even get an amendment on it. The reimbursement proposal was considered non-germane and procedurally out of order. It was unfortunate that it happened that way because the gas-tax hike was the only realistic chance we had at getting the taxes on the fuel used in your snowmobiles back and dedicated to our fund."

Turning Attention to Sales Tax

As Past ISSA President Jim Willey pointed out, many legislators who were contacted by ISSA members to support the gas-tax reimbursement "indicated they would support us on something else." That opportunity now appears to be moving toward recouping the sales taxes snowmobilers pay on their sleds, apparel and accessories.

"If you buy a snowmobile, it only makes sense that the sales tax goes to the snowmobile fund. Sales tax on cars goes to the road use tax fund," Heller said. "That becomes food for thought. It's money you are already paying for. We can make a good argument, and it would be a recurring source of revenue for the program."

"It will take the snowmobilers in this room and across Iowa to make this happen though," Willey said.

At this point, the ISSA's Emergency

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2015-16 ISSA Club Challenge

	2015	2016
Webster County Ice Breakers.....	\$1,001.....	
Wapsipinicon Snowmobile Association	\$1,000.....	
Snowmobilers of Jackson County		\$750
Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club.....	\$500.....	\$500
Frozen Few.....	\$500.....	
Eastern Iowa Sledheads.....	\$500.....	\$500
Iowa River Riders	\$400.....	
Tri-County Snowmobile Association	\$351.....	
Jones County Snow Chasers	\$351.....	
Central Iowa Snowmobilers.....	\$350.....	\$350
Snow Pioneers	\$350.....	\$350
Sac County Snow Lovers	\$301.....	
Floyd County Groomers	\$300.....	\$300
Bremer County Sno-Knights.....	\$250.....	
Dickinson County Snowhawks		\$250
Cedar Falls Sno Hawks.....	\$200.....	
Howard County Stump Jumpers.....	\$150.....	
Palo Alto Rough Riders	\$150.....	
Driftrunners.....	\$100.....	\$200
Trails Unlimited.....	\$100.....	
O'Brien County Snowtrackers	\$100.....	
Emmet County Driftbusters	\$100.....	
Snowdrifters.....		\$100

Send your contribution to your Region Director or ISSA Treasurer Kim Herman. Contact information can be found in the front half of this magazine.



State Sen. Dick Dearden of Des Moines, left, was recognized at the 2015 ISSA Convention by ISSA Lobbyist Mike Heller as a friend of snowmobiling. Dearden is shown here in January of 2013 with Deputy Director Bruce Trautman of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Funding and Legislation Committee has not made any recommendations to the ISSA Board of Directors for this upcoming legislative session, which begins Jan. 11. If board members do decide to pursue the sales tax reimbursement, Heller indicated a number of legislators would step forward to introduce a bill for it.

Chief among them is Sen. Dick Dearden from Des Moines, who has sponsored legislation in the past for the ISSA. Heller also noted Sen. Mary Jo Wilhelm from Decorah has also been sympathetic to snowmobile issues in Des Moines. Another friend of the ISSA has been Rep. Linda Upmeyer of Garner, but her recent selection as House Speaker makes it doubtful if she will introduce any legislation, Heller said.

“(Upmeyer) was helpful with the registration fee increase, and she’s very in tune with the importance of snowmobiling in the district she represents,” Heller said. “She is now in a very unique position to be helpful to us.”

Heller acknowledged the Statehouse in Des Moines is in the midst of a “changing budget environment” and admitted that “not much was done last session after the gas tax hike was passed.” Besides the sales tax proposal, another ISSA push which remains alive is the license plate initiative. This bill, which would allow for a special ISSA license plate, has already passed one chamber “so hopefully we can get it passed this year,” Heller said.

While missing its best opportunity to recover the fuel taxes paid by snowmobilers earlier this year, the ISSA did enjoy its sixth consecutive session of positive legislative change. “Very few groups can say that,” Heller said. “You have incredibly strong advocates, but we need to keep it up.”

“We want to thank you for what you and Paula do for us in Des Moines,” Willey said. “Retaining a lobbyist is one of the most important things we do as an association. We need to make sure we stay on top of legislation which is contrary to snowmobiling and proactively work on issues in our favor. The success we have seen the last few years is due to the support we have from Mike and Paula.”

“It has been our privilege to serve you,” Heller said.

Beginning at a rate in 2003 of \$17,000, the lobbyist team’s contract now costs the association \$23,000. This bill is a direct

expense against the ISSA’s General Fund, and to offset that high-ticket item, the organization has relied on its Club Challenge, to which ISSA member-clubs are encouraged to make donations. In 2015, \$6,500 was raised through this fund-raising mechanism. At this year’s convention, \$3,200 was collected from clubs for next year’s expense.

Legislative Issues on the Horizon

Besides the license plate request and potential sales tax reimbursement initiative, the only other item on the legislative horizon discussed at convention for the ISSA came from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. During his presentation to the group, IDNR Snowmobile Program Coordinator David Downing indicated his department will address a relatively new player in the snow recreation market.

Similar to a tracked ATV, Timbersled, which was acquired by Polaris in April of 2015, offers a snow bike conversion kit which can turn a dirt bike into a snow machine. Most of the promotional material being distributed on this kit shows it in use in the backcountry, but Downing and others are concerned its application will migrate to a groomed snowmobile trail.

“I have no problem collecting the registration dollars for these machines, but the unknown is what impact they will have on a groomed snowmobile trail,” Downing said. “Just like for the tracked UTV, we can allow for the registration and titling of those units, but we also need to define where they can be used and where they cannot.”

