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COVER: Rob Rehms of the Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club brings up the rear on the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail at Huxley following the ISSA's Charity Ride there Jan. 11.

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President's Desk **Staying Busy in January Despite Poor Snow Conditions**

reetings to all fellow snowmobilers! Well, not much has changed since the last time being here. After three weeks of a January thaw, our earlier snow pretty much disappeared. Then we got some new snow with wind to fill our ditches back up, only to have a February thaw with temps to the 50s. Wow, hard to get a break. Too bad we could not have gotten some of the snow that the Northeastern Atlantic states got.

Jan. 11 was the annual ISSA Charity Ride in Huxley. A really good turnout of families again this year. Something different this year over the past years is that there was snow on the trail this year to ride on. I know many of you have clubs that donate to Spina Bifida, and that is great, but better still would be to see more of you attend this event just to experience the looks on the kids' faces and the amount of fun they are having. I visited with many of the parents, and they say this event is so memorable for their kids. Maybe next year, we can see more of you attend this great event.

Jan. 16, I made my annual trip to "The Jack" race at Clear Lake. Again, I can say, the group of volunteers that show up to help set up and run the events are doing a really good job. I have not heard how big the turnout was, but I think it was as large, if not larger, for the racers and the general public. The temps were warmer than in the past, but the ice was thick enough so everyone had a good time.

After the last event on Saturday, I met

a group of snowmobilers from the Algona area that had rode their sleds over and back. I noticed on the way home on Sunday on U.S. 18, the snow amount in the ditch was a little thin, so I am sure their ride home was challenging. The one thing that caught my interest was their BBQ grill and accessories mounted on a set of snowmobile skis



Merv Hoermann ISSA President

with the suspension, something one does not see every day. If you are ever in the Algona area, when it snows again, look for the "Arctic Custom Grill"

The warm weather had its impact for the University of Okoboji Winter Games and the Snowfest

Cresco this year. The Dickinson County Snow Hawks and Polaris Industries worked together again this year in hosting a 120 Ride for the Kids. With the warmer weather, there was an excellent turnout again. I was there with the snowmobile simulator and found there were many who never experienced being on a snowmobile before. The Snow Hawks raffled off a new Polaris 120 again.

Jan. 27 was the Travel Federation of Iowa's Legislative Showcase. This is an annual event of which members of Iowa Tourism set up Continued on page 12



ISSA President Mery Hoermann with the IDNR/ISSA snowmobile simulator at the Kids 120 event during the University of Okoboji Winter Games in January.



Vintage Ride Brings **Back Memories**

Well, here we are three-quarters of the way through the season. I hope everyone has been able to at least get out and ride at least once. It's been one of those years where you really have to work for it to get some miles on your favorite sled. Whether it's a long drive to the snow up north or out west or grooming the hard, frozen snow in the wind-blown ditches here in Iowa, I've done both in the recent weeks.

My home club, the Snow Pioneers of Region 5, held its Second Annual Vintage Ride on Feb. 15. Even with the sub-zero temps and marginal snow, we still got a ride in. There's still plenty of snow in the ditches, and we are working all the sections of our trail system that have snow. So after an early-morning, six-hour groomer run to get the trail in rideable shape, I switched out with one of our other operators, and I finally got out on my 1978 Arctic Cat El Tigre Cross Country.

This sled was the very first Arctic Cat I ever owned. A couple years ago, my wife, Andrea, actually tracked it down and surprised me with it. I've meant to get my old sled back on the trail ever since. On this day, I got it done. Riding down that ditch with a bunch of other old sleds brought back lots of memories of where I started and where I've come in this great sport.

Like the sleds have changed so has my focus on the sport. Back when I was riding that sled as a freshman in high school, I honestly never thought about how the trail got there, where the signs came from or where the money I spent on my registration

went. Now, just as my sled has doubled in engine size and the track length has gotten a lot longer so has my involvement in the

I think everyone should get out on an old leaf spring sled and reflect where we've come as a sport. It will also make you ap-



Chris Willey ISSA Vice President

preciate the suspension of that new sled you ride. We have made huge strides in snowmobiling in Iowa and I think we are on the right trail to even better things. But we should always remember where we came from. Remembering this stuff not only lets us appreciate what we have but also

shows us what we can accomplish when we work as a group focused on a mutual goal. I also think we need to share this history with the people just getting started in the sport. This gives them an idea of what improvements have been made and the "How and Why" of what we do. With new people getting involved in the sport we get a new perspective on the sport and how it changes with each generation.

I want to thank the Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club for inviting a couple of buddies and I to join them on their club trip to Saratoga Wyoming on Super Bowl weekend. It was a great trip, and I want to give a special thank Continued on page 20

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ISSA Delegation to Head East this Spring for D.C. Fly-In, ISC

Ifficers and directors from the ISSA will be heading east this spring to represent Iowa snowmobiling interests on the national and international stage.

April 18-21, local leaders fly to Washington, D.C., to participate in the American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA) annual D.C. Fly-In. Next, they travel to Niagara Falls, N.Y., for the 47th Annual International Snowmobile Congress (ISC) hosted by the New York State Snowmobile

Association June 10-13. Each event is filled with guest speakers and meetings related to the sport of snowmobiling. In D.C., the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) will be a hot topic as funding for

this important grant source is set to expire in May. "This is a very small program within the Federal Highway Bill, but it is very important funding that is used

on our trails," explained ACSA Executive Director Christine Jourdain. "Discussion has already begun on Capitol Hill about the future of RTP and the direction the legislation will take."

For more than a decade, the ISSA and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources have come to rely on this cost-share grant program to fund annual groomer purchases. The RTP represents a fraction of the federal fuel taxes paid by off-road enthusiasts in their off-road

Led by ISSA President Merv Hoermann, the Iowa delegation will be sure to express its desire to continue this much-needed trail assistance program when they make legislative visits on the Hill. They are expected to meet with each Iowa Congressperson or his or her staffer during pre-scheduled meetings.

