

IOWA SNOWMOBILER

March 2016 • Volume 37 • Issue 7

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Over to
SnowFest**

**Scholarship
Program
Update**



**Snowhawks
Offer Rides to
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Anything you'd like to add to your listing in the magazine? _____



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IOWA SNOWMOBILER

The Official Magazine of the Iowa
State Snowmobile Association
www.iowasnowmobiler.com
128 State Street
Osage, IA 50461
issa1257@yahoo.com

ISSA OFFICERS

President

Merv Hoermann
P.O. Box 22, Sutherland, IA 51058
(712) 260-4810
mebeefeater2@yahoo.com



Vice President

Chris Willey (Andrea)
1220 E Main Street
Manchester IA, 52057
(563) 920-9010
kioti79@gmail.com



Secretary

Sue Paulus (Joe)
1631 227th St.
Rockford, IA 50468
spaulus81@gmail.com



Treasurer

Kim Herman (Karl)
128 State Street
Osage, IA 50461
(641) 210-8001
issa1257@yahoo.com



ISSA COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Jim Willey, Chair
20838 247th St.
Delhi, IA 52223
(563) 927-4670, (563) 920-0911
bjwilley@iowatelecom.net
james.willey@camoplast.com

Gary and Karen McVicker
1120 110th Street, Hampton, IA
50441(641) 425-1375
gmcvic@yahoo.com

John Kahler
635 Greene Street, Slater, IA 50244
(515) 202-4061
jfkahler@hotmail.com

Managing Editor/Publisher

Cameron Hanson
2552 Woodland Place
Charles City, IA 50616
(641) 330-5565 Fax: (270) 747-9321
editor@iowasnowmobiler.com



www.iowasnowmobiler.com



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Breakers' annual fun run in Region 7



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COVER: Tim Wirth of Lost Nation tours the woods near Kendallville during 2016 SnowFest weekend at Cresco.

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March 2016 **3**

REGION ONE

Dan Delperdang (Kolette), Director
2668 Hwy 9 / 71
Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360
(712) 330-2609



Kevin Nibelink, Assistant
1266 Fourth Street NW
Sioux Center, IA 51250
(712) 722-2101

REGION TWO

Jeremy Walker (Kayla), Director
1402 170th St.
LuVerne, IA 50560-8552
(515) 341-1626
jlkwalk@gmail.com



Nick Kramer (Cheryl), Assistant
1699 200th St.
Rutland, IA 50582
(515) 332-2550, ellcnk@trvnet.net



Jeff Felkey (Lori), Assistant
5391 190th Street
Armstrong, IA 50514
Home: (712) 864-3741, jfelkey@ringtelco.com

Terril Johnson, Assistant
203 S. Finn Dr.
Algona, IA 50511, terril@motorinnalgona.com

REGION THREE

Matt Trunkhill (Monica), Director
135 310th St.
Woden, IA 50484-8520
(515) 320-0737, mtrunk@wctatel.net



Ben Diekhuis (Mindi), Assistant
2115 Nash Ave.
Britt, IA 50423
(515) 291-2329, diekhuis@gmail.com


REGION FOUR

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



Brian Carmichael, Assistant
14784 290th St.
Aplington, IA 50604-9368
(319) 215-5006
snohawk68@gmail.com



Cameron Hanson (Steph), Assistant
2552 Woodland Place
Charles City, IA 50616
(641) 330-5565, editor@iowasnowmobiler.com

REGION FIVE

Matt Miner, Director
17879 State Hwy 9
Lime Springs, IA 52155
(563) 380-7142
mmmfarms@hotmail.com



President's Desk

Staying Busy with State Events, Club Meetings

Wow, what a difference a year makes. We have received more snow in January and the first part of February than we have had the past three years. A lot more cold weather also makes for better grooming, better trails to ride on and a lot more fun.

Unfortunately, for not having enough snow the past three years, there have been a number of members who have sold their snowmobiles to pursue other activities, such as traveling south for the winter and other forms of recreating, like atving, motorcycling and bicycling.

The last report I saw from Past ISSA President Terry Durby showed Iowa snowmobile registrations were down 30 percent from 2010. With lower registrations, we have less monies available for groomer operation and trail development. From here on out, we all need to do the best we can in stretching the dollars we receive. This year's fuel costs, with diesel prices half of where we were last year, have been a very big help.