Presently in Iowa, an ATV or UTV equipped with a tracked conversion kit is not considered a snowmobile and therefore banned from trails. Downing did note studies have shown that tracked ATVs have no adverse impact on a groomed trail, but his concern stems from when the snow melts and those ATVs continue to ride on private land.

“The problem is you don’t have Mother Nature as an enforcement tool so when the snow melts on your trail system, you are going to stop riding your snowmobile, but a tracked ATV is probably not going to stop,” he explained. “That requires one of my officers to go out and try to deal with that issue, and there’s simply not enough of us to do that.”

“The consequence is landowners are going to start taking away our trails,” he continued. “We have in our definition that a modified ATV is not considered a snowmobile so now you have this new piece of equipment come along and it looks like fun but I also don’t want to do something that gets us kicked off the trail systems we’re on. These Timbersleds look fun in powder, but what do they do to a groomed snowmobile trail? It’s a pretty narrow track.”

“Something is going to happen with them legislatively this year,” Downing said. “We want to make sure we are leading the bus and not under it.”



Timbersled dirt-bike conversion kit for snow will be on the IDNR’s radar screen this upcoming legislative session.

Participants on the 2007 Ride Across Iowa stop for a break at the vintage cabin in the Pinicon Alders Wildlife Area near McIntire in Region 4.

Snowmobile Iowa Expansion

ISSA Officials Look to Bring Convention Booths to Life

by Cameron Hanson

Despite a lukewarm reception at the 2015 ISSA Annual Convention last month in Storm Lake, the ISSA is planning to move forward with a proposal to expand its Snowmobile Iowa program to include weekly snowmobile rides this winter.

Spearheading the effort are ISSA President Merv Hoermann and Past ISSA President Bruno Andreini. Both participated in the ISSA's snowmobile retreat to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan last March and now want to discover what their own state has to offer.

"With this idea, we want to explore your area of Iowa and get on some trails we haven't been on before and see some new points of interest," Hoermann explained during a Saturday afternoon seminar Nov. 21 to drum up support for the expansion. "Sometimes

you don't have to travel out of state to have a good time.

"What I've learned over the years is you can do that right here in Iowa," he continued. "For some of us, we don't even get out of our own area to ride. There are some really good trails here in Iowa, and you get to see a lot of variety, whether it is the ditches out west or cross-country trails the farther east you get."

"I've been at this game a day or two—longer than most in this room—and I do not know all the trails in Iowa and all the good secrets you have in your areas that I would like to ride," added Andreini, a 45-year veteran of the sport. "That's why we came up with a plan to showcase these trails in Iowa through our clubs."

Critical to the program expansion, local clubs are being invited to sign up to host rides each weekend in January and February. They would be asked to designate a starting area or trailhead with room for trailer parking, line up a few guides to lead the tour, provide trail maps and then offer suggestions for overnight lodging.

"This is a good way to promote your community and impact your area financially," Andreini said. "Snowmobilers spend a lot of money. They spend a lot of money in hotels, gas stations and restaurants and buy other related items while traveling."

Original Platform Dates Back to 2004

According to organizers, the rides are designed to expand on the Snowmobile Iowa concept which began 11 years ago at the 2004 ISSA Annual Convention in West Lake Okoboji. Here, clubs are

invited to set up booths at convention to showcase what their area has to offer and to display their maps, scrapbooks and activities.

Then Region 1 Director, Hoermann is credited with creating the Snowmobile Iowa program and now wants to bring it to life by having clubs hosts snowmobile rides in their areas of the state. When a ride is scheduled, email blasts will be sent out to the membership, and given the fickle nature of winter in Iowa, Hoermann realizes they may be last-minute decisions.

"If there's no snow or conditions aren't good enough to ride when your weekend comes up, then we'll just cancel it. We won't try to postpone it or re-schedule it," he said, emphasizing the flexibility of the program. "We know how our winters can be in Iowa. And if by chance two clubs sign up for the same weekend, then you have a choice of where you want to ride."

The intent of the rides is to share what each area of the state has to offer and to keep riders from looking to neighboring states as destinations. As a three-time participant of the *Iowa Snowmobiler* magazine's Ride Across Iowa in the late 2000s, Hoermann knows firsthand what gems exist out there. He now wants others in the ISSA to experience them as well.

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Snowmobiles and club booths fill the lobby at King's Pointe Resort for the ISSA's annual 'Snowmobile Iowa' showcase at convention last month.

"I've ridden across Iowa three times, once along Highway 9, then Highway 18 and lastly across Highway 3, and I've learned a lot from those trips," he said. "We crossed a lot of different trail systems and ended up taking more scenic routes. We weren't just looking for a straight line. If we came to a trail that dogs off and there's something to go see, we followed it. We were in no hurry and didn't have a deadline to meet."

On the Highway 9 trip, for example, riders unfamiliar with the area ended up riding through the Hogsback Wildlife Area near Lake Mills and later on through the Pinicon Alders Wildlife Area near McIntire, thanks to guided tours by club members in their respective areas. Andreini feels more of these "secrets" can be discovered by others through expanding the Snowmobile Iowa program.

"I want to know what's in my own state," Andreini said. "I plan to make it a mission this winter to ride as much of Iowa as I can. I want to know what's here. I know other state trails better than I know my own, and that's sad. I think we have hidden secrets here, and we need to discover them. We need to have them pointed out to us. I know my area real well, and I know where to take people when they come and visit me. All of you have these same areas."

