



Snowmobilers: Protect your right to ride, JOIN ACSA TODAY!



As a snowmobiler, you can experience riding the vast winter snow-covered landscapes throughout the country. But did you know about the national organization that represents you and helps ensure your right to ride? It's time to learn about the **American Council of Snowmobile Associations** and the role you can play in its accomplishments.

Interviewed is Christine Jourdain, the longtime Executive Director of ACSA.

What is the American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA)?

CHRISTINE JOURDAIN: "ACSA is a national organization that unites the snowmobile community, providing a voice for snowmobilers on national issues. Our mission is to promote snowmobiling as a safe, fun and environmentally friendly family sport. Our message is that there are all kinds of people involved in snowmobiling, from the factory worker to the teacher to the doctor, and it is a fabulous winter recreation activity for families, utilizing the hundreds of thousands of trails and designated play areas across the Snowbelt."

What does ACSA do to protect snowmobiling?

JOURDAIN: "We are the liaison between snowmobilers and the U.S. Forest Service, Park Service, Federal Highways, Homeland Security, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and all other federal agencies that have an impact on snowmobiling. We constantly monitor current and proposed regulations for anything that might impact your ability to snowmobile, specifically related to safety, access and environmental issues. We've done an annual fly-in to Washington, D.C., for the past 18 years so lawmakers and decision makers at

the agencies know who snowmobilers are and who to call when there is an issue that may affect snowmobiling."

How is ACSA involved with other groups?

JOURDAIN: "We work with many organizations including motorized groups like the motorcycle or RV industry, and non-motorized people like hikers, bikers and equestrians. It's important to have partners we can work with when mutual threats arise. We're also very involved with state snowmobile organizations and groups like Tread Lightly that promote responsible recreation."

As an individual, why should I join ACSA? How is it different than joining a snowmobile club?

JOURDAIN: "Snowmobiling has many challenges. Many are local — dealing with threats to trail systems related to individual land owners, or funding for grooming, for example. For that, club and state membership is vital. ACSA is your voice for snowmobiling on national issues. Part of our mission is to maintain riding access to the National Forest, Park Service and BLM lands and to make sure no laws or rules are passed that take away your privilege to ride in your favorite areas. National forests, for example, are very important to snowmobiling across the

country — in the West, obviously, but there are also huge national forests used for riding in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Maine and other places throughout the country. We work with the National Forest Service to make sure that snowmobilers are a part of the picture going forward, both for access and funding. Oftentimes trails can be there but if no money is allocated to maintain, groom and sign those trails, those trails are no longer available."

Name a recent example on which ACSA has worked to have a positive impact for snowmobilers.

JOURDAIN: "Snowmobilers are instrumental in developing and maintaining snowmobile trails on public and private land. To help, ACSA developed the snowmobileinfo.org website specifically to host and share lots of materials for clubs, associations and trail managers to assist with those

efforts. The site includes landowner information and best practices for trail grooming and maintenance. Another major area of the website includes reports and links pertaining to the impact of snowmobiles, ATVs and other OHVs on the environment. It has all kinds of safety and access resources available, from posters and scientific studies to a calendar of safety education classes across the country. It is a truly great resource"

How can individuals and/or snowmobile clubs become more involved or become members of ACSA?

JOURDAIN: "A club or individual can easily join ACSA right on our website — snowmobilers.org. It's a very low fee — just \$15 annually for individuals and \$25 for clubs. One of the most important parts is connecting — when important issues arise, you'll be informed via email so you can contact the decision makers and help protect snowmobiling."

2018 AGSA Donations

Snowdrifters	\$250
Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club	\$200
Central Iowa Snowmobilers	\$200
Floyd County Groomers	\$200
Team Iowa Snowmobilers	\$150
Iowa River Riders	\$100

Proceeds benefit snowmobile access nationwide. Contact your region director to make a donation.



ABOUTUS

'The Cure for the Common Cold since 1973

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Turning an Eye Toward the Future

Convention Attendees Brainstorm Ideas to Recruit Younger Members



Racing for a Reason near Ankeny

Saylorville Dam Club Raises Funds for Spina Bifida at Annual Fall Grass Drags



LaVallee Grateful for Life in Snowmobiling

Stunt Rider Turns Ambassador during Keynote Address at Convention



1153

Ridge-Blasters Members Honored

Strothmans Earn Lifetime Achievement Award; Dorothy Named Director of Year



2017-13 Magazine Deadlines

JanuaryDec. 8
February Jan. 12
MarchFeb. 9



COVER: The Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club of Region 7 hosted its annual Capital City Shootout grass drags Nov. 4 near Ankeny. Proceeds from the event benefit the Spina Bifida Association of Iowa. Photo courtesy of club member Alan Madsen.

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Great Team in Place to Provide Best Riding in Iowa

Just got home from the annual ISSA Convention. This year it was held in Cedar Rapids, hosted by the clubs of Region 9. Those clubs came together and put on a great convention, including informative seminars on snowmobile maintenance, bridge building, shock and suspension setup, trail marking and youth involvement.

The best part about convention is getting to hang out with other people who love snowmobiling as much as I do. We are a family. It's 2.5 days of being with people

From the President's Desk who want it to snow iust as much as I do. No matter where I went, there was alwavs someone who wanted to talk about

which groomers work better in one place or another or share ideas on possible trips or club activities.

This year, we got to hang out with a fellow snowmobiler who has probably done more to put snowmobiles in the spotlight and in front of the world than anyone else has. Levi LaVallee has brought the crazy machine we love to ride to the world in a big way. I mean, who else has taken a snowmobile to San Diego and jumped 412 feet on New Year's Eve in front of the world on TV? Hanging out with Levi and hearing him talk, you find out that it's not the fame or the money that drives him. It's family and riding snowmobiles with them since he was a little boy that he loves most. Getting to do it for a living just makes it even better.

