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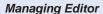
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#### Youth Program Update

Dorothy Assumes Committee Chair; Convention Raffle Raises Funds for Activities



ISSA Renews Contract with Lobbyists; Jourdain Stops by Okoboji Convention

#### Spina Bifida Series

Biller Looks for Donations to Support Hike Through Grand Canyon in April

#### Trail Map Inside

Floyd County Groomers Sponsor This Month's Center Spread

#### Return to Iron River

Bayfield County Trip Last February Includes Ice Road to Madeline Island

#### Magazine Deadlines

March.....Feb. 8

Submit Club News/Ride Stories to editor@iowasnowmobiler.com.

























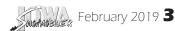
"Take a Friend Snowmobiling" WEEK FEB. 9-18

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COVER: Heading north toward Lake Superior on Corridor 31 in Bayfield County during an early February 2018 trip to Madeline Island.

CONTRIBUTORS: We welcome unsolicited materials and letters for possible publication. Iowa Snowmobiler accepts no responsibility for returns, losses or damage of unsolicited materials. Iowa Snowmobiler is the official publication of the Iowa State Snowmobile Association under the direction of the ISSA Communications Committee. It is published seasonally seven times a year in September, October, November, December, January, February and March. The magazine is printed and distributed by ColorFX, Waverly, IA, and is also available for download at www.iowasnowmobiler.com.

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#### Thank You for Your Hard Work

Hello, Iowa snowmobilers.

Looks like the southern part of the state finally got in some riding after not having much snow for the last couple years.

I am going on the annual DooTalk ride in Mercer, Wis., along with ISSA Vice President Scott Nauman and riding friend, Mike

Miller. It is a great time, and there is usually a huge number of riders. This is an event that is well orga-

nized, and safety is the No. 1 priority. When you get 70-plus riders in one group, it takes planning and always works out well.

After we are done with the DooTalk ride, we will then head over to Hayward for our week-long fun family trip that our trail master, Past ISSA President Dale Vagts, leads us on. The best part about riding with

such good friends is all that comes along with it.

On a quick note, with it being another bad



Brian **Carmichael** ISSA President

year for snow in our part of the state, please remember to thank all the clubs for the hard work and dedication they put into the amazing trails we have to offer. When the snow is good, our trails are some of the best you can ask for, and it takes countless volunteer hours to make it happen, whether we get

snow or not. We still have to do the hard work that makes the trails possible.

Hope to see you on the trails. Please be safe and think snow.

#### Register Your Sleds Sooner than Later

reetings, fellow snowmobilers. Here's hoping that by the time this article is published, the weather we are currently experiencing in the middle of January has changed for the better and given

way to plenty of snow all across our state. With that in mind, be sure to check the

list of upcoming events below for the locations for the Snowmobile Iowa rides this month. Unfortu-

nately, the ride in my local area already had to be canceled due to lack of snow.

With the current lack of snow in the early part of this season, it has also put the registration numbers below average compared to this same time last year. As many of you know, 70 percent of these snowmobile registration funds and the trail passes are the way that the ISSA is able to provide the clubs with trail insurance as well as trail

signs and the annual funding of the groomer operation grant program. These are also where the funds come from to purchase

systems.



**Scott Nauman** ISSA Vice President

new equipment that is provided to clubs for maintaining their trail

So, I ask that if you haven't already registered your snowmobile, please do so as soon as possible. There are still many bills that must be paid, even if we don't have much snow to groom.

While we are on the topic of grooming and trails, thank you to all of the club volunteers who have been out in the last few months to prepare and sign the trails.

Until next month, ride safe and think snow.

#### **Remaining Snowmobile Iowa Dates**

- Feb. 2 (Region 1): Dickinson County Snowhawks. Location TBD. For more info, contact Kevin at (712) 320-9530.
- Feb. 9 (Region 7): Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club ride departs from the Huxley fire station. For more info, contact Zac at (515) 313-3730.
- Feb. 16 (Region 5): Trail Blaz-zers' ride departs from Kuennen's House of Power in Maynard. Contact Mark at (563) 637-2870 for more info.
- Feb. 23 (Region 8): Central Iowa Snowmobilers ride departs from Meskwaki Travel Plaza, 1494 Highway 30, Tama. For more info, contact Craig at (641) 751-1184.

For the most up-to-date event planning and trail conditions, visit the Snowmobile Iowa Facebook page. Host clubs are asked to email aarond65@hotmail.com with their latest updates.



#### **Dorothy Takes Over ISSA's Youth Program**

#### by Cameron Hanson

The morning after his oldest son earned the ISSA's Youth Snowmobiler of the Year Award, Region 10 Director Aaron Dorothy of Mount Pleasant agreed to oversee the ISSA's Youth Program. The father of four said the move just made sense for him at this point in his life.

"Three of my kids ride now so I know the importance of bringing them up in the sport and teaching them the right way to do things," he said. "Our kids are the future of snowmobiling in Iowa. We need to get them just as excited about the sport as we were and are."

Dorothy agreed to take over as chair of the ISSA's Youth Committee at the Nov. 18 board meeting during convention weekend at Okoboji. The appointment comes at a time when Dorothy continues to take on more responsibility with the ISSA.

In 2016, he agreed to inherit two other regions in the southern tier of Iowa, and last fall he compiled a new statewide snowmobile map. Last month, his home club, the Southeast Iowa Ridge-Blasters, was slated to coordinate a Snowmobile Iowa club ride, and later this fall, they will host the ISSA convention at Burlington.

