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Inside

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IOWA SNOWMOBILER

December 2019 • Volume 41 • Issue 4

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New Name

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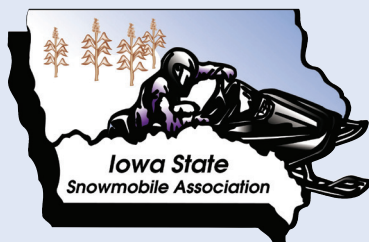
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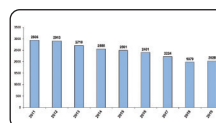
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IOWA SNOWMOBILER

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Membership Report

Eight-year decline for ISSA ends with slight bump in 2019



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Snowmobile Iowa

Dates still available for clubs to host trail rides this winter



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Convention Review

Plenty of coverage from last month's three-day event in Burlington



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Club Profile

Butler County Snow Snoops featured in center spread



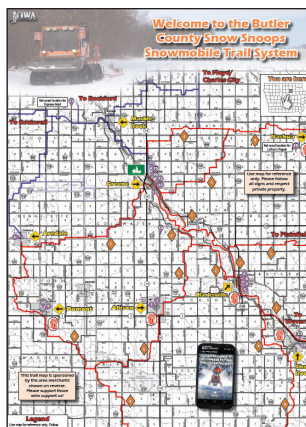
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Jack Race Renamed

Midwest Sled Fest replaces traditional 10-year event on Clear Lake in February



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Butler County Trail Map Inside!



Magazine Deadlines

January.....	Dec. 13
February.....	Jan. 17
March.....	Feb. 7

COVER: The annual Jack Race on Clear Lake has been renamed the Midwest Sled Fest. Vintage LeMans racing is slated for Feb. 8 this winter and, despite the name change, is expected to have much of the same look and feel as the previous 10 years of the event.

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BRIAN CARMICHAEL

ISSA PRESIDENT



Greetings, Iowa snowmobilers. Now that convention is over, we can get in gear to get the trails marked and ready for some snow.

Congratulations to our annual award winners and a big Thank You to them for helping make our sport continue to grow. Without the countless volunteers and the hours they put in, none of this would be possible.

Again, we are trying to get the one sticker passed, and we all need to support this. I hope to see you all on the trails this winter.

Have a safe holiday season and think snow.

SCOTT NAUMAN

ISSA VICE PRESIDENT



Hello, fellow snowmobilers. Hopefully, by the time this article goes to print, the snow has started falling, and the trails are marked and ready to be opened for another season of the sport we all enjoy.

I would like to thank Region 10 Director Aaron Dorothy and all of the people involved in the planning and putting on the ISSA convention in Burlington last month. I don't think that I have talked to anyone since that was in attendance at the event that did not have a great time enjoying the festivities of the weekend.

With the end of another calendar year approaching, let me take this time to remind everyone that snowmobile registrations need to be renewed. Yet again this year, a resident trail pass is still required. With that said, the legislation that would combine the registration and trail pass to one sticker is still in the works. With some help from the many snowmobilers across the state who have shown support for this in the past, I believe that we can get this passed finally.

Ride safe and think snow.



ISSA Region 4 Director Seth Bram, center, received the Dave Carmichael Memorial Region Director of the Year Award at the 2019 ISSA Annual Convention in Burlington Nov. 23. Presenting the award are Carmichael's son and current ISSA President Brian Carmichael and Past ISSA President Chris Willey. Part of the award package includes a shock rebuild from A-Maize-Ing Kustoms in Cedar Rapids. Additional award winners from convention weekend can be found on pages 17-18 in this month's issue.

Groomer Operator Certification Due by End of Month

Five groomer operators, including two new volunteers, earned their Iowa State Snowmobile Trail Grant Program Review and Selection Committee (RSC) Groomer Operator Certification at the 2019 ISSA Annual Convention in Burlington Nov. 23. Their cards are now good for five years.

All groomer operators need to be certified or re-certified by the first of the year. The first half of each club's alphabetical operator roster was due last Jan. 1, and the second half is due at the end of this month, although most have already been through the training, officials reported.

As of this writing, two classes are being held this month:

- *Wednesday, Dec. 11, at 6 p.m. at the Main Event, 112 Second St. SE, Mason City. Hosted by North Iowa Snow Seekers of Region 3. For more information, contact club president Chad Brouwer at (641) 425-4872.*
- *Saturday, Dec. 14, at 10 a.m. at Rob Rehm's shop, 1100 NE 142nd Ave., Alleman. Hosted by the Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club. Please pull behind house and park on gravel. For more information, contact John Kahler at (515) 202-4061.*

For more information on training or to verify your certification status, email the RSC at ISSA.RSC@gmail.com. Additional information is posted on the ISSA's website or the groomer operator training Facebook page.



Phil Shellenberg of Algona won the 2019 ISSA Grand Raffle of a Green Mountain wood-fired pellet grill. The drawing was held at the 2019 ISSA Annual Convention in Burlington Nov. 23. ISSA Raffle Committee Chair Seth Bram delivered the grill to Shellenberg at the Casey's in Britt, appropriately enough during a Thanksgiving week snowstorm. Tickets cost \$20 each with 101 sold for total revenue of \$2,020. After expenses, the ISSA netted \$1,382.28 for educational and charitable programs.