Need to Start Somewhere

Sign-up sheets were available to club members convention weekend, but many felt they should take it back to their clubs for a vote before committing to host a ride. Some pointed out the slate of activities already planned this winter in Iowa that would compete with the rides, including the Jack Race, Snow Fest and Okoboji Winter Games in January and the David Carmichael Memorial Ride in February.

Despite the hushed reluctance and perceived scheduling conflicts, the seminar did receive some modest support from the convention crowd. Both Andreini and Hoermann admitted it might be too late to get many rides organized this winter, but they felt they should start somewhere, just like the original Snowmobile Iowa concept needed a jumping-off point in 2004.

"We realize this may be getting late in the season to do this, but if we are going to promote it for January, we need to get on top of it right now and spread the word in order for participants to attend," Andreini said.

"I think it's a very interesting idea, but I'm not positive on how to get it off the ground," shared retired Region 7 Director Steve Klinkufus, a member of the Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club. "Most people in here may have never ridden in northeast Iowa, and maybe the members in northeast Iowa haven't ridden in central Iowa. We all don't know where the good spots are so maybe we should give this idea a shot."

"The intent of this is to make a stronger ISSA out of it," Andreini said. "Just look at the 14 people who went on the ISSA trip last winter. Everyone had a good time and forged relationships that would not have happened otherwise. Staying in Iowa this year will allow people in our own group to get to know each other, and we certainly need that in the ISSA and throughout the snowmobile community."

Andreini said the organized ISSA rides would be an opportunity to invite non-ISSA members to come along as well and "see what we are about." For more information or to schedule a Snowmobile Iowa ride, contact Andreini at (515) 240-3858/awbruno3@gmail.com or Hoermann at (712) 260-4810/mebeefater2@yahoo.com.

"Take this to your clubs, send us a contact person and let's get moving on this," Andreini said.



Groomer Cards Arrive After Two-Year Wait

by Cameron Hanson

The state's Groomer Operator Certification program is making up for a two-year delay in its card-issuing process by extending the expiration date for current operators to Jan. 1, 2018. The announcement came at the 2015 ISSA Annual Convention in Storm Lake Nov. 21.

The extension means operators who renewed at the ISSA convention at Altoona in November of 2013 will basically earn a five-year card; it also falls in line with a proposal to extend the recertification period to five years. The renewal period currently stands at three years, and all existing operators had to be recertified by July 1, 2014.

Causing agitation for several clubs and frustration for many within the ISSA, the well-publicized snafu in issuing the operator cards in a timely manner has been blamed on a number of factors, including distribution errors by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), inaccurate information on training registration forms and incomplete paperwork at the club level.

"We have had some guys waiting since Altoona to receive their cards, and we sincerely apologize for that," explained ISSA Vice President Chris Willey, who jointly coordinates the groomer operator training program for the ISSA and IDNR. "The date you now have on that card is the date you will need to recertify by. Everybody gets a little extra time now."

For more than 10 years, the IDNR has required groomer operator training. Across Iowa, approximately 600 club members are certified to operate grooming equipment. That number is down about half since the IDNR called for recertification every three years. Willey took some time at convention to explain the logic behind the mandate.

"We are the only user group in Iowa which provides volunteers to operate state-owned equipment," he explained. "State lawyers are very nervous about that. They get complaints all the time by motorists who get rock chips in the windshield from debris kicked up by snow plows driven by state employees. Now, they have volunteers running state-owned groomers."

"One thing that makes them feel better about it is we have a certification and recertification program for our operators," Willey continued. "If we didn't have this program, we would have to have IDOT or IDNR employees running our groomers. How often do you think our trails would get groomed? They wouldn't. Due to the environment in which we live in, we have to go

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MichCanSka Raises Funds, Awareness for Diabetes Research Worldwide

by Cameron Hanson

The last time Michigan native Bill Bradfield visited Iowa, he and 53 other dedicated snowmobilers had just completed a 4,200-mile trip across four time zones to Alaska. Not one to rest on his laurels, he returned to the Hawkeye State last month to share his tales of their most recent adventure across six countries to St. Petersburg, Russia.

First appearing at the 2010 International Snowmobile Congress (ISC) in Coralville, Bradfield was invited back to Iowa for the 2015 ISSA Annual Convention in Storm Lake to raise awareness for his organization's cause. A Type 2 diabetic, Bradfield is the president and founder of MichCanSka, an international snowmobile club which raises money for diabetes research.

"I chose diabetes because I am a Vietnam veteran who was exposed to Agent Orange when I served my country in 1967-68," Bradfield told the ISSA members assembled for his Nov. 21 seminar at King's Pointe

Resort. "They later found out that chemical defoliant was a cause of diabetes, and thousands and thousands of veterans like me are now suffering from it.

"But I'm also standing here before you today to say that I am still as patriotic as anyone can get," he affirmed, causing the Saturday afternoon crowd of snowmobilers to erupt in cheers. "My country made a mistake, but I know they didn't do it on purpose. We all make mistakes. The key is to get back up, dust yourself off and keep moving ahead, and that's how we make things happen."

Bradfield's message last month mirrored his club's slogan of "Dream It, Plan It, Do It." Each year, members have raised funds and awareness for diabetes research with well-publicized events and snowmobile rides to extreme destinations. His organization's name stems from its inaugural ride in 2010 from Mich(igan) to Can(ada) to Ala(Ska), and their most ambitious trip to date was earlier this year to Russia.

Billed as the 2015 World Snowmobile Tour, MichCanSka's adventure to St. Petersburg actually began three years ago when Bradfield and others started recruiting hosts and participants at the ISC in Green Bay, Wis. With Bradfield taking care of the U.S. portion of the trip, ambassadors stepped forward to coordinate the group's passage through Canada, Scandinavia and Russia.