Levi talked about how he was able to take a snowmobile and jump it further than any other type of vehicle ever has. He had the right team of people backing him up. Both the first jump and even after he crashed in a practice jump that almost killed him, he came back just a year later and finished that jump because he knew he had the right team. From the first day they decided to do a world record jump on a snowmobile in a place where a sled isn't supposed be ridden, to coming back after crashing, he knew he had a team that could look at what the challenges were and work through them.



Chris Willey ISSA President

As I start my second year as president, I feel the same way about the ISSA right now. We have the right team to accomplish whatever challenges we face. We have a team that will make sure clubs have what they need to provide the best trails possible. We have challenges ahead of us that

we will need to look at and figure out how to overcome. Declining membership in the clubs and ISSA seems to be one of the biggest challenges we face right now.

The ISSA board is looking at every possible way to promote club membership and support the clubs however possible. The first part of fixing the challenge of membership I think is getting the younger generation involved. We need to educate them on how and why the trails are there for them to ride. We need to get people of all ages out on sleds and let them experience how fun it is and that they aren't going to "freeze" if they go play in the snow.

We all need to remember that it's about having FUN and not all work and meetings. Everyone do a snow dance and let's have a great snowmobile season. I am looking for places to ride and people to ride with across the state this winter. Let me know where you're riding, and I'll try to join you.

nanges Good for Program

reetings, Iowa snowmobilers! As I sit J down to write this, I just got back from a week in Mexico, where it was sunny and 85 degrees!

Now back to reality. It's starting to get

Vice President's Message

cold with chances for snow. Many clubs are getting trail their work done and bridges built. So it's that time of year to get

sleds registered, and make sure your insurance is up to date. I hope that many of your



Brian Carmichael ISSA Vice President

questions on the Iowa snowmobile program were answered at convention. We made a lot of changes to it this year to benefit all Iowa snowmobilers. Remember to get out there and get involved in your local club and state association.

Happy Holidays to all. Think snow!



Ride Iowa Planned Again this Winter Along with Charity, Youth Events

Based on feedback and inquiries at the 2017 ISSA Convention in Cedar Rapids last month, ISSA officials will once again be inviting clubs to host Ride Iowa events this winter, weather permitting.

Event coordinator and Past ISSA President Bruno Andreini said he was encouraged by the response from members at convention, despite every ride planned last season being cancelled due to poor trail conditions.

"The whole idea behind Ride Iowa is for clubs to showcase their trail systems to other riders from across the state and to show people that they don't need to travel a day out of state to ride when they can get the same experience just two to three hours from their home," Andreini said.

Two events are already planned this winter. On Jan. 14, the ISSA returns to Huxley for its 11th Annual Winter Kids Ride on the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail for families with the Spina Bifida Association

In February, Isabelle Willey, coordinator of the ISSA's youth program, is hoping to host a youth ride. Location to be determined pending snowcover.

Both events may expand into Ride Iowa functions. Andreini hopes to fill every weekend in January and February, and depending on their locations, he is okay if events overlap.

For the charity event, volunteers are asked to bring cutters and snowmobiles to pull the children on the trail ride. If there's not enough snow, the ride will take place on UTVs down a predetermined, policeescorted route in town.

"As always, the city of Huxley has been great to work with and really supports this effort," Andreini said.

For more information or to lock down a date for a Ride Iowa weekend for your club, please contact Andreini at awbrunoa3@ gmail.com or (515) 240-3858.



ISSA Region 4 Director Scott Nauman won the ISSA's Grand Raffle drawing at the 2017 ISSA Annual Convention in Cedar Rapids Nov. 18. The second and larger of two Grizzly coolers raffled off this year, the fundraiser netted the association in excess of \$1,000 to support its programs.

Please Notify Membership Chair of Officer, Address Changes

If your club has elected new officers, please email ISSA Membership Chair Brittany Paulus at bepaulus@outlook.com so we can keep our Club Directory current. You can also notify her of any address changes for the mailing list of the magazine.

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Region 1

O'Brien County Snowtrackers

by Zelda Buse Christensen, Reporter

Ten people gathered at Langers Bar and Grill in Sheldon on Friday night, Nov. 10, to order supper off the menu; two more arrived later. Paid members now total 15, including two new guys.

Informal discussion included some reminiscing about the beginning of the club back in 1984, about its progress through the years, about its decline in recent years and what can be done about problems. Other snowmobile clubs, snowmobile dealers, ISSA—all have



been affected. The heart of the lack of interest in snowmobiling in Iowa seems mainly to be something we have no control over: the relative lack of snow here. But we still need to be ready to act fast to make use of snow when we do get some.

Therefore, we are making sure our groomer is ready to pull its drag to level snow, and signs are nearly all in place to help guide groomer and sledders safely through the ditches.

Continuing the club's helping young riders gain their safety certificate enabling them to legally ride on the trails, volunteer Gary Lansink will teach a class at Northwest Iowa Community College on Saturday, Dec. 2.

Think positive! Think good riding snow!

Region 3

Iowa River Riders

by Karen McVicker, Secretary

Hello from the Iowa River Riders. I'm thinking our chance for an Indian Summer has passed us by, and we are into winter! Brrrrr! It's been cold and dreary around here this November. But our snowmobile club is hoping that snow will be plentiful this year.

Our first club fun run is scheduled for Dec. 16. We usually schedule one in December but rarely have been able to have one. Maybe this year... Keep watching our Facebook page for announcements and details!

Kudos to several of our guys who have been out marking trails already! This year we have added Mallard Avenue from Iowa Falls to Highway 3. At our meeting last night, there was more discussion and planning for more trails around Dows, Alden, Iowa Falls and Belmond. There's potentially a lot of ground we can cover, and we have hopes of more manpower and involvement in our club to get more miles of trails ready this year. Also we have acquired a used groomer to help in that regard.