Staying active is one way he said to keep the interest level up in the sport for all age levels. The youths recruited today will be the club members building trails tomorrow,

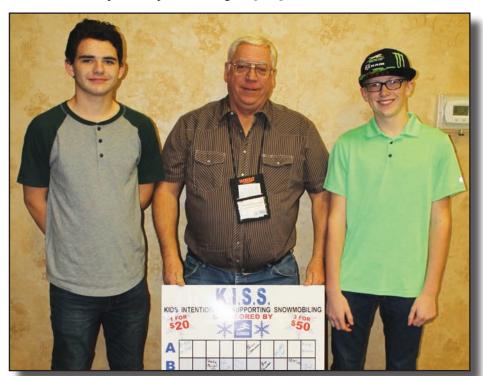
"There's a lot of satisfaction that goes along with all of the hard work you do in marking and grooming trails, and we need to demonstrate that to our younger generation," he said.

Dorothy assumes control of the youth program from Isabelle Willey, a member of the Snow Pioneers of Region 5 and a junior from Manchester. School activities, she said, prevent her from donating enough time to the program.

Willey, the daughter of immediate Past ISSA President Chris Willey, ran the program for two years and is credited with the KISS acronym, Kids Intentionally Supporting Snowmobiling. She said she will continue to help out as needed.

Snow and trail conditions pending, Dorothy would like to host youth rides this winter and, given the age group he's targeting, plans to offer some sort of social media platform for the program.

"One thing I would like to see is all of our youth riders having a way to chat back and forth," he said. "Maybe it's Facebook. Maybe it's something else. But we need a place where they can post information and get updates on events and such."



Delmer Hardecopf of the Emmet County Driftbusters of Region 2 won the Camso snowmobile track raffle at the 2018 ISSA Annual Convention in Okoboji. The raffle netted the ISSA's Youth Program \$860. Pictured with Hardecopf are youth riders Wyatt Willey, left, and Kevin Dorothy.

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According to ISSA Legislative Committee Chair Jim Willey, a past ISSA president, the lobbyists are in the process of lining up a meeting to bring together key players in moving this initiative forward in 2019. On Jan. 18, Heller reported Rep. Rob Bacon, R-Slater, has agreed to introduce the bill.

visits with ISSA Assistant Region 1 Director Randy Magg following the ISSA's General Assembly meeting in Okoboji Nov. 17. egislative Upd Rep. Bacon Agrees to Sponsor Single-Sticker

Bill; ACSA's Jourdain Attends Convention

#### by Cameron Hanson

The ISSA has renewed its contract with L Des Moines law partners Mike Heller and Paula Feltner to serve as the organization's lobbyists for the next two years. Annual compensation for 2019 remains the same as 2018 at \$25,000 and will increase to \$26,000 next year.

Heller and Feltner have served in this capacity since first being retained in 2003 following the Iowa Legislature's de-appropriation of nearly \$1 million in snowmobile program reserves. The money was eventually restored in 2008, due largely in part to their efforts.

Working with the ISSA's Legislative Committee, Heller and Feltner have been tasked this legislative session with finding a bill sponsor to once again introduce legislation to merge the snowmobile registration fee with the optional resident trail permit fee in Iowa.

Ratified by members at the ISSA annual convention in Okoboji last November, this renewed effort will stand as the third attempt at merging the two fees this decade. Overwhelmingly approved by the Iowa House in 2017, the second bill died last spring after failing to emerge from the Senate Ways and Means Committee.

If passed, the measure would add approximately \$90,000 in revenue to state snowmobile program by no longer allowing the trail pass to be optional. Instead of two \$15 fees, the cost to ride a snowmobile

ACSA Executive Director Christine Jourdain

in Iowa would be one \$30 sticker, plus writing fees. The trail permit would remain in effect for out-ofstate riders.

One challenge facing any legislation proposed on behalf of the ISSA this year will

2018 ISSA Convention Review

be educating 32 new

legislators on the topic, following last fall's elections. At convention, Heller noted none of the new legislators are from rural areas. Instead, they hail from suburban neighborhoods.

He also called out how excessive advertising dollars were spent on the 2018 campaign trail. In one Des Moines area contest, Heller pointed out, spending increased from the typical \$100,000 mark to more than \$2 million.

"It's unfortunate, but money does open doors in politics," he said.

Christine Jourdain, executive director for the American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA), was also in attendance at last fall's convention in northwest Iowa and also commented on the influence of money on local, state and national politics.

#### **ISMA Supports RTP Full Funding Act**

Bi-partisan legislation has been introduced and would require a study to determine the best available estimate value of off-highway recreational fuel tax paid to the Highway Trust Fund.

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is currently funded through the Highway Trust Fund at \$85 million dollars annually. This is only a portion of the \$270 million dollars annually that the Federal Highway Administration estimates that motorized trail users pay in to the Highway Trust Fund through fuel taxes.

RTP is a user-pay program that benefits all recreationists and is supported, in part, by snowmobilers across the United States. It serves as a primary funding mechanism for thousands of motorized trail opportunities. In Iowa, RTP grant funding helps purchase snowmobile trail grooming equipment.

International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association (ISMA)

Through the Friends of Snowmobiling Political Action Committee, her organization has financially supported the campaigns of numerous snowmobile-friendly politicians, including those from Iowa. She said those contributions have paid dividends over the years.

"We have a really good working relationship with your Representatives from Iowa," Jourdain noted. "You have a couple of Senators who have done really well too. During our annual D.C. Fly-In in April, we've always had good meetings with your Congressional delegation. We're sorry to see some of those folks did not get re-elected and won't be coming back.'

The ISSA is a member of ACSA and Past ISSA President Terry Durby of Leland is a former ACSA president as well. The state organization supports the efforts of the

national organization, and so far this year, ISSA-member clubs have donated more than \$1,500 to the ACSA Legal Defense Fund, which is used to protect snowmobile access in public areas.

"ACSA is all about access," Jourdain said. "We appreciate all the good things you do for us here in Iowa, and we need to remind folks in Washington who we are. I encourage you to host an enlightenment ride with your decision-makers. Get them out on a snowmobile. It's amazing how many of them have never been on one; yet they are the ones making decisions which affect our ability to ride every day."

For more information on ACSA and to stay up-to-date on national issues, visit www.snowmobilers.org and sign up for weekly e-newsletters. To make a donation, contact your ISSA Region Director.



