

IOWA SNOWMOBILER

February 2018 • Volume 39 • Issue 6

The Hunt for White January

Inside...

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- Scholarship
- Awards



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IOWA SNOWMOBILER

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Wanted: Rideable Snow in Iowa

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Take A Friend Snowmobiling Week

Feb. 10-19, 2018

See p. 6 for details.

COVER: Faced with the prospect of not riding near home any time soon, Matt Wilde of Ankeny trailed up to Clear Lake Jan. 20 to watch The Jack Race and to do some riding around the lake, including up by Ventura as pictured. Finding rideable snow this winter has been a challenge for most snowmobilers in Iowa, as illustrated on page 9 of this month's issue.

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Single Sticker Proposal Generates Discussion

Well, Iowa snowmobilers, it is mid-January as I write my column for the February issue of *Iowa Snowmobiler*, and there hasn't been rideable snow in most of the state. I have been fortunate to be able to have put some miles on one of my snowmobiles, and it was here in Iowa.

The first Saturday of January brought the chance to meet up with Brian Carmichael, Scott Nauman and Brad Comer to jump in the trucks and find some Iowa snow.

The search brought us to Conrad and the heart of the Central Iowa Snowmobiler's trail system. We met up with Region 8 Director Craig Smith, and he led us on some great trails with full ditches and well-marked trails. We had a great day of riding a good portion of their trail system. We haven't had rideable snow in a lot of Iowa this year, but if you look, you can find places to ride most weekends somewhere in the state.

From the President's Desk

Calls, Texts and Posts
Now to the business of snowmobiling. I have been getting a lot of correspondence in all forms on the topic of our one-sticker legislative proposal that was outlined in our January magazine. Let me start by

saying I understand and appreciate everyone's thoughts and concerns both FOR and AGAINST a single-registration decal.

The topic has been discussed at length at state and club meetings since 2013, when the current two-sticker system was started. We have worked diligently to gather feed-



Chris Willey
ISSA
President

back as we worked on the topic. I encourage anyone with concerns to contact his or her ISSA region director or myself or to attend an ISSA board meeting to share their thoughts, concerns and get questions answered.

In one conversation, I was told that the general snowmobile pop-

ulation has never been asked by the ISSA on the topic of one sticker and combining the registration and trail pass fees. Our region directors and ISSA leadership have asked and received feedback on the topic for over a year by attending club meetings, talking to snowmobilers at events and stopping into dealerships.

We also distributed a survey by email and social media last spring. This survey was used to get in contact with as many snow-



ISSA board members, from left, Craig Smith, Chris Willey, Brian Carmichael and Scott Nauman spent the first Saturday in January enjoying the snow-filled ditches of Marshall County. Note the two stickers on the windshield currently required to ride in Iowa.

mobilers in Iowa as possible. All of this information was brought back and shared at ISSA board meetings. The result of that survey showed 95 percent of the snowmobilers approved of the change. Snowmobilers from across Iowa understand the need for a more stabilized and predictable funding stream and are willing to pay. They just don't want to have to display two stickers to do it.

Based on this information, the ISSA Board of Directors voted to support the legislation in HF628. To review, as an Iowa resident, you pay \$15 to register a snowmobile and \$15 for the trail pass. Each of these has a \$2.75 processing fee. The snowmobile program only gets the \$15 from each, and the processing fees stay with the selling agent. So, in total, you pay \$35.50 per sled. We are proposing to go to just a \$30 registration fee with one writing fee.

Funding Challenge

The need to generate more funds for the program is a constant challenge. As we have discussed in the past, this is largely due to the rising cost of groomers (new or used), fuel, trail signs and general trail maintenance, etc. This need has not changed, as equipment ages and clubs add miles of trails to their systems. As of the last Review and Selection meeting, there are more than 8,000 miles of trail in Iowa.

We have asked clubs and snowmobilers in general how we can keep people involved in the sport, local clubs and the ISSA. The simple truth is people's priorities change, and there are always other things to take their time and money away from snowmobiling, especially in low-snow years. We have come up with a few ideas to keep the interest level up.

We are going to look into discounted registrations for snowmobile club members. I have also been asked about the placement of the sticker somewhere on the sled other than the windshield. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) decides on

where the sticker gets placed and has determined that around the headlight area is where they want it located. The placement around the headlight allows a law enforcement officer to quickly identify if the sled is currently registered from either side. It is the IDNR's decision and we have to work with them on it.

Another statement I've heard is, "Why should I pay more if I don't ride in Iowa." Well, if someone has a sled that they truly never ride in Iowa, then they don't have to register them in Iowa, if the state they DO ride in doesn't require them to have their sleds registered in the state where they live. There are many states that only require a user permit (trail pass) to ride in that state. Most of these trail passes cost as much or more than the proposed "one sticker" we are talking about.

Open Invitation

That is a choice each person needs to make for themselves and how they choose to support the snowmobile program in Iowa. I personally have two mountain sleds that I may or may not ride in Iowa, depending on the snow conditions. I have three other sleds which are only ridden in Iowa. I buy registrations and trail passes for all five of them—not because I have to, but because I choose to support snowmobiling in Iowa. I know that 70 percent of that money is coming right back to the clubs across the state. Where that money goes is decided by a board of snowmobilers from across the state elected by snowmobilers from their area. That money might be used for fuel in a groomer or mower. It might be for trail signs, a bridge or even helping pay for updating a club's groomer.

I would like to personally invite anyone else that would like to come to the next ISSA board meeting or let me know when your next meeting is and I will try to be there. In the meantime, we need to keep doing the snow dance. The snow is out there; sometimes we just have to look for it.

2018 ISSA Club Challenge

Snowdrifters.....	\$500
Worth County Fence Stretchers	\$500
Tri-County Snowmobile Association	\$376
Central Iowa Snowmobilers.....	\$350
Snow Pioneers	\$350
Floyd County Groomers	\$300
Bremer County Sno-Knights.....	\$250
Cedar Falls Sno Hawks	\$250
Dickinson County SnowHawks.....	\$250
Howard County Stump Jumpers.....	\$250
Team Iowa Snowmobilers.....	\$150
Iowa River Riders	\$100
Butler County Snow Snoops.....	\$100
Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club.....	\$100

Proceeds benefit the ISSA's lobbying effort. Contact your region director to make a donation.

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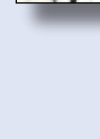


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Introduce Someone New to Snowmobiling This Month

The members of the International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association (Arctic Cat, Bombardier Recreational Products, Polaris, and Yamaha) join the organized snowmobile community in announcing the Take a Friend Snowmobiling Campaign for 2018.

State and provincial snowmobile association members of the American Council of Snowmobile Association (ACSA) and the Canadian Council of Snowmobile Organizations (CCSO) are encouraged to sponsor Take a Friend Snowmobiling activities throughout

their states and provinces. Events can be held any time between December 1, 2017 and March 31, 2018 with special emphasis on events during Take a Friend Snowmobiling Week Feb. 10-19.

The campaign was created to support all snowmobile associations of ACSA and CCSO and their clubs to enhance and expand their partnership with local Chambers of Commerce, Visitor and Convention Bureaus, snowmobile dealers and other businesses related to the snowmobiling community.

The benefits for your state association could mean such things as more trail signs, groomers and enhancements for trails in your state, with the biggest benefit of all: introducing your non-snowmobiling friends to your favorite winter activity. All clubs are encouraged to participate in the campaign and partner with local media, radio stations, television stations, etc., in promoting your Take a Friend Snowmobiling event and your club activities.

Extensive research has shown that a vast majority of non-snowmobilers who live in the Snow Belt are very interested in snowmobiling. When asked to rate their interest on a scale of 1 to 10 (10 being the highest level of interest) non-snowmobilers rate their interest at 9!

Research has also shown us that most individuals who live in the Snow Belt see snowmobiling as a great way to:

- Enjoy the scenery
- Get outdoors and have fun with family and friends
- Go to unique places and see amazing sights
- Have fun in the winter outdoors and be able to go home tired and ready for a good night's sleep.

The Take a Friend Snowmobiling campaign is promoted by the manufacturers who encourage all snowmobilers to take their non-snowmobiling friends out snowmobiling to enjoy the winter.