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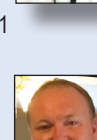
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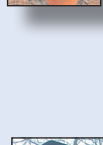
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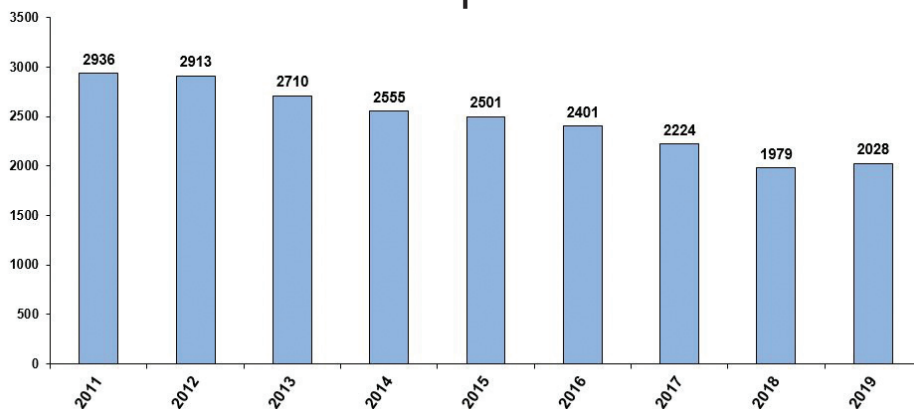
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ISSA Membership Totals 2011-19



Source: ISSA Membership Committee

ISSA Memberships Show Slight Increase in 2019

by Cameron Hanson

Declining membership in the ISSA finally tapered off in 2019 as the organization reported a membership gain for the first time in nine consecutive years. Last season ended with 2,028 paid memberships, up slightly from 2018's total of 1,979.

ISSA Membership Chair Brittany Paulus released these figures for the ISSA General Membership Meeting at the 2019 ISSA Annual Convention in Burlington Nov. 23. Region 5 showed the most paid memberships at 426. More than a quarter of those members belonged to the Cresco Driftrunners, which—at 118 members—makes them the largest club in the state.

The next highest club totals were reported for the Iowa Snowdrifters in Region 9 with 87 ISSA memberships and the Dickinson County Snowhawks in Region 1 with 83 paid members. Regions 10 and 6 showed the lowest totals at 25 and 13, respectively. Each of these regions only had one club with ISSA memberships.

In the report handed out at convention, the ISSA recognized 60 clubs in Iowa. Those reporting 100 percent membership in the ISSA are listed in the Club Directory toward the back of this magazine. According to the membership report, seven clubs did not show any ISSA members. One of those clubs has since dissolved.

Membership in the ISSA typically follows the same trend as snowfall totals for Iowa. Memberships increase as riding conditions improve. In 2011, following two above-average snowmobile seasons, memberships in the ISSA reached a high of 2,936 members. With five of the next eight years failing to hit the state's 31-inch snow-

fall average, memberships suffered.

Since 2012, the ISSA has lost a net 832 members. With dues at \$15 per member/family, this drop represents a reduction of \$12,480 in revenue for the ISSA, making it

financially tough to continue many of its programs. At the local level, memberships for many clubs across the state

have dropped in half if not more, and some of the recruiting struggles are occasionally documented in the Club News each month.

"Snowmobiling for many in Iowa is no longer a lifestyle. It's just something to do when it snows outside," Past ISSA President Chris Willey acknowledged at convention. "Everybody is just really busy in their lives anymore."

The ISSA Board of Directors has also felt the pinch. Attendance at board meetings has dropped, and a summer campout has not been held in two years, although a fall effort in 2018 was rained out and not rescheduled. Bids to host the ISSA annual convention have also been accepted out of rotation to ensure a convention site.

In an effort to improve attendance, board meetings were reduced from a traditional 10 times annually to every other month. Three years ago, the ISSA consolidated the bottom tier of regions into one large Region 10 and part of Region 12's clubs were absorbed by Region 9. The realignment was designed to increase the chances for a quorum; yet some meetings since have failed to produce one.

"We need to get back to how we were operating before," **turn to page 8**





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Barry Starmer, left, of the Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club and Stan Wolf of the Cedar Falls Sno Hawks review the list of available dates for the ISSA's Snowmobile Iowa trail ride schedule for this winter during a planning session at the 2019 ISSA Annual Convention in Burlington Nov. 23.

Snowmobile Iowa Dates Still Available this Winter

by Cameron Hanson

Three of the seven dates for the 2020 Snowmobile Iowa club ride schedule were confirmed during a Nov. 23 planning session at the 2019 ISSA Annual Convention in Burlington. Beginning with the second weekend in January, three clubs volunteered to host a trail ride every other Saturday:

- Jan. 18 from Rock Falls to Clarksville. Co-hosted by the North Iowa Snow Seekers/Floyd County Groomers/Butler County Snow Snoops. For more information, contact Seth at (641) 512-1932.

- Feb. 1 at the trailhead in Slater. Hosted by the Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club. For more information, contact Barry at (515) 240-5444.

- Feb. 15 at Mount Pleasant. Hosted by the Southeast Iowa Ridge-Blasters. For more information, contact Aaron at (319) 217-6361.

A spin-off of the Snowmobile Iowa club displays at convention each year, this ISSA-sponsored trail ride program was conceived three years ago "to educate snowmobile riders about the best trail locations in Iowa," according to ride coordinator and Past ISSA President Bruno Andreini.

"This winter will be our fourth attempt

to host rides across Iowa," Andreini said. "I really believe in this program, but we've definitely suffered from a lack of snow over the years. You have to have snow and have it in the right place at the right time to be successful. I'm definitely willing to try it again this year."



Andreini pointed out planning snowmobile rides in Iowa further strengthens the sport's economic impact locally. Riding closer to home means participants spend less time trailering out of state. This reduces their travel expenses, thus "helping Iowa by keeping our dollars here," he said.

To host a ride, a club must provide a guide—or "ride captain," as Andreini calls it—to lead the group along established routes on his or her trail system. The club should designate trailhead parking, supply trail maps to participants and offer lodging information. Designated stops should be planned throughout the day.

"I would like to see as many board members participate in these rides as possible," he said. "We want to promote our sport and our opportunities to

turn to page 8



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Membership

Past ISSA President Bruno Andreini said at the ISSA board meeting Sunday morning at convention. "We need to have our board meetings in a centralized location and either the region director or an assistant needs to be there so we're not wasting anyone's time."