Another dignitary in attendance at the 2018 ISSA Annual Convention in Okoboji was interim director Bruce Trautman, right, of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Pictured above with ISSA Legislative Committee Chair Jim Willey, Trautman has supported many ISSA initiatives, and ISSA lobbyist Mike Heller hopes the "interim" tag will be lifted soon from his title. "We have a wonderful working relationship with Bruce and his staff that I personally value very much," Heller said.

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Mary Helen Biller of the Spina Bifida Association of Iowa trains with Porshia Perkins at Adaptive Sports Iowa in preparation for a hike through the Grand Canyon in April.

#### SPINA BIFIDA GROWS UP FOURTH IN A SERIES

Editor's Note: The Spina Bifida Association of Iowa has been the ISSA's official charity since 1982. In November, we began this series profiling adults living with the condition. This month, we meet Mary Helen Biller.

#### by Diane Glass

SBAIA Board Member

ittle did Mary Helen Biller know that her commitment to physical fitness would lead to a trip down the Grand Canyon with other adults with spina bifida.

The Spina Bifida Association of America has organized this expedition, IConquer, Grand Canyon Hike and Adventure, for April 25 to 28. The goal is to build awareness about spina bifida and the need for access to quality health care. The association also wants to encourage adults to challenge themselves physically, emotionally and mentally.

Now Mary Helen is ready to spread her wings.

"Every day is a new chance to step outside of our comfort zone and spread our wings. And today I feel like flying. I am embarking on the adventure of a lifetime by being a part of the first Team Spina Bifida to hike the Grand Canyon, and I am so excited!" Mary Helen said.

Mary Helen Biller, 51, made physical fitness a goal when her mother died four vears ago.

"She considered me a late bloomer," Mary Helen laughed, "and she's right in one respect. I did not participate in physical education classes growing up, but here I am, lifting weights, bicycling, swimming, and building my endurance."

Mary Helen's trainer, Porshia Perkins at Adaptive Sports Iowa, believes Mary Helen is ready for the challenge.

"She's strong enough, stronger than she knows. Now we are building endurance with our exercises so she can be sure to complete the entire trip," Porshia said.

Adaptive Sports Iowa serves children, youth and adults with physical disabilities with a wide variety of programs and events.

During the next four months, Mary Helen will intensify her fitness training and raise the \$10,000 necessary to cover expenses and to support programming in Iowa for adults with spina bifida.

"I'm looking for support from anyone who believes in promoting awareness of spina bifida and creating opportunities for adults with spina bifida to meet and exceed their expectations," she said.

Porshia monitors Mary Helen's progress and gently pushes her to the next level.

"I'm mean," she joked, "but only because I love her."

To support her Grand Canyon adventure, contributions can be made online to Mary Helen's page at www.sbevents.org/participant/MaryHelen-Biller or by check to the Spina Bifida Association of Iowa, earmarked for Mary Helen Biller, 8525 Douglass Avenue # 39, Urbandale, IA 50322.

Editor's Note: The ISSA recognized several dedicated club members at its Awards Banquet at the 2018 annual convention at Okoboji Nov. 17. Winners were nominated for each category last June and then voted on by a non-partisan panel. All state winners are now automatically forwarded on to the national competition in June.

Please note no entries were received for the Dealer of the Year and Young Adult Snowmobiler of the Year awards. Also, Awards Committee Chair Mindy Scott of Region 9 has retired, and the program has now been handed off to Carol Nauman and Sally Carmichael, both from clubs in Region 4.

#### Family of the Year

Each hailing from snowmobiling families, Mike and Brittany Paulus of the Floyd County Groomers Association of Region 4 kept the tradition alive when they branched out on their own in 2015 and, as a result, were named the 2018 Family of the Year at the ISSA annual convention in Okoboii.

Both have been riding sleds for more than 20 years and have followed in their parents' footsteps in organized snowmobiling at the club level. Brittany's father, Phil Schrage, is in his eighth year as club president, and Mike's father, Joe Paulus, has served as club vice president for about that same period. At the state level, Mike's mother, Sue, is currently secretary of the ISSA.



Brittany currently serves as club secretary and also volunteers her time as ISSA

treasurer. Mike is a certified groomer operator and assumed the role of trail coordinator for his club last December. He personally marks and maintains 15 miles of trail between the Marble Rock and Rockford areas.

"Mike and Brittany enjoy riding snowmobiles, but more importantly, they are always willing to step in and help with an activity or problem related to snowmobiling," their nomination reads. "Their involvement in their local club and in the ISSA shows that they are not afraid to work to promote snowmobiling in Iowa and give others the enjoyment with the sport that they have experienced."

#### Youth Snowmobiler of the Year

As Region 10 Director Aaron Dorothy of Mount Pleasant continues to expand his role on the ISSA board, that commitment to organized snowmobiling has appeared to rub off on his oldest son, Kevin.

The junior Dorothy has been an active member of his dad's home club, the Southeast Iowa Ridge-Blasters, for six years. He chips in everywhere he can, and for his efforts, he was named the 2018 ISSA Youth Snowmobiler of the Year at the ISSA annual convention in Okoboji in November.

With his family, Kevin helps represent the Ridge-Blasters at various events. He assists in setting up the club's booth display and also volunteers at their food stand. Demonstrating his early skills as a salesman, he hands out membership forms for the club and helps sell club raffle tickets.

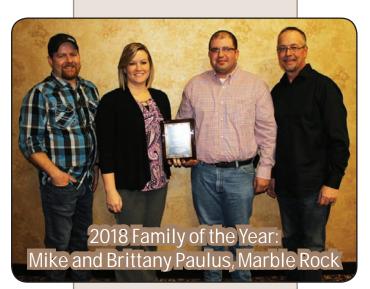
"He is always willing to answer questions about the club when asked," his nomination reads.