ISSA President Merv Hoermann, left, shares a laugh with MichCanSka's David Low, center, and Bill Bradfield in between seminars at the 2015 ISSA Convention in Storm Lake. Nov. 21.

Seven riders completed all three segments of the World Tour, while another 55 riders participated in varying legs of the journey. The trip began Feb. 7 in Cadillac, Mich., and ended 22 days later in St. Petersburg. Along the way, riders crossed into Canada, flew to Norway and rode across Sweden and Finland.

Equipped with satellite tracking devices, the entourage was then escorted to the Russian border and began a four-day ride to the city of Murmansk. There, they boarded a flight to St. Petersburg for the grand finale and banquet. Collectively, the group racked up 54,660 miles on their sleds with another 50,000 miles in the air.

"The Russians treated us more special than anybody did," Bradfield said. "I knew the people who were helping coordinate the trip over there, and I knew I could count on them. They went overboard for us."

Also providing inspiration for the trip was fellow Michigan snowmobiler David Low. Now 88, Low has participated in every MichCanSka event since the beginning, and he became "an icon in Russia" on this latest trip.

"When we rode into Russia, he was right there by my side," Bradfield noted.

Hailed as Michigan's "Supreme Senior Citizen," Low joined Bradfield on his visit to the ISSA convention last month and shared a few of his thoughts on the World Tour. "I got a little tired, but I enjoyed every minute of it," he said, smiling.

Fundraising Exceeds \$200,000

While Alaska and Russia have grabbed most of the headlines, MichCanSka has also completed shorter group rides since its inception in 2009. That first trip to Tot, Alaska, however, has been the most successful, raising more than \$100,000. To date, the club has contributed more than \$200,000 to diabetes research through pledges and donations. Not too bad for a club in only its sixth year of existence.

"I have a passion in my heart for what I do, and I'm proud of what this group has done, but I didn't do this **Turn to page 19**

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MichCanSka's World Tour outside Hearst, Ontario, Canada

Exploring Minnesota's North Shore



2001



2015

Extended Weekend Trip to the Arrowhead Serves as Reunion Ride to First Snowmobile Destination

by Cameron Hanson

Flatlanders looking to escape the brown landscape of Iowa last season while staying within a reasonable driving distance of home basically had two options available to them to justify their ownership of a snowmobile: the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and the Arrowhead region of Minnesota.

Faced with the prospects of not getting any riding around home, I made extended weekend treks to both areas last winter. The first outing sent us north of Duluth Feb. 8-10, while the second trip occurred a month later March 2-5 as part of the ISSA's late season retreat to the U.P.

Loosely organized, the first trip was a spontaneous reunion to the Finland, Minn., area, a destination we had experienced early on in our snowmobiling careers

14 years ago. Back then, the rides were old, and our gear didn't match, but the snowmobiling, hospitality and storytelling were memorable.

Hoping to recreate that nostalgia, we departed Iowa early Saturday evening, Feb. 7 and stayed with some high school friends on the south side of the Twin Cities that night. The following morning, we crossed over to the top side of the metro area to pick up a college buddy and continued north.

Call it risky, but we had decided to wait on making any lodging arrangements until we arrived in the Arrowhead later that afternoon. Naturally suspicious of the online trail reports, we didn't want to make any commitments and get locked into an area that had marginal snow before we touched down.

Judging by the amount of two- and four-

place trailers heading south on the way up, we felt somewhat reassured the area should have good riding conditions and the hotels should have plenty of vacancies.

For most of the way up to Duluth, the scenery hadn't changed much from the dismal brown we had left behind in Iowa. Our outlook began to change when we reached Two Harbors and the snow cover began to look a little more consistent.

After fueling up the tow vehicle, we stopped at a nearby trailhead to gauge the snow depth and to determine if we should stay there or press further north. After a 2-1 vote, we jumped back into the truck.

We eventually landed at the Americinn at Silver Bay. The parking lot at the hotel was void of any snowmobile trailers, but according to the front desk clerk, the weekend had been busy with like-minded individuals. They had plenty of vacancies so we took advantage of their stay-and-snowmobile package and unloaded for our three-day trip.

Heading to Wildhurst

On the trail by 4 p.m., we decided to ride up to the Wildhurst Lodge past Finland. This rustic venue had been our base camp the last time we were in the area, and we felt it was good ride to get reacquainted with the area and Wildhurst owner, LeRoy Teschendorf.

By now, the snow which had been predicted for this area along Lake Superior, was starting to fall. The trails were pretty thin along the shore and through town, but once we ventured further into the woods, the base thickened up and the fresh snow made it an easy 30-mile push to LeRoy's place.

Except for a few laps around the house



Taking a break at a warming shelter on the C.J. Ramstad Memorial Trail.

with my boys, this jaunt through the Finland State Forest was my first ride of the 2014-15 season. Reinvigorating, it easily cooled the sting of my tune-up bill from the pre-season, and now more than halfway through winter, it was finally nice to get back in the saddle and squeeze the throttle.

We arrived at Wildhurst shortly after supper. LeRoy was open and was actually surprised to get some snowmobilers through there. The lackluster season—like everywhere else—had hurt tourism, he said, in the north woods, but the fresh snow and the next morning's plan to groom were sure to draw more people to the area the following weekend, he hoped.

From what we could see in the dark, the lodge and campground were just as we remembered. We shared our stories with its owner from the last time we were there and then bid farewell with a promise to return later in the week.