An update on the RTP will also be provided at the 2015 ISC in New York. During this prestigious event, representatives from state, provincial and international snowmobile associations will gather to develop strategies on preserving access and funding for

Hoermann will represent Iowa on the International Snowmobile Council as well as during meetings with the full ACSA board and the Midwest Chapter of ACSA. In addition to meetings and speakers, the ISC also includes a groomer reception and awards banquet.

Gas-Tax Hike Expected to Pass Absent Any Amendments

10-cent tax hike on a gallon of fuel in Iowa was expected to pass the Iowa Legislature Athe last week of February, and there was no mention of snowmobilers finally getting reimbursed a portion of the taxes they pay on the fuel consumed in their off-road

For more than a decade, the ISSA has been lobbying for this funding, regularly citing the Marine Fuel Tax Program in Iowa which returns a portion of the state taxes paid on fuel used in watercraft. The state's boating community uses this money for infrastructure around lakes and rivers, and Iowa snowmobilers wanted a similar fund to help offset the rising costs of trail maintenance and groomer purchases.

Leaders within the organization felt the only way they would get a toehold on this proposal was to ride the coattails of any legislation introduced to increase the state's fuel tax for the first time since 1989. As they learned early on in the 2015 legislative session, bipartisan lawmarkers were determined to pass this legislation without any special-interest

"It looks like they are going to pass the fuel tax bill with no amendments next week," ISSA Lobbyist Mike Heller wrote in his weekly update Feb. 21. "Legislative leaders and the Governor lobbied members hard to garner the necessary votes for passage and to resist any amendments."

On another legislative topic, the ISSA is inching closer to preserving snowmobile trail access across divided highways and interstates. The language clarification stems from a situation in Region 9, where a disgruntled homeowner is challenging the legality of snowmobilers crossing primary highways. Sponsored by the Senate's Natural Resource and Environment Committee, the bill is moving forward.





In Memoriam

Former Region 11 Director Gene Paris Passes Away Feb. 9

Former Region 11 Director Gene Paris, 73, of Centerville, passed away Monday, Feb. 9, at his home.

Paris served on the ISSA board in the 1980s and again from 2009 to 2012 as an assistant. He was a founding member of the Rathbun Snow Riders, the only club in his region, and with help from his son, Kevin, he volunteered for nearly 30 years,

maintaining the snowmobile trails in and around Lake Rathbun in southern Iowa.

Through his dedication of almost three decades of service to maintaining the trails, Paris became only the third recipient to earn the Heartland Award from the Army Corp of Engineers.

Paris was born on the family farm east of Moravia on Aug. 12, 1941, and graduated from Moravia High School in 1958. He enlisted in the United States Air Force at the age of 17 and later joined the Iowa National Guard in Des Moines.

In 1972, he opened up the Paris Yamaha motorcycle dealership in Centerville. He owned and operated his business for several years, retiring in 1995. He then worked as a substitute mail carrier, a position he held up until four months ago when could no longer walk.

"This is just one example that demonstrated that when Gene did something, he put his whole heart into it," his obituary reads. "Throughout

his life, Gene continued to amaze his family and friends how he could bounce back from illnesses over and over again." In addition to other family members, Paris is survived by his wife of 47 years,

Brenda; two children, Kimberly and Kevin; and one grandchild.

In lieu of flowers, memorials have been established to either HCI Hospice or to the family of Gene Paris and may be given to Lange Funeral Home, 1900 S. 18th St., Centerville, Iowa 52544.



1941-2015

"It was a good week at the Capitol for snowmobilers," Heller said Feb. 14. "The ISSA proposal (SSB 1119) was voted out of committee and placed on the calendar. It is now Senate File 218 and is eligible for debate by the full Senate. The bill will preserve access to countless miles of trails that cross primary highways."

Other decisions coming out of Des Moines recently include some potential administrative rules changes from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR).

As announced by Rhonda Fowler of the IDNR's snowmobile and ATV program at the ISSA Board of Directors meeting in January, the department is considering a proposal that would extend the recertification period for groomer operators from three to five years.

By last June, all operators in Iowa needed to be recertified with the understanding they would need to take the education course again in another three years. The IDNR's proposal would now extend their license another two years.

"What we are trying to do is get groomer operators to recertify every five years, instead of every three years, which will make it easier on the groomer operators as well as the instructors," Fowler said.

Another change being considered is to perform driver's license checks every five years for current groomer operators to ensue compliance. "If an operator loses his or her license. then it is the responsibility of that operator to not operate that groomer," Fowler said.

The department is also trying to make it so youth safety instructors only need to be recertified every three years to follow the rotation of the state convention. "That way every three years, the convention will be in their area, and they can recertify without travelling a long distance," Fowler said.

More information on these initiatives will be announced later this year.

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2015 ISSA Grand Raffle

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> Grand Prize Drawing at the **42nd Annual ISSA Convention** Saturday, Nov. 21, Storm Lake

Purchase tickets from your Region Director or at convention. Need not be present to win.

> Tickets cost \$20 each or six for \$100.

Questions? Contact ISSA Raffle Committee Chair Gary McVicker at (641) 425-1375.

by Cameron Hanson

t the 2014 ISSA Convention in ****Dubuque last fall, the ISSA Awards Committee sponsored a seminar on the annual nomination process for club members. What resulted from that discussion were a few clarifications and changes to the program which should generate more interest and thereby increase the number of nominations going forward.

To recognize the volunteer efforts of its members, the ISSA currently offers eight year-end awards: male and female Snowmobiler of the Year, Snowmobile Family of the Year, Youth Snowmobiler of the Year, Young Adult Snowmobiler of the Year, Dealer of the Year, Groomer Operator of the Year and Club of the Year.