As a dedicated volunteer on his club's trail-marking crew, Dorothy has spent countless hours out on the trail in and around New London, installing signs, helping to build bridges and riding in the cab of the club's tracked utility vehicle groomer.

Snowmobiling since he was four, the 13-year-old helps to keep the groomer clean and also services his own snowmobile. In the off-season, he enjoys baseball and football.

# ISSA Award Winners Recognized at Convention

Pictured with the winners are past ISSA President Chris Willey and current President Brian Carmichael.







#### Lady Snowmobiler of the Year

R ecognized for her organizational skills as club secretary, as well as for her riding acumen out on the trail, Alison Parmer of Manchester was named the 2018 Lady Snowmobiler of the Year at the ISSA annual convention in Okoboji in November.

Riding snowmobiles for 13 years now, Parmer has served as secretary of the Snow Pioneers of Region 5 for the past three years. She takes her role seriously, and her fellow club members are grateful for the many hours she dedicates to planning their activities.

A proponent of regular communication with club members, Parmer promotes activities on social media to generate interest in the club and to recruit new members. She has also been key in organizing fundraising events and has personally visited sponsors to secure donations.

"Her efforts have brought in money for the club, and she positively promotes the sport of snowmobiling both locally as well as in the surrounding communities," her nomination reads. "She has new ideas that appeal to snowmobilers of all ages and thinks largely into the future for ways to get more people involved."

Parmer is always trying to get more women interested in the sport, and when she's out on the trail, "it's not uncommon to see a large group of male snowmobilers with one dressed in pink keeping right up with them."



#### Snowmobiler of the Year

arry Miller of the Eastern Iowa Sledheads is the type of member any club would love to have. He's dedicated, energetic and not afraid to work. It's the reason he was named the 2018 Snowmobiler of the Year at the ISSA annual convention in Okoboji in November.

"Larry's one of those members who every club wishes they could clone," his nomination reads. "It doesn't matter if the club is building or setting a bridge, clearing or marking trails or setting up and working a fundraiser; as long as he's not in the field, we can count on him to be there."

Miller, a farmer from Wellman, has been involved in snowmobiling for the past quarter century and is a charter member of the Sledheads. He has served as the club's Trail Master for the past 16 years and represents the club when appearing before city officials to request access or address concerns.

According to the club, Miller also has a "knack" for working with the local Amish community to gain permission to cross their property with snowmobile trails. "As a matter of fact, if you happen to travel down Highway 22, you may see many of the Amish children using the snowmobile bridges on their way to school,"

the club pointed out.

Miller's persuasive skills also come in handy with recruiting non-members to join the club or to help mark and maintain trails. He also shares the importance of joining the ISSA with them and explains what the state association does for clubs and for snowmobiling in general in Iowa.

When he's not working on trails, Miller loves to ride on them, either in his home area or elsewhere in Iowa and even farther out in the Snow Belt. "It doesn't matter where you're headed. As long as there's snow and you have an extra seat in the truck, all you have to do is let him know, and he will be ready to ride," his nomination reads.



#### Groomer Operator of the Year

little over eight years ago, Jeff Koos of Spirit Lake joined the ADickinson County Snowhawks of Region 1. Within a year of coming on board, he became certified to operate the club's groomer and has since ranked near the top in the amount of hours logged every winter in the machine.

In fact, during his first season behind the wheel, he was responsible for nearly a quarter of the hours logged on their 2011 Prinoth; and while this annual, friendly competition among the club's groomer operators garners a little bragging rights, it also led to Koos earning the 2018 Groomer Operator of the Year Award at the ISSA annual convention in Okoboji in November.

According to his nomination form, Koos is "committed to making sure the trails are always groomed and safe for families who come to our area to ride. He works a full-time job and frequently goes straight from his job to the cab of the groomer to make sure the trails are kept up and ready for riders."

The club also noted Koos has been "vital" in the pre-season and in-season maintenance of the groomer as well as its postseason storage. Being mechanically-inclined, he also volunteered to fix the pan on the club's back-up drag, and when a breakdown does occur, he consistently goes above and beyond just being an operator, taking the initiative and solving the problem.

"Dedication and commitment to the long hours are the first requirements for being a good groomer operator, not to mention having some mechanical ability and knowledge for the operation of the machine," the club wrote. "Jeff understands this to the highest degree."

When he's not in the groomer, Koos remains active in the club in other activities, volunteering at club events and attending club meetings. Making this dedication even more remarkable is the fact he hasn't had a sled to ride for the past five years.

"He does it because he truly wants to make sure the trails are safe and enjoyable for everyone else," the nomination form said.

# Make Tracks to Floyd County

Trail riding west of Marble Rock

he members of the Floyd County Groomers Association of Region 4 invite fellow snowmobilers from across lowa to explore the snowmobile trails of Floyd County this winter.

As detailed on the map printed on the subsequent two pages, the club boasts 190 miles of trails, nearly all of which are cross-country thanks to the generosity

> of 204 landowners—a ratio of more than one lease per mile of trail.

Region 4 Profile

The Floyd County trail system serves the communities of Colwell, Charles City, Floyd, Rudd, Rockford, Marble Rock, Greene, Aredale, Rockwell and Nora Springs. The club also connects to five neighboring clubs at eight different intersections.

Besides the trail map, all of the club's trails are available digitally on the Polaris Ride Command trail app, and current groomer reports and trail conditions are regularly posted on the club's Facebook page or

website at www.floydcountygroomers.webs.com.

Maps and directional signage are also placed at major trail intersections. As listed on the trail map, trailheads with trailer parking are located in Floyd and Greene, and lodging is available in Charles City, Nora Springs and Marble Rock.

Please note in Charles City, the bridge on the Charley Western Recreational Trail (a former railbed) is currently closed due to structural issues. The club is working with local

officials to maintain snowmobile access to this bridge once the repairs have been made as it provides a safe crossing over the Cedar River. Despite dead-ending on either side of this bridge, the club plans to maintain its through-town trail to provide access to services. The club's trail system in western Floyd County has followed the Shell Rock River from Nora Springs to Greene for more than 30

years. Extending north with the North Iowa Snow Seekers and south with the Butler County Snow Snoops, the trail along the riverbottom provides plenty of scenery and wildlife viewing.