At convention, the board agreed to find a new meeting location near the center of the membership base and once again set the second Sunday of the month at 9 a.m. as the consistent date and time for the meeting. RSVPs will also be distributed by email during the weeks leading up to the meetings to ensure a quorum.

As for increasing memberships in the ISSA, the board is entertaining new ideas. Hopefully, the record-setting snowfall from the second half of last season will spur or renew interest in the ISSA this season. As of convention weekend, 279 memberships had been paid for 2020.

As a reminder, membership in the ISSA follows the calendar year and not the snowmobile season.

Snowmobile Iowa ride in Iowa as much as we can. Let's keep our dollars local."

The ISSA maintains a Snowmobile Iowa Facebook page to provide timely updates on events. If your club is interested in hosting a ride, four Saturdays remain open on the calendar through the end of February. To sign up, please contact Andreini at (515) 240-3858 or awbrunoa3@gmail.com.

Notify ISSA Office of Directory Changes

If your club has elected new officers or if you have an address change, please email bepaulus@outlook.com and editor@iowasnowmobiler.com. Thank You.

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Ridge-Blasters Host November Convention at Burlington



Three-Day Event Draws 125 ISSA Members to Region 10

by Cameron Hanson

Pretty fitting the 2019 ISSA Annual Convention was held at a casino resort in November. When convention planning committee chair Aaron Dorothy suggested in August it could snow in southeast Iowa three months later, the odds his half-hearted wager would cash in were slim at best.

Yet, when attendees awoke Saturday morning, Nov. 23, an overnight dusting had covered the sleds on display on the grounds of the Pzazz Convention Center and Catfish Bend Casino in Burlington. Needless to say, Dorothy, the ISSA's director for Region 10, was feeling lucky and brimming with confidence.

"So, for the skeptics out there who say it doesn't snow in southeast Iowa, here's your proof," joked Dorothy, who also serves as president of the Southeast Iowa Ridge-Blasters, the host club for last month's convention. "That's how good of a convention we put on this year. We scheduled some snow, and it arrived on time."

Although the snowcover was short-lived, Dorothy's gamble to host the convention in the far southeast corner of the state seemed to pay off a little better. Despite the extended travel time for most attendees, the venue still drew close to 125 ISSA members and their families—a total exceeding some attendance figures from past conventions further north.

"I think we did good for being in southeast Iowa," Ridge-Blasters member Luke Fuller

said. "We know we're located in a marginal snow area, but it did snow this morning so that was good sign. Most of the long-time ISSA members I've talked to seemed happy with our convention and the facilities."

Election results

Following ISSA guidelines, this year's convention was supposed to be held in the central part of Iowa as part of a three-year rotation across the state to improve attendance. So when a bid failed to materialize a year ago, Dorothy's club stepped up to host the annual gathering in eastern Iowa.

"I thought everything went fairly well this weekend," Dorothy said. "There were a few hiccups along the way, but we've been dealing with them as they come up. It's been fun but stressful. I hope everybody had fun. I guess I was most concerned about everyone having a good time."



The party started Friday night with hospitality and live music from a local country western band. The following morning was the ISSA's General Membership Meeting with region elections in the odd-numbered regions as 2019 is an odd-numbered year.

In Region 1, director Dan Delperdang stepped down, and assistant Jim Skinner was named director. At the ISSA Board of Directors meeting Sunday morning, the board accepted three resignations in Region 8 and two in Region 9. Geo Prescott and Jamie Pull were approved as the directors in those two regions, respectively.

ISSA leadership did not change convention weekend. President Brian Carmichael, Vice President Scott Nauman, Secretary Sue Paulus and Treasurer Brittany Paulus remain in office for another year. Next fall, the ISSA will be searching for a new vice president, though, as Carmichael completes his two-year term and Nauman is expected to succeed him.

Also approved by the board Sunday morning, the 2020 convention will be hosted by the Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club of Region 7 in Ames Nov. 13-15, as the central and eastern regions flip-flopped positions on the host schedule. The convention site for the ISSA's 48th anniversary will be back on rotation in western Iowa in 2021.

Club donations

Back to this year's convention, the rest of Saturday was filled with guest speakers, seminars, a groomer certification course, program updates, on-site activities, scholarship presentations and the annual awards banquet, most of which will be covered in this and later issues of the *Iowa Snowmobiler* magazine.

Dorothy said he wanted to plan a convention for the entire fam-





Cousins Kevin, Koen and Jared Dorothy led a 'Trail Readiness' class for youth at convention.

ily. Fourteen ladies enjoyed a 'Wine and Unwind' wreath-making and wine-tasting event in the afternoon opposite the meetings and seminars; while 17 youths participated in activities throughout the day, including a 'Trail Readiness' course and go-cart racing in the adjacent Fun City center.

"Having that many kids at convention was definitely a step in the right direction," said Dorothy, who also oversees the ISSA's Youth Program. "We wanted to focus on the youth this year, and I think we accomplished that."

The trail class was led by Dorothy's sons, Kevin and Jared, and their cousin, Koen Dorothy. According to their dad and uncle, the boys wanted "to go through and explain some of the more important things to think about before heading out on a snowmobile and things to do to your sled as you wait for snow. It was their idea to host the class."

Complete with a slide presentation and various sled parts, the youth training was made possible by sponsor V&V Insurance. The Fun City passes and 'Youth Social' was financed by the Iowa Snowdrifters of Region 9. They were among 17 clubs and ISSA friends who kicked in \$4,100 to help cover convention expenses. See the entire list below right.

Dorothy said he was appreciative of everyone's donations and will present a formal convention report at the January board meeting. "I think we are going to be alright," he told the board Sunday morning. "We had many clubs step up and contribute, and I thanked them many, many times for helping out. They made everything possible."

As a tradition during convention weekend, ISSA clubs also presented checks to support ISSA charities and programs. More than \$10,000 in donations was turned in at the banquet Saturday night



Fourteen ladies participated in the Saturday afternoon 'Wine and Unwind' wreath-making class at convention.