It sure would be great to have a lot of snowmobile traffic around here! We are so fortunate to have many generous and supportive club sponsors this year; several new businesses have come on board from the surrounding areas. We are printing new club shirts this year, and each sponsor will get a free shirt as a thank you!

Our Youth Snowmobile Safety Class will tentatively be Sunday, January 7th, at The Garage Tavern in Coulter. The Jack Race is a big event in our area that we look forward to at Clear Lake on Jan. 20. The club has a concessions trailer for the event. That is a fundraiser for the purchase of a new groomer one year soon.

The plan for our club trip this year is going to the Cresco area again the weekend of Feb. 2-4. We sure enjoy having a big group going there, not too far to travel and a very good trail system! Kudos to the Driftrunners.

So we have big plans for the season again this year. We have to wait and see whether we get snow. Our club wishes all of you a happy Christmas season and hope to see you on the trails!

Region 5

Cresco Driftrunners

by Bob Martinek, Treasurer

Hi from Cresco. My first thought is I don't have much to write about this month. Actually there is. First thing is our new trail maps. Fresh back from the printer last month in time for convention. The maps are a fairly big project when you consider everyone involved. Trail bosses need to turn in all of their changes. Board members need to contact and collect from advertisers. Advertisers need to turn in their ad layouts. One person works with everyone, lays out the ads, updates the map and coordinates with the printer. That one person was Brandon P. A huge "Thank-You" to him and all the rest involved!

Also last month, the repair work on the Granger bridge was completed. First off, a bunch of scrubby trees and brush crowding in on the bridge's east side were removed.



Then to stabilize the stream bank right underneath and alongside the east side, more than 20 huge cement blocks were stacked, packed and backfilled. Other than rehanging our "Welcome to the Driftrunners Trail System" sign and seeding some grass next spring the project is done. It looks amazing! Once again a huge "Thank-You" to Craig O. (who used his equipment and did the greatest majority of the work). Also thanks to all the others who helped especially Wayne V. for "trail bossing" it.

Last summer the club also installed a new "totem pole" (similar to the one on the television show "M.A.S.H.") next to the warming bin at Charlie's just south of Granger on the trail to Cresco It is definitely worth stopping to look at or take a 'selfie' by when riding that way this winter. Of course, if anybody notices there is a reason why "Japaan" is spelled that way. Seriously thanks again to Wayne V, for building the pole and Jonathan K. for installing it. Enough rambling for now. Don't forget the 47th Annual Snowfest is Jan. 25-28 and Charlie's Chili Feed is Feb. 10. Thanks and see you on the trails!

Region 7

Team Iowa Snowmobilers

from David Eide, President

Team Iowa Snowmobilers will be hosting ice drags and radar runs on Saturday, Feb. 3. This event will take place at Little Wall Lake, located two miles south of Jewell and approximately 20 miles north of Ames on Highway 69. There will be multiple classes available. Registration starts at 8 a.m. Like us on Facebook for further updates.



Kevin McClure of the Jones County Snow Chasers of Region 9 staffs his club's Snowmobile Iowa display at the 2017 ISSA Convention and Snow and Powersports Show Nov. 18 in Cedar Rapids.

Region 9

Snowdrifters, Inc.

by Ron Roe

Hi, everyone. I am getting a late start on this letter, but once I come up with something to write, then I'll make good tracks across this paper.

We had a good meeting Nov. 9. We had a good attendance at the meeting. October and November seem to bring in a good number of members wanting to pay their dues. Where we had our meeting this time, we didn't get the room we like to have. Another group got there first so we were caught between their meeting and the restaurant noisy traffic. Our president, Sarah, got everyone's attention before she started the meeting and explained that it was too noisy to have everyone talking thru the meeting unless it was for business. It worked for this meeting; we'll see about next time.

Most everyone has their trail work under control. The club had two different Saturdays that they got together to work on trails. Of course, one of them had to rain, but most are all done and some just have little details left to do. Some of this has to do with crops still in the fields. Some of the members were going to go out again and cut a new trail in around Solon.

We all need to be thinking about this coming weekend. It is the ISSA Convention in Cedar Rapids. Sounds like it will be a good one for attendance and with the snow show combined with it. This one will be good only 20 miles from home and with a wife that

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Snowdrifters members Chris and Ron Roe visit with Paul Bachman of Maverick Powersports, Independence, at the ISSA Snow and Powersports Show Nov. 18 in Cedar Rapids.

doesn't drink, you guessed it, she's the DD. This way, we share the driving, I get us there, and she gets me home. I will report more about the convention next month.

The weather people are starting to talk about snow, so maybe it won't be long and all will be snowy white. They are starting to see it more up north.

Well, that is all for this month. I would like to wish everyone Happy Holidays and will see you next year. 2018, had to practice that 18 once. It takes me a few times after the first to get it right. LET IT SNOW!!!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December

- · O'Brien County Snowtrackers Youth Snowmobile Education Class Saturday, Dec. 2, Northwest Iowa Community College (NCC), Sheldon. Call (800) 352-4907 and talk to Evan Bensley in Continuing Education to pre-register.
- Webster County Ice Breakers Youth Snowmobile Education Class Saturday, Dec. 9, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., ICCC East Campus, Fort Dodge. Pre-register at (515) 574-1293 or noncredit@iowacentral.edu. \$15 course fee includes lunch.
- · Iowa River Riders Fun Run Dec. 16.
- Emmet County Driftbusters Youth Snowmobile Education Class, Friday, Dec. 22, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at J&K Snowmobile, Estherville. Contact Nick Hanson at (712) 209-4809 or nkiehanson@gmail.com to pre-register. \$15 course fee includes lunch.

