

IOWA SNOWMOBILER

January 2017 • Volume 38 • Issue 5

**Heading
Back to
'The Jack'**

**Proposed Legislative
Agenda Includes
Single Decal, Snow
Bike Regulation**



DRIFTRUNNERS SNOWMOBILE CLUB

46th ANNUAL

SNOWFEST

January 26 – 29, 2017

CRESCO, IOWA

Schedule of Events

THURSDAY

- VOKATY EARLY BIRD RIDE - 10 AM
- FUN RIDE FOR SPINA BIFIDA BEGINS
- CLUB TRAIL RIDE - 7PM

FRIDAY

- LADIES TRAIL RIDE - 10 AM
- CLUB TRAIL RIDE - 7 PM



SATURDAY

- BOY SCOUT BREAKFAST 6-11AM
- VENDOR SHOW 8AM-3PM
- VINTAGE SLED RIDE @ NOON
- HOCA CANCER FAMILY TRAIL RIDE @ NOON
- TORCHLIGHT PARADE @ 6PM WITH BONFIRE
- SNOWBALL DANCE @ 8PM WITH BAND Trouble Shooter



SUNDAY

- FUN RIDE DRAWING & BRUNCH - 11 AM
- CLUB TRAIL RIDE - 1 PM

FIND US ON FACEBOOK AT
"DRIFTRUNNERS SNOWMOBILE CLUB"
FOR EVENT LOCATIONS, TIMES, &
UPDATES

For more info contact Jeff or Brandon at:

563-271-2154 or 563-605-0141



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"The Cure for the Common
Cold since 1973"

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COVER: Vintage racers maneuver around the pylon marking the course outline at the 2016 Jack Helgren Memorial Iowa LeMans Championship Race last January on Clear Lake.

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Accepting Invitations to Present at Local Club Meetings

As I write this month's column, it's snowing hard, and we are getting the first real good snow of the season. It's good to see the snow and our trails get covered. It puts a new sense of excitement into everyone and a new hope for a good season to come.

This past Thursday night, I attended the Snowdrifters club meeting in Region 9. Attending that meeting gave me some new ideas and a new hope that even in the low snow years, we still have an awesome group of snowmobilers in this state. This club has thought outside

From the President's Desk

of the box on how to recruit members and get participation in their club. It's working with over 100 members and 200-plus miles of trail in four counties to show for it. If your club is looking for ideas on how to gain participation, give one of the Snowdrifters board members a call and ask them how they do it.

I attended their meeting along with Randy Schnoebelen, snowmobile program

I also want to make sure there is code in place that provides 100 percent transparency where our registration funds are being spent.

manager for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and Past ISSA President Jim Willey. The club had questions on several topics and asked us for input. It

was a great discussion and the members got firsthand information from the IDNR and the ISSA on how to work on trail issues and with city and county officials.

If your club would like us to attend, please let me know, and I would be glad to make plans to attend your meeting. Randy and I are also going to try and set up some region meetings for clubs and the general public to come and ask questions.



Chris Willey
ISSA
President

Stay tuned to this column, the magazine and emails for upcoming topics that we are going to need your support on. I have assembled a team of past presidents and region directors to work on a legislation package for some changes to the snowmobile program.

I would like to see us combine the registration and trail pass stickers into one registration sticker for Iowa residents. We would still retain the trail pass stickers for out-of-state riders.

I also want to make sure there is code in place that provides 100 percent transparency where our registration funds are being spent both on the IDNR administrative side and the club grant side.

Of the utmost importance is getting the funds back to the clubs. We need to make sure we can keep our 8,800 miles of trails in top shape. This means making sure the clubs have the right equipment and funding.

Looking for New Faces Out on the Trail This Winter

I hope everyone had a great Christmas!

As I sit here and write this, I am thinking about what I want to talk about this month. We all have friends who ride and don't belong to a club or the state association. So here is my challenge to you all: Educate your friends to the importance of belonging to a club and the fun it is. It takes a lot of work from many in each club to do all the hard work so we can enjoy the trails we have in Iowa.

Vice President's Message

I ride in Wisconsin and Minnesota a lot, but some of the trails we have in Iowa are some of the best around, and it's because of



Brian Carmichael
ISSA Vice
President

the hard work we put into our trails. If we can get more members, it helps everyone in the snowmobile program.

We need to get more riders involved. If you have good snow and your trails are groomed, let everyone know on Facebook or the ISSA page so everyone can enjoy it. I would like to ride

different areas and would like to see new faces on the trail.

IDNR Defines Process for Groomer Repairs, Grant Amendments

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) announced in December a couple of procedures in the state snowmobile program for major groomer repairs and amendments to snowmobile club trail grant awards.

According to Rhonda Fowler, snowmobile education coordinator for the IDNR, a process has been developed to assist clubs with knowing what to do if they encounter a mid-season equipment failure, needed fix or complete breakdown of their groomer.

If a club experiences an issue with its grooming equipment, operators need to report the problem immediately to ISSA President Chris Willey, groomer training coordinator for the ISSA, and to Past ISSA President Terry Durby, a permanent member of the ISSA/IDNR Review and Selection Committee.

Willey can be reached at (563) 920-9010, and Durby's contact number is (641) 590-7007. Fowler recommends that clubs post these numbers in the cabs of their groomers.

Once notified of a breakdown, Willey and Durby will share the information with Randy Schnoebelen, snowmobile program manager for the IDNR. They will discuss the need, cost and feasibility of completing the repair in enough time to make the groomer operational for the balance of the snowmobile season.

"A decision to make the repair or to not make the repair will be determined," Fowler said. "If the repair is approved, the club will work with me to determine if an amendment to the grant is needed and to route the information through the Review and Selection Committee and the director's office, if needed."

Fowler said if the problem is a breakdown on the trail, a determination of towing the equipment for health and safety reasons will be the first consideration. "It is imperative that Chris or Terry receive a call as soon as this situation is identified," she said.

Clubs are reminded to not make any repairs until this process is completed. "We do not want any of the clubs to incur an expense which may not be reimbursable," Fowler said.

The IDNR also released information on how and when to amend a club's snowmobile trail grant award and how it relates to the cooperative agreement issued by the department.

When a club submits a grant to the state snowmobile program in May, the Review

and Selection Committee asks for dollar amounts for fuel, maintenance, pre-season repairs and any other item the club needs for maintenance and operations. Each of these dollar amounts is reviewed by the committee, and an amount is awarded.

The awards fall into three categories: maintenance and operations, trail development and new trail development. According to the IDNR, a club cannot move money from one category to another without amending its grant. Without an amendment, for example, the club cannot use extra maintenance money to pay for trail work, and you cannot use trail money to purchase additional fuel, etc.

"The entire amount of the category is what you need to consider," Fowler explained. "If you do not have the money available to cover it from the amount awarded, then you would need to ask for a grant amendment. You will only need to request a grant amendment if you need to add money to your award."

"Because your cooperative agreement has one amount, it gives you flexibility to move some of the award around," Fowler continued. "For instance, you have a repair need that comes up mid-season. If you have enough in your maintenance and operation category to cover it, you do not need to ask for an amendment."

If you need additional information, Fowler can be reached by telephone at (515) 725-8490 or by email at Rhonda.Fowler@dnr.iowa.gov.

Pair of Groomer Recertification Courses Planned This Month

A pair of ISSA/IDNR Groomer Operator Certification/Recertification courses have been scheduled for this month. This training is required for new operators or those who have not been recertified within the last three years.

The first course is set for Jan. 18 at Zip's Towing in New Hampton in Region 4. The course begins at 7 p.m., and the address is 316 Milwaukee Street.

The next class is planned for Jan. 23 at The Garage Tavern, 103 Main Street, Coulter, in Region 3. This session also begins at 7 p.m.

For more information on either class, please contact ISSA President Chris Willey, groomer training coordinator, at (563) 920-9010 or kioti79@gmail.com.