Grooming spur trail into Charles City

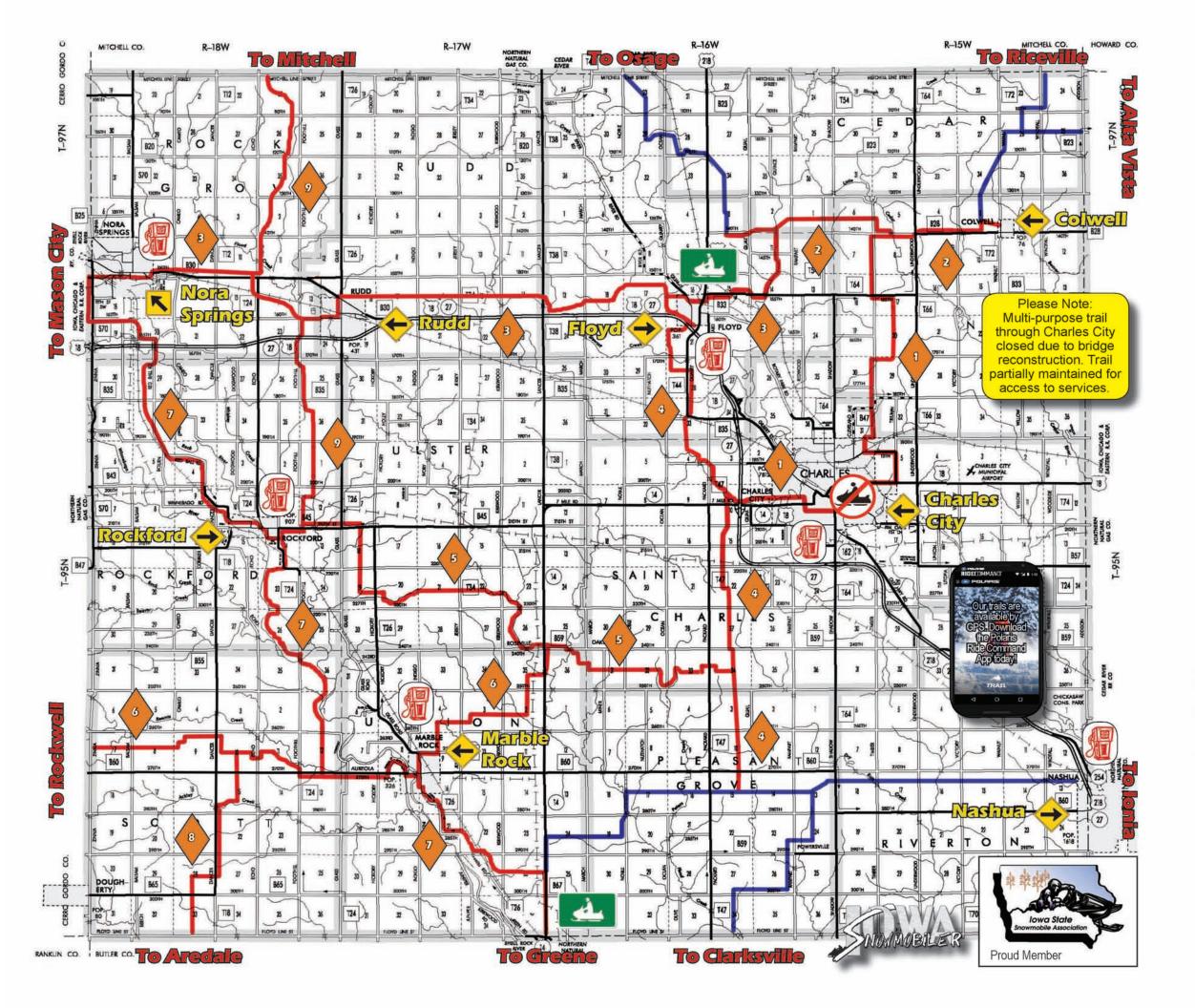


Intersection west of Rudd

Down from a high of 114 in 2012, club membership currently stands at 23 members, a reduction directly linked to the recent lackluster snowmobile seasons. As with most snowmobile clubs, a dedicated core group of volunteers keeps the club going, many of whom are now second-generation members.

Founded in 1981, the Floyd County Groomers Association is a 100 percent member of the ISSA and supports many of the state organization's initiatives. An ISSA Platinum Sponsor, the club has twice been named the ISSA's Club of the Year, and four club members presently serve on the ISSA Board of Directors as vice president, secretary, treasurer and Region 4 Director, while another is a past president.

So stay close to home this winter and plan a trip to Floyd County. With 18 certified groomer operators, the club works hard to manicure its trails for your riding experience.



Please use map for reference only. Follow all signs and respect private property. Follow us on Facebook or visit our website for up-to-date trail conditions and groomer reports. All of our trails are also linked on the Polaris Ride Command trail app.



#### **Emergency Contacts**

Emergency ... .911 (641) 228-1821 Sheriff... (641) 228-4072 Ambulance.