January

- · Iowa River Riders Youth Snowmobile Safety Class Sunday, Jan. 7, at The Garage Tavern, Coulter.
- Winter Kids Ride with Spina Bifida Association of Iowa Jan. 14 at 11 a.m. at Huxley
- ISSA Board of Directors meeting Jan. 14 at 8 a.m. at the Huxley Safe Room.
- 9th Annual Jack Helgren Memorial Iowa Race Jan. 19-20 Clear Lake. Visit www.thejack-
- International Snowmobile Safety Week Jan. 20-28. Visit www.snowmobile.org.
- University of Okoboji Winter Games Jan. 25-28. Visit www.uofowintergames.com.
- Driftrunners' 47th Annual Snowfest Jan. 25-28 Howard County Fairgrounds, Cresco.

February

- Team Iowa Snowmobilers ice drags Feb. 3 at Wall Lake. Registration starts at 8 a.m. Visit the club's Facebook page for more information.
- Driftrunners Charlie's Chili Feed Feb. 10 near Kendallville.
- Take-A-Friend Snowmobiling Week Feb. 10-19. Visit www.snowmobile.org.



Next in Line

Youth Seminar Finds Social Media, Junior Class Racing Hold Key to Recruiting New Members to Organized Snowmobiling

by Cameron Hanson

Identifying a downward trend in memberships across the state, snowmobile club members from Region 9 turned their attention to the future of organized snowmobiling when they hosted the ISSA's 44th

Annual Convention at the Hilton Hotel Convention Complex in downtown Cedar Rapids the third weekend in November.

Hoping to create a "kid-friendly" atmosphere and, in turn, lure more youngsters to the sport, the convention planning committee pulled off a snow show in the exhibit hall throughout the day on Saturday, offered a seminar on the ISSA's youth program that afternoon and then brought in one of the biggest names in the sport to energize the crowd as the keynote speaker later that night.

With 150 members attending this year's convention and another 70 enthusiasts coming in off the street for the powersports show, Committee Chair Jean McPherson of the Jones County Snow Chasers felt her team achieved what they set out to accomplish with their offerings for the Nov. 17-19 event.

"I think we definitely met our goal with what we had lined up for youth-related activities," she said. "Obviously, more consistent snow in our state would help everybody out, but even with the low-snow years, our sport will continue to go on if more kids are involved and stay with it."

At the snow show, Arctic Cat's latest entry into the youth market, a ZR200 snowmobile, became quite a conversation piece as members of the Scott County Sno-Seekers sold raffle tickets for the machine as a club fundraiser. Club president Conor Flaherty even dressed up in a Yeti costume to further spur ticket sales.

Also throughout the day on Saturday, members of the ISSA's Youth Program called KISS, Kids Intentionally Supporting Snowmobiling, sold raffle squares for a Camso track drawing later that evening. Their efforts raised \$905 to finance the program and to help with any costs associated with a planned statewide youth ride this February.



Dickinson County SnowHawks member and Assistant Region 1 Director Randy Magg checks out the ZR200 on display at the Scott County Sno-Seekers booth at the snow show.



A Camso track raffle at convention netted the ISSA's Youth Program \$905. Flashing the cash is youth coordinator Isabelle Willey. Her grandfather, Jim Willey of Camso and a past ISSA president, holds the raffle board, and at right is Region 5 Director Matt Miner, who won the track.

Youth Seminar Solicits Ideas

For about an hour Saturday afternoon, KISS coordinator Isabelle Willey, 15, visited with club members at her youth seminar, brainstorming ideas to increase youth participation in club activities and comparing success stories from other clubs. Snowmobile racing and social media appear to be the best icebreakers for this target audience.

Craig Krapfl, president of the Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club in Region 7, shared how popular junior class racing has become for his club's annual fall grass drags. Now in the second year of offering races for that age bracket, participation has nearly doubled. He said he was encouraged to lobby for this class based on the success of the youth races at The Jack Race in Clear Lake each January.

"We had five kids our first year of doing this and now nine this year, so it's growing," Krapfl said at the seminar.

Citing a slight generation gap within his club, Krapfl said adding this junior class became a little bit of a sales job as members debated whether the added cost of liability insurance would offset the potential exposure to the younger crowd. Based on the success of the junior class, club member John Kahler, Region 7 director for the ISSA, said members are no longer opposed to the idea.

"We had some of our older members who didn't want to do it because of the cost factor so it took some of our younger members to push for it; and now that we have done it, the older members in our club now see the benefit," he said. "I don't think we'll go back to the old way of doing things."

Counting himself among the skeptics at first, club member Steve Klinkefus, a retired Region 7 director and an admitted contrarian when he served on the ISSA Board of Directors, is now a convert and helped research six agencies who could provide the necessary insurance coverage for this new class of racing for the 13- to 17-



Allison Toft of Davenport helps Melvin the Yeti sell raffle tickets for the Scott County Sno-Seekers fundraiser at the ISSA Snow and Powersports Show Nov. 18.

year-olds.

"It's expensive so I wasn't too enthused about doing it at the beginning," Klinkefus said during a conversation earlier that morning. "But now looking back, if you think there's too much liability and the cost is too high, then consider this: This is our immediate next generation of club members. These are the kids who are following us right now. If we don't get them involved

now, they're not going to be snowmobilers down the line. I've become a big backer of this junior class because that's the future of our club."

Saylorville club members also reported on the impact that social media has had on their event and on recruiting younger members to their races. They said they posted their event flyer on Facebook and received close to 10,000 hits during the weeks leading up to the early November drags. That form of advertising was invaluable, Klinkefus said.

"I'm old school, but I can tell you this, if you're not on Facebook or social media, you are not going to be a club for much longer," he said. "Where else can you get that kind of exposure?"

Email Already Outdated

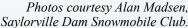
During her seminar, Willey said social media is the best way to communicate with her age group. She said email is already "outdated" for millennials and even Facebook is just "okay" to reach out to them, She said she prefers to use Twitter and Instagram to get the message out about snowmobiling to her classmates.

'If you want to set up social media, make sure you have a youth do it," added Willey, who manages the social media accounts for her home club, the Snow Pioneers of Region 5. "We know so much about it. We already have our own accounts so it's not hard to manage another account."