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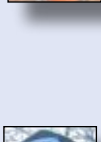
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ISSA Looking to Reduce Number of Decals on Sleds

by Cameron Hanson

Looks are everything. A dozen years ago, ISSA officials successfully lobbied for the removal of registration numbers from the hoods of snowmobiles. Now they are looking to clean up the windshields by eliminating one of the two stickers currently required to ride in Iowa.

During its Dec. 18 online meeting, the ISSA Board of Directors approved a legislative initiative designed at removing the four-year-old in-state user permit requirement, transferring that \$15 charge to the registration fee and calling for a single registration decal.

"We would like to eliminate the two-sticker situation and go with one registration sticker which would eliminate that section of the code for the user permits for in-state residents," explained Past ISSA President Terry Durby, chair of the ISSA's Emergency Funding and Legislation Committee. "We would then transfer that \$15 fee in the code and add it to the registration fee."

To currently ride on public trails, right-of-ways and frozen bodies of water in Iowa, a snowmobiler must pay a \$15 registration fee and then purchase a \$15 user permit trail pass. Each comes with a \$1.75 writing fee for a total of \$33.50 plus other costs. Under the ISSA's proposal, the rider would still pay the \$30 but only have one writing fee.

"You would be saving some money on the fees for not having to buy two stickers so we could consider this a cost savings for our stakeholders," Durby said. "This would definitely simplify the process. I think law enforcement would also appreciate it so they don't have to worry about looking for



The Iowa snowmobile trail pass requirement began in 2012-13 for in-state residents.

two stickers during a trail stop."

The trail pass would still be required for out-of-state riders in Iowa, and the additional \$15 would no longer be an option for in-state residents. Some Iowans claim they only ride their machines out of state and therefore don't always purchase the trail pass. Over the past two seasons, sales of user permits have lagged behind registrations by approximately 6,500 units in Iowa, which translates to \$97,500 in missed revenue for the state snowmobile program.

"There are a lot of sleds which are ridden in Iowa that don't buy a trail pass," ISSA President Chris Willey said. "We need to capture those riders. I don't know of many guys who own sleds in Iowa that don't ride in Iowa at some point. No matter where you snowmobile, if you're from Iowa, you should support snowmobiling in Iowa."

"This would pretty much force everybody into buying one and generate a lot

Accidental Death, Dismemberment Policy Dropped from Membership Benefits

American Income Life notified the ISSA in writing two months ago that it will be severing its complimentary accidental death and dismemberment policy effective last month.

This \$3,500 benefit was provided at no cost to ISSA members and their qualifying dependents. In 2016, two benefit awards were paid by American Income Life to ISSA members. Claims submitted after Dec. 14 will not be honored.

According to the letter, the decision to terminate its contract with the ISSA was due to the lack of additional policies purchased by ISSA members from the insurance company's voluntary offerings.

"There has not been enough participation from the individual members for us to continue to provide no-cost benefits," the communication reads. "We regret this has not turned out favorably."

"The bottom line is they have terminated our contract, and we are no longer able to offer that benefit to our membership," explained Past ISSA President Jim Willey, the letter's recipient.



Watch Mailing Label for Membership Status Updates

Eighteen hundred ISSA members were notified on the mailing label on the front of their magazine last month that the December issue would be their last magazine until their membership dues were paid.

The ISSA's Membership Committee will continue to place membership status reminders on the front of the *Iowa Snowmobiler* until the 90-day grace period has expired and the member will stop receiving his or her magazine.

Per ISSA policy, this cushion allows for members who join through their local club for their membership dues to be paid by the club treasurer, which is not always as prompt as the organization would like.

As of Dec. 18, only 1,053 members had joined or renewed with the ISSA. In 2016, the association finished with 2,389 members, which represents a steady five-year decline from a high of 2,963 members in 2011.

If you have paid your dues and your membership status is still showing in delinquent status on the mailing label, please contact ISSA Membership Committee Chair Brittany Paulus at bepaulus@outlook.com.

more income for the program," noted Region 6 Director Gene Gerdes, who was in favor of the change.

"That's a pretty good chunk of money that we're not currently getting into the program," Willey said. "We're going to have some pushback on it, but the majority of people are going to be okay with it because they simply don't like two stickers."

The trail pass requirement served as a consolation prize to the ISSA's push to double the snowmobile registration fee to \$30 four years ago. Most legislators were not in favor of a fee increase back then, so the trail permit system was proposed and approved to generate the much-needed revenue for trail maintenance and improvements.

ISSA Lobbyist Mike Heller said the atmosphere in Des Moines has not changed much since that time, and as a result, the ISSA will once again be facing an uphill battle to move to a one-decal system.

"It's going to be important that we have grassroots support on this effort," Heller said. "It's going to be important where it's not sold as a fee increase. The makeup in the legislature right now is not really conducive to that. It's going to take a lot of work to get done, but you guys have shown us in the past the ability to do that."

Board members shared their feedback from their constituents across the state on this proposal.

"The majority of the club members I have talked to are in favor of this change," reported Region 1 Director Dan Delperdang.

"Everybody is in favor of just one sticker where I'm at as well," added Region 7 Director John Kahler.

"I've had a couple of questions by email with some concerns from those who own sleds in Iowa but don't ride them in Iowa,"

Willey said. "I don't see the big deal with purchasing the extra \$15 for that sled if it means more dollars generated for the program and going back to the clubs to keep improving the trail system that we have here."

"We will still be one of the lowest cost registrations across the Snow Belt," noted Past ISSA President Jim Willey, who serves as vice chair for the Midwest Chapter of the American Council of Snowmobile Associations.

Heller said any proposed legislation will need to be introduced by the Natural Resources Committee and then approved by the Ways and Means Committee before reaching the floor for a vote this session. He and partner Paula Feltner said they will visit with each committee chair to find a sponsor for the bill.

Jim Willey pointed out this effort will impact vintage registrations positively as they will no longer be required to purchase trail passes to participate in vintage rides and special events. A lifetime fee of \$25 is all that is needed to register a snowmobile which is at least 30 years old in Iowa.

Durby said the ISSA will also be looking at ways legislatively to shift how the snowmobile registration money is divided by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Current language allows up to 50 percent of the revenue to be earmarked for the administrative side of the program. Durby said he would like to see more funding available for the local trail grant side.

"We thought we were going to be able to get more of those dollars when they approved the user permits last time, but we really never did," he said. "We would like to see that split get addressed. We don't know what that percentage will be, but we want to work with the IDNR on that and see what we can do."

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Clubs Invited to Recognize Snowmobile Safety Week

The ISSA is joining the International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association (ISMA) in observance of Jan. 21-29 as International Snowmobile Safety Awareness Week. A safety proclamation has been requested from Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad, and club-related activities and safety classes are being encouraged at the local level.

"The purpose of International Snowmobile Safety Week is to expose people to safe snowmobiling practices and to demonstrate how operating safely can prevent mishaps," explained ISMA President Ed Klim. "Snowmobiling is a fun and exciting family activity enjoyed by over four million people across the United States and Canada. The sport is a safe and enjoyable form of recreation if done properly and with respect."

In Iowa, snowmobiles are operated by men, women and children of all ages. Depending on weather conditions, approximately 8,800 miles of snow-covered trails are maintained and groomed by snowmobile club volunteers across the state and enjoyed by a variety of winter recreationists.

Activities and events held during Snowmobile Safety Awareness Week will promote responsible attitudes and actions that will foster the safe, family image of snowmobiling.

"Safe Snowmobiling means riding within your own capabilities, operating at safe and appropriate speeds for the terrain and never drinking alcoholic beverages before or while driving," explained ISSA President Chris Willey. "Always wear a helmet and adequate clothing, stay within design-

nated riding areas and always snowmobile with another person, never alone."