The Club of the Year selection process has always followed a points system to track how well a snowmobile club supports and participates in various ISSA programs. Points in each category are awarded on a sliding scale of 0-5. To be considered for this award, a club must nominate itself.

Since 2013, the awards committee has also used this grading system for its individual awards as well but recently clarified the point value for each. For example, if a response to a nomination form's questions only generates a "a brief description," the score would be 1. However, if "a very detailed description with three or more examples were provided," the score would be a 5. No response to a question would yield zero points.

"Explaining and distributing this judging criteria as well as the other changes we made this year are a direct outcome of the award seminar at convention as folks felt it would be helpful as they prepared their nominations," explained committee chair Mindy Scott.

Already emailed to the general membership, the judging criteria and nomination forms are also available on the ISSA's website at www.iowasnowmobiler. com/issa/awards. Nominations are due back to the committee by midnight June 1. Emailed or mailed submissions are being accepted. Entries are judged by a nonpartisan panel, according to Scott, and the scoring system helps foster objectivity and eliminate subjectivity.

"We select five judges from the ISSA board and from clubs who did not submit a nomination to use the new process exclusively for scoring the award nomination," she explained. "The judges are not told who else is scoring the nominations. Once a judge completes his or her scoring, they can either email their results to the chair and one additional named committee member or return the flash drive with their results to the committee chair or named committee member.

"The results are then placed in a master award file," she continued. "When all judging results are returned, the scores are tallied and the winner with the highest number of points is deemed the winner."

According to Scott, each nomination should include photos of the nominee, letters of support from his or her club and community, as well as new articles, videos or other information pertinent to the nomination. Supporting documentation should be no older than 2012, Scott noted.

"We encourage every ISSA member and club to recognize that individual who goes above and beyond or is a steady contributor for the club and sport of snowmobiling in Iowa," she said. "Every club officer or ISSA member knows a snowmobiler or two who has made a difference. Please take the time to recognize those individuals by



Contest rules, forms and past winners are posted on the ISSA's website at www.iowasnowmobiler.com/issa/awards.



ISSA Awards Program **Nomination Form Scoring Definitions**

- Brief: Used a few words
- Basic: Provided essential facts or points on the question asked
- 3. Adequate: Provided more, much or as good as necessary facts to meet the requirements or purpose of the question sufficiently
- Detailed: Provided thorough description of steps and actions taken along with example(s)
- Very Detailed: Provided precise, particular, in a high degree; exceedingly: details steps actions and outcomes along with multiple example(s)



ISSA Awards Committee Chair Mindy Scott leads the awards seminar at the 2014 convention in Dubuque

submitting a nomination for one, two or even all eight categories of awards given annually."

In addition to the hardware from the ISSA, award winners in the Snowmobiler, Snowmobile Family, Youth Snowmobiler and Dealer of the Year categories are automatically submitted to the

American Council of Snowmobile Associations for consideration in its annual award program at the International Snowmobile Congress each June.

The Groomer of the Year recipient is submitted to Arctic Cat for consideration in their International Groomer of the Year program, which is presented during the International Snowmobile Hall of Fame ceremonies held in Eagle River, Wis., each September.

New this year from the committee, once a member wins at the state level, however, he or she becomes ineligible for that award again for a minimum of five years. If they win at the national level, they are no longer eligible for an award in that category at the state

Designed to stimulate new and fresh nominations each year, this stipulation also came from member feedback during the awards committee seminar at convention, the committee explained.

"We're not looking for a popularity contest," Scott said. "As the individuals in attendance at our seminar explained, this may be a way to increase the number of nominations received. We want to ensure the general membership has an equal opportunity to receive recognition by the ISSA and that all nominations will be consistently scored."

One final change to the awards program involves the highest honor the ISSA can bestow on any of its members: the Lifetime Achievement Award. According to Scott, once an individual earns this distinction, he or she will no longer be eligible to be nominated in any state award category.

"We hope the membership appreciates these changes, and I encourage them to make 2015 a banner year for the ISSA's awards program," Scott said. "All it takes is for each club to submit at least one nomination for any or all of the award categories. Who knows? Your nomination may become one of the 2015 recipients."





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Riders have until April 1 to respond to an online survey

regarding snowmobile trail signs in lowa. To participate, visit www.surveymonkey.com/s/

snowmobilesigns.

IDNR considers updating state manual, soliciting online feedback from riders

by Cameron Hanson

Two-term ISSA President Merv Hoermann rode his snowmobile three times across Iowa the last time he served in office. Weather and trail conditions permitting, he hopes to resume the tradition this time around but wants one facet of the ride to improve as he makes his way from the Missouri to the Mississippi.

How snowmobile trails and ditches were marked and signed, he said of his previous President's Day Weekend trips, were wildly inconsistent from county to county, and as a result, he feels there should be greater uniformity among the 60 clubs across the state which maintain the 8,000 miles of trail in Iowa.

"I realize that with as many clubs out there as there are, we are going to have as many interpretations of how a trail should be marked," he said. "Every club does it a little bit differently. But when you ride across Iowa like I have several times, there are quite a few variances in club signage. I never saw two trail systems marked alike yet."

Hoermann's comments came during the January ISSA Board of Directors meeting. Rhonda Fowler of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' (IDNR) Snowmoble Program was on hand to discuss the department's desire to update its Snowmobile Trail Sign Manual. She passed out a draft proposal, and a signing debate ensued among the board members.

"We've been talking for about two years about updating our sign guidelines and working on creating a document and making into something that is going to be useful and work, but that is going to take a lot of input from the clubs and the ISSA to get it done," Fowler prefaced. "We are just at the draft stage. Nothing is set in stone yet."