By planning a ride, we take the guesswork out of it for

those who might not try it any other way. Buying a snowmobile is a great investment so if we can show people how to get started properly, they might be more inclined to join us in our clubs, associations and on the trails or in the mountains and open riding areas.

We hope your club and association will participate in a Take a Friend Snowmobiling event. Talk with neighboring clubs to participate as well. Let your association office know about your plans. The events should increase the profile of your club and attract new support and members.

If you would like additional information, please visit www.gosnowmobiling.org web site. We invite you to post your event photos and videos highlighting your ride activities on our Facebook page: www.Facebook.com/GoSnowmobiling. Share your fun. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you and your friends out on the trails. THINK SNOW!!!



Ed Klim
ISMA
President

2018 ACSA 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.

Region 1

O'Brien County Snowtrackers

by Zelda Buse Christensen, Reporter

A snowmobile club's reporter has the job of reporting activities of the club. The snowmobilers in O'Brien County have spent much time getting all trails marked and making sure the groomer is ready to do its job. Now we spend time waiting and hoping for some snow to make it all worth the effort and to have some fun!



Our forecasts leading up to Christmas weekend, New Year's weekend and the following weekend were all pretty similar, often including terms like "winter storm watch, winter storm warning, several inches of snow, blizzard conditions, strong winds, cold."

But in the end, actual conditions were much milder than expected.

A couple times we did get some measurable snow, some of which landed in some ditches in a way that allowed minimal riding. I have observed very few tracks anywhere, but personally, I did ride three or four times, totaling about 75 miles. It's not the type of riding where one sets a destination and heads for it, but rather one where a rider determines at every corner which ditch seems to have enough snow to be maneuverable and heads that direction.

One part of the forecasts that was most accurate was the cold: quite steadily below zero, and often below negative 20 degrees. I braved only negative 10 degrees. A recent stretch of four days of 40 degrees above zero has brought all snow activity to a halt.

So again we wait and hope...for some snow to ride in.



Members of the Lakota Sno Eagles lit up their groomer for the Nov. 30 Holiday Parade in Bancroft.

Region 3

Lakota Sno Eagles

by Mike Smidt, President

Hello from the Lakota Sno Eagles! This is our first entry in the ISSA magazine. The Sno Eagles would like to catch everyone up on their latest club news.

On Nov. 18, the club had a membership drive at Road Runners in Lakota, serving a sloppy joe meal and awarding door prizes. Thank you to Greg and Donna for everything and thank you to Kelsey for taking on this task. It was much appreciated and a good time was had by all.

On Nov. 30, the club decorated and pulled the groomer through the Bancroft Holiday Parade. Special thanks to Robert and Deb Richter for letting us decorate the float at their place and also for hosting a soup supper afterwards. We had lots of fun!

The Sno Eagles had a club meeting on Dec. 14 at Brad's shop to get the groomer and the drag ready for the season. The groomer is ready to go. All we need now is SNOW! Thank you to the whole club for the help, to Kelsey for bringing pizza and to Brad for letting us use his shop.

As I write this, there is a winter storm watch issued for our county. I hope we get some snow. We are long overdue!

Hope to see you on the trails.

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Worth County Fence Stretchers

by Nicole Knudson, Secretary

As I write today, the snow is falling, and oh, it is so beautiful. We dream of snow-covered trails in northern Iowa, and soon we hope! Our club is working to get all our trails signed. It is always a bit of a struggle to find the excitement to mark trails, when some winters, the snow is scarce. Hopefully, this year we can enjoy the Iowa trails! We also look forward to a family sledding day and soup dinner this winter.

Well, that's all I have for now. Wishing you and yours a safe winter with fun memories made.

Region 5

Cresco Driftrunners

by Bob Martinek, Treasurer

Well, so far (as of Jan. 12), Mother Nature has been confused here in Cresco. I (and the whole club) have asked for lots of snow and 25 degree temps. However, all she has given is a tiny amount of snow with really COLD temps. Now, by the time you read this, I hope things have turned back to what we want because Charlie's Chili Feed will be Saturday Feb. 10 from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. (or when food runs out). Charlie's is located on the trail to Cresco just south of Granger, Minn. We have a fire going in the warming bin, an outdoor fire for cooking, pots of chili, brats, beverages and lots of fellowship. All for a free-will donation. All snowmobilers and friends of snowmobilers any age are welcome.

New this year at Charlie's is our M.A.S.H.-styled directional signpost which was pictured in last month's magazine. As far as the signpost goes, we do have room for some "guest" signs. Make and paint your sign on a 1" x 4" and bring it to the warming bin. Talk to Wayne V. or myself and we will get it mounted.

Lastly, I hate to say it but in the event of poor trail conditions, we will hold Charlie's at the Longbranch Bar in Granger. Check our Facebook page for details.

Thanks and see you on the trails.

Allamakee Sno-Blazers

by Andrew Eberling, Reporter

Brrrr...February is here with lots of cold weather, and no snow to go along with it.

The Sno-Blazers have been busy working on their upcoming event on Feb. 10. Our second annual radar run will be held in Waukon at Green Valley Getaway. Registration will be at 12:30 p.m. with different engine classes in vintage (1982 and older), modern, modified and, new this year, a ladies class. Runs will start at 2 p.m. with raffles, silent auction, and a 50/50 drawing.

We are selling raffle tickets for a chance to win an Anderson 450 Bushmaster, Smithfield 9 mm, 40-inch TV, and two gift cards for \$100 each. We will be selling those tickets until the day of the Radar Run. We will hold this event snow or no snow so get your sleds out and give them a run down the track. Find out the full detail by visiting our Facebook Page Allamakee Sno-Blazers! Hope to see everyone there and as always think snow!

Region 9

Snowdrifters, Inc.

by Ron Roe

Here another month has rolled by, prime time to snowmobile and not good snow. We had pretty good snow here for depth, but it was so fluffy and all powder. It couldn't be groomed, but if a guy was careful, maybe it could have been panned. You almost needed more snow to do much panning. Can't win on enough snow at the right time. We'll wait for the next one. The forecast this morning said on Sunday, there is a chance for three inches of snow. We'll just have to wait and see. There should be more fun in plowing snow since it seems like I get a lot of that done. The fun in that game has been gone a long time.

We had our monthly meeting Jan. 11. It seems like each weekend there is something snow-related here in Iowa. Everyone is planning good things to do if we get good snow. For sure, the spirit is there if the man would send us the white gold. The night of our meeting, it was a pretty nasty night to be out. The roads weren't real bad. The last seven or eight miles had snow and ice, but we still had 17 or so members at the meeting. Actually, the roads were better after the meeting, and no, we did not stay all night...just a little while.

I guess that is all the news I have for now. Maybe, next month we will have some trip tales from the members. More in March. Everyone have a safe winter and enjoy the riding.

In Search of Rideable Snow

Three generations of Dorothy men from Mount Pleasant spent Saturday afternoon, Jan. 6, enjoying the trails of the Southeast Iowa Ridge-Blasters.

Pockets of Snowmobiling Found in Otherwise Dismal First Half of Winter

by Cameron Hanson

Sure would be nice to have the job security of a meteorologist. Seems like every forecast for snow so far this season in Iowa has fallen short of the weatherman's predictions and failed to meet the expectations of nearly every snowmobiler in the state.

Take Jan. 11, for example. Local newscasts leading up to this Thursday event called for bands of snowfall in the ranges of three to five inches and five to eight inches. Schools were closed, and workshifts cancelled; but in the end, the system only brought freezing rain, strong winds and a trace of measurable snow.

Club members in north central Iowa were counting on this storm to cover their trails for the first Snowmobile Iowa ride of the season, but the planned event from Clarksville to Rock Falls on Jan. 13 was cancelled due to poor trail conditions.

The next day, the much-anticipated snow would have come in handy for the ISSA's annual Winter Kids Day at Huxley as well, but again, the lack of white stuff forced organizers to revert to utility vehicles (UTVs) instead of snowmobiles for rides with families from the Spina Bifida Association of Iowa, the ISSA's official charity.

Despite an unexpected two-inch snowfall later that evening, conditions did not improve the following week, as temperatures by that Friday crept toward the 40-degree mark and wiped away any measurable gain. As a result, the second Snowmobile Iowa event—hosted this time by the Trail Blazers of Region 5 on Jan. 20—had to be scratched.