While social media contacts may seem impersonal to some, Willey said kids in her age group are "socially awkward" and may not feel comfortable talking with clubs in a large group setting. The hidden message there is clubs better get used to communicating in 140 characters or less and to relying on social media to recruit youths to meetings and events.

"Tweet about your activities and even invite your youth to do trail work," she encouraged. "They will appreciate turn to page 16







by Cameron Hanson

The Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club of Region 7 earned the L top fundraising spot for the Spina Bifida Association of Iowa (SBAI) by donating \$2,350 to the ISSA's official charity in 2017. The recognition came Nov. 18 during the awards banquet at the 2017 ISSA Annual Convention in Cedar Rapids.

Edged out in 2016 by the Hancock County Snowmobile Association of Region 3, the Saylorville Dam club made a pretty good dent in its attempt at defending its crown for 2018 by presenting a check to the SBAI for \$2,200 convention weekend. The donation represents the majority of the proceeds from its Nov. 4 grass drags in Ankeny.

"We've been a major contributor to Spina Bifida for a number of years, and our grass drags is a major event for our club," explained tenured club member Steve Klinkefus. "We do it all pretty much for Spina Bifida."

With both the club and the charity based in the Des Moines area, the Saylorville Dam club pretty much serves as the home club for the SBAI. Club member and Past ISSA President Bruno Andreini serves as the ISSA's liaison on the SBAI board, and each October, club members participate in the SBAI's Walk-N-Roll event at Principal Park in Des Moines.

Supporting the Home Club

In January, the Saylorville club also hosts the ISSA's Winter Kids Day for Spina Bifida families at Huxley on the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail; and in the past, the club has sponsored a family affected by Spina Bifida as well. But without question, the biggest charitable event for the club is its grass drags, aptly billed as the Capital City Shootout due to its proximity to the state capital in

2018 Club Donations to Spina **Bifida Association of Iowa**

Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Association	\$2,200
Eastern Iowa Sledheads	
Cedar Falls Sno Hawks	
North Iowa Sno-Jammers	
Driftrunners	
Floyd County Groomers	
Bremer County Sno-Knights	
Snowdrifters	
Central Iowa Snowmobilers	
Team Iowa Snowmobilers	
Snow Pioneers	
Iowa River Riders	+
Butler County Snow Snoops	
,	,



Youth racing continues to be a popular draw at the Capital City Shootout.

Des Moines.

"We like to have fun and race, but the point of this event is to raise money for Spina Bifida," explained club president Craig

Returning the favor, SBAI members came out to support the club's efforts at the races this year at Todd's Airfield. With the two race lanes divided by a narrow, concrete landing strip, Spina Bifida kids were able to wheel themselves out to the Christmas Tree at the starging line, and some were even allowed to press the button for parts of the competition.

Among the SBAI spectators at the races was executive director Carlyn Crowe. She also staffed a booth at the 2017 ISSA Snow and Powersports Show convention weekend and also provided an update on Spina Bifida during the Saturday brunch. Just two years into office, she said she is grateful for all of the support snowmobilers have shown her organization over the past 30 years.

"When I first started, I was surprised to learn that snowmobilers support spina bifida. 'How does that happen?'," she said she used ask herself. "But I've learned it's a very unique connection, and we appreciate all of your support."

Racing for Two Decades

In addition to Spina Bifida members, this year's grass drags drew 50 racers and more than 200 spectators to the airstrip, which



Pictured with their fundraising award at the 2017 ISSA Annual Convention are the following Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club members: from left, John Dakovich, John Kahler, Marilyn and Bruno Andreini and Barry Starmer

has served as the locale for the event for at least half of its 20year history. To support its fundraising efforts as well as to offset expenses like insurance, the club collects entry and admission fees, offers radar runs, staffs its own concession stand and secures several sponsors for the day-long event.

To promote the races, the club distributes flyers and posts the event on social media. Organizers also coordinate with neighboring clubs to ensure their events do not overlap and compete for competitors and spectators. A few years ago, the club moved up its race date from the weekend after Thanksgiving to fall in line with

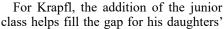
the Central Iowa grass drags in late October and the Frozen Few grass drags in mid-November.

"That way people can go and hit all three races, and we're not working against each other for the same crowd," Krapfl said. "As a result, we have a lot people coming out to watch, and we've lucked out the past couple of years as the weather has been really good for us."

With attendance more than tripling their club membership total

of 60 snowmobilers, Klinkefus said the grass drags provide good exposure for the club, and they continue to promote youth involvement by offering 120 races and, new two years ago, the addition of a junior class for 13- to 17-year-olds.

"We have a tremendous amount of people who come out who aren't necessarily snowmobilers but enjoy headto-head competition," he said, reporting the top speed in the radar run was 100 mph in 500 feet. "Most everybody is pretty impressed by the show."





Krapfl

participation in the grass drags as they have outgrown the 120 class and are not old enough for the adult competition. Now in his ninth year with the club, he said the races provide good bonding time for his family.

"My kids really look forward to these races," he said, wearing a 'Snowmobiling Dad' shirt at convention. "They are helping out at the event and starting to meet some of the other kids there. When the kids want to be there, it certainly makes it easier for me to go too. This is just a good excuse to go snowmobiling. We don't need snow to do it, and for me, my kids like going to them."



Professional Racer, Stunt Rider Turns Ambassador at State Convention in Cedar Rapids

by Cameron Hanson

or a sports celebrity who has spent half his life defying gravity on a snowmobile, stunt rider Levi LaVallee seems pretty downto-earth in person, as ISSA members discovered at their annual convention in Cedar Rapids the third weekend in November.

Rather than hide out in his hotel room, the northern Minnesota native mingled with Iowa snowmobilers at the Friday night hospitality event, caught the tail-end of the ISSA's seminars Saturday afternoon and signed autographs during the social hour leading up to his keynote address at the banquet that evening.