Date unknown, the present sign manual discusses in detail how signs should be installed along a trail, how far from the "treadway" they should be placed and how far apart they should be. For

example, a 'Stop' sign, it states, should be placed at every public road or railroad crossing, and 300 feet before each one should be a 'Stop Ahead' sign.

According to Fowler, the purpose of these guidelines is to provide standards and principles for a statewide sign system. The manual should provide uniformity in the procedures, and "signing must meet the goal of concisely communicating with the public," she said.

"We really need to take more pride in how we mark our trails, and we need to realize how they are signed is important," Hoermann said. "We need to keep this in front of the clubs. Not everybody who rides here is from the area. I realize we are all volunteers, but we can't have everybody doing it the way they want to do it."

Following International Guidelines

In 2014, the International Association of Snowmobile Administrators (IASA) updated their publication, "Guidelines for Snowmobile Trail Signing and Placement." Last published in 2000, this document has been the basis for trail signing guidelines used in Iowa for decades.

"Iowa's effort to update our own documents is a direct result of the IASA's updates," Fowler noted.

The IASA is an organization of snowmobile program administrators representing 27 states, 10 Canadian provinces, three Canadian territories, and one European country. The IASA is perhaps best known to Iowa snowmobilers through its groomer operator training curriculum.

The guidelines developed by the IASA advocate the use of signs which are considered to be the "core trail signs." These signs include 'Stop', 'Stop Ahead', trail blazers, 'Slow', hazard markers and directional arrows.

According to Fowler, Iowa's guidelines will expand the types

of signs available to clubs based upon trail characteristics common to Iowa and the signs needed to address specific trail issues.

Continuing the discussion which started during the Trail Sign Seminar at the 2014 ISSA Convention in Dubuque last fall, the use of 'Caution' and 'Caution Ahead' signs sparked significant discourse at the January board meeting. According to Fowler, the goal at the international level seems to be trending toward using fewer signs as the Caution sign was not part of the IASA's core group.

Region 7 Director John Kahler was adamantly opposed to disbanding the use of the caution signs. With as many snowmobile trails in roadside ditches as there are in Iowa, he said the Caution, Caution Ahead and Stop signs are the three most important trail signs in Iowa, given the flat terrain here.

"You will find that most of the clubs will not want to see that Caution sign go away," said Kahler, a member of the Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club. "I guarantee snowmobilers will pay attention to a Caution sign because that is marking something that someone could die from."

"We don't want to have an accident due to poor signing," Hoermann said. "We need to make sure we mark a trail correctly the first time."

"That's why we need this discussion," explained David Downing. Snowmobile Program Manager. "There are a lot of things that we may think is not a big deal or doesn't make sense, but the people who are out there riding the trail and putting the signs in may have a different opinion."

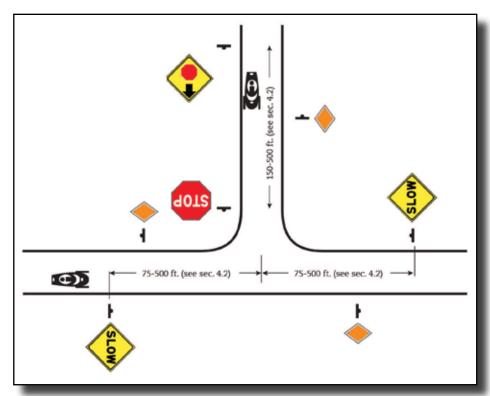
Survey Monkey Online

The ISSA and IDNR are currently soliciting rider input on the proper use of signs, their reaction and frequency on a trail. An online survey has been developed to capture this information at www. surveymonkey.com/s/snowmobilesigns. Interested parties have until April 1 to participate. The feedback will help shape any future trail sign manual.

According to Fowler, the key elements that will be central to Iowa's signing guidelines are featured in the survey:

•Need: Is a sign needed and which sign is needed?

2015 Trail Sign Orders Due May 1. Order form available online at www. iowasnowmobiler.com/ idnr/trailgrooming.



Trail intersection marking recommendations from the IASA.

- •Simplicity: Riders may go by signs quickly so make them count.
- •Clarity: Use clear, concise messages.
- Quality: Use durable, quality materials.
- Consistency: Are similar hazards signed identically?
- •Placement: Are signs installed where the user can see them and expects to see them?
- •Monitoring: Review the signing under a variety of light and weather conditions.
- Maintenance: Warning and regulatory signs must be in place and legible; maintain a professional and quality appearance for trail signs.

In conjunction with the implementation of the guidelines, Fowler said an education component will be added to educate riders about the rules, regulations and intended use of the signs. This will be accomplished by creating a sign pamphlet for distribution through the IDNR, ISSA, clubs and county recorder offices; posting the information on both the IDNR and ISSA websites: and including the information in the IDNR's annual reference guide and youth education curriculum.

"Development of these guidelines does not negate rider responsibility," Fowler said. "Operating motorized trail vehicles in a reasonable, responsible and prudent manner is the responsibility of the operator. The principles and guidelines offered by a sign plan are intended to compliment saferiding practices."

Fowler emphasized the department is

in the draft stage of the trail sign manual update. Several questions still need to be answered, including if signs placed on snowmobile trails are enforceable and what liability exists to clubs for failing to properly mark the trails. She said she is still waiting on clarification from the IDNR's legal staff.

"For me, on the outside looking in, it seems like both the IDNR and the ISSA need to get these questions answered before we move forward," Fowler said.

"We want to keep it as simple as we can make it," Downing said. "It really comes down to the people who ride the trails, the clubs who sign it and the input they can provide us."

Hoermann

Continued from page 4

up a booth to promote your interests and to meet with Iowa Legislators.