Saving our energy for the next day, we doubled back to Finland for supper at Our Place and then *planned* to return to the hotel. But after satisfying our hunger, we pulled out the map and decided to save some time by cutting down the Lax Lake Trail. It seemed like a good idea at the time.

We did make it to the lake but had a difficult time finding our way to the other side as the lake wasn't staked. We followed some of the plow roads to the ice fishing shacks but never found the south side trail connection. Tooling around an unmarked lake in the middle of the night hadn't been one of our brightest decisions ever so we retreated back to the Hawk Hollow Trail intersection.

In hindsight, we should have known better. The Lax Lake Trail hadn't been ridden too much, and we later learned the local club had stopped maintaining it because the groomer kept getting stuck in



North Shore Trail



Hawk Hollow connection

the swampy areas.

From the Hawk Hollow trail, we turned south on the Blue Jay Vista Trail and wound our way back toward Silver Bay, ending with 52 miles for the night. The next day, eager to put on some miles, we decided to push on up to Grand Marais on the shore of Lake Superior.

C.J. Ramstad Trail

As it would every morning, the first segment of the ride on Monday was the main trail from Silver Bay to Minnesota Corridor 60, otherwise known as the North Shore Trail. This 146-mile corridor trail stretches from Duluth on the south and ends at the intersection with the Gunflint Trail at Grand Marais.

Since 2009, this trail has also been called the C.J. Ramstad Memorial Trail as a tribute to the late pioneering snowmobile journalist. In addition to writing four books, Ramstad founded Snow Week magazine and contributed to several other industry publications. A charter member of the International Snowmobile Hall of Fame (ISHOF), he died in an automobile accident in 2007.

Sad to say as a fellow snowmobile writer,

I was unaware of the name change until we reached the shelter at the intersection of the North Shore Trail and the local corridor trail. I had met C.J. at a few International Snowmobile Congress and ISHOF events and am familiar with his work, including his racing photography.

In a promotional piece for Explore Minnesota, Ramstad once called this trail a "treasure" for the Arrowhead region. I won't disagree. The corridor is fairly wide and has generous curves to make for a nice ride. The path is lined with snow-capped trees, and the early morning frost made for a postcard scene around every corner.

The trail is also known for its dramatic elevation changes, and from the vistas, we could easily tell how close we were getting to Lake Superior and our turnaround point at My Sister's Place in Grand Marais. After dinner there, we doubled back to the hotel, ending the day's run at roughly 180 miles.

As Sunday had been, Tuesday was going to be a travel day so our riding was fairly abbreviated. By early afternoon, we were loading back up for Iowa. We ended the three-day ride at 370 miles but left refreshed, remembering why we own snowmobiles in the first place.



Entering Grand Marais on the Gunflint Trail.



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
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Dickinson County SnowHawks

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P.O. Box 504, Spirit Lake, IA 51360
President: Kathy Fahy
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Lyon County Sno-Lyons

P.O. Box 576, Rock Rapids, IA 51246
President: Eric Borman
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O'Brien County Snowtrackers

President: Kelly Jongerius
Visit club's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/pages/O'Brien-County-Snowtrackers/149959738392476.

Osceola County High Point Riders

www.highpointriders.com
President: Jeremy Wollmuth
5992 200th Street, Melvin, IA 51350
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Powder Players Inc.

P.O. Box 154, Remsen, IA 51050
www.powder-players.com
President: Dee Jay Kellen
23657 Marble Ave., Le Mars, IA 51031

Sioux County Snowmobile Club

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

REGION TWO

Emmet County Driftbusters

President: Tyson Enerson
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Humboldt Sno-Skimmers

President: Brian Ricklefs
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Kossuth County Drift Skippers

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(515) 295-8721, jlkwalk@gmail.com

Palo Alto Rough Riders

President: Kurt Bonnstetter
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Sno-Pak

P.O. Box 122, Rockwell City, IA 50579
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President: Kolby Wagner
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REGION THREE

Hancock County Snowmobile Assn.

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

Iowa River Riders

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

Club News

Region 1

O'Brien County Snowtrackers

by Zelda Buse Christensen, Reporter

The Snowtrackers signed up eight new, young members—who ate free—at the annual membership supper catered by Home Plate Catering of Granville Saturday night, Nov. 14, at the Primghar Community Center. President Kelly Jongerius introduced officers and directors, told some of the club's activities and emphasized some reasons for joining and supporting a snowmobile club.

Merv highlighted some details regarding the following weekend's ISSA Convention at Storm Lake, including available classes for new and renewing groomer operators. He praised Iowa State University's team that finished eighth out of 20 teams and took home Rookie of the Year honors at the SAE Snowmobile Challenge held at Michigan Tech University in March.

Zelda reported on the signing completed and the signing not yet done. Hopefully all trails will be marked shortly, and also HOPEFULLY the signs will be needed because of an abundance of snow making groomer and sleds again in use!

Raffle tickets were sold for three mystery boxes. With odd broken machine parts in each box to add weight, winners couldn't tell the most desired box. Eli Dykstra made the lucky guess to win a snow bunje, but Drew Haack won a siphoning tube, and Tyler DeJager a first aid kit.

After numerous door prizes were drawn for, all names were thrown in again to draw for \$25 worth of gas; those four winners were Jared Holtrop, Rick Holtrop, Trevor Lansink and Eli Dykstra. There were more free prizes, since the club had to pay the caterer for a predetermined amount of food, with any extra food remaining with the club. Containers of salads, green beans, and potatoes, along with plastic bags of broasted chicken and pork chops, were lined up on a table. Using the raffle tickets again, winners were drawn to pick what food item they wanted to take along home.