That last report from the state's electronic licensing system also showed only 70 percent of the registrations purchased also bought the snowmobile trail user permit. I have heard many reasons/excuses for not doing so. One main reason was to wait till it snowed first. We have now had the best snowfall in four years. How many of you "forgot" to purchase your user permit?

As a reminder, the user permit came to be to raise additional monies to help in the purchase of grooming equipment. There are requests from many clubs to update their equipment, and this will not happen as quickly as we would like to see unless everyone does their part in purchasing the user permit. Like I said before, there are less registrations which means less funds available. Please help us to help you.



Merv Hoermann
ISSA President

One question that often comes up is how to enforce the user permit. I have talked to local law enforcement, sheriff's departments and even the Iowa State Patrol, and they tell me it is not their problem. Most are not even aware of what some of the snowmobile regulations are. So I am asking everyone here, if you see or know of snowmobilers without user permits, please remind them of their purpose and ask them to support the program. It also wouldn't hurt to ask them to join the local club and the ISSA.

I've been attending many local club meetings and am hearing the clubs are grooming frequently with new snow. That's great. More grooming leads to more trails



The ISSA/IDNR snowmobile simulator at the Okoboji Winter Games in January



120 kids rides at Okoboji Winter Games

for snowmobiling and more business for the towns we travel through, doing our part for tourism in Iowa.

Back on Jan. 26, Region 7 Director John Kahler, ISSA Vice President Chris Willey and myself manned the ISSA booth at the Legislative Showcase, put on by the Iowa Travel Federation, held at the Iowa State Fairgrounds in Des Moines. There were 29 Senators and 53 House Reps in attendance, making for one of the better turnouts in a number of years.

We visited with a number of the legislators, asking their opinion on a bill that was introduced on allowing the carrying of firearms while operating a snowmobile or an atv. We heard a number of different opinions. As an association, our stand is to remain neutral at this time. We will discuss this topic at the next board meeting.

In the meantime, I have received many phone calls and emails from a number of you voicing your opinion. After having two groomer certification training meetings and many club meetings, I was surprised to hear how many of you have permits to carry firearms already. I am asking for more opinions, so at the next board meeting, we will decide the ISSA's official position on this topic.

Also in January, I made it to Okoboji for the 36th Annual Okoboji Winter Games. The Dickinson County Snowhawks again hosted the "120 Kids Ride." The event was very successful with a big turnout again. I set up the ISSA/IDNR's snowmobile simulator and had many riders for the first time having a great experience. There were two boys from Pakistan who had never been on a snowmobile, and they were all smiles.

In February, I made my annual trip to the Jack Helgren Memorial Race in Clear Lake. It was another great turnout despite the

cold and the wind blowing snow on Friday. Many volunteers got the course set up, and they were ready to go on Saturday. By race time, the wind had died down resulting in perfect conditions. I heard the ice thickness was around 18 inches, which was much better than back in January when the event was originally scheduled.

One last thing I have been hearing from some of you is the use of fat-tire bicycles on our trail system. After visiting with Mark from the Iowa Bike Coalition, he tells me they are more popular around the larger population areas, and he says they are willing to join a club, pay for a user permit, help with signing and even take training to be a groomer operator. I need to hear from you if you have these new bikes in your area.

Well, I rambled on long enough. With this recent change to warmer weather melting our snow, hopefully we will see more snow again before the season ends. I am not ready to put the sled away yet. As always, please send me any comments or questions. I look forward to hearing from you.

2016 ACSA Legal Defense Challenge

Floyd County Groomers..... \$200
Iowa River Riders..... \$100
Allamakee Sno-Blazers..... \$100



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

ISSA DIRECTORS



Steve Vorwald (Sherri), Assistant
1582 210th St.
Manchester, IA 52057
(563) 927-5362

REGION SIX

Gene Gerdes (Anne), Director
P.O. Box 826, Lake View, IA 51450
(712) 665-8541, gaskg@netins.net



REGION SEVEN

John Kahler, Director
635 Greene St. Slater, IA 50244
(515) 202-4061
jfkahler@hotmail.com



Mike Patten, Assistant
5204 Neva Pt., Panora, IA 50216
(641)-755-3863
mijpat76@aol.com