(see page 19), and more than \$3,000 was raised through the Silent Auction and various raffles inside the banquet hall.

Disappointing snow show

About the only letdown of the weekend was the planned Snow Show. The Ridge-Blasters said they struggled to get interest from area snowmobile dealers and vendors, so the room next to the banquet hall served as home to Snowmobile Iowa club displays and a few other booths, including Track, Inc., the Polaris Ride Command trail app and the Spina Bifida Association of Iowa, the ISSA's official charity.

"We were lacking some of the big vendors for our snow show, which was disappointing," Fuller acknowledged. "We even talked to some we do business with personally to get them here, but we were told we were just too far south."

Still, Dorothy said he was encouraged by the turnout last month and was grateful for the advice and support he received from Delperdang, who served as last year's convention planning committee chair in Okoboji. Dorothy said he will return the favor when Region 7 Director John Kahler helps with next year's convention.

"I will take what we've learned over the past two years and pass it on," Dorothy promised.

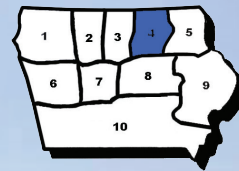


Club members line up to hand donation checks to convention committee chair Aaron Dorothy to support various ISSA charities and programs.

2019 ISSA Convention Sponsors

Saylorville Dam.....	Friday Hospitality	\$300
Grand Equipment/Prinoth	Friday Hospitality	\$300
Trails Unlimited	Friday Hospitality	\$300
Fred Strothman Memorial	Program Printing	\$200
Central Iowa Snowmobilers.....	Brunch Speaker	\$200
Iowa River Riders	Seminars.....	\$200
V & V Insurance.....	Youth Seminar.....	\$200
Iowa Snowdrifters	Youth Social	\$200
Frozen Few.....	Saturday Social.....	\$200
Track, Inc.	Groomer Reception.....	\$500
Jones County Snow Chasers	Banquet Speaker	\$300
Dickinson County Snowhawks	Groomer Award	\$200
Floyd County Groomers	Club Award.....	\$200
Emmet County Driftbusters	Snowmobiler Award	\$200
Eastern Iowa Sledheads.....	Family Award.....	\$200
Sno-Pak.....	Dealer Award.....	\$200
Scott County Sno-Seekers	Youth Award	\$200

Snow Snoops Keep Chugging Along



by **Cameron Hanson**

During a period when the ISSA and many of its member-clubs experienced declining memberships, the Butler County Snow Snoops saw significant growth over the last four years. The Region 4 club is now the sixth largest club in the state.

Starting with a low of 26 members in 2016, the club added 19 members in 2017 and 18 more in 2018 before ending last season with 74 total members. According to club president Seth Bram, remaining active throughout the year has been key to member recruitment and retention.

“That’s been sort of our business model,” said Bram, who also serves as the ISSA’s Region 4 Director. “Our club is doing a lot more things outside of snowmobiling that keeps everybody’s interest level up. I guess you could say we’ve been bucking the trend.”

When they are not riding and maintaining 180 miles of snowmobile trail, the Snow Snoops keep their name out there during the off-season with regular meetings, a groomer display at the Butler County Fair and keeping a stretch of road litter-free through the Adopt-A-Highway program.

They also support their sponsors with a fall Car Cruise that welcomes UTVs and motorcycles, and later this month, they plan

to make the rounds with a Party Bus Dec. 14. But by far, the club’s biggest off-season attraction is its four-person golf tournament at the Round Grove Golf Course in Greene.

This past July, 19 teams competed in the second annual event, helping the club raise funds for its cost-share of a new or updated groomer.

According to Bram, the club is “halfway” to its fundraising goal and is currently sixth on the waiting list for a new machine from the Iowa State Snowmobile Trail Grant Program.

If the club wants a new groomer, members will need to pony up 25 percent of the cost. A used one won’t be as expensive, according to the program’s Review and Selection Committee guidelines. The Snow Snoops have requested a new groomer the last three years on

their trail grant application.

Until that wish is fulfilled, the club will continue to operate—and repair—its 2002 Tucker Terra 1000. Of significant note, that unit was one of the first groomers in Iowa to be purchased with federal grant money from the Recreational Trails Program, a funding stream the ISSA still leans on for updated equipment.

Most of the Snow Snoops’ trail system is cross-country and fea-

tures both sides of the Shell Rock River bottom between Greene and Clarksville. As detailed on the map in this month’s center spread, the club also serves the communities of Allison, Aplington, Aredale, Dumont, New Hartford, Parkersburg and Shell Rock.

Part of their trail system creeps into Floyd County on the north with a 15-mile stretch leading to Nashua. They also connect to neighboring systems for access to Plainfield, Waverly, Marble Rock, Rockwell, Floyd, Charles City and beyond. Last season, club volunteers groomed 1,400 miles with their Tucker.

This winter, the club hopes to showcase its trail system with its third annual Vintage Ride in February and by co-hosting a Snowmobile Iowa event in January. For the fourth year in a row, the Jan. 18 ride—weather permitting—will basically follow the Shell Rock River from Rock Falls on the north to Clarksville on the south.

The Snow Snoops will coordinate the 60-mile snowmobile ride with the North Iowa Snow Seekers and the Floyd County Groomers. Participation in this ISSA-sponsored event is just one of the ways the Snow Snoops support the state organization.

In addition to Bram serving on the ISSA Board of Directors, the club is a Platinum Sponsor and 100 percent ISSA, meaning its \$25 single/\$30 family dues include membership in the ISSA. In 2017, the club hosted the ISSA Summer Campout and, in 2018, was named the ISSA’s Snowmobile Club of the Year.

For more information on the Butler County Snow Snoops, visit the club’s Facebook page or contact Bram at (641) 512-1932.



Join the ISSA Today!