This year, the House decided to stay in session into the night to debate the school start date, so they were not in attendance, but 35 of the 50 senators did attend. So John Kahler and myself manned the ISSA booth and visited with the Senators to discuss a bill to allow snowmobile clubs to trail over IDOT four-lane roads on bridges and support to have sales tax spent on new snowmobiles refunded to be used on equipment and trail development. Their response was supportive. Mike Heller, our lobbyist, is working on putting together the language for the bills.





of Iowa (SBAI) is not it.

For the past three winters, Andreini and fellow ride organizers have had to resort to alternative means of transportation to take their disabled young friends out for a ride. The recent lack of snow has been frustrating, but all was forgotten this year as enough snow

remained on the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail at Huxley Jan. 11 to pull off their sixth snowmobile ride in the past nine years.

"I was getting tired of having this event without any snow," a grinning Andreini admitted. "It's

'I was getting tired of having this event without any snow."

> Past ISSA President Bruno Andreini

a good alternative to use ATVs and hay rides, but nothing beats the snow. I am thrilled we are able to accommodate this ride, and I'm thrilled that the city of Huxley made it possible. It's not a snowmobile paradise out there right now, but it is workable."

To compensate for some bare spots on the multi-purpose trail, Andreini said the city hauled in dump-truck loads of snow. They also created a spur connection from the trail to the city's Safe Room storm shelter, the host facility for the event the past two

this event happen. They never

tell me no. I couldn't be happier with the relationship we have with the city of Huxley."

Since 2007, the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail has served as the venue for the annual charity event with the ISSA. Base camp has been various locations within Huxley, all within close proximity to the trail. The first few years, the event was hosted at a private residence on the edge of town before moving to the fire station downtown.

Due to the popularity of the ride, the event outgrew that facility and, in 2014, was relocated to the Safe Room, a multi-use complex that also houses the middle school, park and rec division and the police department. "You can't say enough good things about this place," Andreini said.

Great Turnout Again

An estimated 70 people turned out for the 2015 event. ISSA officials and local club members trailered in snowmobiles and cutters for the kids to ride in, and the ISSA promotional trailer helped furnish the meat for the noon meal. Gifts and craft tables were available for the kids to enjoy, but by far, the main event was getting out on the trail.

"I'm the biggest kid here because I can't wait to get out there

with them," said Tim Schultz of Des Moines, father to seventhgrader Matthew Schultz who suffers from spina bifida.

Six-year-old Christian Davis, a kindergarten student from Norwalk, was also excited to take part in his first snowmobile ride. Along with his dad Charles and older brother Caleb, Christian has participated in the ISSA charity event before, but this winter was the first time by sled. "He's really been looking forward to this," his dad said.

"It's pretty evident that this event puts a smile on the kids' faces and sends a thrill up my back every year we do this," said Andreini, who serves as the ISSA's liason on the SBAI Board of Directors. "That's the biggest reward I get."

Through fundraising events and charitable donations, the ISSA has been supporting the SBAI since 1982. According to Andreini, the intent of the charity ride is to create an environment where families and their special-needs children can make connections with the snowmobilers who help make their program possible.

"The long-term impact of an organization like yours supporting a smaller non-profit like us has been huge," said newly-hired SBAI Executive Director Leslie Garman. "To have that stability and to have that support is noteworthy. The funding is critical because we are able to help families who oftentimes don't have other means of getting that support."

ISSA Donations up so far in 2015

Over the past three decades, the ISSA has contributed more than \$40,000 to the SBAI. According to ISSA Charity Committee Chair Angie Sprung, giving was down last year with only three snowmobile clubs raising \$4,236, but as evidenced at last November's state convention, contributions for 2015 have already exceeded \$10,000.

Dan Biller, chair of the SBAI board, helped staff the SBAI booth at the ISSA convention in Dubuque and marveled at the benevolence of the snowmobilers in attendance. He was glad he went so he could shake hands and thank the snowmobilers who support his organization.

'We are very fortunate to have a relationship with the members of the ISSA. They are a very generous group and are big supporters



Past ISSA President Dick Melick visits with Leslie Garman, executive director of the Spina Bifida Association of Iowa, during pre-ride festivities.



Charles Davis helps his six-year-old son Christian at the crafts table.

of ours," he said in the SBAI's winter newsletter. "People from around the state work on individual fundraisers throughout the year, and then at the convention, they deliver their fundraising checks. Snowmobilers have several beneficiaries, but our group is definitely on the hearts of many."

Formerly working for a national non-profit organization, Garman was amazed at the relationship her membership has with Iowa snowmobilers. She said their contributions, along with the SBAI's own fundraising events like the Walk-N-Roll each October, generate financial resources for local families in need.

"These funds support families in their neighborhoods," she noted. "It doesn't get sent off to another state. It helps people in our state. It helps them cope and do the things they have to do to help the person with spina bifida. This is so different than working with a national non-profit because it's so local and so personal."

Member Services

The goal of the SBAI is to provide support, services, optimism and opportunities for those with or impacted by this spinal chord birth defect. Thanks to the contributions from Iowa snowmobilers, the organization achieves those initiatives by passing on the



Four-year-old Anthony Hamilton of the Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club gets fitted with a pair of goggles prior to the charity ride.

latest medical information through communication to its members.

The SBAI also relies on this funding to help offset travel, lodging and other expenses related to their families' care of their children. Because spina bifida children have limited sensation in their lower body, mobility and incontinence are major obstacles for the families to overcome. Children are often wheelchair-bound and require physical therapy.

"This condition impacts everyone in a family," explained Garman, whose brother suffered from palsy. "How much depends on the degree of the disability, but as

Twenty-month-old David Ecklund scoots around the Huxley Safe Room floor.

someone who grew up with sibling with a disability, it impacts everybody. The hard part is that some of the services available are not always local, and many times families have to travel to get the support that they need."