Before going home, a few members went to the fairgrounds to look at the groomer stored there.

Powder Players

by Jim Skinner, Vice President

The Powder Players got together for the first time, Wednesday, Nov. 4, with an awesome meal enjoyed by all the attending members. A lot of things were discussed and lined up for the upcoming season.

It has been confirmed that we will have the snowmobile simulator for The Pioneer Village Christmas in Le Mars the first two weekends in December. We had the simulator there last year for only one of the weekends, and it was a big hit with the kids. We estimated, over the two days, there were approximately 300 youngsters who gave it a go. In addition to the simulator, we will also be helping the public roast marshmallows.

Powder Player members have graciously been volunteering to do this for the past 18 years. Unfortunately, due to the changes in insurance requirements, we have decided our groomer will not be entered in the Lighted Parade for this Christmas event, nor will we have it at the fairgrounds like in the past for everyone to see.

Once again, weather permitting, we are planning on a fun and busy winter. We will finish trail signing, the groomer and drag are ready to go, dates are planned for rides and we also talked about getting together in February at Albany Lodge in Wyoming. We have two groups already going and left it open for more to join up if interested.

I guess what we need now is for the snow to fly. Please feel free to check out our website at www.powder-players.com or check out our Facebook page under Powder Players Snowmobile Club. Have a fun and safe winter.

Region 2

Emmet County Driftbusters

by Nick Hanson

It seems like every year as the days start to turn a little bit colder, I hear my kids say, "I hope it snows tonight" in anxious anticipation of being able to go for that first ride of the season. I always have to remind them to not wish for the white stuff until all of the crops are out of the field and the tillage is done for the fall. I can't speak for the entire state, but at least in Emmet County, "Kids, you can now start hoping for snow".

We held our November meeting on the 11th. It is always a great time to get caught up on the events of the summer and discuss plans for the winter activities. Our main topic of

discussion was our annual membership drive, which will be held Dec. 1 at J&K Snowmobile in Estherville. There will be a meal/social starting at 5:30 p.m. with a club meeting to follow at 7 p.m. It is always great to see new faces at this event. If you can make it, we would love to see you there!

In addition to the membership drive, plans are in the works for several activities, including fun runs, a cross-country race and club rides. Stay tuned as we will have more info on these in the near future. We have also started the trail grooming process with getting the signs in place and the groomer getting some much needed repair so that it is able to run as soon as the trails are fit.

Until next time, stay safe and see you on the snow!

Region 3

Worth County Fence Stretchers

by Nicole Knudson

Greetings from the "north" and the Worth County Fence Stretchers!

As I sit down to write this, the wind is blustery, winter is in the air and snow is predicted for tomorrow! I'm dreaming of a great snowmobile season ahead!

The Worth County Fence Stretchers are gearing up for another fun season with hopes of a lot of chances to ride locally this year! We held our annual "Kick-Off" at the Manly Legion with a meal, raffle and socializing. Scott Wilde, one of our own, smoked some amazing pork chops for our meal!

Our schedule has been set for this season which includes a few family fun days, club rides and, of course, our annual club trip up North to "Pat's Landing" near Hayward, Wis.

Looking forward to a snowy season ahead!

Region 5

Allamakee Sno-Blazers

by Mary Delhi

Greetings from the Allamakee Sno-Blazers! Mother Nature's typical Iowa welcome to kick off the 2015 ISSA Annual Convention couldn't keep us all away. A few of us braved the storm in order to attend the event, which was yet again, another successful trip with lots of interesting information to bring back and share.

We as a club are giving you a challenge to come and experience the beautiful trails of northeast Iowa. Members have marked over 200 miles of trail in Allamakee County. Whether you plan your trip from Waukon to New Albin, New Albin to Lansing, Lansing to Harpers Ferry, Harpers Ferry to Waterville, or Waterville to Rossville, you are sure to have a grand experience.

Not wanting to ride solo? Then come out and join us in our club ride, Jan. 30, beginning at noon at Green Valley Getaway in Waukon. Following the ride, at about 7 p.m., there will be a raffle and dance. We hope to see there! The raffle/dance will be held snow or no snow.

ACSA Legal Defense Challenge

	2015	2016
Eastern Iowa Sledheads.....	\$1000.....	
North Iowa Sno-Jammers.....	\$700.....	
Snowdrifters.....	\$500.....	
Dickinson County SnowHawks.....	\$250.....	
Iowa River Riders.....	\$200.....	\$100
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.....	
Trails Unlimited.....	\$100.....	
Tri-County Snowmobile Association.....	\$100.....	

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

Worth County Fence Stretchers

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
snohawk68@gmail.com

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@poppecc.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: Brandon Fahey
snoblazers@yahoo.com

Asbury Snowhawks

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

Clayton County Snowbirds

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





ISSA CLUBS

Clubs in red reported
100% ISSA Membership

Drifters, Inc.

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

Dyersville Driftskippers

www.dyersvilldrifskippers.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-zers 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.wsaiowa.com

President: Morgan J. Kuper
1916 Central Ave., Jesup, IA 50648.
(319) 239-0590, mkuper3@jtt.net

Winneshiek Trail Twisters Inc.