Occasionally, problems occur, and snowmobilers should be prepared for all possible scenarios.

"Take along a spare belt, spark plugs and tools to do basic repairs. You also should carry emergency supplies, such as a basic first aid kit, and overnight survival provisions, such as food, matches, flashlight and extra batteries, and shelter building materials," Willey recommended. "Most importantly, always use common sense and keep a clear head. Learn all you can about responsible snowmobiling and keep safety as your top priority."

Willey said the ISSA is encouraging its member-clubs to sponsor youth snowmobile safety courses and to host other safety-related activities. Ideas and suggestions are available online through ISMA's Campaign Action Manual at www.snowmobile.org. Also posted there is information on ISMA's Safe Riders! program.

Materials that are available from both programs include the following: posters, fact books, a safety video, public service announcements, a website and decals that highlight safety messages and enhance safety education efforts.

"We hope that you will find this web-based information useful in your organization's snowmobile safety campaign," Klim said. "The suggested activities contained there can be modified to meet your club's needs. Any suggestions or ways to improve this manual are welcome. Have a great snowmobile season!"

Safe Snowmobiling Tips to Share with Your Friends

1. Never consume alcohol or drugs.
2. Become familiar with the snowmobile you ride.
3. Operate at safe and reasonable speeds.
4. Stay on trails and areas where snowmobiling is permitted.
5. Avoid travel on unfamiliar frozen bodies of water.
6. Use extra caution at night.
7. Keep your snowmobile properly maintained.
8. Become familiar with the terrain you will travel on.
9. Listen to the weather forecast before you leave.
10. Always wear a helmet and proper clothing.
11. Never ride alone and let someone know where you are going and when you plan to return.
12. Carry emergency supplies and learn survival skills.



Download SafeRiders!
Campaign Action Manual
at www.snowmobile.org.



Coming Soon to a Trail Near You

ISSA Board Seems Okay with Snow Bikes in Iowa as Long as Riders Register Their Machines, Join Clubs, Help with Trails

by Cameron Hanson

Already popular out west, dirt-bike conversion kits are slowly creeping onto the snowmobile trails around Iowa, and as learned during the ISSA Board of Directors online meeting Dec. 18, the reception from the organized snowmobiling community here has been surprisingly warm.

Randy Magg, a groomer operator from the Dickinson County SnowHawks and assistant director for Region 1, has observed these so-called snow bikes—equipped with a single front ski and 12-inch track—in use in the Iowa Great Lakes Region and has found their impact to be fairly minimal.

“We’ve had them up here in the lakes area, and they seem to do less damage than a three-inch paddle track from a snowmobile does on our trails,” Magg reported.

ISSA Vice President Brian Carmichael lives in Aplington in Region 4 and knows of two snow bike riders from nearby New Hartford. He too is not offended by their use on trails.

“I’ve seen them on the trails, and they leave less of a footprint than our sleds do; and even when they take off, they don’t dig a trench in the snow,” Carmichael said. “This new sport is going to get really big, and we should be ready for it.”

“They are very popular out west,” ISSA President Chris Willey said. “And usually what’s popular out west is coming to the midwest.”

Growing in Popularity

The growing popularity of snow bikes came up during the board’s discussion on its legislative agenda for the approaching session of the Iowa Legislature. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources, according to Willey, has put the onus of allowing or denying these dirt bike kits on snowmobile trails in the hands of the ISSA.

By roll call vote, the board overwhelmingly approved their use and will now be urging legislators to change the definition of a snowmobile to include one or two skis. The only dissenting vote came from Region 5 Director Matt Miner of Lime Springs, whose home club, the Driftrunners, has had a negative experience from snow bikes on its trail system.

“These guys are not going to stop riding when there’s only an inch of snow out there on our trails,” Miner said. “They are still going to go out on our trails and ride those things. They’ve done it in the past, and that’s one of our biggest issues up here. They want to go out and ride and don’t care what the trails look like.

“We want something in there to protect our landowners and our trail system,” Miner continued. “If we allow these on our trail system, what will be next? Fat tire bicycles and tracked OHVs? We need to make a rule to protect our landowners and protect the trails and protect what the clubs have built. We need some sort of enforcement attached to this language where there are penalties when these snow bikes are on the trails when they shouldn’t be.”

ISSA Secretary Sue Paulus, who doesn’t vote by position,

voiced her concerns with allowing snow bikes on snowmobile trails and the perceived conflict they present with landowners. The trails maintained by her home club, the Floyd County Groomers in Region 4, are nearly all cross-country, thanks to the generosity of their landowners.

“We don’t want to lose our landowners because we have worked very hard to get them and keep them,” she said, siding with Miner.

“We don’t want to do anything that jeopardizes the trail system because every club has worked hard to get these in place,” Willey said. “The landowners I’ve talked to have said if they operate the same as a snowmobile and they’re not going to be tearing up their land, then they have no problem with them.”

Not Legal Yet

Currently, snow bikes are not legal to ride on snowmobile trails in Iowa. They do not fit the definition of a snowmobile and therefore cannot be registered as such. The best way to control their use this season is through law enforcement, Willey said.

“We need to write tickets and not give warnings to control this



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right now,” Willey said. “If we decide to allow them to ride on the trails, then they would have to register them and have to buy a trail pass.”

Willey and others on the board called snow bikes “self-regulating,” meaning they need the same conditions on which to ride just like a snowmobile does. Carbides are required for the front skis, and snow is needed to lubricate the rear slides. Because of that fact, a number of board members didn’t think there would be issues of snow bikes tearing up trails at the end of the snow season.

“As long as there is language in the code which requires that, I’m okay with it,” said Region 9 Director Tim McPherson, who heard from snow bike supporters at an Iowa Snowdrifters meeting last month.

“That machine is only going to operate on the trail at the same time a snowmobile is going to be out there,” Willey said. “We need to realize this sport is knocking on the door in Iowa, and they are looking for ways to get on the trails one way or another.”

Willey is concerned if the board and the IDNR does not okay their use, this new user group will lobby local officials to allow them on the trails or at least in the road right-of-ways. He specifically pointed to counties which allow ATVs to operate on secondary roads.

“We are at the point we need to decide what we want to do,” he urged the board. “My personal stance is that we embrace this. These guys seem willing to help with trails and join our clubs. This is a new segment of the sport that’s not going away. Two years ago, I would have told you it was a fad and nothing to worry about.

Now, I can tell you it’s here to stay.”

Several Providers Available

Presently, two snowmobile manufacturers are promoting snow bikes. Polaris owns the Timbersled brand of conservation kits, and Arctic Cat is partnering with track manufacturer Camso to produce its own version. Other third-party alternatives are also available.

Former IDNR state snowmobile program coordinator David Downing first predicted this insurgence of snow bikes at the 2015 ISSA Convention in Storm Lake, and Bob King of Council Bluffs, chair of the American Council of Snowmobile Associations’ Midwest Chapter, told Iowa members at this year’s convention to be on the lookout for them as well.

“They have caught on in the west and have been approved in South Dakota,” King said. “Minnesota has not approved them yet but is in the process of rewriting its snowmobile laws and the definitions of a snowmobile. This is an ongoing situation that you need to be aware of.”

Potentially becoming a leader in the adoption of the sport, the ISSA board is now looking to capitalize on the popularity of snow bikes by capturing those new registration dollars and increasing memberships by appealing to the youth who are interested in them.

“This could be a shot in the arm for club memberships and registration dollars,” Willey said. “It’s going to take some explanation to our landowners because they are going to see a different type of machine out there riding on their property. It’s going to be a little bit of public relations campaign for us if we allow them.”

‘This could be a shot in the arm for club memberships and registration dollars...It’s going to be a little bit of public relations campaign for us if we allow them.’