Davis said his son Christian is "more fortunate" than other children with spina bifida because he can walk and does not require a wheelchair for mobility. Thanks to the assistance of a paraprofessional at school, he is also fully integrated into his classroom at Norwalk. But there are some limitations, like his shunt and incontinence, which carry a stigma for the family in public.

"Most parents don't understand what it's like, because outwardly, he doesn't show the signs of a disability, and other parents don't understand why he isn't pottytrained yet," Davis said. "So that's been a challenge. In his classroom, his teacher and his aide took some time to talk to the rest of the class about spina bifida, which helped a lot."

Garman said events like the charity ride are beneficial to her group because her group's members are able to connect with another and can also interact with the group which has helped them so much over the years. Andreini agreed and hopes the event will continue for years to come, regardless of uncooperative weather patterns and substandard trail conditions.

"The whole point of this event from the very beginning was for our members to get together and to get to know these families and these children especially on a first-name basis," he said. "This is one of our more important functions."



Joe Paulus of the Floyd County Groomers leads the caravan away from the Huxley Safe Room and out towards the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail.

ISSA Participates in Walk-N-Roll

The ISSA was among several sponsors which participated in the Spina Bifida Association of Iowa's Walk-N-Roll Oct. 18 at Principal Park in Des Moines. The event raised more than \$40,000 for the SBAI. "Congratulations and a big thank you to everyone who participated," Past SBAI Board Chair Sherri Tekippe said. "It was our best year yet in terms of participation fundraising!"



Join the ISSA

If you enjoy the sport of snowmobiling in Iowa, you are not alone. In 2014, more than 25,000 sleds registered with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and more than 50 clubs around the state maintained a 8,000-mile trail system.

The glue that bonds us together is the Iowa State Snowmobile Association and its network of 2,776 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. 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) as well as a complimentary accidental death and dismemberment insurance policy. In order to receive the full \$3,000 benefit, though, please list each family member in the space provided.

Thank You!

Iowa State Snowmobile Association

2015 Family/Single Membership Application

Please remit with payment.

	I hereby apply for members	ship in the Iowa State Snowmobile Association. C	heck all that apply:	
Single/Family (\$15)	* '.' *	Spina Bifida Association of Iowa Donation \$	• • •	d Donation \$
Name:	·	Spouse:		
Children:		Snowmobile Club:		
Address:	City:	County of Residence	State:	Zip:
Phone:	Email:		# registered	snowmobiles
Your email address is ve	ry important as this will be how w	e can get information to you in a timely manner.		
All family member names	s are needed as each member is	D	Send your n	nembership form a

entitled to a complimentary \$3,000 Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance Policy from American Income Life.

Included with your membership is a subscription to this magazine.

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

Payment info
Amount Enclosed
Credit Card #
Name on card
Expiration date
Security codeBilling Zip Code

Send your membership form and dues today to Kim Herman at:

ISSA Membership
4121 Hwy 218
Osage, IA 50461
issa1257@yahoo.com
(641) 210-8001

Iowa State Snowmobile Association

2015 Associate Membership Application

Please remit with payment.

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

Associate Membership (\$25)

Scholarship Donation \$_____Spina Bifida Association of Iowa Donation \$____Legislative Action Fund Donation \$____



Name of Business or Deale	ership:	Conta	ct Person:	
Address:		City:	State:	Zip:
Phone:	Email:	Website:		
Snowmobile Club/Region_		Snowmobile Brand(s) (if applica	able)	
Anything you'd like to add t	o your listing in the magazine?			

Included with membership is a subscription to this magazine.

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

Payment info		
Amount Enclosed		
Credit Card #		
Name on card		
Expiration date		
Security codeBilling Zip Code		

Send your membership form and dues today to Kim Herman at:

ISSA Membership
4121 Hwy 218
Osage, IA 50461
issa1257@yahoo.com
(641) 210-8001

Club News

Region 1

O'Brien County Snowtrackers

by Zelda Buse Christensen, Secretary

The O'Brien County Snowtrackers' first meeting of this winter season on Jan. 20 resulted in suppers for 16 people with the club paying half the cost. Dues were collected for 13 renewals and three new members, and 10 more renewals have been obtained since then.

With the club's move from "dormant" to "active," an important move was election and a list of officers and directors: Kelly Jongerius, president; Bruce Tull, vice president; and Zelda Buse Christensen, secretary/treasurer. Directors are Aaron Dvorak, Paul Hibbing, Rick Holtrop, Karl Kellen, Gary Lansink, LeRoy Peters, Jenni Rohlfsen and Mark Tjossem.

Gary Lansink and Jenni Rohlfsen taught a safety class for 10 youth at NCC mid-January. Merv is planning to teach a class very soon for groomer operators to certify or re-certify. The groomer is in a repair shop to get its leaky fuel tank welded.

The missing ingredient to a successful season is the usual: snow! We did get enough to ride on for a short while—if you hunted for the right ditches and if you rode before all the 40-plus temperatures. I woke up this morning (Feb. 13) to a fresh layer of snow outside. I'd estimate about 1/8 inch!

Think SNOW!!!!!

Region 4

Cedar Falls Sno Hawks

by Ryan Bushbaum, Secretary

Greeting from Cedar Falls. Well this has not been a very active winter around here for the snowmobiles. We did have a good snowfall that allowed the groomer to get out a little bit, but that has now melted. Maybe by the time we are reading this, it will turn around for a little bit. I know my boys are ready for a couple weekends of riding their snowmobiles also.

Some of our club members have made trips up to Wisconsin or Michigan's U.P. to do some riding. Hopefully there will be enough snow for the ALS Memorial Ride honoring Sno Hawk club founder Dave Carmichael on Feb 26-28.

I would like to thank retiring secretary Dick Melick for his many years of service with the Sno Hawks.