The trend was beginning to resemble last winter, when all Snowmobile Iowa activities were scrapped due to poor snow and trail conditions. In this month's Club News, snowmobile clubs across Iowa lamented the dismal first half of the season.

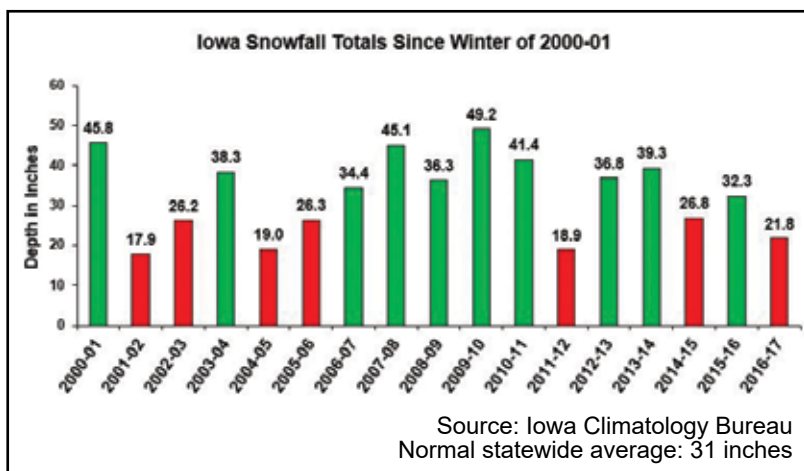
Exceptionally Slow Start

As of Jan. 16, a statewide average of just eight inches of snow had fallen in Iowa, according to state climatologist Harry Hillaker of the Iowa Climatology Bureau, putting this winter on pace to match last season's average of a mere 21 inches, or 10 inches below normal.

"The big story so far this winter is that it has been very dry," Hillaker said. "Not only are we not getting much snow, but there has been very little precipitation of any sort since mid-October. We got off to an exceptionally slow start to the snow season in December, and we've yet to get any single large snow event."

According to Hillaker, the most significant system during the first half of winter in Iowa arrived Dec. 29 with maximum totals of four to six inches falling diagonally across the state from Spirit Lake to Muscatine. Additional activity since then has been "more seasonal in regards to snow," but no major system arrived to blanket the state.

The snow that did fall lacked any real moisture to stick to the ground and ultimately blew around, leaving ditch trails fairly navigable for awhile but stripping cross-country trails bare. Watching the thermometer has been a bit of a roller-coaster ride as well with periods of extreme cold followed by mild stretches to reduce the snowcover.





Keith Dorothy of Mount Pleasant leads grandson Kevin Dorothy through a ditch in southeast Iowa on Jan. 6.

Pockets of Measurable Snow

Despite the inconsistent weather pattern, snowmobilers have been able to find pockets of rideable snow in Iowa. They just had to hunt for them with the best opportunities found the weekend after the Dec. 29 snow event.

On Jan. 6, the Iowa River Riders in Region 3 hosted a Fun Run, and living up to their club name, members found the Iowa River in great shape from Belmond to Iowa Falls. Club president Lenny Watts said he has ridden the river several times since then to salvage the first part of the season.

"It's been an awesome ride," he said. "I would sum this year up so far as needing a lot more snow, but the river has been the best riding for our area to date."

Also during the first weekend in January, ISSA President Chris Willey joined up with fellow board members Brian Carmichael, Scott Nauman and Craig Smith for some ditch-banging near Conrad on the Central Iowa Snowmobilers trail system.

"There were places to ride this winter in Iowa. You just had to get out there and find it," Willey said at the Jan. 14 ISSA Board of Directors meeting in Huxley, where most regions were reporting very limited riding so far in their sections of the state.

Like Willey, Region 10 Director Aaron Dorothy was able to get some riding in this winter near his home in Mount Pleasant. He and his father, Keith Dorothy, and sons, Kevin and Jared Dorothy, spent Jan. 6 touring the Southeast Iowa Ridge Blasters' trails.

"Believe it or not, the further south we got in our area, the more snow we saw," Dorothy said.

The multi-generational group amassed 56 miles in an afternoon of riding. They weren't alone that day as 52 snowmobiles were counted at a watering hole in Coppock.

Before 50-degree temps ruined their trails by mid-January, Dorothy said club members were able to take advantage of the season's early snowfall by packing what they could with their tracked side-by-side UTV and small drag.

Mowing their ditches during fall trail work also helped hold the snow for as long as they could. Creating a 12-foot wide path allows the taller grass on the edges to catch the snow and fill in the trimmed area.

"Mowing down here is huge for us because we have a lot of open areas, and we need the ditches to catch the snow," Dorothy said. "Every little bit of snow helps, and we've definitely learned to seize the moment down here. When we get snow, we ride."

Another bright spot from the first half of the season came at Clear Lake on Jan. 20, where more than 1,000 snowmobile enthusiasts attended the Jack Helgren Memorial Race out on the ice in front of Clear Lake State Park.

Unlike last year, organizers did not have to revert to their February back-up date, and the warm temps were credited with the great turnout. The parking lot was overflowing, and cars and tow vehicles were three deep out on the ice, stretching from the event site back to the entry point onto the lake.

A pair of early winter cold snaps built the ice on the lake to more than 20 inches, and the northerly wind blew enough snow along the banks to provide some recreational riding opportunities for those spectators who brought their sleds along.

Feeling the Sting

With some participants arriving from Green Bay, plenty of race teams spent the weekend in Clear Lake as well, giving local businesses a taste of the economic impact snowmobiling has on an area. Other regions in Iowa have not been so lucky this winter.

Thanks to the season's lackluster snow totals, snowmobile sales—which were reported as strong early—eventually tapered off, and restaurants and bars in rural Iowa were not seeing the steady traffic from riders they would normally get this time of year as well.

The ISSA is also feeling the sting. As of Jan. 13, only 1,115 snowmobilers had renewed or joined the organization for 2018, down by half from 2017's total of 2,224. A number of clubs had not turned in their latest rosters and dues, so that number is expected to increase. The delay is noteworthy, though.

From a high of 2,936 members in 2011, ISSA membership has steadily fallen throughout this decade, as half of the winters since then have failed to reach the statewide average of 31 inches.

Snowmobile registrations through the middle of January are also lagging behind as snowmobilers wait to register their sleds until



Iowa River Riders Fun Run Jan. 6 at Alden.



Central Iowa ditch Jan. 6.

rideable snow conditions exist. As of Jan. 12, 16,741 snowmobiles had been registered in Iowa.

For comparison, by mid-January five years ago, 19,800 sleds had been registered. For the 2009-10 season, total registrations reached 28,265, and the average snowfall for the state that winter was more than 49 inches. Snow makes a difference.

Also midway through this season, resident user permits are also down with just 10,049 sold during that stretch. At just 60 percent fulfillment, the ratio of trail passes to registrations is also behind the average annual percentage of 75 percent. As a result, revenue for the state trail program is short of projections, according to the ISSA Snowmobile Trail Grant Program.

Program co-administrator and Past ISSA President Terry Durby doesn't seem to be too concerned, though, as this trend is normal during marginal snow seasons. Plus, owners who wait until after Jan. 1 to register their sleds must also pay a \$5 late fee, which also pads the program's coffers.

"This is pretty typical for a low-snow year, but with snowmobile activities planned on both sides of the state later in January, registrations and trail passes should pick up fairly quickly," he said. "We didn't have great numbers at the end of December, but since the first of the year, we've seen pretty steady increases with 150 to 200 registrations paid each day since."

Expenses Remain

Last season, the year finished with 21,862 paid snowmobile registrations, 14,420 resident user permits and 243 non-resident trail passes purchased through the electronic licensing system, or ELSI, in Iowa. Snowmobilers who choose not to register or purchase a

trail pass risk a fine of \$127.50 each if caught riding on public trails, rights-of-way and bodies of water in Iowa without either.

The lack of snow this winter doesn't help the ISSA build its case for additional trail funding by merging the \$15 registration fee and the \$15 trail pass into one \$30 decal. The perception among some riders is the program should be saving plenty of money by not grooming. Willey cleared the air at the ISSA meeting in Huxley.

"No matter whether it snows or not, we still have to pay the trail insurance. We have to service every groomer, we need to take care of any updates or repairs to the equipment, we need to get signs out on the trails and we need to get our ditches mowed," he explained. "Seventy-five percent of what it costs us to run our program is going to be an expense whether it snows or not."