— ISSA President Chris Willey on the advent of snow bikes in Iowa

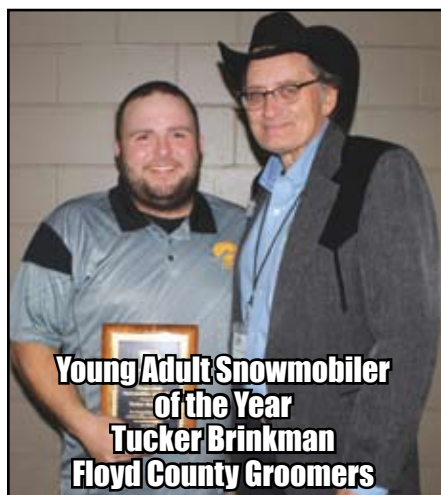


Now Showing: 2016 ISSA Award Winners

Each fall, the ISSA recognizes the contributions of its members through its annual awards program. For 2016, winners were honored during the awards banquet at the 43rd Annual ISSA Convention in Waterloo Nov. 19.

What follows here are snapshots of each award winner as compiled by the ISSA Awards Committee. Each winner was nominated by his or her home club, and the entries were judged anonymously. Pictured with each recipient is then-ISSA President Merv Hoermann.

Please note there were no entries for the Club of the Year.



**Young Adult Snowmobiler
of the Year
Tucker Brinkman
Floyd County Groomers**

Tucker Brinkman, the 2016 ISSA Young Adult Snowmobiler of the Year, began riding snowmobiles when he was just two years old with his parents. Now 25, he encourages others to join him in the sport he's enjoyed most of his life.

"He loves to talk snowmobiling and encourages others to ride or be more tolerant of snowmobiles," his nomination form reads. "He is also a responsible rider and will try to convince other young riders to follow his example."

Brinkman, who lives in rural Marble Rock and is a member of the Floyd County Groomers, is also a strong supporter of his local club and the state organization.

"Whenever he has a chance to visit with other riders, he encourages them to ride the trails in Floyd County and to join our club and the ISSA," the nomination continues.

Kevin "Fuzzy" Winters of Lake Park, a 15-year member of the Dickinson County SnowHawks of Region 1, has been named the 2016 ISSA Groomer Operator of the Year.

A regular club officer, Winters also serves as one of the area's snowmobile trail contacts. For the past several seasons, he has been responsible for handling all of the fall maintenance of the club's groomer and also assists with tree trimming along the trails as well as signing the routes.

According to his nomination form, "Kevin is always one of the first ones out on the trails with the groomer each winter and makes sure that any unforeseen hazards are marked and that a solid trail base is established. He is also very hands on when it comes to groomer preparation and maintenance."



**Groomer Operator of the Year
Kevin 'Fuzzy' Winters
Dickinson County SnowHawks**



**Snowmobiler of the Year
Greg 'Vern' Place
Dickinson County SnowHawks**

Greg "Vern" Place of Spirit Lake, a member of the Dickinson County SnowHawks of Region 1, has been named the 2016 ISSA Snowmobiler of the Year.

Place has been active with his local club for more than a quarter century now and served as its president for two years. He is best known for his ability to attract others to the organization.

"Greg has been undoubtedly one of the top membership recruiters in our club over the years," his nomination form reads. "He has recruited at least five members into the club within the last year alone. He actively works to get younger members into the club to continue the growth of the sport and recruits volunteer participation of both club members and non-club members for all club activities."



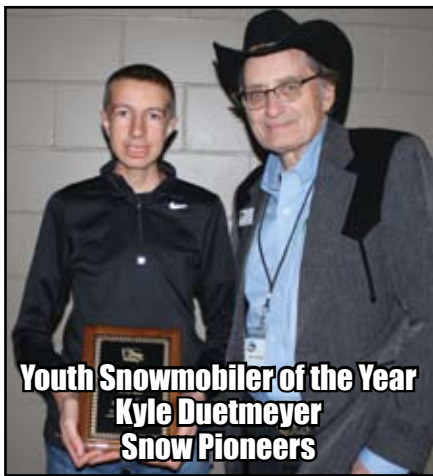
**Snowmobile Family of the Year
Joe and Sue Paulus and Family
Floyd County Groomers**

The Joe and Sue Paulus family of Rockford has been named the 2016 ISSA Snowmobile Family of the Year. They are active members of the Floyd County Groomers, and Sue currently volunteers as secretary of the ISSA.

Both have served in leadership roles on the local level as well. Sue was club secretary for eight years, and Joe is in his 10th year overall as club vice president. The couple is involved in the ISSA and always supports the Spina Bifida Kids Ride each January with a donor sled and cutter.

"They have helped with many membership drives over the years and always encourage other snowmobilers to join a local club as well as the ISSA," their nomination form reads. "They also seek to obtain additional members by helping to raise awareness of the local club and its importance to the trail system and community."

**2016 ISSA
Convention
Review**



Youth Snowmobiler of the Year
Kyle Duetmeyer
Snow Pioneers

Kyle Duetmeyer may only be 14 years old, but he's no stranger to the amount of work it takes to build and maintain a snowmobile trail system. For his efforts, the Snow Pioneers member was named the 2016 ISSA Youth Snowmobiler of the Year.

"Kyle enjoys working on the trails every year to make sure they are marked and ready for the winter riding season," his nomination form reads. "He loves to be outside and goes on snowmobile rides every time the right amount of snow falls."

Duetmeyer began snowmobiling with his father at the age of three. Now he and his dad are building a bridge over a large stream to make it safer for others to cross.

Emmet County Driftbusters President Tyson Enerson, below right, presents Cory Hanson of J&K Snowmobiles with the ISSA's 2016 Snowmobile Dealer of the Year Award at a recent club meeting.

The Arctic Cat dealer from Estherville was nominated for the award by the Dickinson County SnowHawks of Region 1 and was recognized for its support of club events by displaying new equipment and providing demo rides to both snowmobilers and non-snowmobilers alike.

"They never shy away when asked to contribute to one of our fundraisers and are always willing to help out with anything we need. You never have to ask them twice," their nomination form reads.



Snowmobile Dealer of the Year
J&K Snowmobiles
Estherville



Lady Snowmobiler of the Year
Mary Brinkman
Floyd County Groomers

Mary Brinkman of Marble Rock, a member of the Floyd County Groomers of Region 4, was named the 2016 ISSA Lady Snowmobiler of the Year.

Brinkman is an active member of her club. She and her husband are landowners on the trail system. She operates the groomer, helps mark trail and coordinated the club's landowners' appreciation breakfast last winter.

"This breakfast was a great way for club members to meet in person with a group that is vital to our trail system, and Mary played a big role in organizing that effort," her nomination form reads.

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Heading Back to 'The Jack'

Annual Clear Lake Event Produces Ideal Venue for Vintage Sled Racers

by **Cameron Hanson**

Neal Beck of Fairbank spends his days selling late model snowmobiles to customers throughout northeast Iowa. On the weekends, however, his attention turns to those machines which haven't seen the showroom floor in more than 40 years.

Beck, parts and sales manager for Myers Polaris, doesn't hide his passion for vintage snowmobiles. Eight years ago, he began coordinating the Leaf Spring Rally, a local vintage ride now hosted by the Trail Blazers Snowmobile Club of Region 5; and for the past four years, he and a group of friends have been travelling to Clear Lake for the annual Jack Race each January.

"The attraction of vintage sleds for me is that they're simple to work on compared to the newer equipment out there," Beck explained. "They have a lot less moving parts and electronics. I'm kind of on the younger side of this vintage thing, but at the same time, those are the snowmobiles I grew up riding and enjoy being around."

At 32, most of the snowmobiles Beck wrenches on are older than he is, and he's fine with that. They are similar to the sleds which introduced him to the sport in his youth—old machines that his grandfather kept out in the barn. He now maintains a salvage yard of donor sleds, and his trailer on race day is the place for other competitors to find replacement parts.