Jim Suchan, Assistant
3374 Garfield Ave., Gowrie, IA 50543
(515)-352-3039
jsmrg@lvcta.com

REGION EIGHT

Craig Smith, Director
27472 J Ave, Grundy Center, IA 50638
(641) 366-2233
casfarmboy@gmail.com



Ron Sienknecht, Assistant
1307 Lilac Lane
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
(319) 404-0054, ron.
sienknecht@gmail.com



Brian Sienknecht, Assistant
2805 130th St.
Buckingham, IA 50612
(319) 478-8099, samm0000@traer.net

REGION NINE

Jamie Prull, Director
1101 First Street, Palo, IA 52324
(319) 981-0397
jprull@aol.com



Tim McPherson, Assistant
P.O. Box 225, Olin, IA 52320
(563) 593-0305
timnjean@netins.net



REGION TEN

Director position is open. If you are interested in serving, please contact ISSA President Merv Hoermann or Region 7 Director John Kahler.

REGION ELEVEN

Director position is open. If you are interested in serving, please contact ISSA President Merv Hoermann or Region 7 Director John Kahler.

REGION TWELVE

Director position is open. If you are interested in serving, please contact ISSA President Merv Hoermann.



Greg and

Stephanie Martin, Assistants
1714 Davis Ave, Nichols, IA 52766-9700

Mike Rauenbuehler, Assistant
2509 Hwy 78, Winfield, IA 52659

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENTS

Jim Willey
20838 247th St. Delhi, IA 52223
(563) 927-4670, (563) 920-0911
bjwilley@iowatelecom.net
james.willey@camoplast.com



Gary Burger
7255 NW 54th Court
Johnston, IA, 50131
(515) 334-0360,
gary@burgersofiowa.com



Gary McVicker
1120 110th Street
Hampton, IA 50441
(641) 425-1375
gmcvic@yahoo.com



Merv Hoermann
P.O. Box 22
Sutherland, IA 51058
(712) 260-4810
mebeefeater2@yahoo.com



Terry Durby
42792 160th Ave.
Leland, IA 50453
(641) 590-7007
tdurb@yahoo.com



Jerry Kramer
1930 Lincoln Ave.
Humboldt, IA 50548
(515) 890-1099



Dennis Nauman
402 Fifth St. Rudd, IA 50471
(641) 395-2933
cdnauman@myomnitel.com



Jeff Jans
308 2nd St. NW, P.O. Box 153
Fostoria, IA 51340-0153
(712) 262-3309

Bruno Andreini
2306 230th St.
Dallas Center, IA 50063
(515) 240-3858
awbrunoa3@gmail.com



Scott Kooiker
R.R. 1, Box 114
Ellsworth, MN 56129
(507) 283-2533

Dale Vagts
24573 Kings Rd.
Cresco, IA 52136
(563) 547-2161

News Briefs

Declining Ticket Sales Force Grand Raffle Change

After posting four consecutive profits, the ISSA's Grand Raffle suffered a \$3,000 loss in 2015, forcing the ISSA Board of Directors to disband the program and move toward a straight 50-50 cash raffle for 2016.

Since 2011, the ISSA had sponsored a 'Sled of Your Dreams' grand raffle where the organization paid \$10,000 toward the purchase of a new sled from any ISSA associate member dealer. Before then, the ISSA had offered an ATV raffle and a pair of trailer raffles with varying degrees of success.

Until last fall, the snowmobile raffle had been fairly popular, and to promote ticket sales, an Early Bird drawing was held at the ISSA Summer Campout where three winners were drawn and awarded snowmobile apparel from a member-dealer of their choosing. Those names were then placed back into the final drawing at convention each November.

In 2015, Region 6 Director Gene Gerdes won the Grand Raffle, making it the third straight season a member of the Sac County Snow Lovers won the top award. That club also was the top-selling club for the second year in a row and received a 10 percent commission from the ISSA.

ISSA officials could not pinpoint the exact reason for the declining ticket sales last year, but the inconsistent snow over the past few seasons is the prime suspect. The weather pattern has not only caused a decline in snowmobile registrations statewide but has also hurt interest in the ISSA's programs.

"We appreciate everyone's participation in the grand raffle over the last five years and we thank you for your support, but at this time, we feel it is in the best interest of the ISSA to move in a different direction with our raffle program," explained ISSA Grand Raffle Committee Chair Gary McVicker.