Charismatic and approachable, the diminutive freestyle snowmobiler is known internationally for his record-setting maneuvers on a sled. Highlighted by videos of his performances, his presentation energized the 150 members gathered in the dining hall at the Hilton Hotel Convention Complex, and his cadence held the crowd's attention for close to 20 minutes.



LaVallee visits with club members following a bridge-building seminar Nov. 18.

At 35, La Vallee appeals to multiple generations in snowmobiling. He's young enough to capture the imagination of those just getting into the sport, yet mature enough to recognize what snowmobiling has provided him and his family. Speaking to clubs, associations and even Fortune 500 companies, LaVallee has quickly developed his skill as an ambassador for the sport.

Photo courtesy teamlavallee.com

"My appreciation for snowmobiling started when I was just seven years old," he said on stage, donning his trademark Red Bull, flat-billed ballcap. "I used to ride in front of a sled with my dad, hanging onto the center of the handlebars. I instantly fell in love with the sport, and that passion has been growing and growing ever since."

Describing himself as a "five-foot volcano just waiting to erupt," LaVallee is best known for his incredible stunts on a snowmobile. In January of 2016, he spent two days in downtown St. Paul, Minn., flipping his sled onto parking ramps and jumping between buildings in a Red Bull promotion he likes to call "urban snowmobiling."

Nicknamed in the media as "Launchin' Levi," he also holds the world record for the longest jump on a sled. Again supported by his sponsor, he cleared 412 feet across San Diego Bay as part of Red Bull's New Year No Limits show on New Year's Eve 2011. That feat was especially satisfying, he said, as he had crash landed on the same attempt during practice a year earlier.

Time to Reflect

Fracturing his pelvis, ribs and back and collapsing his lung, the 2010 incident and the ensuing healing process provided him ample opportunity to ponder his career choice. Resiliency won out as La Vallee recovered from his injuries and became more determined to complete the jump successfully the following year, which he did almost to the day on the anniversary of his crash.

"One thing about injuries is they give you the time that you wouldn't normally dedicate to reflecting on what's going on in your life," he said. "I knew we had the right team. I knew we could learn from this incident, make the necessary changes and that we could come back and do it. That's what we need to do in snowmobiling."

While perhaps causing them a little unwanted anxiety, LaVallee said after his speech at the convention center that he has the support of his friends and family as he continues to push the envelope with extreme snowmobiling. "They've been with me since Day One," he said. At 5'6", he said he hopes to continue to make the "impossible possible" and to fit as many lives as he can into this one.

"The motivation behind it all is to see what we're capable of," he said. "I've always wanted to prove to people that you can do it regardless of adversity, which, I guess, stems from me being a smaller guy from the time I was a little kid getting picked last for

teams in school. It made me so determined to prove that I'm not a weak link. I wanted to be as good or better as the rest of the kids. That attitude eventually led me to where I'm at today."

LaVallee grew up in Longville, Minn., and continues to live there at his "compound," a spread that includes his home, a foam pit to practice his jumps and a dirt bike track. Remaining close to home, he holds fond memories of motorized recreation from his youth, including his introduction to snowmobiling. In fourth grade, he said, he wrote a report in school "on what I would later become."

As a teen, trail riding was his passion, exploring the nearby terrain and taking his sled to school and to his friends' houses. When he reached 17, he was lured into competition and began racing sleds cross-country and eventually in snocross, where he first tasted success professionally. He would eventually win the ISOC Series Championship in 2009 and frequently medal each year at the Winter X Games.

"It's been an interesting ride," he said of his career path and his passion for snowmobiling. "When I was young, I wanted to ride anywhere and everywhere and all the time. Then when I became a racer, all you do is ride every single day, but you're not riding recreationally. You are pounding laps on a track. You have to be serious about it. When we weren't travelling to events, we were working on sleds for the next race."

Besides snocross, where he is a team owner now as well, LaVallee plans to compete in the Freestyle and the Speed and Style competition at Winter X Games this winter. Voted a Fan Favorite, he became the first rider to complete a double backflip in competition, and that feat alone, he said, was the impetus to pursue more outrageous tricks on a machine that was designed to remain trackside down.

"I was brimming with confidence after that flip," he recalled. "A couple of things go right for this little fella, and I thought I could





LaVallee autographs a poster for Sno Broncs President Doug Alger.

take on the world. It was wide open after that."

Reconnecting with Trail Riding

While his professional racing career has helped to fill his trophy case and provide a comfortable living for his family, he has once again found time to rediscover the recreational side of the sport. In 2012, he bought a pair of trail sleds, and he is able to get out on the trail as much as his busy schedule will allow.

"Snowmobiling for me went from recreation and enjoyment as a kid to becoming competition and a job, thinking of how can I get better every day," he said. "My career kind of took away a little bit of that pure passion, but once I got back out on the trail, it was just like it had been before."

Now 20 years removed from a naive attitude that assumed trails just appeared out of nowhere, LaVallee said has a newfound appreciation for what snowmobile clubs and their volunteers do to create a trail system and to provide others with the opportunity and freedom to ride.

"I have started to realize all the effort everyone has been putting into this sport to have trails and maintain access for local riding," he said. "You never think about it when you're young. You just take it for granted. It's a tough battle and my hat's off to all of the clubs and all the people who invest their time for nothing more than the satisfaction. I appreciate all that they do. It's hard to imagine what my life would be like if snowmobiling wasn't as accessible as it has been for me."

LaVallee said he is grateful for the opportunities the sport of snowmobiling has provided him over the years. In addition to reaching national prominence, he has been able to travel to "incredible places and meet some amazing people," including his wife, whom he courted at a snowmobile racing venue. They now have two kids together.

Public speaking and evolving into an ambassador for the sport has become his latest endeavor in snowmobiling. He said he always felt very comfortable in front of the camera as members of the media sought him out for interviews during his racing career. He said he was eventually encouraged to speak to groups on behalf of snowmobiling. He said it was a fairly easy transition.