"You have to have a stockpile of parts if you're going to be active in vintage racing," Beck acknowledged. "Even though I work at a dealership, you just can't go back to the parts room and pull the parts off the shelves that you need. These machines, for the most part, are obsolete, and you have to have some parts sleds sitting around."

He calls one of his sleds 'Bits and Pieces', because it's made up of parts from about 10 different machines, he guesstimates. His preferred ride is a 1979 Polaris TXL 340, and at last year's Jack Race, he won the 1985 and older Leaf Spring class on this white and blue pony. He also took home first place in the 1973 and older race on his 1972 Polaris ATX.

Affordable Form of Racing

Beck said the Jack Race, known officially as the Jack Helgren Memorial Iowa LeMans Championship, provides the perfect platform for satisfying his competitive drive without breaking the bank. He said the event provides a "cheap alternative" for snowmobile racing in Iowa, if such a unicorn exists.

"I used to race grass drags and ice ovals with the newer stuff, but the cost just got to be too huge," he explained. "Vintage racing is definitely a lot more affordable. You don't need a factory sponsor-

ship or a dealer connection to race vintage sleds. You can be competitive in vintage racing just by taking the time to test and tune."

Beck said most of the sleds involved in the Jack Race can be purchased on Craigslist for under \$1,000. With 26 classes for all different ages and sizes of sleds and racers, he said there are plenty of opportunities for newcomers to the sport to get acquainted to the competition at Clear Lake. Just take a walk down pit lane, and most people are more than willing to lend a hand.

"A lot of us are always ready to help out and answer questions," Beck encouraged. "We're not going to give up all of our secrets, but I'm a promoter of snowmobiling and snowmobile racing, and we always would like to see more people out there on the track. The more the merrier. It's no fun to just have four guys out there competing. We want to see classes with 10 sleds in them."

Beck said he spends most of the year tinkering on his sleds and getting them ready for the race. The work begins in earnest during the late summer. He and his buddies take what they've learned



Neal Beck of Fairbank reaches for the starter rope on his 1979 Polaris TXL during racing action at the Jack Race last January. In true LeMans fashion, each race begins with competitors running to their machine after the starter drops the green flag.



Jack Race founder and Past ISSA President Gary McVicker, left, visits with track volunteer Rusty Peters on race day in 2016.

from last season and improve on it or tweak it after shaking down their sleds during test-n-tune sessions on an abbreviated track near his home.

"You learn every year what you can or can't do...what worked

and what didn't," he said. "These machines were not really made to do what we're doing with them. You have to beef them up a little bit and make them hold up for a 10-lap race. It's funny to see some of the carnage left on the track after a race. You'll see parts scattered all over."

Beck said he works closely with a group of five friends from the Fairbank area—each with two sleds—and another pair from Vinton also travels with them to the Jack Race. The annual competition is a chance to hone their skills and expand their comradery to other racers from other parts of Iowa and from neighboring states.

"We all have a competitive spirit in us, and The Jack is our big race of the year," Beck said. "We really enjoy participating over there. It's another outlet, another place for our group to meet up and race. The Jack is something different for us than just going out for a vintage trail ride."

Snowmobile Destination

Race promoter Gary McVicker of Hampton, a past ISSA president, envisions the Jack Race as a destination for Iowa snowmobilers each season. He said the competition and attendance increases each year, and he invites people to ride into the event on their sleds whenever possible. The local trail dumps right out into Clear Lake State Park, which has hosted the event the last five seasons.

"One of the things we want to stress to people is that we are here to promote our sport and the greater Clear Lake area," McVicker said. "We have plenty of participants who come in from all over, and the only time they get these sleds out is for our race. We also have plenty of people from the area who have built sleds just for the Jack Race. It's the only time they hit the ice."

This year's event is planned for Jan. 20-21. Friday night includes a vintage ride around the lake and Saturday morning begins with Radar Runs promptly at 9 a.m. followed by LeMans racing action at 10 a.m. A complete agenda appears on the back page of this issue and



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the event is now recognized throughout the Midwest.

“We’re not perfect, but we’re having fun,” McVicker said. “Some people take it more seriously than others, but it’s supposed to be a fun event so let’s enjoy it. This thing has grown every year. People in the community know what you mean when you say The Jack now. You talk to snowmobilers all over Iowa, and they know what our event is all about.”

additional
information can

be found online at www.thejackrace.com.

“The format is going to be pretty much the same as it has been the last several years,” McVicker said, adding that the 120 kids races are returning for their third straight year. “We’re not adding anything, and we’ll finish off with the Stud Boy 50 open class race at the end of Saturday afternoon.”

Unlike last year, when the event had to be postponed a month, the weather appears to be cooperating this winter as a December cold snap and a trio of snowstorms have created fairly ideal race conditions on the lake. As always, organizers will leave the lake surface unmanicured as racers bang their way around the serpentine course on the lake’s south side.

“The lake surface is the track. That’s part of it,” said McVicker, who founded the event in 2010. “This heritage goes back to the original LeMans races on the lake in the 1960s and 1970s. I know some guys think we need to smooth it out a little bit, and some want us to add more moguls. We will continue to leave it alone. That is what makes The Jack what it is.”

Hosted by the North Iowa Snow Seekers of Region 3, the race weekend honors the memory of Jack Helgren, a snowmobile dealer who passed away in 2009. McVicker was a close family friend and wanted to commemorate Helgren’s contributions to the sport locally. Drawing several thousand snowmobilers to North Iowa,



Drivers meeting for the 120 race last January.

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Clay County Sno Broncos

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(712) 260-6855, eliteautodoug@hotmail.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, kwinters93@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, waltidibbern@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
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(712) 461-1510, wollmuth@mtcnet.net

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Sioux County Snowmobile Club

www.siouxcountysnowmobileclub.com
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President: Dave Taylor
313 Hunter Ridge, Rock Valley, IA 51247
(712) 449-5556, Dave.Taylor@interstates.com

REGION TWO

Emmet County Driftbusters

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

Humboldt Sno-Skimmers

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

Kossuth County Drift Skippers

President: Jeremy Walker
1402 170th St., LuVerne, IA 50560-8552
(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, kbonnstete@windstream.net

Sno-Pak

P.O. Box 122, Rockwell City, IA 50579
www.snopak.com
President: Kolby Wagner
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(712) 297-7383, kjwagner@windstream.net

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

Region 1

O'Brien County Snowtrackers

by Zelda Buse Christensen, Reporter

Today, Saturday, Dec. 10, the timing seemed to be about perfect: Snow was falling to tease potential young snowmobilers who hoped to be able to legally ride, and Snowtrackers volunteers were teaching a youth safety class at NCC. By the end of the day, the snow had been pretty minimal, but the forecast is still hopeful for a little more tonight and tomorrow.

Club News

Under certified instructor Gary Lansink's tutelage, assisted by Melinda Wester, four boys and four girls passed the course and are ready to ride. Occasionally, a person who brings a youth will stick around and observe some of the day's activities. Today, a father who brought his daughter and a couple of other kids did just that. I guess you could call it a "review" for him, for he had taken the youth safety class himself in 1978!

The groomer is ready to go. Very few signs not in yet are planned to be finished this weekend. The Iowa Department of Transportation has answered our plea to use a 15-foot mower on some of the ditches on Highway 10 west of Paullina so the groomer can be operated there.

Bring on the snow!!

Powder Players

By Jim Skinner, El Presidente

Our first meeting was held the beginning of November, and considering the great weather and continued field work, we had a good turnout with a great meal served to all in attendance.

The usual first meeting items were discussed: trail permits, groomer status, trail marking/signing, fun runs and the huge hope that we get enough white powder to make everyone happy and their efforts worthwhile.