"When we get the question about how much we have been saving because it hasn't snowed and clubs haven't been grooming, the only thing we haven't done over a normal snowfall year is put fuel in the groomers," Willey continued. "It's not a small chunk, but it's not as big of a savings as people want to make it out to be. When we have low-snow years, like we're currently in, we reinvest money in the program, whether setting aside funds for future repairs or upgrades or new trail development."

Hopefully, the second half of the season will turn things around, and clubs will start putting fuel in their groomers and begin to enjoy the trails they work so hard at creating. At press time, forecasts were predicting up to 10 inches of snow for some parts Iowa for the fourth week of January. Let's hope they were right this time.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February

- Team Iowa Snowmobilers ice drags Feb. 3 at Little Wall Lake. Registration starts at 8 a.m. Visit the club's Facebook page for more information.
- Floyd County Groomers Landowner's Appreciation Breakfast Buffet at Dugan's Restaurant, Floyd, Feb. 3 from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.
- Snow Pioneers Radar Run and Fun Run Feb. 3 at Lake Delhi. Registration starts at noon. Fun Run ends at 8 p.m. For more information, visit www.snowpioneers.com.
- Driftrunners Charlie's Chili Feed Feb. 10 near Kendallville.
- Take-A-Friend Snowmobiling Week Feb. 10-19. Visit www.snowmobile.org.
- Allamakee Sno-Blazers Radar Run and Fundraiser Dance Feb. 10 at Green Valley Getaway, Waukon. Registration opens at 12:30 p.m. Racing starts at 2 p.m. Dance to follow. Snow or no snow.
- Webster County Ice Breakers Marlin Benson Fun Run Feb. 10 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. starting at Mulligan's in Gowrie. For more information, contact Jim at (515) 351-0072.
- Butler County Snow Snoops Vintage Ride from Dumont to Are-dale and back Feb. 11 at 11 a.m. For more information, contact Seth at (641) 512-1932 or Bill at (319) 239-5408.
- Butler County Snow Snoops Fun Run Feb. 17 starting in Allison. Registration from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Snow or no snow.
- Mitchell County E-Z Riders annual Fun Run/Meat Raffle Feb. 17 at the American Legion, St. Ansgar. Meal service begins at 5:30 p.m.

March

- Theisens National Snocross March 9-10 Sundown Mountain Resort, Dubuque.

Remaining Snowmobile Iowa Dates

- **Feb. 3 (Region 10):** Southeast Iowa Ridge Blasters ride departs from 700 N. Grand Ave., Mount Pleasant. For more information, contact Aaron at (319) 217-6361.
- **Feb. 10 (Region 7):** Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club ride departs from Mercy North, 800 East 1st St., Ankeny. For more information, contact Craig at (515) 707-7237 or Barry at (515) 240-5444.
- **Feb. 17 (Region 7):** Central Iowa Snowmobilers ride departs from Meskwaki Travel Plaza, 1494 Highway 30, Tama. For more information, contact Blake at (641) 485-3163.

Friend the Snowmobile Iowa Facebook page for up-to-date event information and trail conditions.

Proceed with Caution as You Ride onto Lakes, Rivers this Winter

by **Jim Willey**

Chair, ISSA Communications Committee

Coming on the heels of International Snowmobile Safety Week last month and as snowmobilers in Iowa continue to find alternative places to ride with the persistent poor snow conditions across the state, I thought it would be helpful to remind riders of ice safety if one of those areas you choose to snowmobile on this winter includes a frozen lake or river.

I personally enjoy riding on frozen bodies of water. I have lived on Lake Delhi for getting close to 30 years, and one of my favorite snowmobile rides continues to be to ride down our frozen “main street” from the Cedars to the dam and back. But I am always mindful of the changing trustworthiness of the ice and that changing weather conditions which have much greater impacts on the ice than most would expect.

Ice fishermen, snowmobilers and anyone else getting on the ice needs to be aware of the ice depth and what ice will support. Many do not realize that a moving snowmobile can cross much thinner ice, and even open water, where an ATV or a person walking would break through. If that snowmobile stops, however, the thickness of the ice needed to support it gets much greater.

When temperatures fluctuate like they have currently—with sub-zero days and above freezing days going back and forth—there is even less dependability on how thick the ice will be. Warm spells may take several days to weaken the ice, but when temperatures vary widely—causing ice to thaw during the day and refreeze at night—the result is a weak, spongy or honeycombed ice that is unsafe.

There is at least one place right in the middle of Lake Delhi that an aerator is being used by a property owner to keep ice from forming around his docks and lifts, which prevents ice from forming altogether. Areas near the aerator are going to be very unpredictable. Moving water also does not freeze, and Lake Delhi has many springs, which keep thick ice from forming.

You can't always determine the strength of ice simply by its look, its thickness, the temperature or whether the ice is covered with snow. New ice generally is stronger than old ice. New, clear ice may be strong enough to support a person, but a foot of old ice riddled with air bubbles may not. Clear ice that has a bluish tint is the strongest. Ice formed by melted and refrozen snow appears milky and often is porous and weak. Ice covered by snow always should be presumed unsafe. Snow acts like an insulating blanket and slows the freezing process, making the ice thinner and



Source: Iowa Department of Natural Resources

weaker.

If there is slush on the ice, stay off. Slush ice is only about half as strong as clear ice and indicates the ice no longer is freezing from the bottom.

A minimum of four inches of clear ice is needed to support an average person's weight, but since ice seldom forms at a uniform rate, it is important to check the thickness with a spud and ruler every few steps.

Ice near shore tends to be much weaker because of shifting, expansion and heat from sunlight reflecting off the bottom. If there's ice on the lake but water around the shoreline, proceed with caution. Avoid areas with protruding logs, brush, plants and docks as they can absorb heat from the sun and weaken the surrounding ice.

Anyone walking onto a frozen lake or river should wear a life jacket, wear bright colors, carry a cellphone and bring a set of ice picks or ice claws. Snowmobilers should wear flotation snowmobile suits if they ride on ice.

If you do break through the ice, try to remember these potentially life-saving tips from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR):

- Try to remain calm.
- Don't remove your winter clothing. Heavy clothes won't drag you down, but they can trap air to provide warmth and flotation. This is especially true with a snowmobile suit.
- Turn your body toward the direction you came from, as that ice is probably the strongest.
- If you have ice picks or ice claws, dig their points into the ice while vigorously kicking your feet and pull yourself onto the surface by sliding forward on the ice.
- Once out of the water, roll away from the area of weak ice. Rolling on the ice will distribute your weight to help avoid breaking through again.
- Get to shelter, warm yourself, change into dry clothing and consume non-alcoholic, non-caffeinated drinks.
- Call 911 and seek medical attention if you feel disoriented, have uncontrollable shivering or notice any other ill-effects that may be symptoms of hypothermia.

To learn more about staying safe while on the water or in the woods, visit the IDNR website at www.iowadnr.gov.



Willey 'selfie' on Lake Delhi in January

Please Notify ISSA of Officer, Address Changes

If your club has elected new officers or if you have an address change, please email ISSA Membership Chair Brittany Paulus at bepaulus@outlook.com so we can keep our Club Directory current. Thank you.

Entertaining Spina Bifida Families at Huxley

by Cameron Hanson

Past ISSA President Bruno Andreini said he was dreading the decision he had to make Jan. 11. Three days before ISSA members were scheduled to give snowmobile rides to special needs children in central Iowa, he had to announce the annual charity event would need to resort, yet again, to another form of recreation.

The absence of suitable trail conditions forced his hand as organizers began planning the ISSA's 12th Annual Winter Kids Day for families from the Spina Bifida Association of Iowa (SBAIA), the ISSA's official charity. So for the third straight year, ISSA members left their sleds at home, loaded up their side-by-side utility vehicles (UTVs) and headed to Huxley Jan. 14.

By design, this social event is intended to give spina bifida kids rides on snowmobiles so they can experience what ISSA members love about the winter, but when Mother Nature doesn't cooperate, they adapt with either UTV rides most recently or even a few hay rides over the years. In fact, seven of the last nine events have not included rides on snowmobiles or in tow-behind cutters.