Primary TrailTrail Maintained by Neighboring Club



Fuel Available

Trail Number





Trailhead Parking: · Dugan's, Floyd

•218 Fuel Express, Floyd

• Freeze Frame, Greene

www.floydcountygroomers.webs.com



# Join the ISSA Today!

f you enjoy the sport of snowmobiling in Iowa, you are not alone. In 2018, more than 22,000 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 2010 Family/Single Membership Application



	20171	Please remit with payment.	IOWa State \$nowmobile Association
	I hereby apply for member	ship in the Iowa State Snowmobile Association. Cl	heck 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 ver	y important as this will be how w	ve can get information to you in a timely manner.	
Included with your membership is a subscription to this magazineCheck here if you only want			
is a subscription to this	magazine.	Send your membership form and dues today to Brittany Paulus at:	

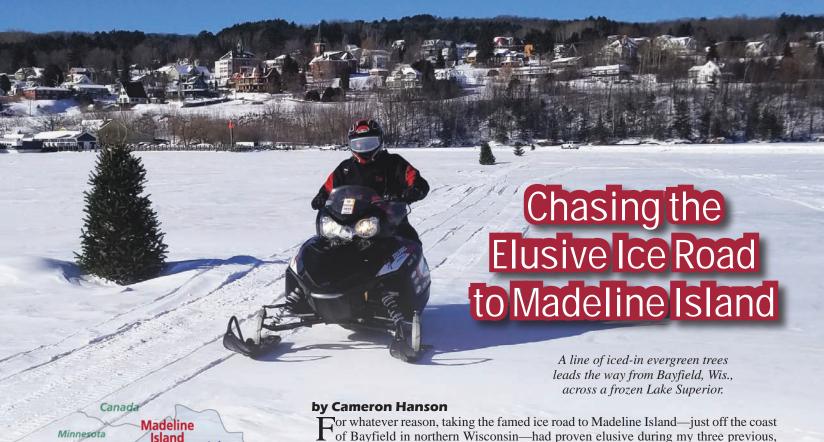
#### Iowa State Snowmobile Association

#### 2019 Associate Membership Application

1	Please remit with payment.		Iowa State Snowmobile Association
l hereby ap	ply for membership in the Iowa State Snowmobile Asso	ociation. Check all that apply:	
,	Associate Membership (\$25)	,	
Scholarship Donation \$	Spina Bifida Association of Iowa Donation \$	_Legislative Action Fund Donation \$	<u> </u>
Name of Business or Dealership:		Contact Person:	
Address:	City:	State:	Zip:
Phone:Ema	il:W	Vebsite:	·
Snowmobile Club/RegionSnowmobile Brand(s) (if applicable)		d(s) (if applicable)	
Anything you'd like to add to your listing in			
I Included with membership is a	Send your membership for	m and	
Included with membership is a subscription to this magazine.	dues today to Brittany Pau	lus at:	
	ICCA Marrala	a ma la lin	
Check here if you only want	ISSA Memb 1924 270th		
digital version of magazine.	Marble Rock, IA !		
Membership year runs from	bepaulus@outloo		



Jan. 1 thru Dec. 31



For whatever reason, taking the famed ice road to Madeline Island—just off the coast of Bayfield in northern Wisconsin—had proven elusive during my three previous, half-hearted attempts at reaching this bucket-list destination on Lake Superior by snowmobile.

Blame it on poor ice conditions, inadequate planning and general trail fatigue, I guess, for failing to visit this popular summer tourist attraction over the past dozen or so winters, but my luck changed a year ago this month when four of us made the Great Lake skate over to the largest and southernmost isle of the Apostle Island archipelago.

Falling just short of an obsession, this long-awaited trek definitely satisfied my curiosity as we bid farewell from the mainland and followed the trail—uniquely marked by iced-in evergreen trees—to the quaint and unincorporated community of LaPointe on the island's western banks.

Charting a similar course as the Madeline Island ferry service from Bayfield during the regular season, the two-mile ice road dumped us right onto the town's main drag, and we followed the joint snowmobile/ATV route to the local business district.

Here, we found the Beach Club open on Main Street, and after parking on the ice in the marina out front, we spent the next hour and a half taking in the nauseating pre-game festivities on this Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 4. As Vikings fans, we had very little interest in the fanfare but wanted to savor our successful voyage some place warm.

#### **Four-Day Extended Weekend**

Apostle

Eau Claire

Madison

Milwaukee

Illinois

Duluth,

Mpls.

St. Paul

Iowa

This day-trip to Madeline Island marked our fourth and final day of our extended weekend stay in northern Wisconsin. Even getting to the ice road proved a little challenging, as we had learned two days earlier that the snowmobile trail into Bayfield was apparently closed, despite what our map had shown.

Lake Superior

Michigan

Green

Chicago

The resulting unintended diversion took us further north to Red Cliff, where we jumped out onto the frozen lake at the Legendary Waters Resort and Casino. A visit with a local ice fisherman reassured us of the direction to take, and we hugged the unmarked shoreline, making our way back down south to Bayfield to pick up the ice road.

A little unnerving, this first leg of the journey wasn't my first time out on a frozen Lake Superior, but it was definitely the longest and farthest. Nothing motivates you more to sit up a little straighter in the seat and squeeze the throttle a little tighter than traversing a body of water which had claimed ocean-going vessels in its past.



Disembarking at LaPointe.





Pzazz! Convention & Event Center Catfish Bend Casino

Burlington, IA



Call 319-217-6361 to register.

**Full Registration** costs \$65.



Beginning the descent down to Lake Superior.

But we made it and have the pictures to prove it. From there, we doubled back down to our hotel in Iron River, stopping along the way at the Valhalla View Pub and Grub for the kick-off and most of the first half of the Patriots-Eagles football game. Still stinging from the NFC Championship Game two weeks earlier, we had little interest in the outcome and left without knowing the score.

#### **Return to Iron River**

A decade had passed since our last snowmobile trip to Iron River, and our return visit was well worth it. Our hotel was situated along Corridor 2, and we used this main artery to conveniently get us to our destination trails each day.

Our first day in the area, Feb. 1, was shortened by our seven-hour commute from Iowa and only amounted to an 83-mile round-trip evening ride over to Ashland, which, ironically, had been the location of my last venture out onto Lake Superior in 2013 to get a close-up look at the historic iron ore docks there.

Fully restored from our travel day, our second morning in Bayfield County brought us up to the Mount Valhalla Recreation Area near Washburn, a cross-country ski area which is also home to a warming chalet and an abandoned downhill ski jump from the 1930s.