Travel Plans Ahead for ISSA Officials

Officers and directors from the ISSA will be travelling this spring to represent Iowa snowmobiling interests on the national and international stage.

April 16-19, local leaders fly to Washington, D.C., to participate in the American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA) annual D.C. Fly-In. After that, they travel to Rapid City, S.D., for the 48th Annual International Snowmobile Congress (ISC) hosted by the South Dakota Snowmobile Association June 9-11.

Each event is filled with guest speakers and meetings related to the sport of snowmobiling. In D.C., participants will meet with their respective representatives on Capitol Hill, and at ISC, leaders from state, provincial and international snowmobile associations will gather to develop strategies on preserving access and funding for snowmobiling.

ISSA President Merv 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.

2016 ISSA Club Challenge

Wapsipinicon Snowmobile Association	\$1000
Snowmobilers of Jackson County	\$750
Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club	\$500
Eastern Iowa Sledheads	\$500
Tri-County Snowmobile Association	\$376
Central Iowa Snowmobilers	\$350
Snow Pioneers	\$350
Floyd County Groomers	\$300
Bremer County Sno-Knights	\$250
Dickinson County Snowhawks	\$250
Chickasaw Sno-Riders	\$250
Humboldt Sno-Skimmers	\$250
Palo Alto Rough Riders	\$150
Driftrunners	\$200
Snowdrifters	\$100
Allamakee Sno-Blazers	\$100

Send your contribution to your Region Director or ISSA Treasurer Kim Herman.
Contact information can be found in the front half of this magazine.

2016 ISSA Award Nominations due June 1

by Mindy Scott

ISSA Awards Committee Chair

Well, it's that time of year again to start thinking about who we want to nominate for the 2016 ISSA Awards Program.

The awards committee encourages each member and/or club to take the time to nominate those individuals who go above and beyond or a steady contributor to your club and the sport of snowmobiling in Iowa.

The 2016 nomination forms are available 24/7 on the ISSA website at www.iowasnowmobiler.com. Nominations are due by midnight on June 1 and may be submitted via email (preferred method) any time after April 1 or via U.S. postal mail as long as they are postmarked by June 1. Any nominations postmarked or received after June 1 will not be judged.

We do ask that you email nominations to both scott4@iowatelecom.net and suepaulus81@gmail.com, or hard copy nomination forms maybe mailed to ISSA Awards, c/o Mindy Scott, P.O. Box 435, Lone Tree, IA 52755.

Your nominations should include photos of your nominee(s); letters of support from your club, community, etc.; and news articles, videos or other information pertinent to the nomination. Supporting documentation needs to be within the last three years.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact either Mindy or Sue at the email addresses listed above. To assist in preparing your 2016 nomination, the judging criteria used for scoring awards is also available on the ISSA website at www.iowasnowmobiler.com.

In 2015, the following snowmobilers were honored by the ISSA:

- *Youth Snowmobiler of the Year:* Kelsey Craun, Trail Blaz-zers
- *Young Adult Snowmobiler of the Year:* Nathan Gudenkauf, Snow Pioneers
- *Snowmobiler of the Year:* Bob Scott, Eastern Iowa SledHeads
- *Lady Snowmobiler of the Year:* Brittany Paulus, Floyd County Groomers Association
- *Snowmobile Family of the Year:* Dan Delperdang Family, Dickinson County SnowHawks
- *Groomer of the Year:* Randy Magg, Dickinson County SnowHawks
- *Dealer of the Year:* Fast City (Steve Seelman, owner), Region 12
- *ISSA Club of the Year:* Trail Blaz-zers, Inc., Region 5

Each year's award recipients for Snowmobiler, Snowmobile Family, Youth Snowmobiler and Dealer of the Year are submitted to the American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA) for consideration in their annual award program which is held in conjunction with 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.