"The speaking aspect of all this has been really fun, and I've enjoyed it," he said. "A lot of it is risk vs. reward themes and overcoming adversity. Public speaking has become a rush to me. It's a completely different avenue than what I'm used to. Talking to snowmobilers is great."

Southeast Iowa Ridge-Blasters Members Honored at Convention

Strothmans Earn Lifetime Achievement Award

 Γ red and Marilyn Strothman of New London earned the highest honor the ISSA can bestow at the 2017 ISSA Annual Convention in Cedar Rapids Nov. 18, becoming just the 10th member or couple of the association to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award since the awards program was reorganized in 2002.

Charter members of the Southeast Iowa Ridge-Blasters of Region 10, the Strothmans were recognized for their unwavering commitment to organized snowmobiling on the local and state level. They helped form their club back in 1980, and for 18 years, Fred served as either a director or assistant director for the former Region 12 of the ISSA.

Marilyn, meanwhile, volunteered as president of their home club, actively raised funds through bake sales and maintained the club's scrapbook. In 2000, the couple earned the ISSA's Family of the Year distinction and were later named the American Council of Snowmobile Associations' Family of the Year as well. They regularly accompanied each other to club meetings and attended several ISSA conventions over the years.

"While not directly holding a seat on the ISSA board, Marilyn always made sure Fred was where he needed to be and made sure he got there on time," current Region 10 Director and fellow club member Aaron Dorothy said in announcing the award recipient. "They always made those trips to conventions together."

Escorted to this year's convention by their daughter, Marilyn joined her husband in front of the stage to receive their award at the banquet. Fred said he was grateful for the support his family has given him over the years, and despite turn to page 17



ISSA President Chris Willey and Region 10 Director Aaron Dorothy presented Fred and Marilyn Strothman with their Lifetime Achievement Award from the ISSA.



Region 10 Director Aaron Dorothy is flanked by ISSA Vice President Brian Carmichael, left, and ISSA President Chris Willey. Carmichael is the son of the late David Carmichael, for whom the director award is named.

Dorothy Named Carmichael Director of the Year

The ISSA Board of Directors once again honored one of its own 1 at the 2017 ISSA Annual Convention in Cedar Rapids Nov. 18 by naming Region 10 Director Aaron Dorothy as the recipient of the David Carmichael Director of the Year Award.

In addition to honoring the memory of the late Carmichael, a past ISSA president who passed away in December of 2013, the director award recognizes a board member who continues to go above and beyond in his or her service to the association.

"We wanted to do something to honor the memory of Dave, who was a driving force for this association for many years, and we wanted to make sure that commitment lived on so we honor one director each year," explained ISSA President Chris Willey in announcing this year's recipient.

Fellow board members submit their nominations, and the sitting vice president tallies the votes. For the honor, the director receives a makeshift trophy of a snowmobile shock with a starter rope base, and he or she receives a free shock rebuild, courtesy of A-Maize-Ing Kustoms in Cedar Rapids.

A former president of the Southeast Iowa Ridge-Blasters, Dorothy was appointed to serve as Region 10 director last October after the ISSA eliminated two regions and transformed the bottom tier of the state into one large region with three active clubs.

"Not long after becoming director a year ago, we turned around and told Aaron, 'Now, we are going to give you the biggest area to cover but only three clubs to serve. You will be driving a lot'," Willey said.

Riding snowmobiles since he was 15 and a member of his home club for the past five years, Dorothy joked at the time he heard the train whistle blowing when he was first asked to serve and cover the state's largest region geographically. turn to page 17



Convention their efforts when they actually go out on the trail and see what they've done. Also, have a youth section in your monthly meetings and invite them to your club rides. Make them feel welcome any way you can. If you have events for that age group, that would definitely help bring them in."

LaVallee Recognizes Impact

During his keynote address later Saturday evening, freestyle snowmobiler Levi LaVallee, a growing ambassador for the sport, recognized how his introduction to snowmobiling as a youth has influenced him throughout his life and how organized snowmobiling needs the involvement of the next generation to remain vital and relevant.

Like Willey, he also advocated for the use of social media, as he is well aware of its impact. His Facebook page has nearly 175,000 "likes". His YouTube video of urban snowmobiling in downtown St. Paul from January of 2016 is approaching one million views and his Twitter feed has 22,000 followers. Social media, he said, is a useful tool to engage with his fans, and clubs can do the same to recruit new members.

"The younger generation is different than the generations before them," he said during his 20-minute presentation at the banquet. "We need to show non-snowmobilers and younger people the experience we love, make memories and have experiences on every trail, every ride. We need to give them something to be passionate about.

"We need to show people all of the great things about snowmobiling and the joy it brings us. We need to use the Internet and social media to show them all the incredible things we are experiencing. Once they see that, they will eventually want in on that," he continued. "As snowmobilers, we want to help bring them in. We have to help them."

More to Come

In addition to the guest speaker, youth seminar and snow show, this year's convention also included legislative information, snowmobile program updates, awards banquet, officer elections and additional seminars on topics ranging from bridge-building and trail mapping and signing to shock rebuilding and sled maintenance.

ISSA President Chris Willey and Vice President Brian Carmichael were each re-elected to turn to page 17



Lynn Williams of A-Maize-Ing Kustoms, Cedar Rapids, reviews shock performance during his seminar at the 2017 ISSA Convention. Williams also sponsored the association's Director of the Year Award.

Convention another term in office, and Secretary Sue Paulus and Treasurer Brittany Paulus remain in their roles on the ISSA Board of Directors. With 2017 an odd-numbered year, elections were held in the odd-numbered region. The only change to report there was assistant Ben Diekhuis and director Matt Trunkhill swapped positions in Region 3.