If you enjoy the sport of snowmobiling in Iowa, you are not alone. In 2019, more than 21,000 sleds registered with the Iowa State Snowmobile Trail Grant Program, and 60 clubs around the state maintained a 8,800-mile trail system.

The glue that bonds us together is the Iowa State Snowmobile Association and its network of 2,224 dedicated family members and associates. Since 1973, our organization has helped to maintain an expansive fleet of groomers and lobbied on behalf of snowmobile-friendly legislation.

Without the ISSA over the past 30 years, snowmobiles—for example—would have been held to a 15 mph speed limit, and

there would not have been any night riding, ditch riding nor access to state parks.

We continue to work to increase funding for trail maintenance and development, and in 2017, our organization assumed control of the state snowmobile trail grant program and of the entire groomer fleet. Our efforts continue, and your support would be greatly appreciated.

Fill out the form below and join the ISSA today.

With your paid annual membership, you will receive a free subscription to the *Iowa Snowmobiler* magazine, our official publication.

Iowa State Snowmobile Association 2020 Family/Single Membership Application

Please remit with payment.

I hereby apply for membership in the Iowa State Snowmobile Association. Check all that apply:

Single/Family (\$15) _____ Scholarship Donation \$ _____ Spina Bifida Association of Iowa Donation \$ _____ Legislative Action Fund Donation \$ _____

Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Children: _____ Snowmobile Club: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ County of Residence _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____ # registered snowmobiles _____

Your email address is very important as this will be how we can get information to you in a timely manner.

Included with your membership
is a subscription to this magazine.

____ Check here if you only want
digital version of magazine.

Membership year runs from
Jan. 1 thru Dec. 31.

Send your membership form and
dues today to Brittany Paulus at:

ISSA Membership
1924 270th Street
Marble Rock, IA 50653
bepaulus@outlook.com



Iowa State Snowmobile Association 2020 Associate Membership Application

Please remit with payment.

I hereby apply for membership in the Iowa State Snowmobile Association. Check all that apply:

____ Associate Membership (\$25)

Scholarship Donation \$ _____ Spina Bifida Association of Iowa Donation \$ _____ Legislative Action Fund Donation \$ _____

Name of Business or Dealership: _____ Contact Person: _____

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

Phone: _____ Email: _____ Website: _____

Snowmobile Club/Region _____ Snowmobile Brand(s) (if applicable) _____

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

Included with membership is a
subscription to this magazine.

____ Check here if you only want
digital version of magazine.

Membership year runs from
Jan. 1 thru Dec. 31.

Send your membership form and
dues today to Brittany Paulus at:

ISSA Membership
1924 270th Street
Marble Rock, IA 50653
bepaulus@outlook.com



Vintage Lake Racing to Return in February



Clear Lake's Jack Race renamed Midwest Sled Fest as Charter Organizers 'Retire'

by Cameron Hanson

After resorting to the February backup date three of the last five seasons, new organizers of the annual vintage LeMans snowmobile races on Clear Lake are breaking from tradition this winter and forgoing a reserve date. Instead of the third weekend in January, they are planning their event for Feb. 8 with no back-up date set.

"It's not fair for the participants to expect one date and then have it changed later on—even as late as the weekend before," said new race coordinator Rusty Peters of the North Iowa Snow Seekers of Region 3. "We are going with just one date this year, and if the weather doesn't cooperate, we will try again next season."

The race planning committee was mindful of other events in the area and across the state when choosing the new date, including the Winter Dance Party at Clear Lake the weekend before and the University of Okoboji Winter Games in Region 1 and the Cresco Driftrunners' Snow Fest in Region 5, both set for the last weekend in January.

Going forward, the race weekend will be known as the Midwest Sled Fest. For the previous 10 years, the event was billed as the Jack Helgren Memorial Race Iowa LeMans Championship, a two-day event named for a Mason City snowmobile dealer who helped promote the sport of snowmobiling in North Iowa for more than 40 years.

Past ISSA President Gary McVicker, a Helgren family friend, spearheaded the first race in 2009 and witnessed the event grow each year. A throw-back to racing on Clear Lake in the 1970s, the vintage LeMans races featured classes for snowmobile age and engine size with prize money reaching \$10,000 last winter. Other attractions each year included youth racing, radar runs and vintage snowmobile shows.

"It has been a great thing to see the old-fashioned racing and snowmobiling that Jack loved return to the area," Gary and his wife Karen McVicker said. "And we were so happy to see the appreciation for the vintage sleds and also the racing being passed on to the younger generation that attended the events over the years."

Otherwise known as the Jack Race, the competition drew thousands of spectators and competitors from across the Midwest. The races were initially held at McIntosh State Park near Ventura the first two years. The next winter, they were relocated in front of the Sea Wall near downtown Clear Lake before finding a permanent home on the south shore in front of Clear Lake State Park.

This past summer, the charter members of the Jack Race committee informed the rest of the group of their intentions to "retire." The plans were made public earlier this fall in a post on Facebook, and the announcement was picked up various media, including the Associated Press, a testament to the widespread appeal of the north central Iowa winter competition.

"After a couple meetings, emails, phone calls, etc., the decision has been made to dissolve the Jack Race as it has been known for the past 10 years," the McVickers explained. "Ten years was a good run. We have had a lot of

fun, loved getting to know everyone and seen our hard work pay off 10 times!! Your support made it successful, and we appreciate the part each of you played in making it happen.”

Over the years, several local snowmobile clubs have volunteered at The Jack, but at its core were members from the North Iowa Snow Seekers (official race sponsor), Hancock County Snowmobile Association and the Iowa River Riders. The remaining financial proceeds from the event were divided among the three groups, and leftover race equipment was retained by the Snow Seekers for future events at Clear Lake.