Let's make 2016 a banner year for the ISSA's awards program. All it takes is for each club to submit at least one nomination for any or all of the award categories.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS



AUTISM CHARITY LIAISON
Cameron Hanson, editor@iowasnowmobiler.com

ALS CHARITY LIAISON
Brian Carmichael, snohawk68@gmail.com

AWARDS
Mindy Scott, scott4@iowatelecom.net

BREAST CANCER CHARITY LIAISON
Angie Sprung, travang@myomnitel.com

BUDGET/FINANCE
Kim Herman, issa1257@yahoo.com

BY-LAWS AND SOPS
Dick Melick, damelick@cfu.net

CAMPOUT 2016
Open

CHARITY
Angie Sprung, travang@myomnitel.com

CLUB OF THE YEAR
Mindy Scott, scott4@iowatelecom.net

COMMUNICATIONS
Jim Willey, james.willey@camoplast.com

CONVENTION 2016
Scott Nauman, sdnauman04@gmail.com

EARLY MEMBERSHIP
Matt Trunkhill, mtrunk@wctatel.com

EFC
Terry Durby, tdurb@yahoo.com

GRANTS
Ron Sienknecht, ron.sienknecht@gmail.com

GROOMER TRAINING COORDINATOR
Chris Willey, kioti79@gmail.com

IOWA REC TRAILS ADVISORY REP
Merv Hoermann, mebeefeater2@yahoo.com

LEGISLATIVE
Terry Durby, tdurb@yahoo.com

MEMBERSHIP
Brittany Paulus, bepaulus@outlook.com

TRAIL BREAK TRAILER
Gary McVicker, gmcvic@yahoo.com

NOMINATIONS
Merv Hoermann, mebeefeater2@yahoo.com

PROMOTION & FUNDRAISING
Andrea Willey, morningstar.willey@gmail.com

RAFFLE
Gary McVicker, gmcvic@yahoo.com

REVIEW & SELECTION
Terry Durby, tdurb@yahoo.com

EASTERN IOWA TOURISM
Becky Willey, beckywilley@iowatelecom.net

CENTRAL IOWA TOURISM
John Kahler, jfkahler@hotmail.com

WESTERN IOWA TOURISM
Merv Hoermann, mebeefeater2@yahoo.com

TRAIL SIGN & TRAIL DEVELOPMENT
Matt Miner, mmmfarms@hotmail.com

YOUTH PROGRAMS
Open

SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION
Bruno Andreini, awbrunoa3@gmail.com

SPINA BIFIDA CHARITY LIAISON
Bruno Andreini, awbrunoa3@gmail.com

Fickle Weather Forces Two Cancellations

A mid-February warm-up forced the cancellation of at least two events last month in Iowa. As the thermometer hovered above freezing, the Emmet County Driftbusters cancelled its cross-country races scheduled at Wallingford Feb. 20, and family and friends cancelled the Second Annual Dave Carmichael Memorial Ride at Cresco Feb. 26-28.

"Unfortunately, we have decided to cancel our races scheduled for Saturday due to the weather. We appreciate all of the interest, and we plan on trying again next year," the Emmet County club posted on its Facebook page.

"Due to the lack of snow in and around Cresco, we have decided to cancel the Carmichael ride," announced Region 4 Director Scott Nauman. "Thank you to everyone who has given donations toward the ride. The money has been given to the ISSA scholarship foundation in memory of Dave."

The warm weather came on the heels of a six-week stretch of decent snowmobiling north of Highway 20 in Iowa. As detailed in this month's Club News, members around the state either lamented the absence of snow or relished in the excellent trail conditions of the shortened season.



Seventh Annual Marlin Benson Fun Run



Favorable Conditions Exist for Most of Winter for Webster County Ice Breakers

by **Nancy Lundgren**

WCIB Club Member

What a season it's been for the Webster County Ice Breakers (WCIB) of Region 7. I am sitting here the Tuesday after the Seventh Annual Marlin Benson Fun Run still on a high from our best turnout yet.

We had 197 sleds registered on the ride and probably another 25-50 sleds riding our trails on their own Saturday, Feb. 6. We rode 68 miles without the wildcard stops. Many rode to the wildcard stops which add another 30 miles or so.

We started and stopped at the Iron Saddle in Dayton. They were wonderful hosts with an excellent venue in their old opera house. We have excellent sponsors here in Webster County that have allowed us to put on such a great event with great prizes.

Our greatest asset for our fun run is our members though. They are all willing to pitch in where needed and invite everyone they know to our events. We ended up having sleds from all over the state, and we hope you all had a great time riding our trails! We can't wait to ride with you again next year!