Info was shared on an upcoming avalanche class being hosted at Glen's Sport Center in Region 1 at Sheldon and sponsored by Bombardier Recreational Products. Any of our club members who had never been to one of these types of classes were encouraged to attend. Upon talking to Glen's, after the class was held, there was a great turnout with approximately 100 snowmobilers who did attend. KUDOS KUDOS, fellow snowmobilers! This says volumes about the importance that you put on snowmobile safety.

Sadly, in the northwest corner of the state, we have only gotten a dusting of the white stuff, yet our members have stayed busy with marking trails, getting our groomer out of storage (with high hopes) and the annual Pioneer Village Christmas in Le Mars. Our club members volunteered to help roast marshmallows at this event the first two weekends in December. Our club has been helping at this event for many years. In addition to mallow roasting, our



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January

- ISSA Kids Ride for the Spina Bifida Association of Iowa Sunday, Jan. 15, at Huxley.
- ISSA Board of Directors meeting Jan. 15 at 9 a.m. at Huxley.
- Groomer Recertification Course Jan. 18 at Zip's Towing, New Hampton.
- Jack Race Jan. 20-21 Clear Lake. Visit www.thejackrace.com for more information.
- Trails Unlimited Family Ride Jan. 21.
- Groomer Recertification Course Jan. 23 at The Garage, Coulter.
- Driftrunners Snowfest Jan. 26-29 Cresco.
- University of Okobojo Winter Games Jan. 26-29 Spirit Lake.

February

- Winneshiek Trail Twisters Chilly Weenie Roast Feb. 4.
- "Ride Iowa Trails" event Feb. 11 hosted by the Floyd County Groomers.
- Allamakee Sno-Blazers annual fundraiser Saturday, Feb. 11, at Green Valley Getaway, Waukon.
- Driftrunners Charlie's Chili Feed Feb. 11 on the trail near Florenceville.

members also operate the ISSA snowmobile simulator. The first weekend, approximately 250 youngsters rode the simulator. This is the third year we have had the simulator at this event, and members were told that adults and children were hoping it was there, AGAIN, this year. Hopefully, hearing this positive feedback, this experience will encourage our youth to become interested and excited about snowmobiling.

If Mother Nature would just let loose, then maybe we could get the white stuff here and that WOULD certainly be hugely beneficial. Her holding back definitely affects so many different people and aspects, of snowmobiling. Six years back, our club was just ONE short of 100 club members (sponsors included), and the membership numbers have declined each of the following years. Like all of us in this enjoyable/fun sport, we are hoping this will change.

As the new club president this year, I am proud to be part of such an awesome club that works so well together to support our club as well as for our community

It is a great thing when members (especially new ones) step forward and volunteer for things that are unfamiliar to them. I have been there and was hesitant about volunteering as I was unsure what was all involved and expected. Now that I have volunteered for several things, I have realized there is nothing but a fun time as well as smiling in the end as we possibly helped & made a difference.

Here's looking ahead and hoping for some white stuff to make us all happy. HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON!!!

The Powder Players meets the first Wednesday of the month, from November through March at 7 p.m. at The Triangle in Remsen. Visit and "LIKE" us on Facebook at Powder Players Snowmobile Club.

Region 3

Worth County Fence Stretchers

by Nicole Knudson, Secretary

Greetings from Worth County! The weather outside is delightful. Let it snow, Let it snow, Let it snow! Hard to believe that before Christmas, the ground is white and again we have snow in the air and more in the forecast! Keep it coming! If this is any indication of how the winter is going to be, bring it on!

Our club held our monthly meeting for December. Although it is a busy time for all, it again was so nice to see brand new faces present. We always welcome new members aboard!

At this point, our club's focus is to get trails signed. With harvest being late, deer hunting and the now the first snow, the open window to sign trails was short. Signage is our focus for December. Our club has received our new blade for the groomer tractor and is eager to put it to use!

Until next time, we hope your new year is full of peace and joy!

Region 5

Cresco Driftrunners

by Bob Martinek, Treasurer

2017 is still hard to say or write. I hope all had a great Christmas and New Year. Plans are set for our 46th Annual Snow Fest Jan. 26-29. All are invited, sledders and non-sled-

2017 ISSA Club Challenge

Eastern Iowa Sledheads.....	\$500
North Iowa Sno-Jammers.....	\$500
Snowdrifters.....	\$500
Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club.....	\$250
Tri-County Snowmobile Association.....	\$376
Central Iowa Snowmobilers.....	\$350
Snow Pioneers.....	\$350
Floyd County Groomers.....	\$300
Sac County Sno-Lovers.....	\$300
Bremer County Sno-Knights.....	\$250
Humboldt Sno-Skimmers.....	\$250
Howard County Stumpjumpers.....	\$250
Lyon County Sno-Lyons.....	\$200
Eastern Iowa Sno-Riders.....	\$200
Iowa River Riders.....	\$100
Trails Unlimited.....	\$100

To donate, contact your ISSA Region Director or mail to ISSA Membership, 1924 270th Street, Marble Rock, IA 50653. Proceeds benefit the ISSA's lobbying effort.

ISSA CLUBS

Clubs in red reported
100% ISSA Membership

Lakota Sno-Eagles

President: Jordan Valvick
4410 Highway 169, Lakota, IA 50451
(515) 538-0290, jordanvalvick@gmail.com

North Iowa Sno-Jammers

P.O. Box 103, Lake Mills, IA 50450
www.northiowasnojammers.com
President: Valere Holtan
38320 210th Ave., Forest City, IA 50436
(641) 567-3674, vholtan@wctatel.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: Dennis Koehler
805 9th St NW, Waverly, IA 50677
(319)352-5576, (319) 240-5756
koehler805@gmail.com

Butler County Snow Snoops

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

Cedar Falls Sno Hawks

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

Chickasaw Sno-Riders

President: Dan Feenstra
1310 Jasper Ave., New Hampton, IA 50659
(319) 404-5482, 148danfeen@gmail.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: Nathan Hale
4145 Hillcrest Dr., Riceville, IA 50466
(641) 985-2699.

Mitchell County E-Z Riders, Inc.,

President: Karl Hermann
128 State St., Osage, IA 50461
(641) 732-5778
booksrusbookkeeping@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
(563) 582-8893, tnspsalla@hotmail.com
Clayton County Snowbirds
12469 Hwy. 18, Postville, IA 52162
President: Dan Torkelson
302 E Church St, Farmersburg, IA 52047
(563) 880-2422



ISSA CLUBS

Clubs in red reported
100% ISSA Membership

Driftrunners, Inc.

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

Dyersville Driftskippers

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

Snow Pioneers

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

Trail Blaz-zers Inc.

President: Randy Kaune, Sr.
11419 90th St, Fayette, IA 52142
(563) 920-8491, randysr05@hotmail.com

Trails Unlimited

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

Wapsipinicon Snowmobile Association

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

Winneshiek Trail Twisters Inc.

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

REGION SIX

Sac County Snow Lovers

P.O. Box 464, Lakeview, IA 51450
President: 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, mjpatt76@aol.com

Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club

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

Team Iowa Snowmobilers

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

Webster County Ice Breakers

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

REGION EIGHT

Central Iowa Snowmobilers

P.O. Box 1751, Marshalltown, IA 50158
President: Matt McKibben
1013 Broadmore Dr., Marshalltown, IA 50158
(641) 750-1281, mattsmckibben@gmail.com

2017 Charitable Contributions

Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Association	\$2,350
Hancock Snowmobile Association.....	\$2,250
Eastern Iowa Sledheads.....	\$500
Tri-County Snowmobile Association.....	\$376
Floyd County Groomers.....	\$300
Bremer County Sno-Knights.....	\$250
Snowdrifters.....	\$250
Central Iowa Snowmobilers.....	\$200
Trail Blaz-zers, Inc.	\$200
Snow Pioneers.....	\$100
Iowa River Riders.....	\$100



Proceeds benefit the Spina Bifida Association of Iowa.
To donate, please contact your ISSA Region Director.

ders alike. We have club trail rides, a Fun Run, Boy Scout breakfast, a huge raffle, vendor show, torchlight parade with bonfire, Saturday night dance with a live band playing and Sunday morning brunch with a family trail ride to follow.