Andreini, who serves as the ISSA's liaison on the SBAIA board and whose home club, the Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club of Region 7, helps host the event, said the persistent lack of snow has been disheartening lately and has probably hurt attendance over the years, but the purpose of the event, which began in 2007, remains intact.

"I'm disappointed we didn't have the snow again, but you have to remember, snow is really secondary to the goals that were set out from the very beginning of this program," he said. "The sole purpose of this event is to form a relationship between spina bifida families and snowmobile families on a first-name basis."

At last month's event, three UTVs piloted by ISSA officials made multiple laps around town, escorted by the local police department. The extra room in the UTVs allowed parents to join their kids on the rides if they wanted, and the ISSA provided the requisite helmets, gear and blankets for warmth and safety on the 10-



ISSA President Chris Willey leads a trio of UTVs on a tour of Huxley Jan. 14.

minute tour of the city.

Before the rides began, the families enjoyed an ISSA-catered meal, crafts, games and even a visit from a pair of clowns inside the Huxley Safe Room community center. An estimated 50 people participated in this year's event, and SBAIA board member Jason Plueger of Ankeny thanked snowmobilers for their support over the years.

Significant Benefactor

The ISSA is the SBAIA's largest benefactor, and its members have been supporting the charity since 1982. Money raised by Iowa snowmobile clubs over the past three decades has exceeded \$250,000, and the spina bifida association earmarks those funds for travel expenses, equipment purchases and educational programs aimed at assisting families living with the condition.

In 2015, ISSA-member clubs donated \$10,000 to the SBAIA, and the following year, close to \$8,000 was raised. Last winter, \$6,876 was turned in, and so far this year, \$8,443 has been contributed by snowmobilers to the non-profit organization. Andreini said he hopes the interaction with the families at Winter Kids Day will inspire clubs to continue to step up their support.

"We want to increase our charitable giving and events like this should make us work harder for these people," Andreini said. "I think we are still accomplishing that, even though we don't have the snow today to give them rides on snowmobiles."

SBAIA Executive Director Carlyn Crowe was unable to make



SBAIA board member Jason Plueger of Ankeny situates his eight-year-old son Zach into a side-by-side.

2018 Spina Bifida Donations

Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Association.....	\$2,200
Hancock County Snowmobile Association	\$2,017
Eastern Iowa Sledheads.....	\$500
Cedar Falls Sno Hawks.....	\$500
North Iowa Sno-Jammers.....	\$500
Driftrunners.....	\$500
Tri-County Snowmobile Association	\$376
Floyd County Groomers	\$300
Bremer County Sno-Knights.....	\$250
Snowdrifters.....	\$250
Central Iowa Snowmobilers.....	\$200
Trail Blaz-zers.....	\$200
Trails Unlimited	\$200
Team Iowa Snowmobilers.....	\$150
Snow Pioneers	\$100
Iowa River Riders	\$100
Butler County Snow Snoops.....	\$100

it to Huxley but did share her perspective with snowmobilers during brunch at the 2017 ISSA Annual Convention in Cedar Rapids last November. She and others also staffed a booth at the ISSA Snow Show there and handed out informational literature on their program's resources.

"We are here today to give our appreciation to you for what you all do for our organization, our members and all the families affected by spina bifida," Crowe told snowmobilers at convention.

Outreach and Education

Spina bifida is a birth defect where the spinal cord does not develop properly. Children with the condition have limited sensation in their lower body, and as a result, mobility and incontinence are major obstacles for the families to overcome. More than 150,000 people suffer from spina bifida nationally, and the SBAIA has members across Iowa.

"Spina bifida is the most common permanently debilitating birth defect in the U.S.," Crowe said. "We still don't know what causes it, and we still don't know how to prevent it. Spina bifida ranges in severity from people who have it and don't even know it to people who are debilitated to the point they cannot walk and have no control of their bodily functions from the waist down."

While a small fraction of the donations from Iowa snowmobilers is forwarded to the national spina bifida organization to support medical research, the vast majority of the funding is passed on directly to its members. Crowe said families often need to travel out

of state for the services their child requires, and the donations from snowmobilers helps offset those expenses.

"It depends on the services they need, but they all end up with travel expenses to get the care that they need," she said. "Helping with travel assistance is an important program we offer to get to those medical appointments."

With ISSA donations, SBAIA is also able to perform outreach and offer educational programming. Each fall, the SBAIA raises additional

funds through its annual Walk-N-Roll at Principal Park in Des Moines, in which the Saylorville club also participates. Crowe said their organization's latest initiative is to create a program to help young adults transition out of the home.

"We want to help mentor young adults who are moving from being taken care of by their parents their whole lives to living independently," she said.

New Challenges

Changes to Medicaid is also a challenge facing her organization. At convention, Crowe shared a story on a member who works part-time in the Ames school district and relies on federal assistance to help with her mobility issues. This member requires daily assistance to move around, and "that support was cut back recently due to changes in Medicaid," Crowe said.

"Even though we have a lot of great things going on in our program, there are still some shortcomings," she continued. "But thanks to the support of snowmobilers, we can continue to serve



Carol Nauman of the Floyd County Groomers crafts with Megan Krapfl of the Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club and nine-year-old Christian Davis of the SBAIA.

our members' needs and help fill in the blanks for them."

At the event in Huxley, Andreini said he was encouraged by the response and commitment of snowmobilers and was pleased to see their interaction with spina bifida families. One of these years, he said he hopes the winter weather will cooperate enough to reward ISSA members for their hard work and financial support of the ISSA's charity.

"I still feel good about what we do here. I feel good about everyone coming in and being a part of this. It amazes me how everybody gets behinds this special event and does everything they are supposed to do when the day comes," he said.

"I always wait until the very last minute to decide if we are going to do sleds or UTVs because those are the people who foot the bill for this, who do all the work and everything," Andreini said. "When we switch horses at the last minute, we still get the job done. Snowmobilers are a great bunch of people, and they work hard. They don't ask for anything in return. They just do their thing."



Zac Parry of Urbandale adjusts a helmet on his five-year-old son Spencer before heading out for their UTV ride at the ISSA's Winter Kids Day.



Above, Gary Lorenz of the SBAIA joins the Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club booth at the Oct. 7 Walk-N-Roll at Principal Park in Des Moines. Inset, the SBAIA booth at the ISSA Snow Show in Cedar Rapids.



Editor's Note: The ISSA recognized several of its members at the 2017 ISSA Annual Convention in Cedar Rapids in November. Club, Lifetime and Director awards were profiled in previous issues of this magazine. What follows now are individual honorees. Pictured with each winner is ISSA President Chris Willey. Please note there were no nominees for Dealer of the Year in 2017.

In 2014, Steve King of Marble Rock was named the ISSA Groomer Operator of the Year. Three years later, he earned Snowmobiler of the Year honors for his ongoing commitment to his home club and his membership in five other clubs in his area.

King joined the Floyd County Groomers of Region 4 nearly 25 years ago and became its Trail Coordinator earlier this decade. He was influential in securing the club's new groomer in 2012 and campaigned for the club's 10 percent match. He routinely opens up his shop for groomer maintenance and club functions and oversees trail development, landowner leases and signage.

"Steve is extremely active in recruiting new members during the snowmobile season, in the off-season and whenever he attends a snowmobile function," his nomination reads. "He is involved in training new groomer operators for our club, which, in turn, brings in new members. Steve is passionate for the sport of snowmobiling and shares his passion with others."

King's first experience on a snowmobiler came as a toddler in 1969. He was hooked ever since. He rides as much as he can, often amassing seasonal mileage in the thousands. He has now passed that zeal for the sport onto other members of his family and in his community.

"Steve is a very conscientious rider and always looks out for the others he is riding with," the nomination continues. "He is always is inviting others along for a ride and is extremely dedicated to the sport of snowmobiling, as well as working to make our trails as great as possible for riders."

At just 21 years old, Mitch Sebastian of Spencer continues to make a name for himself in the sport of cross-country snowmobile racing. He currently competes as a semi-pro in the national USXC series and earned his first win last winter.

Starting out in drag racing, Sebastian, a member of the Clay County Sno Broncs of Region 1, made the switch to cross-country racing in 2012. In 2013, he was named the Cor Powersports "Rookie of the Year" and later spent two seasons with the Yamaha Factory Racing Team, garnering a Sport Class championship.