The Marlin Benson Fun Run helps our club generate funds to help with trail maintenance, supporting the Marlin Benson Memorial Trail at Lake Namakagon in Cable, Wis., and for a



WCIB groomer operator Joe Paullin and Clunk prepare to hit the trail in preparation of the Marlin Benson Fun Run.



WCIB club members on the Marlin Benson Memorial Trail near Lake Namakagon, Wis.

college scholarship to a local student of scholastic excellence who enjoys and is a good example of safe snowmobiling and is likely to promote the sport in the future.

All and all, that was a lot of traffic on our trails Saturday, but still, the trails held up and more sleds enjoyed them the next day as well. Our groomer operators are clearly some of the best, not to mention our VMC groomers (who we affectionately call Clank and Clunk) that worked hard to smooth our ditches that were filled to the brim from the 10 inches of snow!

I just read a weather report talking about another inch or two every few days this week. I feel like I moved to Wisconsin and didn't even realize it. We have been riding since Christmas and actually even had two rideable weekends before Thanksgiving!

So now the hubby and I are planning yet another holiday around riding. "Couples that ride together stay together," according to the Sled Girlz meme, so we are heading down the WCIB trails for a romantic dinner this Valentine's weekend. I hope other couples find a way to enjoy the snow together as well! I think a new meme may be in order though with

Continued on page 10

Educating the Future of Snowmobiling in Iowa

by Cameron Hanson

The ISSA Education and Scholarship Foundation (ISSAESF) awarded two \$1,000 scholarships and two \$500 scholarships to qualifying students of ISSA families in 2015, bringing the total number of students aided to 40 over the past 17 years.

The ISSA's scholarship program was created with the seed money left over from the ISSA's hosting of the International Snowmobile Congress in Cedar Rapids in 1995. The amount awarded each year is determined by the proceeds of its investments as well as the success of its fundraising efforts.

The first scholarship was awarded in 1998. Recipients have been as few as one and awards as little as \$200. Since 2007, the foundation has maintained scholarship levels at \$1,000 per student, except in 2015 when a third-place tie resulted in the final award being divided in half.

Recipients for 2015 included Samuel Nissly, Dallas Center, Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club, Region 7; Emily Bonnstetter, Cylinder, Palo Alto Rough Riders, Region 2; and twin sisters Allison and Ashley Heims, Manchester, Snow Pioneers, Region 5 (tie).

The deadline for applying each year is April 15, and application materials can be found on the ISSA's website at www.iowasnowmobiler.com/issa/scholarship. The top applicant is then forwarded on to the international C.J. Ramstad Memorial Scholarship competition.

To qualify, the student or his/her family must be in good standing with the ISSA. The scholarship is based in part on need, and since 2012, each applicant is expected to acquire an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) rating number from the Iowa College Access Network at www.icansucceed.org.

To get this number, the student will be required to fill out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.ed.gov. After filling out the FAFSA, the applicant will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) and be issued the required EFC number.

"This number is now required to be attached to the scholarship foundation application, replacing the requirement to furnish their parents' 1040 tax form with their application in the past," Andreini explained.

According to Andreini, many of the foundation's guidelines also follow those established by the International Snowmobile Media Council (ISMC) for its Ramstad scholarship, including judging applications for neatness, completeness, accurate spelling, correct grammar and school and community involvement.

"Keep all of this in mind when filling out your application; every required detail is important," Andreini said. "Take your time and follow the instructions as closely as possible; it will pay



The ISSA Education and Scholarship Foundation awarded four scholarships in 2015. Samuel Nissly of Dallas Center (far right) and Emily Bonnstetter of Cylinder (not pictured) each received \$1,000 awards, while (center) twins Allison and Ashley Heims of Manchester split the final \$1,000 award at \$500 apiece. On hand to recognize the recipients at the 2015 ISSA Summer Campout in Manchester were scholarship board members (from left) Steve Vorwald, Bruno Andreini, Sally Carmichael and Dennis Nauman.

good dividends if you do. Carefully read the instructions listed on the application information. They are very important items of instruction to follow for the Iowa program as well as for the international snowmobile scholarship."

The number of applications the ISMC receives in a yearly cycle is quite similar to what is received by ISSAESF, making the odds of our qualifying students receiving another \$1,000 scholarship "very good," Andreini said.