Thursday starts off with our Early Bird club ride. We meet at The Hideaway in Cresco at 10 a.m. Thursday is also the official start of the Fun Run. Half of the Fun Run money goes to the first three winners, and the other half goes for our Spina Bifida donation. The Fun Run continues all weekend until card turn in which is either Saturday night at the dance or Sunday morning at the brunch at K-Town Tap in Kendallville from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday night, we have another club ride leaving Cresco at 7:15 p.m. Check our Facebook page for the location to meet at.

On Friday, we have the Ladies' Club Ride planned during the day and a regular club ride for Friday evening leaving Cresco at 7:15 p.m. Again, check Facebook for details.

Saturday starts off with the Boy Scout breakfast at the Expo building on the fairgrounds in Cresco from 6 a.m. to 11 a.m. The boys do a great job! Please stop and support them. Also on Saturday at the Expo this year, we are having a vendor show from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Many have expressed interest, so hopefully it will be a nice addition. At noon Saturday, we have a HoCA (Howard County Cancer Association) benefit and vintage sled trail ride planned. All proceeds and donations from this ride are given to HoCA.

By 6 p.m. we are back at the Expo building to line up the sleds for the torchlight parade on the Vernon Springs millpond. This is directly followed by a big bonfire with lots of fellowship right on the millpond. It is very impressive to see! At 8 p.m. back at the Expo building, the band "Troubleshooter" will take the stage to entertain all for the rest of the evening (until midnight). They play everything from classic rock to modern country and are very good! During the dance, we have our silent auction going on and will draw our raffle ticket winners. We have a lot of very nice raffle prizes this year. Thanks to all donors. Buy some tickets because you never know...you could be the big winner (need not be present to win)!

Finally on Sunday at the K-Town Tap in Kendalville from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Al and Debbie will have a brunch for us. It is also the official time to turn in and play your Fun Run cards. If you cannot make it Sunday, you can turn in your cards to me Saturday night during the dance. Lastly, leaving K-Town at 1 p.m., we have a leisurely family trail ride to cap off a very busy weekend. Some of the events I mentioned may change depending on snow or other variables so check Facebook for updates or call me.

Two weeks after Snow Fest, we will have Charlie's Chili Feed on Feb. 11 on the trail to

2017 ACSA Legal Defense Challenge

Snowdrifters.....	\$250
Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club.....	\$250
Central Iowa Snowmobilers.....	\$200
Floyd County Groomers.....	\$100
Iowa River Riders.....	\$100
Sac County Sno Lovers.....	\$100
Trails Unlimited.....	\$100



Proceeds benefit snowmobile access nationwide.
Contact your Region Director to make a donation.

Cresco just south off Granger. Pots of chili, brats, beverages and lots of fellowship for a freewill donation from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. (or until the food is gone).

Well I guess that's plenty for now. Thanks and see you on the trails!

Allamakee Sno-Blazers

by Brandon Fahey

It's early December, and Allamakee County has a few inches of snow on the ground with four to six inches in the forecast for this weekend and cold temperatures to help keep it around! Our trail system is complete, and they will open on Dec. 19 should we have good cover.

The Allamakee Sno-Blazers are planning our annual fundraiser for Saturday, Feb. 11, at Green Valley Getaway in Waukon. We are going to have a Radar Run with silent auction, raffles and evening dance so please plan to come spend the whole day at our third annual event! You can contact the Stoney Creek Hotel in Waukon for lodging, and as always, please check our website at snoblazers.lrtwebservice.com for trail conditions and event updates.

I hope we all have a very fun and safe snowmobiling season!!

Region 9

Snowdrifters, Inc.

by Ron Roe

At this time, we are in winter mode with two mornings at 14 degrees. That's a good way to get the ground frozen to hold the snow when it gets here. Also it makes ice quickly. Making ice helps other sports besides snowmobiling, like ice fishing, which a lot of people enjoy.

We had our monthly meeting last night at Sutliff Bar & Grill. It sort of was like a mini convention. We had ISSA President Chris Willey there. With him was his father, Jim Willey, a past ISSA president. Randy Schnobelen, conservation officer supervisor for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, was there as well. We also had Region 9 Director Tim McPherson present. Our club secretary, Derrick Parker, is also going to be an assistant with him. With these guys and plenty of our members, we had a group of around 50 people. We started the evening with approximately 90 members signed up and finished the night with around 110 members paid for the year.

This made for a good group meeting, and we also had snow in the air to help with the atmosphere. Thanks to everyone for showing up. A lot of good topics were talked about. With the forecast over the next few days, we hope to do a little practicing with our groomer or call it getting used to the new machine again.

I would think by now everyone has had a chance to dig out the snowmobiles and do a little dusting and fine tuning and make a few adjustments to be ready for the northern trips that have been planned.

Here in Coralville this Sunday, Dec. 11, we are having the luminaries. You take a white sack and put sand and a candle in it and line them on your sidewalk about 10 feet apart. Everyone lights them from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. It is really nice when most of the neighborhoods do this. Everyone can drive around and enjoy all the Xmas lights.

I just want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year even though it will be over with. On Jan. 2, the Hawkeyes play in the Outback Bowl in Florida. Go, Hawks!

That pretty much takes care of the holidays. Enjoy the snow and ride safely.

2017 ISSA Magazine Makers

Eastern Iowa Sno-Riders.....	\$300
Tri-County Snowmobile Association	\$151
Eastern Iowa Sledheads.....	\$100
Floyd County Groomers	\$100
Sac County Sno-Lovers.....	\$100

This relatively new fundraising mechanism is designed to offset the costs of keeping the Iowa Snowmobiler magazine in print. Send your contribution to your Region Director or mail to ISSA Membership, 1924 270th Street, Marble Rock, IA 50653.

For more information on this program, contact ISSA Communications Chair Jim Willey at (563) 920-0911. The goal is to finish the 2016-17 season with seven printed issues.

For the last four years, two of the seven issues have been published digitally only.

ISSA CLUBS

Clubs in red reported
100% ISSA Membership



Jasper County Ditch Bangers

President: David Huffaker
P.O. Box 391, Baxter, IA 50028
(641) 751-0622, huffaker-dave@hotmail.com

Tri-County Snowmobile Association, Inc.

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

REGION NINE

Cedar County Winter Warriors

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

Cascade Snowmobile Club

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

Eastern Iowa Sledheads

P.O. Box 519, Lone Tree, IA 52755
easterniowasledheads@aol.com
President: Mindy Scott
P.O. Box 435, 204 W. Dougherty Dr.
Lone Tree, IA 52755, scott4@iowatelecom.net
(319) 629-4630(h), (319) 325-8917(c)

Eastern Iowa Sno-Riders

President: Dylan Bousselot
P.O. Box 13, Grand Mound, IA 52751
polarisdude900@gmail.com

Frozen Few

P.O. Box 184, Coggon, IA 52218
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: Jeff Wardenburg
1745 Radio Rd, Marion, IA 52302
(319) 331-1651
Jeff.Wardenburg@Titanmachinery.com

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, trentlarson@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

President: Aaron Dorothy
502 E. Cedar Ln., Mt. Pleasant Ia 52641
(319) 986-5188(h), (319) 217-6361 (c)
aarond65@hotmail.com





ISSA ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

REGION 1

Glen's Sport Center, Inc.