Organizers of the new Midwest Sled Fest are planning to hold many of the same events as previous years and have started a Facebook page to post race updates. Sponsors are currently being sought for the 2020 races. For more information or to donate, contact Peters at (641) 420-0248.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER

- ISSA RSC Groomer Certification Course Wednesday, Dec. 11, at 6 p.m. at the Main Event, 112 Second St. SE, Mason City. Hosted by North Iowa Snow Seekers of Region 3. For more information, contact club president Chad Brouwer at (641) 425-4872.
- Youth Safety Course Saturday, Dec. 14, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Law Enforcement Center in Garner. Hosted by the Hancock County Snowmobile Association. Club will cover course registration, materials and refreshments and will also pay for a one-year membership to the ISSA for each student. Must pre-register by contacting Ross at (641) 923-2871. Class size is limited.
- ISSA RSC Groomer Certification Course Saturday, Dec. 14, at 10 a.m. at Rob Rehm's shop, 1100 NE 142nd Ave., Alleman. Hosted by the Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club. Please pull behind house and park on gravel. For more information, contact John Kahler at (515) 202-4061.

JANUARY

- ISSA Board of Directors meeting Jan. 12 at 9 a.m. Location TBD.
- Team Iowa Snowmobilers Ryan Carlson Family benefit and fun run Saturday, Jan. 18, at Haman Auction building in Stratford. Live and silent auction items, food and entertainment.
- Snowmobile Iowa ride Jan. 18 from Rock Falls to Clarksville. Co-hosted by North Iowa Snow Seekers/ Floyd County Groomers/Butler County Snow Snoops. For more information, contact Seth at (641) 512-1932.
- International Snowmobile Safety Week Jan. 18-26.
- Driftrunners' Snowfest Jan. 23-26.
- University of Okoboji Winter Games 23-26.
- Theisen's Snocross National Jan. 31-Feb. 1 at Dubuque.

FEBRUARY

- Team Iowa Snowmobilers Ice Drags Feb. 1 at Little Wall Lake, Jewell.
- Snowmobile Iowa club ride Feb. 1 at the trailhead in Slater. Hosted by the Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club. For more information, contact Barry at (515) 240-5444.
- ISSA Winter Kids Day with the Spina Bifida Association of Iowa Feb. 2 at 11 a.m. at Huxley. For more information, contact Bruno at (515) 240-3858.
- Driftrunners' Charlie's Chili Feed Feb. 8 on the Florenceville/Granger trail.
- Midwest Sled Fest vintage LeMans racing Feb. 8 at Clear Lake State Park. Watch Facebook posts for additional information.
- Snowmobile Iowa club ride Feb. 15 at Mount Pleasant. Hosted by the Southeast Iowa Ridge-Blasters. For more information, contact Aaron at (319) 217-6361.

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2019 ISSA Annual Award Winners

Family of the Year



Duane and Kate Taylor Family, Maynard Trail Blaz-zers Snowmobile Club, Region 5

Duane and Kate have been involved in snowmobiling since they were kids and have passed their love for the sport on to their children and grandchildren. They are active in membership recruitment for both the Trail Blaz-zers and the ISSA. They assist with the club's food stand at the Summer Days celebration as well as the with trail marking each fall. Kate enjoys teaching the club's Youth Safety Course. Of special note is their involvement with the annual Red for Jed Snowmobile Ride in memory of a young fallen snowmobiler.

Snowmobiler of the Year



Tim Cole, Spirit Lake Dickinson County Snowhawks, Region 1

Tim has been involved in snowmobiling for more than 50 years. He rides whenever and wherever he can. He is very appreciative of the efforts of the groomer operators. He is active in the local club and helps deliver maps and helps prepare and mark trails.

Dealer of the Year



Maverick Powersports, Independence
Paul Bachman, owner; Jason Palmer, general manager
 Maverick Powersports gets to know their customers. That's what makes them stand out. They learn how and where a customer will be riding their snowmobile so they can give him or her a great riding experience. Maverick supports local and state snowmobile activities with prizes, promotions, advertising and enthusiasm. They encourage all customers to join a club and the ISSA and promote snowmobiling 365 days a year.

Groomer Operator of the Year



Mark Kuennen, Fayette Trail Blaz-zers Snowmobile Club, Region 5

Mark has served as the Trail Boss for the Trail Blaz-zers for numerous years and has previously served as club president and board member. He oversees all groomer maintenance and stores the groomer at his farm. Mark coordinates the groomer operators and also runs the groomer out on the trails. As was stated on his nomination form, "Mark's job can be like herding cats." Mark has an amazing way of pulling all the operators together to get the job at hand done.

Source: ISSA Awards Committee. Please note there were no nominations for Young Snowmobiler; and the Young Adult category was eliminated this year. See page 18 for the club award.

CLUB NEWS

Region 1

O'Brien County Snowtrackers

by Zelda Buse Christensen, Reporter (and retired secretary)

First organized in 1984, the O'Brien County Snowtrackers grew and became very active in local and ISSA activities-- even named ISSA Club of the Year in 2003.

With a general change in culture fostering lack of active members in many churches, other clubs and activities—and with lack of snow—membership and volunteerism have followed the trend of many other snowmobile clubs in Iowa: steadily decreasing.

A notice was sent by the secretary to the general membership: DO WE GROW? OR DO WE QUIT? A meeting date was set, which brought just six people. After much discussion, it was decided to make one more membership appeal. Using a list from the county of all owners of licensed sleds, a free meal was offered at the Pizza Ranch in Sheldon on Nov. 16.

Twelve people—eight members and four younger, interested prospective members—ate pizza and shared information about the ISSA, club responsibilities, groomer maintenance, groomer operator requirements and signing. Jim Skinner, newly named Region 1 Director, also attended and shared information.

Result: all present paid dues. "New" guys are picking up signs and needed material in a few days to tackle that job. They are planning to get more of their friends to join also.

We have some new enthusiasm. We will still need some snow. Some places in Iowa have been getting relatively large early snowfalls, but here we have had nothing measurable yet.