Student applicants are also asked to write an essay on 'What Snowmobiling Means to Me.' Last year's submissions appear on pages 11-12 of this month's issue.

All decisions of the scholarship committee are final. Scholarship funds will be awarded when the school of choice confirms enrollment.

Andreini thanked everyone for their support of the program over the past 17 years. Since the scholarship program's inception, Iowa snowmobilers have contributed generously to the foundation. Through various fundraisers, including Sally Carmichael's quilt raffles, auction items at convention and club participation in the Younkers Community Day events,

Continued on page 10

Past ISSAESF Scholarship Recipients

1998
Denise Blocker
1999
Jeremy Miller
2000
Jill Kutzbach
2001
Shellie Hudecek
2002
Ben Diekhuis
Lacey Felkey

2003
Adam Belitz
Randy Swestka
2004
Carrie Gunderson
2005
Amy Strothman
Lance Speed
Jessica Jungers

2006
Brooke Jensen
2007
Alexandrea Ackerman
Kaitlyn Vorwald
Kayla Miller
2008
Tricia Gunderson
Michael Scott
Brittany Weaver

2009
Ashley Wiuff
Russell Benson
Jordan Kintzie
2010
Nicole Schotanus
Nathan Nall
Kara Marie Netsch

2011
Kelli Ann Gerdes
Joran Durby
Holly Jo Heims
2012
Austin Bonnstetter
Brianne Sharff
Jordan Nall

2013
Makaya Henniges
Lori Roseland
Travor Rohach
Hunter Carmichael
Taryn Kline
2014
Hunter Thome
Kara Denner
Ty Lauritsen



Nathan Gudenkauf (center) of the Snow Pioneers won the Camso snowmobile track raffle drawing at the 2015 ISSA Convention to benefit the ISSA scholarship program. Also pictured are Past ISSA President Jim Willey of Camso (left) and scholarship foundation board member Steve Vorwald.

Scholarship

Continued from page 9

individuals have donated more than \$32,000 to the program.

At last fall's annual convention in Storm Lake, the scholarship foundation raised close to \$3,000 for the program. Camso donated

a snowmobile track, which was raffled off for \$800, while Carmichael's quilt raffle and additional convention auction items netted another \$1,800. Last month, donations from the weather-cancelled Dave Carmichael Memorial Ride were also forwarded to the scholarship foundation.

"That is what it takes to make this program go," Andreini said. "We need to have that cooperation so please continue to support us, and we will continue to hand out scholarships. This is so important to support our kids with the cost of tuition going so high. Winning a scholarship makes a big difference to a lot of people."

If a student, club or parent has any questions on the ISSA's scholarship program, they can contact Andreini by email at awbrunoa3@gmail.com or by phone at (515) 240-3858.



Robin Gudenkauf (left) of the Snow Pioneers won the Sally Carmichael quilt raffle at the 2015 ISSA Convention. Proceeds benefitted the ISSA scholarship program.

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2016 ISSA Summer Campout Host Sought

The ISSA Board of Directors is soliciting member snowmobile clubs to host the 2016 ISSA Summer Campout. If your club is interested in holding the event, normally in July, please contact your Region Director or ISSA President Merv Hoermann at (712) 260-4810. The ISSA provides incentive funding for the club which agrees to host this annual event.

Marlin Benson Fun Run

Continued from page 8

"families that ride together have fun together" because we had a lot of families on our fun run which was excellent to see.

We just became Polaris RiderX Trail Managers last week and have added our trails into their system. Unfortunately, it takes a month for them to show up on your phone app. Here's to hoping the groundhog is wrong, and we have rideable snow in March to try it out! St. Patties on sleds anyone? Otherwise, I guess they will be ready to use next year!

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What Snowmobiling Means to Me

My grandpa has been an avid snowmobiler for over 40 years. He introduced the sport to me as a small child. I remember sitting between his legs as we took laps around the yard, and eventually graduating to trips around the block, and finally taking me to my snowmobile safety classes.

What really sparked my interest in snowmobiling was taking a family trip with my parents and grandparents to Grand Rapids, Minn., in 2009. My grandpa was going to be inducted into the International Snowmobile Hall of Fame, and it was an exciting time for everyone. While on the trip, I was given the opportunity to ride in a groomer, drive a snowmobile on some of the premier trails with a large group of seasoned riders, and attend the awards banquet inducting my grandpa.