P.O. Box 154, Decorah, IA 52101
President: Jake Ludeking
2005 Centennial 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: Ryan Lowman
(515) 230-1181, lowman700@gmail.com

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 Krapfl
3614 SW 29th, Ankeny, IA. 50023
(515) 707-7237, ckrapfl@gmail.com

Team Iowa Snowmobilers

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

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

Region 12

Snowdrifters, Inc.

by Ron Roe

Hello to everyone out there in snow country. I hope these few notes will help hold you over 'til we get the real snow. I have been working on my trail in Lake McBride. I should say I and my wife, Chris. We went out this past Saturday and had to move a few trees that had fallen over the trail in three places. With the chainsaw and skid loader, those two took most of the work out of it. I had to cut up two of the trees into three sections before I could even move them out of the way. The reason for my wife was to haul the tools on the ATV. Anyone who has ever run a skid loader realizes you can't haul any tools. You are lucky to carry an extra pair of gloves. Besides having to move the trees, we had a few wash outs that needed to be filled with dirt. Now I am down to staking it next Saturday and putting on the signs, and I'll be ready to wait for snow.

Our club meeting was Dec. 12. I do believe others in the club are working on the trails as the crops are being removed from the fields.

We held our annual Swap Meet in October. It was a flop this year. Vendors must be burned out as we did not have a good showing for a nice sunny Sunday. Did hear others saying their swap meets were also down with vendors this year. Don't really know why. We did get quite a few people pay their dues for another year, which is the reason for having the swap meet. With the mail coming in, we have about two-thirds of our members signed up now. We will get more in December and January.

I saw where there was snow falling in Colorado. Now we just have to wait for it to get here. Nothing more for now, I'll have more next month.

I hope everyone had a good Thanksgiving.

Groomer Certification

Continued from page 12

down the certification route."

According to program officials, recertification also helps to keep the list of operators current with the IDNR's records. Willey said when he took over the groomer training program four years ago, state records were still showing operators who, for example, had moved to Florida or who were deceased.

In an effort to clean up the card-issuing process, Willey and IDNR Snowmobile Education Coordinator Rhonda Fowler handed out packets to club members at convention. In those expanded files were operator cards for those who have successfully completed the process as well as spreadsheets showing which operators required additional information.

By a show of hands and as listed on the enclosed paperwork, several operators in Iowa still need to complete the groomer operator checklist in order to receive their cards. Requiring an in-cab ride-along and a signature from a club official vouching for his or her performance, the checklist verifies that he or she can efficiently and effectively run the groomer.

"We need a checklist from every operator to have on file," Willey said. "Once the IDNR gets that checklist back, they will mail the card to that person. If someone took the class but didn't have enough snow last season to run the groomer and complete the checklist, they can still finish it this season and get their card."

Operators who have mailed in a completed checklist but have yet to receive their cards can still operate a groomer this

winter. If a conservation officer asks for their cards while they are out grooming, they will be able to contact Willey to verify their eligibility. Willey said he keeps the spreadsheet on his mobile phone so it's available at any time.

"You can run the equipment as long as the club has signed off on it," he said.

If a club was not at convention to receive its operator packet, the materials were to be sent home with their respective region director for distribution.

"If you get a card in your packet and the operator is not a member of your club, please let us know and get that card back to us so we can get it to the proper person," Willey encouraged. "Let us know if we have wrong information on there so we can get it corrected as well."

In addition to the groomer workshop Saturday afternoon, an operator course was held at convention Sunday morning. Three others are currently scheduled throughout the state this month: Dec. 2 at Rudd, Dec. 3 at Mount Pleasant and Dec. 12 at Stratford.

While all new operators will always be required to attend a class in person, Willey indicated the state snowmobile program is presently identifying ways to simplify the recertification process. This shift may include offering courses electronically, as adopted by other states.

"Over the next two years, we are going to develop some sort of online recertification process or offer a video with a checklist," Willey said. "We don't know what that is going to look like yet, but we do know other states are doing this. Hopefully, we will have something to roll out by next year's convention."

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December

- ISSA/IDNR Groomer Operator Certification Dec. 2 at 6 p.m. at Community Center, Rudd. Dinner provided by Floyd County Groomers Association and North Iowa Snow Seekers Instructor: Gary McVicker. RSVP to Angie Braun at (641) 494-6133.
- Avalanche Rescue Skills seminar Thursday, Dec. 3, at 6 p.m. at Lake Mills Motorsports 2 in Algona. For more information, visit www.avalanche1.com. Course is sponsored by the dealer and free to attend.
- ISSA/IDNR Groomer Operator Certification Dec. 3 at 5:30 p.m. at the Pizza Hut in Mount Pleasant. Hosted by the Southeast Iowa Ridge Blasters.
- Sno-Skimmers Membership Supper Friday, Dec. 4, at Vinny's BBQ in Dakota City. 5:30 p.m. social, 6:30 p.m. meal.
- Iowa River Riders Youth Safety Course, Saturday, Dec. 5, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Hometown Pizza & Pub, 103 Main Street, Coulter. To register, please call Chad at (641) 425-6855. \$10 fee for registration and certificate. Lunch and snacks provided by Iowa River Riders.
- ISSA/IDNR Groomer Operator Certification Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. at Haman Auction Service, 642 Bellville Road, Stratford. For more information, contact Chris Willey (563) 920-9010 or kioti79@gmail.com.
- ISSA Board of Directors meeting Sunday, Dec. 13, at 9 a.m. at Farm Bureau, Hampton.
- Dickinson County Snowhawks' Youth Safety Course Dec. 19, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Dickinson County Expo Center, 1602 15th Street, Spirit Lake. Lunch, beverages and snacks provided by the club. Pre-register by contacting club instructor Dan at (712) 330-2609 or dandelperdang@hotmail.com or visiting www.dickinsoncountysnowhawks.com. Course fee is \$10.