Recognized as the 2017 ISSA Young Adult Snowmobiler of the Year, Sebastian uses his notoriety from racing to promote snowmobiling in his community. Offering his race sled for a float, he has participated in local parades, and on the charity front, he helped organize a snowmobile ride for a local youth with spina bifida.

"Mitch is an ambassador for the sport in many ways, from speaking out for responsible use of our resources, providing awareness to spina bifida and an amazing racing career that works as a community and national platform to promote snowmobiling in a positive manner," his nomination reads. "Mitch has taken his love for the sport to the business community, where many embrace and sponsor his efforts as a racer and a good steward of snowmobiling."

Ever been mistaken for a downed aircraft while out grooming? Jim Wickwire of Charles City has. One night three winters ago, he was grooming between Rudd and Floyd a half-mile north of the Avenue of the Saints when a passing motorist on the divided highway confused the flashing beacon on the drag and the lightbar on the groomer for an airplane in the middle of a cornfield.

Local law enforcement eventually flagged Wickwire down and confirmed he was in the area of the reported "incident." Now when he's out grooming and finds a sheriff's deputy having coffee at the nearby truck stop, he alerts him to his direction of travel in case there's a UFO sighting later that evening.

A member of the Floyd County Groomers of Region 4, Wickwire has been "piloting" his club's groomer for more than 20 years. He doesn't share that story very often, but when it was mentioned during the ISSA Awards Banquet at convention last November, it begged further inquiry.

Wickwire was honored as the ISSA's 2017 Groomer Operator of the Year. Besides story-telling, he was recognized for his reliability, attention to detail and commitment to the local trail system.

"Jim is always ready to give a hand with maintenance, operating the groomer and preparing the trails," his nomination reads. "He is one of the club's most experienced and reliable groomer operators. You can always count on him any time the groomer needs pre-season, in-season or post-season maintenance."



**Snowmobiler of the Year:
Steve King, Marble Rock**



**Young Adult Snowmobiler
of the Year: Mitch
Sebastian, Spencer**



**Groomer Operator of
the Year: Jim Wickwire,
Charles City**



**Youth Snowmobiler
of the Year: Leanne
Sebastian, Spencer**

Hailing from a family of snowmobilers, Leanne Sebastian of Spencer is this year's ISSA Youth Snowmobiler of the Year. She grew up around snowmobiles, is active in her home club and community and supports her older brother's cross-country racing team as a crew member.

Like Mitch, the 17-year-old is a member of the Clay County Sno Broncs of Region 1 and remains active in several club functions. She volunteers at their annual pancake breakfast fundraiser, participates in a local food drive during the holidays and helps maintain the club's "adopt-a-ditch" litter campaign. She even completed a school project on snowmobiling.

"Leanne has become more involved in the sport and taken on more responsibility in our club," her nomination reads. "She is always quick to volunteer to help with any project the Sno Broncs have coming up. It might be addressing envelopes for the annual membership drive, serving breakfast to customers at the pancake fundraiser or walking a ditch full of knee high grass to pick up someone else's trash in order to keep our environment clean.

"She is a wonderful representative of our sport and our future," the form continues. "She brings confidence and commitment to the table that future generations of snowmobilers will care as much as we do today."

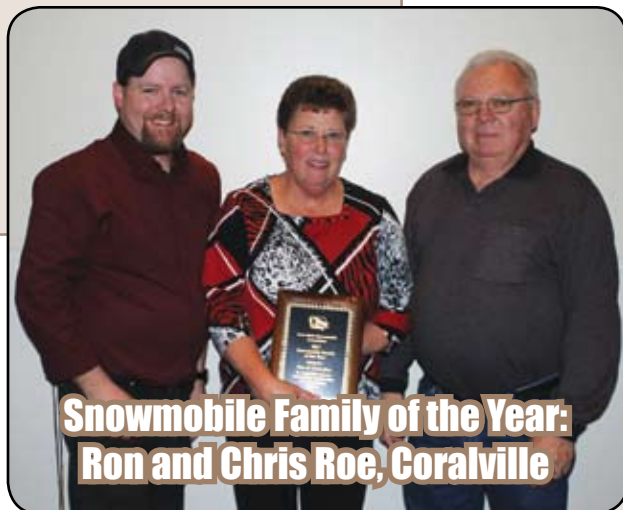
The 2017 ISSA Family of the Year Award goes to Ron and Chris Roe of Coralville. The couple has been riding snowmobiles since 1972 and belong to three clubs in their area, including their home club, the Iowa Snowdrifters of Region 9.

Actively recruiting new members at various club functions, Chris has handled the membership duties of the Snowdrifters for the past 20 years. She and Ron were instrumental in the Snowdrifters becoming 100 percent ISSA members, making sure other club members recognized the benefits of belonging to the state organization.

As loyal supporters, they often attend state functions and endorse the various endeavors of the ISSA. The couple faithfully submits Club News to the *Iowa Snowmobiler* magazine each month and have helped sell raffle tickets in the past.

On the club level, they volunteer at the local swap meet and at the Big Town Showdown Truck and Tractor Pull in August, the club's major off-season, fundraising event. They help sell ads on the Snowdrifters club map and can be found marking and maintaining trails each fall.

"Ron and Chris are passionate about snowmobiling and are always willing to do whatever it takes to improve the sport or help out the clubs," their nomination reads. "They are 'doers'. If they say they are going to do something, you can be assured that it will get done and get done right."



**Snowmobile Family of the Year:
Ron and Chris Roe, Coralville**

Current ISSA Secretary Sue Paulus of Rockford was named the ISSA Lady Snowmobiler of the Year in 2017. She is a 20-year member of the Floyd County Groomers of Region 4, and as an elementary teacher, she is a respected member of her local community and brings energy to everything she does.

At the club level, Paulus helps with various activities, including the annual landowners' appreciation event and selling ads for the snowmobile trail map, the club's primary fundraiser. As a state officer, she shares ISSA news with her fellow club members and also maintains the club's Snowmobile Iowa booth at the ISSA Annual Convention.

Paulus also volunteers at the ISSA's Winter Kids Day in January and is willing to contact her local legislators as issues arise. Belonging to a family of snowmobilers, she is always looking for ways to improve her local club and make the trails a safe and enjoyable system.

"Sue had snowmobiles when growing up at home and all throughout her life. As her family has grown, so has her love and enthusiasm for the sport of snowmobiling," her nomination reads. "She is always willing to help out whenever and wherever needed."



**Lady Snowmobiler
of the Year:
Sue Paulus, Rockford**

Editor's Note: Nominations are collected each off-season by the ISSA Awards Committee and then judged anonymously by a committee of directors who do not have nominees from their region. Nomination forms are posted on the ISSA's website and due back to the awards committee by June 1. Winners from Iowa each year are forwarded on to the American Council of Snowmobile Associations' competition in similar categories. The winners of those entries are announced at the following International Snowmobile Congress.

Past ISSAEF Scholarship Recipients

1998
Denise Blocker
1999
Jeremy Miller
2000
Jill Kutzbach
2001
Shellie Hudecek
2002
Ben Diekhuis
Lacey Felkey
2003
Adam Belitz
Randy Swestka
2004
Carrie Gunderson
2005
Amy Strothman
Lance Speed
Jessica Jungers
2006
Brooke Jensen
2007
Alexandrea Ackerman
Kaitlyn Vorwald
Kayla Miller
2008
Tricia Gunderson
Michael Scott
Brittany Weaver
2009
Ashley Wiuff
Russell Benson
Jordan Kintzle
2010
Nicole Schotanus
Nathan Nall
Kara Marie Netsch
2011
Kelli Ann Gerdes
Joran Durby
Holly Jo Heims
2012
Austin Bonnstetter
Brienne Sharff
Jordan Nall
2013
Makaya Henniges
Lori Roseland
Trevor Rohach
Hunter Carmichael
Taryn Kline
2014
Hunter Thome
Kara Denner
Ty Lauritsen
2015
Samuel Nissly
Emily Bonnstetter
Ashley Heims
Allison Heims
2016
River Kelly
Kelsey Delperdang
Tori Henniges
2017
Carly Hassel
Emily Parks
Kelsey Craun

Foundation Helps Out Three Students in 2017, Hopes for More This Year

by Cameron Hanson

Economic impact surveys on snowmobiling in Iowa in 2005 and 2010 both found snowmobilers have income and education levels higher than statewide averages for households in Iowa.