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

North Lake Truck Repair

Aluma trailer dealer
1420 North Lake Ave.
Storm Lake, IA 50588
(712) 732-1500
nltruckrepair.com

Project Mayhem Power Sports

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

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@netamurmail.com

Algona Machine & Supply

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

Brian's Construction

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

Champion Chrysler Center

Ski-Doo
527 Court St PO Box 153,
Rockwell City, IA 50579
(712) 297-7537
joe@championchrysler.com
www.championchryslercenter.net

Cruise Farms

2007 240th Ave., Wesley, IA 50483
(515) 200-9155, bcruise@excite.com

The Flipside Pizza & Pub

P.O. Box 128, LuVerne, IA 50560

J & K Snowmobile

2703 7th Ave. S., Estherville, IA 51334
(712) 362-3031, zr599@hotmail.com
www.jandksnowmobile.com

JDR Seed LLC

2109 190th St., Wesley, IA 50483
(515) 341-3452, jdrseed@ncn.net

Jeremy Walker Snow Removal

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

Jud's Bar & Grill

208 Centre St., Knierim, IA 50552
(515) 463-2345

Klocko Construction

114 1st Ave E, Knierim, IA 50552
(515) 571-5724

Lynch's Mainstreet Bar & Grill

336 Main St., Rockwell City, IA 50579

Motor Inn of Algona

1107 N Main St., Algona, IA 50511
(515) 295-2497
motorinnautogroup.com

Ramthun Trucking, Inc

2257 Traer Ave., Manson, IA 50563
(515) 480-3970
ramthun96@gmail.com

Rasmuson Electric

2781 Valley Ave.
Rockwell City, IA 50579
(515) 467-5748

Rock-N-J Café & Catering

2602 240th Ave, Wesley, IA 50483
(515) 320-4096; gjranch@hotmail.com

Sedlacek Snowmobile Salvage

135 Lake St., Rockwell City, IA 50579
(712) 210-0718
Find us on Facebook!

Sentral Insurance Service

P.O. Box 9, Fenton, IA 50539
(515) 889-2292

Shore Side Pub&Grub

1029 Main St., Manson, IA 50563
(712) 469-0017
shoresidemason@gmail.com
Open 7 days a week

REGION 3

Amsoil Regency Direct

Heath Palmer
220 Jamestown Rd.
Mason City, IA 50401
(641) 420-6677
www.thesuperiorsynthetic.com
thesuperiorsynthetic@hotmail.com

Auto Parts Wholesale

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

Boone's Removal

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

Brakke Implement

17551 Killdeer Ave
Mason City, IA 50401
(800) 325-5308

The Branding Iron

Fine dining
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(641) 584-2912

Buffalo Lanes, LLC

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

C R Fuel

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

Chappy's on Main

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

The Corner Restaurant & Lounge

207 East Main, Belmond, IA 50421
(641) 444-4451, (515) 577-2635
ericlambzz@gmail.com

Dave's Auto Service

101 W Main St., Lake Mills, IA 50450
(641) 592-9951, daves66@wctatel.net
Non Ethanol Premium Fuel

Deb's Wild Horse Saloon

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

DK Arndt, PC

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

Donna's Lounge

427 1st St PO Box 194
Meservey, IA 50457
(641) 358-6419

Dudley's Corner

648 Highway 3, Latimer, IA 50452
(641) 866-6999

E & E Repair

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

Fleener Auto Parts & Service

11475 Hwy 9, Thompson, IA 50478
(641) 584-2100

Forest City Ford, Inc.

P.O. Box 448, Forest City, IA 50436
(641) 585-5555

The Garage Tavern

103 Main St, Coulter, IA 50431
(641) 866-6771

step@mulfordconcrete.com

Goody's Welding & Metal Art

304 S. 4th Ave E., Lake Mills, IA 50450
(641) 909-4660
agundmonson@hotmail.com

Gorder's Service

201 Main St S, PO Box 95
Bradford, IA 50041
(641) 648-6071; 641-425-0935
brucegorder@gmail.com

Hair Designs

236 E J St., Forest City, IA 50436
(641) 585-2405, sbenson@wctatel.net

Hansell Ag Repair Inc.

1612 Vine Ave., Hampton, IA 50441
(641) 456-2034
dannek2034@gmail.com

Happy Time Resort

526 470th St., Lake Mills, IA 50450
(641) 592-2267, smantha@wctatel.net
www.happytimeresort.com

Hickman Chiropractic

820 4th St NE, Hampton, IA 50441
(641) 456-2280
hickmanjr@hotmail.com

Holland Contracting

1400 S. 4th St., Forest City, IA 50436
(641) 585-2231
www.hollandcontracting.com

House of Sports

Hwy 122 W., Mason City, IA 50401
(641) 424-2861
houseofsportsmc@gmail.com

Howie Equipment and Tire

Trailer & Tire Sales
1273 Mallard Ave, Hampton, IA 50441
(641) 456-5651
howieequipment@yahoo.com

Iowa Central Electric

1221 Water St., Alden, IA 50126
(515) 859-7072, (641) 373-1186
jerry@icecontracting.com

J-T Machine & Tool Co.

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

Keel Farms

1515 335th St., Forest City, IA 50436
(641) 430-3823

Kirschbaum Heating & Cooling

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

Lake Mills Motor Sports

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

Latimer Community Grocery

510 N Akir St, Latimer, IA 50452
(641) 580-0454
london111@hotmail.com

Main, Inc.

6401 Hwy 9, Buffalo Center, IA 50424

(515) 538-0337

Manufacturer's Bank & Trust

245 E J St., Forest City, IA 50436
(641) 585-2825, mbtbank.com

Mason City Powersports

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

Maxyield Cooperative

Britt, IA 50423
(641) 843-3878

Muhlenbruch Insurance

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

Mulford Concrete Inc.

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

No Where Bar & Grill LLC

107 2nd St., Bradford, IA 50041
(641) 648-0067
kristigorder@gmail.com

North Central Building Supply

801 4th St SE, Hampton, IA 50441
(641) 456-4711
northcentralbs@gmail.com

Northside One Stop

1208 4th St NE, Hampton, IA 50441
(641) 456-4157
jizzyrpms@yahoo.com

Pakoda's Steakhouse

719 Central Ave W, Hampton, IA 50441
(641) 456-2462
lrsliter@gmail.com

Pralle's Wash City

PO Box 126, Coulter, IA 50431
(641) 866-6889
dyanne@iowaconnect.com

Priebe Seed Sales

129 Industrial Dr., Forest City, IA 50436
(641) 581-3300
priebemi@gmail.com

Principal Builders Inc.

1312 Hwy 3 West, Hampton, IA 50441
(641) 456-5252
jason@principalbuildersinc.com

RLP Specialties

19378 Vine Ave, Mason City, IA 50401
(641) 696-5566

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Sheri's Southside Store

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(515) 689-3986
smithinsavery@gmail.com

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squidwilly@wctatel.net

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(712) 662-4738

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Doc's Place

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(712) 664-2050

Dolly's Bar & Grill

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First State Bank

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Ida Grove, IA 51445, (712) 364-3500

Hemers Plumbing

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(712) 668-2243

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Jarod Frank's Repair

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Quality Sign

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Quirk Seed Center Inc.

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SCHEDULE

FRIDAY NIGHT

Pre-registration
6-9 p.m. at the VFW
Downtown Clear Lake

Cruise Around the Lake

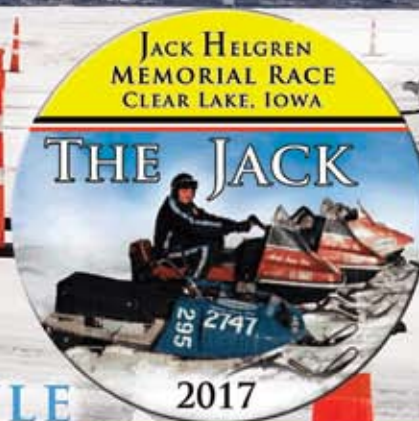
SATURDAY

9 a.m. Radar Runs
10 a.m. Lemans Racing
Vintage Show
Kitty Kat Racing
120 Racing

Clear Lake State Park,
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SATURDAY NIGHT

7 p.m. Awards
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