I had noticed signs for this trailside attraction in previous visits to the area but never



Groomer sighting courtesy of the Washburn Valhellers Snowmobile Club.



Mount Valhalla Recreation Area

took the time to snoop around this summit before. For a confessed history buff, this local point of interest provided a nice photo opportunity with the ski run slowly fading into the background.

The day before our trek to Madeline Island, we had travelled south from Iron River to Lake Namakagon to meet up with some other friends at the Lakewoods Resort. Snow was falling, and traffic was typically heavy for this Saturday, so our mileage for the day was limited to 118. We finished the night in Drummond and Delta before returning to Iron River.

Throughout our stay, the snow was abundant and oftentimes fresh, and trail conditions were above average for some leisurely riding. We didn't pound the trails like in years past and finished with a modest 449 miles on the tripmeter.

Needless to say, the highlight of the trip was our excursion to Madeline Island, putting another checkmark in the box on my snowmobiling "to do" list.



Brittany Paulus of the Floyd County Groomers Association of Region 4 won the ISSA's Grizzly cooler raffle at the 2018 ISSA Annual Convention at Okoboji in November. The raffle brought in \$1,030 to support ISSA programs. Past ISSA President Jim Willey secured the cooler donation from Decorah-based manufacturer Iowa Rotocast Plastics last summer.

#### 2019 Club Donations

Spina Bifida Association of Iowa				
Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club	\$2,200			
Cedar Falls Snow Hawks				
Central Iowa Snowmobilers	\$500			
Eastern Iowa Sledheads				
Tri-County Snowmobile Association				
Lyon County Sno-Lyons				
Floyd County Groomers Association	\$300			
Bremer County Sno-Knights				
Snowdrifters	\$250			
Team Iowa Snowmobilers	\$200			
Trail Blaz-zers, Inc.,				
Butler County Snow Snoops	\$100			
Iowa River Riders				
Club Challongo	ψ 100			
Club Challenge Snowdrifters	¢500			
Tri-County Snowmobile Association	ψ.ιφ. 101			
Central Iowa Snowmobilers	42EU			
Snow Pioneers				
Sac County Snow Lovers				
Floyd County Groomers Association	\$300			
Bremer County Sno-Knights	\$250			
Cedar Falls Snow Hawks				
Eastern Iowa Sledheads				
Team Iowa Snowmobilers				
Dickinson County Snowhawks				
Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club	\$150			
Iowa River Riders	\$100			
ACSA Legal Defense Fund				
Snowdrifters	\$250			
Eastern Iowa Sledheads	\$250			
Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club				
Team Iowa Snowmobilers				
Floyd County Groomers Association				
Central Iowa Snowmobilers				
Iowa River Riders				
Sac County Snow Lovers	\$100			
Scholarship				
Floyd County Groomers Association	\$200			
Dickinson County Snowhawks	\$150			
Snow Pioneers	\$100			
Communications				
Iowa River Riders	\$100			
Driftrunners	\$100			



Contact Past ISSA President Jim Willey at Jim.Willey@camso.co to purchase a 2019 ACSA Raffle Calendar.

#### Region 1

#### O'Brien County Snowtrackers

by Zelda Buse Christensen, Reporter

Then we did get a limited amount of snow earlier, I used it enough to ride 70 miles according to my trip meter. But that snow was short-lived, losing to rain and sometimes temps in the 30s and even at times over 40. Flood warnings in the month of December led to much water in ditches, not snow!

So now (mid-January as I write this), we again wait for some good snow for snowmobiling. Who knows? Weather in Iowa? Anything is possible? So keep thinking snow...

#### Region 5

#### Allamakee Sno-Blazers

by Amy Howard

reetings from the Allamakee Snowblazers. Well, Mother Na-Jure sure hasn't been nice so far this winter.

We have been getting ready for our third annual radar run coming up here on Feb. 9. Let's keep our fingers crossed that we get



the snow. The event will kickoff at 2 p.m. at Green Valley in Waukon. Registration will start around 12:30 or 1 p.m. We are also selling raffle tickets again this year. They are three tickets for \$10. The items being

raffled off are as follows: an Anderson 450 bushmaster, Smithfield XD 9mm, pellet grill, \$100 gift card to Waukon Power Sports and a \$100 gift certificate to City Meats in New Albin. There will also be a few other drawings happening that day, Afterwards, there will be a dance. Hope to see you all there. Keep those fingers crossed we get snow.

As always, respect your landowners and stay on marked trails.

#### **Cresco Driftrunners**

by Bob Martinek. Treasurer

Well, I have to confess that I am not very motivated to write this month's news. It is Jan. 10, and we still do not have any "rideable" snow here. I hope that by the time you are reading this that my motivation (snow) is here!

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### **February**

- Team Iowa Snowmobile Club Ice Drags Feb. 9 Little Wall Lake, Jewell. Find the club on Facebook for more information.
- · Driftrunners' Charlie's Chili Feed Feb. 9 south of Granger.
- The Jack Helgren Memorial Iowa Lemans Championship Race Feb. 9 at Clear Lake State Park. Visit www.thejackrace.com for more information. Rescheduled from January.
- · Allamakee Sno-Blazers third annual radar run Feb. 9 at Green Valley Getaway, Waukon. Registration at 12:30 p.m. Raffle drawings and dance to follow.
- · SBAIA Winter Kids Day Feb. 10 at Huxley.
- · ISSA Board of Directors Meeting Feb. 10 at Huxley.
- Take-A-Friend Snowmobiling Feb. 9-18. Visit www.snowmobile. org for more information.
- Mitchell County E-Z Riders annual fun run and meat raffle Saturday, Feb. 16, at American Legion, St. Ansgar. Meal at 5:30 p.m. for \$6. Meat raffle to follow. Proceeds benefit local trail maintenance.

#### March

Theisen's National Snocross March 8-9 at Sundown Mountain, Dubuque.