Be sure to go on Facebook and check out the Cedar Falls Sno Hawk Facebook page for updates on club activities and trail conditions. Everyone is invited to our monthly meetings. Our next one will be held at Pizza Ranch in Cedar Falls, eating at 6 p.m. with

2015 ISSA Club Challenge

The state of the s	
Wapsipinicon Snowmobile Association	\$1,000
Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club	\$500
Frozen Few	
Floyd County Groomers	\$300
Eastern Iowa Sledheads	\$500
Iowa River Riders	
Tri-County Snowmobile Association	\$351
Jones County Snow Chasers	\$351
Central Iowa Snowmobilers	\$350
Sac County Snow Lovers	\$301
Snow Pioneers	\$350
Bremer County Sno-Knights	
Cedar Falls Sno Hawks	\$200
Howard County Stump Jumpers	\$150
Palo Alto Rough Riders	\$150
Driftrunners	\$100
Trails Unlimited	
O'Brien County Snowtrackers	
Emmet County Driftbusters	\$100

Fundraising campaign renews at the annual ISSA convention.

All donations benefit the ISSA's lobbying efforts at the State Capitol in Des Moines.

Send your contribution to your Region Director or ISSA Treasurer Kim Herman.

Contact information can be found in the front half of this magazine.

ISSA GLUBS



Clubs in red reported 100% ISSA Membership

REGION ONE

Buena Vista Blizzard Busters President: Jeffrey Sassman 709 Hudson St., Storm Lake, IA 50588

Clay County Sno Broncs

President: Doug Alger 912 E 14th St., Spencer, IA 51301

(712) 732-6500

(712) 260-6855, eliteautodoug@hotmail.com

Dickinson County SnowHawl

www.dickinsoncountysnowhawks.com P.O. Box 504, Spirit Lake, IA 51360 President: Kathy Fahy 411 Hill Avenue, Spirit Lake, IA 51360 (605) 359-7177, kfahy@mchsi.com

Lyon County Sno-Lyons

P.O. Box 576, Rock Rapids, IA 51246 President: Eric Borman 405 N. 4th Ave, Rock Rapids, IA 51246 (712) 470-0190, ebconst@yahoo.com

O'Brien County Snowtrackers

President: Merv Hoermann P.O. Box 22, Sutherland, IA 51058 (712) 260-4810, mebeefeater@hotmail.com

Osceola County High Point Riders

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

Powder Players Inc.

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

Sioux County Snowmobile Club

www.siouxcountysnowmobileclub.com Search Sioux County Snowmobile Club on Facebook under club info in Iowa Snowmobiler 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

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) 295-8721, jlkwalk@gmail.com

Palo Alto Rough Riders

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

Sno-Pak

P.O. Box 122, Rockwell City, IA 50579 www.snopak.com President: Kolby Wagner 749 South Street, Rockwell City, IA 50579 (712) 830-3821, kolbywagner@yahoo.com

REGION THREE

Hancock County Snowmobile Assn.

President: Dan Stromer 1840 Hwy 69, Klemme, IA 50449 Stromerd@yahoo.com

Iowa River Riders

President: Al Muhlenbruch 206 Highway 3, Alexander, IA 50420 (641) 425-2790, iowariverriders@yahoo.com



ISSA GLUBS

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

h 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

North Iowa Snow Seekers

President: Angie Lien northiowasnowseekers@yahoo.com (641) 494-6133

Team Iowa Snowmobilers

www.teamiowasnowmobilers.com teamiowasnowmobilers@hotmail.com 3468 Olsen Ave., Jewell, Iowa 50130 President: Nicki Kempe teamiowasnowmobilers@hotmail.com (515) 230-0389

Worth County Fencestretchers

P.O. Box 27, Northwood, IA 50459 President: Steve Arnold (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

Cedar Falls Sno Hawks

President: Brian Carmichael 14784 290th St., Aplington, IA 50604-9368 319-215-5006

bcarmichael@industrialfab. net

Chickasaw Sno-Riders

President: Steve Schulz 2584 220th St., New Hampton IA. 50659 (641) 330-0677(c), (641) 394-5186(h) stevé_leeann@hotmail.com

Dewar Snow Chasers

President: Cory Allspach 4016 Round St., Cedar Falls, IA, 50613 (319) 404-2878

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

Mitchell County E-Z Riders, Inc.,

President: Keith Popp 1408 Pleasant St., Osage, IA 50461 (641) 732-3625, keith@poppexc.com

Snow Snoops Snowmobile Club

President: Derek Buss (641) 228-0954 drb@butlerrec.coop

(641) 985-2699.

REGION FIVE

Allamakee Sno-Blazers

Allamakee Sno-Blazers PO Box 94 Waukon, IA 52172 President: Mary Dehli 1830 Hwy 76 N, Waukon, IA 52172 (563) 568-6111, rmdehli@live .com

Asbury Snowhawks

President: Tom Spalla 3309 Brook Hollow Dr., Asbury, IA 52002 (563) 582-8893. tnspalla@hotmail.com

Club News

meeting at 7 p.m. on March 3. For more information, contact President Brian Carmichael at (319) 215-5006.

Region 5

Cresco Driftrunners

by Bob Martinek, Treasurer

Hello from Cresco. Wow, what a difference a year makes! Last season, we rode fantastic trails with plenty of snow all season. This season... well has been way less and virtually non-existent. Even so, the club has some major accomplishments this season—namely our new Piston Bully groomer with a brand new drag. We also bought and had installed two new overhead doors with openers for the clubhouse. Lots of people to thank for all this new equipment, but mostly it boils down to you, the club members, and your great support. Thank you!!

Our final event of the season is our Landowner Appreciation Dinner tentatively set for March 22. Postcards will be mailed out with all the details in early March. Until next fall, thanks again.