January

- ISSA Board of Directors meeting Jan. 10 at Huxley.
- ISSA Charity Ride for Spina Bifida Jan. 10 at Huxley.
- The Jack Race on Clear Lake Jan. 15-16.
- O'Brien County Snowtrackers' Youth Snowmobile Education Class for 12-17-year-olds Saturday, Jan. 16, at Northwest Iowa Community College, Sheldon. Contact Evan Bensley at (800) 352-4907 to pre-register. Visit the club's Facebook page for more information.
- International Snowmobile Safety Week Jan. 16-24.
- Driftrunners' SnowFest Jan. 21-24 at Cresco.
- University of Okoboji Winter Games Jan. 29-31.
- Allamakee Sno-Blazers annual club ride Saturday, Jan. 30, starting at noon from Green Valley Getaway, Waukon. Raffle/dance to follow at 7 p.m. snow or no snow.

MichCanSka

Continued from page 13

alone," Bradfield said. "387 million people are suffering from diabetes worldwide. Someone is diagnosed with the disease every 17 seconds. We need to raise funds to get that thing cured."

Bradfield likened his organization's mission to what the ISSA does and has done for its official charity, the Spina Bifida Association of Iowa. He said many children of Vietnam veterans suffer from this condition due to exposure to Agent Orange as well, and while admiring what the ISSA has done for spina bifida, he also asked the association to support MichCanSka's goals as well.

"We would like to encourage you to keep doing the things you are doing with your

charity now in Iowa, but we would also like to invite you join in our cause if you can," Bradfield said. "I would love to help set up a program in your state and invite you on some of our rides in the future."

Up next for MichCanSka is a pair of abbreviated trips this winter. The first is from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan to International Falls, Minn. Later on, Bradfield will lead a group of snowmobilers from Yellowstone National Park to the Black Hills of South Dakota. After that, the next major event will take place in 2017 when members plan to ride from Maine to Alaska. Bradfield described that proposed trip as "the granddaddy of them all."

To join in on these rides or for more information on the group, visit www.MichCanSka.com.

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

Stag Island Skol Patrol

President: Brad Landhuis
3046 210th St., Clarinda IA 51632

REGION ELEVEN

Appanoose County Trails, Inc.

P.O. Box 825, Centerville, IA 52544

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)
aarond65@hotmail.com





ISSA ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

REGION 1

Glen's Sport Center, Inc.

Yamaha & Ski-Doo snowmobiles
Polaris ORVs
208 16th St., Sheldon, IA 51201
glens1@qwestoffice.net

Okoboji Boatworks Sled Rentals

1401 Lakeshore Dr., Okoboji, IA 51355
(712) 332-9904
rentals@okobojiboatworks.com
www.parkmarina.com

Project Mayhem Power Sports

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

REGION 2

Big Ride Restoration

2031 Tabor Ave., Manson, IA 50563
(712) 210-1267
bigriderestoration@yahoo.com

Carlson Auto Body Repair

504 High St., Rockwell City, IA 50579
(712) 297-5517
carlsonauto@hotmail.com

J & K Snowmobile

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

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!

Wagner Truck Sales

404 Broad St., Rolfe, IA 50581
(712) 848-3443
wagnertruckandauto.com
www.wagnertrucks.com

REGION 3

Auto Parts Wholesale

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

Boone's Removal

3133 200th St.
Rowan, IA 50470
(641) 430-9705

Buffalo Lanes, LLC

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

C R Fuel

223 N Main St., Clarion, IA 50525
(515) 293-1569
nelsoncurt2@yahoo.com

Chappy's on Main

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

Crystal Lake Bar

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

Dave's Auto Service

101 W Main St., Lake Mills, IA 50450

(641) 592-9951, daves66@wctatel.net
Non Ethanol Premium Fuel

Deb's Wild Horse Saloon

1932 Nettle Ave., Hampton, IA 50441
(641) 892-4922
DebLaRue@rocketmail.com

DK Arndt, PC

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

Don's Motor Mart

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

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

E & E Repair

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

Farm & City Insurance

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

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

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, kaminor@wfbrec.com

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

J-T Machine & Tool Co.

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

Kirschbaum

Heating & Cooling

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

Lake Mills Lumber Co.

313 N Washington

Lake Mills, IA 50450, (641) 592-2721

Lake Mills Motor Sports

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

Main, Inc.

6401 Hwy 9, Buffalo Center, IA 50424

Mason City Powersports

12499 265th St., Mason City, IA 50401
(641) 423-3181, mcps@netconx.net

Muhlenbruch Insurance

PO Box 426, Dows, IA 50071
(515) 852-4156
buck@trvnet.net

Mulford Concrete Inc.

1312 Hwy 3 West, Hampton, IA 50441
(641) 456-5200
chad@mulfordconcreteinc.com

Murra Hardware

204 N Main St.
Buffalo Center, IA 50424

Northside One Stop

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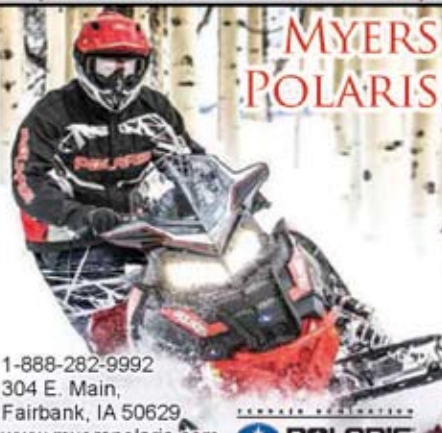
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