As of right now in mid-November, our club is still alive!



The Floyd County Groomers Association of Region 4 was named the 2019 ISSA Snowmobile Club of the Year at the 2019 ISSA Annual Convention in Burlington Nov. 23. Currently at 46 members, the club is 100 percent ISSA and has earned this distinction three times. The first two awards came in 2002 and 2012.

Region 4

Floyd County Groomers

by Amy Hunt, Reporter

We held a monthly meeting at Hot Shots in Charles City on Oct. 14 with 13 people attending. We will be joining the Butler County Snow Snoops and the North Iowa Snow Seekers for a Snowmobile Iowa trail ride from the Greenbelt at Rock Falls to Clarks-ville on Jan. 18.

The Jack Race at Clear Lake has a new name, the Midwest Sled Fest. It will be held on Feb. 8, 2020. Go to the new race's Facebook page to share and like to help get the word out.

We will be marking trails on Nov. 24 starting at 9 a.m., pending harvest process. We will have a meeting at 5 p.m. at Phil's shop in Marble Rock. We will be signing thank you cards to give people that placed ads on our 2020 trail maps. We started doing this last year and had several advertisers appreciate it.

Friendly reminder that dues are due Jan 1 for year 2020 annual club/ISSA membership.

Region 5

Driftrunners Inc.

by Bob Martinek, Treasurer

Hello from Cresco. As you read this, the Thanksgiving dinners Hare done and Christmas is not far off.

Our trails are marked and ready for winter fun. However, I would like to remind everyone that our trail system is a "gift" from our landowners. Please respect them and thank them. Stay on the trail and use common sense. We do not want to lose the privilege of riding across their property.

Now, because many of our landowners are also deer hunters, please remember that snow or no snow, our trails DO NOT open until after second season deer hunting is over. That is after Dec. 22 this year. This is a big deal! If this rule is broken, many landowners will shut us off. Remember, it is a privilege to ride on their property.

Okay, I'm off my soapbox now. Next month, I will give details on our 49th Annual Snow Fest coming Jan. 23-26 and Charlie's Chili Feed on Feb. 8. Until then, Thank You.

Region 7

Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club

by Barry Starmer, President

Like most clubs, we had a busy November. We held our annual Grass Drags Nov. 2 at Ankeny, our only fundraiser to benefit the Spina Bifida Association of Iowa. We finished marking our trails and completed our groomer maintenance day. Here, we changed fluids, all filters, greased and tightened the track tension plus power washed and shined the cab. Our Pisten Bully is ready for snow! Mother Nature teased us a couple times with a total of five inches of White Gold.

We have our club meetings the second Tuesdays of the month. November's meeting was the day after Veterans Day, so we acknowledged and thanked our members who are veterans. One of our members served in the elite Black Knight tank division in Viet Nam. He shared some of his experiences with us. He is still very active serving the Vets. Thanks to all the Vets who have served this Great Country.

Until next month, get involved!

Region 9

Iowa Snowdrifters

by Ron Roe

Well, a week ago, we had a start of winter. It didn't last too long, but it was a good taste of cold weather. Maybe it will hold off until it gets into December where we would like it.

Our club has been making plans for new bridges and waiting until the ground tightens up to get them in place. I am thinking the farmers should be coming along better now that it seems a little drier in the fields. Then we will be able to get in them and mark the trails.

I hope everyone has had a good Thanksgiving by now and moving towards Christmas in a few weeks. Merry Christmas to all. Think snow!



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Saylorville Club Challenge Continues for ISU CSC Team

In October, the Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club issued a challenge to other clubs in the state to donate to the ISU Clean Snowmobile Challenge team in Ames. For every dollar donated by another club, the Saylorville club will match up to a total of \$500. For more information or to donate, contact club president Barry Starmer at (515) 240-5444. Pictured at left is the club's Snowmobile Iowa display at the 2019 ISSA Annual Convention in Burlington.

2020 ISSA Donations

ISSA Lobbyist Club Challenge

Central Iowa Snowmobilers	\$350
Sac County Snow Lovers	\$303
Floyd County Groomers Association	\$300
Bremer County Sno-Knights	\$250
Cedar Falls Snow Hawks	\$250
Eastern Iowa Sledheads	\$250
Snow Pioneers	\$200
Team Iowa Snowmobilers	\$200
Butler County Snow Snoops	\$150
Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club	\$150
Dickinson County Snowhawks	\$100
Iowa River Riders	\$100

Spina Bifida Association of Iowa

Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club	\$1,550
Southeast Iowa Ridge-Blasters (Strothman Memorial)...	\$650
Cedar Falls Snow Hawks	\$500
Central Iowa Snowmobilers	\$500
Eastern Iowa Sledheads	\$500
Floyd County Groomers Association	\$300
Bremer County Sno-Knights	\$250
Team Iowa Snowmobilers	\$200
Trail Blaz-zers, Inc.,	\$200
Butler County Snow Snoops	\$200
Iowa River Riders	\$200

ACSA Legal Defense Fund

Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club	\$250
Team Iowa Snowmobilers	\$200
Floyd County Groomers Association	\$200
Central Iowa Snowmobilers	\$200
Iowa River Riders	\$100
Sac County Snow Lovers	\$100

ISSA Scholarship Foundation

Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club	\$250
Snow Pioneers	\$250
Butler County Snow Snoops	\$200
Floyd County Groomers	\$200
Team Iowa Snowmobilers	\$200
Dickinson County Snowhawks	\$100
Cedar Falls Sno Hawks	\$100

ALS of Iowa

Cedar Falls Sno Hawks	\$200
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ISU Clean Snowmobile Challenge

Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club	\$500
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Fundraising year begins at the ISSA Annual Convention in November.



REGION ONE

Buena Vista Blizzard Busters

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

Clay County Sno Broncos

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/O'Brien-County-Snowtrackers/149959738392476.