Allamakee Sno-Blazers

by Brandon Fahey

The Allamakee County Sno-Blazers have been working on organizing our Landowner/ Sponsor Appreciation Brunch that is scheduled for Sunday, March 1, at Milty's in Lansing. This will be our second year holding a brunch, and due to last year's success, we will most likely continue with it as we had good feedback from the landowners.

Our trails were open for one week at the beginning of February and that was the only week all season. Our snowfall totals have been disappointing, but we had good member participation and a successful fundraiser in January so the season did have some positives.

We are already discussing our summer ideas for club events tied in with charity drives for Allamakee County. Thank you to all of our landowners and sponsors who helped support the Sno-Blazers this winter season. We're still hoping for one last blizzard in northeast Iowa!



In addition to selling the winning ticket (see the February 2015 digital issue online), the Sac County Snow Lovers also sold the most tickets in the 2014 ISSA Grand Raffle. For their efforts, the club received a bonus check from the ISSA for \$760. Making the presentation to the club is ISSA Region 6 Director Gene Gerdes.

The ISSA is continuing the same grand raffle in 2015. Tickets cost \$20 each or six for \$100. Early bird drawings for \$1,000 in snowmobile accessories will be held at the ISSA Summer Campout with the grand prize drawing at the annual convention at Storm Lake in November. The winner receives \$10,000 toward the purchase of a new snowmobile from any ISSA-member dealer.



Club News

Region 7

Highbridge Trailblazers

by Bob Reutter, Trail Boss

We just got back from a trip to the Snowy Range west of Laramie, Wyo. There were 22 people on this trip. We stayed at the Ten Mile Resort on the western side of the Medicine Bow Mountians.

We rode all day on Sunday up in the mountins. It was great riding. Sunday night, we got 40 inches of snow up on top. Monday, we only got about five inches at the lodge so we headed up the mountain, not knowing how much snow was on top. It just kept getting deeper so we finaly turned around and went back down.

They said that the groomers would go out Monday night. That did not happen. They did not go out till Tuesday night. My girlfriend and I were to make spaghetti and meatballs on Wednesday for the group so we did not ride that day.

I loaded the sleds after we got the spaghetti going. We made 65 meatballs, and after we served supper, we had 10 meatballs left. The president of the Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club ate eight meatballs so they must have been good.

We are planning a trip to Ontario at this time. While I was gone, they had 12-18 inches of snow in Boone. I still have 8-10 inches in my yard. They had our groomer out after the big snow and did the ditch from Ogden to Dayton.

The Highbridge Trailblazers made 120 pizzas before I left on the trip to the Snowy Range.

Region 12

Snowdrifters, Inc.

by Ron Roe

This season has just started and now we are near the end. Although there is plenty of riding time left, a lot of trips are being planned with little snow here. We did have a little bit of luck and got 10 inches or more of snow in the storm on Feb 1. It only lasted about a week to 10 days though. It was good snow for our area and was very much appreciated. It gave us a chance to use the new groomer that we received from the state this year. It really worked well on the trails, if only the weather would have stayed cold.

I just finished reading the *Iowa Snowmobiler*, and it had some very good articles in it this month. I think being at the convention this year made the articles more interesting.

We went up to northern Wisconsin and the U.P. in January. We had a lot of good riding in the five days we were there. The trails were all groomed and you could put on some good miles. I do have one more trip planned to go up North, and there will still be time to plan another trip in March. I have been sledding around March 17 before. It can be real

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Eastern Iowa Sledheads	\$1000 \$700 \$500 \$5500 \$250 \$250 \$200 \$200 \$100 \$100 \$100 \$100 \$100 \$10
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President: Aaron Dorothy 502 E. Cedar Ln., Mt. Pleasant la 52641 (319) 986-5188(h), 319-671-0329 (c) aarond65@hotmail.com

good riding then or you can get rained out in a hurry.

We held our club meeting Feb. 12 and began planning different ways to make a little extra money, which we always need and can use. We also shared some trip tales as well.

That is about all for now. I'd like to wish everyone good safe riding until it is all dirt and no white is left.

See everyone next season.



Chris Willey's first ride

Willey

Continued from page 5

you to Chuck and Tammy Gaulke for organizing the trip. It's always fun to meet and ride with new people. I think a couple of them want a foosball rematch.

We had good snow and I was able to get some good footage for a project I am working on. Some of you may have already seen a couple of clips from the trip. But I'll save that story for another column. As luck would have it, Iowa got its first good storm of the season while we were out west, and I got home just in time to get some miles on here at home before Mother Nature decided to test our patience and warm up just enough to mess with the great start we had.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March

- ISSA Board of Directors meeting Sunday, March 15, at 9 a.m. at Farm Bureau office, Hampton.
- ISSA snowmobile retreat to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan March 2-6.

April

- ISSAESF scholarship applications due April 15. Visit www. iowasnowmobiler.com/issa/scholarship for more information.
- ACSA D.C. Fly-In. April 18-21.

May

- 2014-15 grant reimbursement requests due to the IDNR May 1.
- 2015-16 trail grant applications due to the IDNR by May 1.
- 2015-16 trail sign order due May 1.
- ISSA Board of Directors meeting Sunday, May 3, at 9 a.m. at Farm Bureau office, Hampton.

June

- ISSA Award Nominations due June 1. For nomination forms and eligibility requirements, visit www.iowasnowmobiler.com/issa/awards.
- 2015 International Snowmobile Congress June 10-13 at Niagara Falls, N.Y. Visit www. isc2015.com for complete details.



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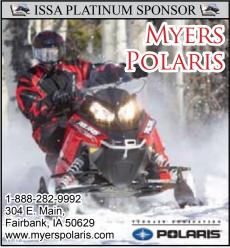




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