Coming real soon is Charlie's Chili Feed on Saturday, Feb. 9. We hold Charlie's on the trail to Cresco just south of Granger at the warming bin. It starts at 11 a.m. and goes until 2 p.m. (or when we run out of food). We have pots of chili, Protivin brats, beverages and lots of fellowship. All for a free will donation to help support the club. If you have never been to "Charlie's," I urge you to come and check it out. If you have been here, you know what I am talking about, and we welcome you back. Just in case of poor snow conditions, we will hold Charlie's at the Longbranch Bar in

As always think snow, ride safe and see you on the trails!



Enough snow fell the second weekend in January for members of the Iowa Snowdrifters to try out a new 48-foot bridge span.

#### Region 9

#### **lowa Snowdrifters**

by Ron Roe

elieve it or not, we got a nice dump load of snow the second **B** weekend in January. What I call a nice load was around 5-6 inches. If it would have been colder, it would make riding much nicer. I'd say it was around 30 degrees. If the temp would drop 10 degrees more, it would sure help. It was a very wet and heavy snow to shovel or push with the truck, but it should be good for

It sounds like some friends are starting to head north to snowmobile. I hope they have ample snow for riding. Nothing worse than when you call places in the area you want to ride and you don't get an honest report on their snow conditions. I had that happen a few times when I was riding, and I would get there and the rocks would outnumber the snowflakes. Needless to say, I didn't go back to those places. I hope everyone comes back home with good rid-

While I am at this, I'll put in an early plug for some summer fun. If you have older farm tractors and like a good 55-60 mile ride on asphalt or concrete county roads, we have the event for you. This should take place on June 22. This ride is our fourth ride put on by the Eastern Iowa Sleadheads. It is a fun time. I will have more info on this next month.

Now everyone get out and enjoy the snow.

Please send officer/address changes to ISSA Membership Chair Brittany Paulus at bepaulus@outlook.com.

#### **REGION ONE**

**Buena Vista Blizzard Busters** 

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

Clay County Sno Broncs

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

eliteautodoug@gmail.com

Dickinson County SnowHawks www.dickinsoncountysnowhawks.com

P.O. Box 504, Spirit Lake, IA 51360 President: Kevin Winters P.O. Box 305, Lake Park, IA 51347 (712) 320-9530

kwinters9530@gmail.com

Lyon County Sno-Lyons

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

O'Brien County Snowtrackers

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

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

P.O. Box 154, Remsen, IA 51050 www.powder-players.com President: Jim Skinner

4871 Pierce Ave., Paullina, IA 51046 (712) 448-2567

Sioux County Snowmobile Club

Find us on Facebook President: 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., Amstrong, IA 50514 (712) 209-2282 glasnapp11@gmail.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

alo Alto Rough Riders

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

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

ŘEGÍON THREE

Hancock County Snowmobile Assn. President: Dan Stromer

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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@wctatel.net

REGION FOUR

Bremer County Sno-Knights

President: Randall Thomsen 10037 W Marguis 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: Gary Matthias 2161 Rainbow Dr., Waterloo, IA 50701 (319) 235-7667 gnkmatthias@mchsi.com

Chickasaw Sno-Riders

President: Neil Kaumans 258 S Linn, New Hampton, IA 50659 (319) 939-3969

kaumansn@bodimp.com.

**Dewar Snow Chasers** 

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

loyd County Groomers Association President: Philip Schrage

P.O. Box 7, Marble Rock, IA 50653 (641) 397-2775,

schrage@windstream.net www.floydcountygroomers.webs.com **Howard County Stump Jumpers** 

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

buckarro0149@hotmail.com

Mitchell County E-Z Riders, Inc.,

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

**REGIÓN FIVE** 

Allamakee Sno-Blazers Allamakee Sno-Blazers PO Box 94 Waukon, IA 52172 President: Brandon Fahey

snoblazers@yahoo.com Asbury Snowhawks

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

(563) 582-8893, tnspalla@hotmail.com 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: Brandon Plaht 112 3rd Ave E., Cresco, IA 52136 (563) 605-0141 driftrunnerssnowmobileclub@gmail.com

**Dyersville Driftskippers** 

www.dyersvilledriftskippers.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

1980 Y Ave., Sumner, IA 50674 (319) 269-8239 randyhenniges@gmail.com

Trails Unlimited

15778 282nd St., WestUnion, IA 52175 President: Bud Winter (319) 231-3337, bwinter@acegroup.cc Wapsipinicon Snowmobile Association P.O. Box 802, Indepedence, IA 50644

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

Winneshiek Trail Twisters Inc. P.O. Box 154, Decorah, IA 52101 President: Jake Ludeking

2005 Centennial Rd. Decorah, IA 52101 (563) 380-6747

jakeludeking@gmail.com REGION SIX

Sac County Snow Lovers P.O. Box 464, Lakeview, ÍA 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, mjpat76@aol.com

Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club P.O. Box 3133, Des Moines, IA 50316 www.saylorvilledamsnowmobileclub.org President: Zac Parry 4685 Merle Hay Rd Ste 106

Des Moines, IÁ 50322, (515) 313-3730 zacparrydc@yahoo.com

Team Iowa Snowmobilers 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 **REGION EIGHT** 

Central Iowa Snowmobilers

P.O. Box 1751

#### ISSA GLUBS

Marshalltown, IA 50158 President: Blake Matney PO Box 171, Liscomb, IA 50148 (641) 485-3161 bmatney05@gmail.com

**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** ccwwarriors@vahoo.com

President: Jerry Meier 1241 Jackson Áve., 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

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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 logan.goettsch@channelseedsman.com

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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

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: Bill Hogan 3959 MacBride Pl NE, Solon, IA 52333

(319) 325-5588, bshogan@msn.com Snowmobilers of Jackson County

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

jcsnowmobile@gmail.com **REĞION TEN** 

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

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

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- · 10 AM Lemans Racing
- · Vintage Show
- · Kitty Kat Racing
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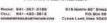
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