Various raffles and donations were also collected convention weekend with Region 4 Director Scott Nauman winning the ISSA's Grand Raffle this year, a Grizzly cooler. More from convention appears in this and upcoming issues of the *Iowa Snowmobiler* magazine.

Strothmans serving as a county supervisor and on the state fair board, Dorothy often said "snowmobiling was always his calling." Fred agreed.

"Winning this award gives me a lot of pride. It's been a great ride, and I've enjoyed every minute of it," Fred said after grabbing the microphone. "My hat's off to my wife as she has done a lot of work for this sport over the years. I have a good snowmobiling family, and they take good care of me. We've had so much fun with all of the things I've done in my life, but snowmobiling and winning this award has been some of the greatest."



Neal Beck of Myers Polaris, Fairbank, leads a Saturday afternoon seminar on sled maintenance at the 2017 ISSA Annual Convention.

Dorothy Perhaps because the locomotive's door has been locked from the outside, Dorothy has been along for the ride ever since and was humbled by the recognition from his fellow board members.

"I don't know if I have worked any harder in the ISSA than any other directors have," said Dorothy, whose latest project is creating a statewide trail map. "We have a great organization here. There are a lot of snowmobilers who don't see what we do. We just have to keep doing what we do."

The ISSA has been recognizing its board members off and on with a director's award for a number of years. From 2009 to 2014, the award was sponsored by Sly Dog Skis. Before that, it was the travelling Golden Ski Award. Last year's recipient was Region 4 Director Scott Nauman.





ISSA GLUBS

Clubs in red reported 100% ISSA Membership

REGION ONE

Buena Vista Blizzard Busters

President: Jeffrey Sassman 709 Hudson St., Storm Lake, IA 50588 (712) 299-1001

Clay County Sno Broncs

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

eliteautodoug@gmail.com Dickinson County SnowHawks

www.dickinsoncountysnowhawks.com P.O. Box 504, Spirit Lake, IA 51360 President: Kevin Winters P.O. Box 305, Lake Park, IA 51347 (712) 320-9530 kwinters9530@gmail.com

Lyon County Sno-Lyons

P.O. Box 576, Rock Rapids, IA 51246 President: Walt Dibbern 902 1st Ave, Rock Rapids, IA 51246 (712) 472-3804

walt.dibbern@yahoo.com

O'Brien County Snowtrackers

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

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

P.O. Box 154, Remsen, IA 51050 www.powder-players.com President: Jim Skinner 4871 Pierce Ave., Paullina, IA 51046 (712) 448-2567

Sioux County Snowmobile Club Find us on Facebook

President: Kelly Roder 708 18th Ave SE, Rock Valley, IA 51427 (605) 759-1615

kellyroder31@yahoo.com
REGION TWO

et County Driftbusters

President: Tyson Enerson 4591 195th St., Estherville, IA 51334 Enerson747@gmail. com, (712) 209-3330

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 (515) 341-1626, jlkwalk@gmail.com

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

kbonnste@windstream.net Sno-Pak

P.O. Box 122, Rockwell City, IA 50579 Find us on Facebook President: Kolby Wagner 749 South St., Rockwell City, IA 50579 (712) 830-3821, kolbywagner@yahoo.com

REGION THREE

ounty Snowmobile Assn.

President: Dan Stromer 1840 Hwy 69, Klemme, IA 50449 (641) 587-9903, stromerd@yahoo.com Iowa River Riders

President: Lenny Watts 2835 Sycamore Ave., Dows, IA 50071 (515) 571-6034 lenny@usa-chemical.com Lakota Sno-Eagles

President: Jordan Valvick 4410 Highway 169, Lakota, IA 50451 (515) 538-0290 jordánvalvick@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, vholtan@wctatel.net North Iowa Snow Seekers

President: Angie Lien

northiowasnowseekers@yahoo.com (641) 494-6133

County Fence Stretchers

P.O. Box 27, Northwood, IA 50459 President: Steve Arnold 1906 Hwy 105, Northwood, IA 50459 (641) 324-1125, (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

Butler County Snow Snoops President: Seth Bram 17313 Packard Ave., Clarksville, IA 50619

(641) 512-1932, sethbram@gmail.com Cedar Falls Sno Hawks

President: Scott Nauman 402 Fifth St., Rudd, IA 50471 (641) 425-9898 sdnauman04@gmail.com

Chickasaw Sno-Riders President: Neil Kaumans 258 S Linn, New Hampton, IA 50659

(319) 939-3969

kaumansn@bodimp.com.

Dewar Snow Chasers

President: Jim Paul 11217 East Dunkerton Rd. Dunkerton, IA 50626 (319) 232-7295

loyd 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: Jim Owen 602 Cherry St., Riceville, IA 50466 (641) 220-0149

buckarro0149@hotmail.com County E-Z Riders, Inc.,

President: Karl Hermann 128 State St., Osage, IA 50461 (641) 732-5778 jkconstruction92@yahoo.com

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. tnspalla@hotmail.com

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

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man700@gmail.com Raccoon Valley Snow Chasers

President: Mike Patten 5204 Neva Pt., Panora, IA 50216 (641) 755-3863, mjpat76@aol.com Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club

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

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bmatney05@gmail.com Snowmobile Association P.O. Box 231, Traer, IA 50675 President: Jamie Erhardt 312 Mill St., Traer, IA 50675 (319) 415-8189, jhardt88@yahoo.com

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

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Snow Chasers P.O. Box 225, Olin, IA 52320 President: Chris Nelson

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President: Brad Landhuis 3046 210th St., Clarinda IA 51632 Appanoose County Trails, Inc. P.O. Box 825, Centerville, IA 52544

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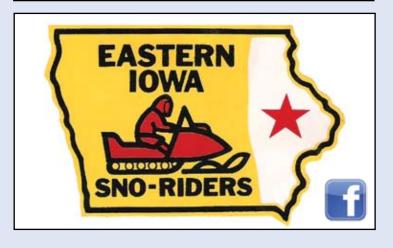
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