The ISSA Education and Scholarship Foundation is proud to do its part to further that trend by continuing to offer academic scholarships to qualifying students from ISSA-member families.

Since 1998, the foundation has benefitted 46 deserving kids in Iowa. Last year, three \$1,000 checks were written, and the board is once again encouraging high school seniors to apply for financial assistance this spring.

"The main purpose behind creating a scholarship program nearly 20 years ago was to get people interested in pursuing their education beyond high school," explained Past ISSA President Bruno Andreini, executive director of the foundation.

New for 2018, the foundation is looking to add a fourth scholarship opportunity for ISSA students who are already enrolled in college. Students who have previously earned an ISSA scholarship, however, are not eligible to apply for this new offering.

"Our plan is to increase our giving this year," Andreini said. "I still hope we can give our three standard scholarships and have enough money left over for another one to give to students who are already in college."

Applications Due April 15

Annual scholarship amounts are determined by the proceeds from the foundation's investments as well as the success of its fundraising efforts. The program was first created with the seed money left over from the ISSA's hosting of the International Snowmobile Congress in Cedar Rapids in 1995.

Andreini cited ongoing and rising tuition costs as the reason behind offering this fourth scholarship. The original scholarships, he said, are designed to get students interested in post-secondary education, and the fourth is to help offset expenses after they are already enrolled.

"With these scholarships, we are helping our family of snowmobilers," Andreini added. "Hopefully, they will remember that and continue to be ISSA members after they graduate, but primarily, our goal is to help get our kids educated."

Scholarship applications are available for download on the ISSA's website. Applicants should check the box on the form if they are high school seniors or students already enrolled in an institution. Application materials must be postmarked by April 15.

Recipients from 2017 include Carly Hassel and Emily Parks from the Dickinson County SnowHawks of Region 1 and Kelsey Craun from the Trail Blazers of



Carly Hassel

Region 5. They were recognized at the 2017 ISSA Annual Convention in Cedar Rapids.

Also at convention, Sally Carmichael's annual quilt raffle raised \$350 for the scholarship program, and a Camso track raffle brought in another \$900. Donations from clubs equalled \$400, and the Silent Auction added \$805, bringing the total haul from convention weekend to \$2,455.

Chance at Additional Scholarship

According to Andreini, the chances of earning a scholarship are above average, given the relatively small number of entries each spring. Applications are judged anonymously, and the decisions of the scholarship committee are final. Scholarship funds are deposited when the school of choice confirms enrollment.

The top applicant each year is also forwarded onto the International Snowmobile Media Council's (ISMC) C.J. Ramstad Memorial Scholarship competition. To align itself with that program, the ISSA's scholarship application mirrors ISMC requirements.

Applicants are graded on neatness, completeness, accurate spelling, correct grammar and school and community involvement. They must also submit essays on "What Snowmobiling Means to Me". Last year's essays accompany this article.

The award is also based, in part, on need,

Scholarship Donations

Floyd County Groomers	\$200
Central Iowa Snowmobilers ...	\$100
Snow Pioneers	\$100



Mindy Scott, right, of the Eastern Iowa Sledheads won the annual Sally Carmichael quilt raffle at the 2017 ISSA Annual Convention in Cedar Rapids in November.

and since 2012, each applicant has been asked to acquire an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) rating number from the Iowa College Access Network at www.icansucceed.org. To get this number, the student will be need to fill out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.ed.gov. After filling out the FAFSA, the applicant will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) and be issued an EFC number.

Based on feedback from students in the past, Andreini said the Foundation is making a difference in the lives of the ISSA's young members.

"We don't get a huge amount of thank you notes in return, but from the ones we do see, it makes you want to work harder when they tell you how much good we've been able to do for them," he said. "It's very gratifying to get that feedback."

If a student, club or parent has any questions on the ISSA scholarship program, they can contact Andreini by email at awbrun-oa3@gmail.com or by phone at (515) 240-3858.



Craig Hawkins of the Central Iowa Snowmobilers won the Camso track raffle for the ISSA's scholarship program at convention. Standing in for Hawkins is Central Iowa secretary Angie Ryerson. Also pictured is Past ISSA President Jim Willey of Camso.

What Snowmobiling Means to Me

ISSA Scholarship Essay

by Emily Parks, Dickinson County SnowHawks

A family that snowmobiles together stays together.

I really feel strongly about that line because it is so true in my life. I have been around snowmobiling ever since I was a little baby. I have grown from riding with my parents, to driving the little 120s around the yard, to now driving my very own snowmobile.

I feel that I have been lucky to have a family that does this. And when I say family, I mean parents, brother, cousins, grandpa, grandma, aunts, uncles, etc. I think that snowmobiling is a hobby that is an easily passed on tradition from one generation to the next.

I love looking at the old pictures and seeing how things have changed. I think it is easy to say that there has been change in the advancements of snowmobiles, but the passion for snowmobiling has not changed. It is a time where we can all get together and have fun. Although we all live a very busy life, we make the time for snowmobiling in the wintertime.

Not only are we lucky enough to have the lakes area to snowmobile around, but we have also been fortunate to make multiple trips out to the Black Hills with friends and family. I think that is also something that is very awesome about snowmobiling, being able to take them where you want. Around the lakes area we are all used to riding lakes and ditches. Taking them out to the Black Hills allows me to explore different riding options. You can choose to stay on the path, but you can also let loose and go up the hills, hoping you won't get stuck.

Snowmobiling to me is not only having fun, but growing those relationships. It gives you a chance to wind down from the busy life, take a step back and be with the ones you love most. Not only do I grow close with my family from snowmobiling, but also community members that also have the love for snowmobiling like I do. A memorable thing that I will cherish from snowmobiling is a time where the entire SnowHawks Club got together to ride from Spirit Lake to Lake Park. Being towards the back of the pack, all you see are snowmobiles and more snowmobiles. What an awesome view.

Snowmobiling is something that I will pass down to my kids someday and then their kids, etc. I hope that this hobby continues to grow, helping families and friends stay close together to grow memories and have the love for snowmobiling like I do.



Emily Parks with Region 1 Director Dan Delperdang.



Kelsey Craun with Past ISSA President Bruno Andreini.

What Snowmobiling Means to Me

ISSA Scholarship Essay

by Kelsey Craun, Trail Blaz-zers

My parents first introduced me to snowmobiling when I was three years old. At that age, I lived for the day when my parents would take me to a small restaurant-bar in Alpha, Iowa. On snowy days, I loved to be pulled around on a sled behind my parent's snowmobile with my older brother.

As I grew older, I continued to be involved in the sport of snowmobiling. By the time I was in middle school, I rode in front of my dad, and I figured out that I could basically control how my dad drove the sled. If he went too fast, I would tap his knee, and he would slow down. If he took corners too fast, I would respond with the same action. I had to wait until I was at least 12 years old to operate my own snowmobile with parental supervision.

When I turned 12, I was eager to receive my Snowmobile Safety Certificate so I could ride my own snowmobile. Before winter came, I had earned my certificate and was ready to ride. The first couple of times I rode by myself, I was nervous, even though I had been watching my parents for about nine years. I quickly got the hang of it, and my snowmobile never stayed in the shed for more than 48 hours in the winter time. Every day in the winter, I would arrive home from school and ride my snowmobile. It looked like there was a race track around our yard and field.

Now that I have been able to ride my own snowmobile for about six years, I have grown to love snowmobiling. My family and I enjoy it so much that we take vacations up north around the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and Wisconsin instead of heading south to warmer places. The past few years, I have helped set signs out on the trails and pick them back up in the spring.

I have been more interested in snowmobile events lately. I have been to grass drags and attended the Iowa State Snowmobile Association Annual Convention in past years. Just this last year, I went up to Hay Days and watched

Levi LaVallee jump with his snowmobile. Next year, I look forward to attending a snocross race.

This past year, I took my interest for snowmobiling to the next level. I decided to take a poster to the Chickasaw County 4-H Achievement Show. The poster showcased safety precautions that you should be aware of when riding snowmobile. I learned a lot from the presentation and it went on to the Iowa State Fair. The poster has also been shown at the Fayette County Fair.

Snowmobiling has become more than a hobby to me. I look forward to every winter just for that reason. I love riding around Iowa and traveling up north to ride as well. I hope to continue my family's tradition in riding snowmobiles.