Osceola County High Point Riders

www.highpointriders.com
President: Jeremy Wollmuth
5992 200th Street, Melvin, IA 51350
(712) 461-1510
jeremywoll10@gmail.com

Powder Players Inc.

P.O. Box 154, Remsen, IA 51050
www.powder-players.com
President: Dee Jay Kellen
dkellen91@yahoo.com
712-540-5723

Sioux County Snowmobile Club

Find us on Facebook
President: Jesse Wynia
133 W 1st St, Sioux Center, IA 51250
712-441-0934
jesse_wynia@hotmail.com

REGION TWO

Emmet County Driftbusters

President: Mike Blomstrom
526 W 9th St., Estherville, IA 51334
515-408-8053
mblomstrom@forceamerica.com

Humboldt Sno-Skimmers

President: Shane Braby
1005 5th Ave. N, Humboldt, IA 50548
(515) 890-1945
snoskimmers@gmail.com

Kossuth County Drift Skippers

President: Jeremy Walker
1402 170th St., LuVerne, IA 50560
(515) 341-1626, jlkwalk@gmail.com

Palo Alto Rough Riders

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

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

Hancock County Snowmobile Assn.

President: Dan Stromer
1840 Hwy 69, Klemme, IA 50449
(641) 587-9903, stromerda@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: Michael Smidt
3509 185th Ave., Titonka, IA 50480
(515) 320-4052, myiq599@gmail.com

North Iowa Sno-Jammers

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

North Iowa Snow Seekers

President: Chad Brouwer

15 Williamsburg Cir
Mason City, IA 50401
(641) 425-4872
northiowasnowseekers@yahoo.com

Worth County Fence Stretchers

P.O. Box 27, Northwood, IA 50459
President: Mike Peterson
P.O. Box 97, Kensett, IA 50448
(641) 390-1499
petersonex@wcatel.net

REGION FOUR

Bremer County Sno-Knights

President: Jeremy Happel
141 N. Powell St., Denver, IA 50622

Butler County Snow Snoops

President: Seth Bram
17313 Packard Ave
Clarksville, IA 50619
(641) 512-1932, sethbram@gmail.com

Cedar Falls Sno Hawks

President: Gary Matthias
2161 Rainbow Dr., Waterloo, IA 50701
(319) 235-7667
gmkm2161@gmail.com

Chickasaw Sno-Riders

President: Nick Winter
2997 Vanderbilt Ave.
Waucoma, IA 52171
(641) 330-1134
nwinter@statebankia.com

Dewar Snow Chasers

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

Floyd County Groomers Association

President: Philip Schrage
P.O. Box 7, Marble Rock, IA 50653
(641) 397-2775,
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buckarro0149@hotmail.com

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

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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, tnsppalla@hotmail.com
Clayton County Snowbirds
12469 Hwy. 18,

Postville, IA 52162
President: Dan Torkelson
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(563) 880-2422

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(563) 605-0141
driftrunnerssnowmobileclub@gmail.com

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www.dyersvilldriftdippers.net
President: Ryan Ameskamp
29465 Dyersville E Rd.
Dyersville, IA 52040, (563) 599-6312

Snow Pioneers

President: Mitchell Heims
233 Bailey Dr., Manchester, IA 52057
(563) 920-2141, heimsm@live.com

Trail Blaz-zers Inc.

President: Randy Henniges
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(319) 269-8239
randyhenniges@gmail.com

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President: Bud Winter
(319) 231-3337, bwinter@acegroup.cc
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Decorah, IA 52101, (563) 380-6747
jakeludeking@gmail.com

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P.O. Box 464, Lakeview, IA 51450
President: Jamie Rohlf
408 Center St., Wall Lake, IA 51466
(712) 830-2196

REGION SEVEN

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President: Ryan Lowman
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(515) 230-1181 lowman700@gmail.com

Raccoon Valley Snow Chasers

President: Mike Patten
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(641) 755-3863, mjpatt76@aol.com
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602 NE Trilein, Ankeny, IA 50021
(515) 240-5444
sastarmer@q.com

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

Webster County Ice Breakers

President: Jim Suchan
3374 Garfield Ave., Gowrie, IA 50543
(515) 352-3039, (515) 351-0072
jsmgr@lvcta.com

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Central Iowa Snowmobilers

P.O. Box 1751
Marshalltown, IA 50158

President: Blake Matney
PO Box 171,
Liscomb, IA 50148
(641) 485-3161
bmatney05@gmail.com

Tri-County Snowmobile Association

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

REGION NINE

Cedar County Winter Warriors

ccwarriors@yahoo.com
President: Jerry Meier
1241 Jackson Ave., Tipton, IA 52772
(319) 325-6021
jerrymeier2040@gmail.com

Cascade Snowmobile Club

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

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
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logan.goettsch@channelseedsmen.com

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President: Rodney Rocarek
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Mt. Vernon, IA 52314
(319) 533-1115, rocarek.inc@gmail.com

Jones County Snow Chasers

P.O. Box 225, Olin, IA 52320
President: Burgundie McClure
1155 160th St., Stanwood, IA 52337
(563) 945-6217
bassman7333@yahoo.com

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www.snoseekers.org
P.O. Box 2332
Davenport, IA 52809-2332
President: Conor Flaherty
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President: Aaron Michels
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(563) 599-4935
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Southwest Iowa Snow Scooters

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

Stag Island Skol Patrol

President: Brad Landhuis
3046 210th St., Clarinda IA 51632
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Southeast Iowa Ridge Blasters

se.iowa.ridge.blasters@gmail.com
President: Aaron Dorothy
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Mt. Pleasant IA 52641
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Spirit Lake, IA 51360
(712) 336-2362

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(712) 332-2934

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REGION 7

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info@alsaiowa.org
webia.alsa.org

Autism Society of Iowa
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autism50ia@aol.com
www.autismia.com

S and K Trailers
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Blairsburg, IA 50034
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REGION 9

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