What Snowmobiling Means to Me

ISSA Scholarship Essay

by Carly Hassel, Dickinson County SnowHawks

Many people dislike the harsh winters in Iowa that come with cold temperatures and several inches of snow, but I am one of the few who enjoy winter because winter to me means snowmobiling season.

Iowa's winters can be pretty bipolar so when there is a snowstorm in the forecast, it makes me that much more excited to have a full day of riding with my family and friends.

When I think of snowmobiling I don't view it as just simply an activity that I do to pass time when it snows. I think of it as a way to create memories with family and friends and show that even though I'm a girl, I can ride. I love arriving at our destination and seeing the look on the other rider's faces when I take my helmet off and they see the long blond hair of a female rider. But not only that, I also love the "braap" sound of a snowmobiling whizzing by me on the wide-open frozen lake, the smell of the gasoline that fills our tanks, and going ski to ski racing the rider next to me on a freshly groomed trail or in a meadow of deep power. Snowmobiling to me is a sport. Those who don't consider snowmobiling a sport have never felt the burn and ache on their leg and back muscles the morning after a good ride.

From riding in front of my dad on his sled and bumping helmets with him when I was little to riding solo in a group, snowmobiling has been a part of my life every winter since I can remember. The winter I was 12 years old, I took the day-long snowmobile safety course. It was a long day but having the "official certificate to ride" was all worth it, I carried it proudly in the inside pocket of my snowmobile jacket.

That same winter my family went on a snowmobile trip to the Black Hills, I remember saying out loud, "I hope someone stops me and asks to see if I'm old enough to ride by myself so I can show them my license. The owner of the lodge bursted my bubble by responding, "Oh honey, there is no age requirement to ride a sled out here; anyone can ride a snowmobile." I was a little bummed by her remark, but not for long because I knew that there were 100 of miles of trails ahead of me that day.

I have so many memories of snowmobiling with family and friends, and each ride we've taken, there is also something to laugh about. Snowmobiling to me means spending time with friends and family, making memories and doing what we love even if it feels as if our fingers might freeze off. Whether I am going snowmobiling through the beautiful trails and hills in South Dakota or simply just riding the groomed ditches in my county, I love to ride.



ISSA CLUBS

Clubs in red reported
100% ISSA Membership

REGION ONE

Buena Vista Blizzard Busters

President: Jeffrey Sassman
709 Hudson St., Storm Lake, IA 50588
(712) 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, wollmuth@mtcnet.net

Powder Players Inc.

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

REGION TWO

Emmet County Driftbusters

President: Carson Glasnapp
1551 560th Ave., Armstrong, IA 50514
(712) 209-2282
glasnapp11@gmail.com

Humboldt Sno-Skimmers

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

Kossuth County Drift Skippers

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

Palo Alto Rough Riders

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

Hancock County 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: Michael Smidt
3509 185th Ave., Tilton, 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: Angie Lien
northiowasnowseekers@yahoo.com
(641) 494-6133

Worth 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: Randall Thomsen
10037 W Marquis Rd
Janesville, IA 50647
(319) 404-4701
snowthomsen@yahoo.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
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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

Floyd County Groomers Association

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

Howard County Stump Jumpers

President: Jim Owen
602 Cherry St., Riceville, IA 50466
(641) 220-0149
buckarro0149@hotmail.com

Mitchell County E-Z Riders, Inc.,

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

REGION FIVE

Allamakee Sno-Blazers

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

Asbury Snowhawks

President: Tom Spalla
3309 Brook Hollow Dr.,
Asbury, IA 52002
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Clayton County Snowbirds

12469 Hwy. 18, Postville, IA 52162
President: Dan Torkelson
302 E Church St.
Farmersburg, IA 52047
(563) 880-2422

Driftrunners, Inc.

Join Us on Facebook under 'Groups'
President: Jeff Zak
607 2nd Ave W, Cresco, IA 52136
563-271-2154,
driftrunnerssnowmobile-club@gmail.com

Dyersville Driftskippers

www.dyersvilledriftskippers.net
President: Josh Ruley
(563) 663 4024, fourtrakcity@aol.com

Snow Pioneers

President: Chad Eschen
1582 210th St., Manchester, IA 52057
(563) 608-2525
cjeschen@gmail.com

Trail Blaz-zers Inc.

President: Randy Henniges
1980 Y Ave., Sumner, IA 50674
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randyhenniges@gmail.com

Trails Unlimited

Trails Unlimited
15778 282nd St., WestUnion, IA 52175
President: Bud Winter
(319) 231-3337, bwinter@acegroup.cc

Wapsipinicon Snowmobile Association

P.O. Box 802, Independence, IA 50644
www.wsaiaowa.com
President: Morgan J. Kuper
1916 Central Ave., Jesup, IA 50648.
(319) 239-0590, mkuper3@jtt.net

Winneshiek Trail Twisters Inc.

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

REGION SIX

Sac County Snow Lovers

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

REGION SEVEN

High Bridge Trailblazers

President: Ryan Lowman
603 Allison St, Boone, IA 50036
(515) 230-1181, lowman700@gmail.com

Raccoon Valley Snow Chasers

President: Mike Patten
5204 Neva Pt., Panora, IA 50216
(641) 755-3863, mpat76@aol.com

Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club

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

Team Iowa Snowmobilers

www.teamiowasnowmobilers.com
President: David Eide
3339 Stagecoach Rd.
Stratford, IA 50249
teamiowasnowmobilers@hotmail.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

REGION EIGHT

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: Jamie Erhardt
312 Mill St., Traer, IA 50675
(319) 415-8189, jhard88@yahoo.com

REGION NINE

Cedar County Winter Warriors

ccwwarriors@yahoo.com
President: Jerry Meier
1241 Jackson Ave., Tipton, IA 52772
(319) 325-6021, jerry-meier2040@gmail.com

Cascade Snowmobile Club

President: Steve Peiffer
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(563) 599-1875

Eastern Iowa Sledheads

P.O. Box 519, Lone Tree, IA 52755
easterniowasledheads@aol.com
President: Mindy Scott
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Lone Tree, IA 52755
scott4@iowatelecom.net

(319) 629-4630(h), (319) 325-1903(c)

Eastern Iowa Sno-Riders

President: Logan Goettsch
1945 278th St, Calamus, IA 52729
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Frozen Few

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

Jones County Snow Chasers

P.O. Box 225, Olin, IA 52320
President: Chris Nelson
41 Anderson Rd., Anamosa, IA 52205
cnelson85@hotmail.com

Scott County Sno-Seekers

www.snoseekers.org
P.O. Box 2332, Davenport, IA 52809-2332
President: Conor Flaherty
(563) 505-4806, eagle3382@aol.com

Snowdrifters, Inc.

P.O. Box 5135, Coralville, IA, 52241
www.iowa-snowdrifters.org
President: Sarah Allender
freiburgers@gmail.com
(319) 640-1654

Snowmobilers of Jackson County

President: Aaron Michels
39014 308th St., Bellevue, IA 52031
(563) 599-4935
jcsnowmobile@gmail.com

REGION TEN

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
Appanoose County Trails, Inc.
P.O. Box 825, Centerville, IA 52544

Southeast Iowa Ridge Blasters

se.iowa.ridge.blasters@gmail.com
President: Cody Krueger
19272 Danville Rd.
New London, IA 52645
(414) 313-5973
cj4@uwmalumni.com.

REGION 1**Glen's Sport Center, Inc.**

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

Project Mayhem Power Sports

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

59 Powersports

Arctic Cat
1990 US Hwy 59
Sibley, IA 51249
(712) 758-3111

Storm Lake Honda

Arctic Cat
207 E. Milwaukee Ave.
Storm Lake, IA 50588
(712) 732-2460
www.stormlakehonda.com

REGION 2**Advanced Crop Management**

P.O. Box 533, Algona, IA 50511
(515) 341-9315
brycem@netamumail.com

Algona Machine & Supply

2204 Plum Creed Rd., Algona IA 50511
(515) 295-9521

Becker Bros. Trucking

1403 280th St, Burt, IA 50522
(515) 341-0485

Brian's Construction

206 4th Ave NE, Pocahontas, IA 50574
(712) 335-3229
brianslama@hotmail.com

Champion Chrysler Center

Ski-Doo
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