What stood out most to me on the trip were the people. My family and I came with little to no experience on riding sleds, but were quickly welcomed by the other riders. They let us use their sleds out of the kindness of their hearts, even though we did not know them well. It showed me that snowmobilers want to help the sport grow and introduce it in a positive way to young people like me.

During my ride I experienced a wide range of emotions. At some points I was scared, other points nervous, but when I was finished I thought, "I want to go again!" From that point on I was hooked. I continue to ride with my grandpa whenever we can find snow. I always look forward to spending some quality time with him and doing something we both love. My grandpa teaches me what it means to be part of the snowmobile community. Not only has he taught me riding aspects, but our responsibility to others in the community.

The past three years I have been a volunteer for ISSA at the Spina Bifida Winter Snowmobile Ride. I helped set up and prepare activities and games for the kids, served food, and overall, tried to make this the best day for the kids. I have watched my grandpa work endless hours to plan this event every year, and now I understand why these kids hold such a special place in his heart. We do not always get the snow we hope for, but we make sure there are special events for the kids and their families. Helping with this event has made me realize that snowmobiling can bring people together and is not just about riding.

From my early days sitting on grandpa's lap, to now riding beside him, the sport has made a lasting impression on me. I have learned qualities and traits that benefit me not just in snowmobiling, but in my everyday life. The people, the activities, and the family atmosphere make snowmobiling more than just a sport.

~ Samuel Nissly, Dallas Center

What does snowmobiling mean to me? It all started in the winter of 1999. I am hanging onto the mountain bar on my dad's snowmobile as we ride around the yard. Peering through the eyes of a three-year-old, the front yard seems like a huge blanket of white. I am laughing because I am having so much fun waddling like a penguin in my gear and feeling the slight breeze through my helmet. I am watching my dad's each and every move.

From a young age, I knew exactly how a snowmobile worked. Once I became comfortable riding around the yard, my dad started taking me on snowmobile rides around Iowa and further north into the Northwoods of Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Snowmobiling captured me from the start. I sat in front of my dad until I was around 10 years old; then I rode behind my mom on our touring snowmobile. Then my time came. Once I turned 12, I couldn't wait to receive my snowmobile certification so I could get out there and ride on my own. The day finally came when my certification arrived in the mail, and I was ecstatic.

I always appreciated and enjoyed snowmobiles when I was younger, but when I started driving myself, I found a profound love for the sport. Snowmobiling means more to me than just something to do in the winter. It is my favorite hobby that I have enjoyed for many years. When people ask me what my favorite season is, I always reply with "winter." Normally they ask why I enjoy being cold. However, I don't think of winter that way.

Why I enjoy winter and snowmobiling is the same reason why others enjoy summer and swimming: because I was born into seeing the beauty of the season. Snowmobiling is the kind of sport that isn't like any other. When I am snowmobiling, I forget all of my worries. I feel as if I am in a temporary dream, where everything and everyone is beautiful. You get to navigate your own destiny and be in charge of your own fate.

It is kind of empowering riding a snowmobile as a girl because the sport is stereotypically known as being male-dominated. I love showing people that girls ride snowmobiles too, and that they can ride along just as well as the men can. I couldn't imagine what my life would be like without snowmobiling, and I am so grateful to be raised in a family that appreciates the sport as much as I do.

~ Emily Bonnstetter, Cylinder

What Snowmobiling Means to Me

Snowmobiling is pure enjoyment for me. I began snowmobiling when I was two years old; a few rides each year turned into a pastime that I thoroughly enjoy and look forward to every season. Every year, I've helped my brother, now the Vice President of Snow Pioneers, and my dad, also a club member, prepare the trails for the upcoming season. We spend several days preparing the trails in our county, ranging from general trail clean-up to placing trail signs. This not only allows for family bonding but it is also a great opportunity for me to get more comfortable with the trail system.

Once we have the trails ready, we begin preparing our own sleds for the upcoming winter. The best time of the year is when we finally "fire" the sleds up to ensure they are all running smoothly. Once we are all ready, I impatiently wait for the first snowfall of the season, so I can not only snowmobile with my family but also help run the Snow Pioneer's groomer to prep the trails. Both my dad and brother assist the club in operating the groomer. Since I just turned 18 in March, I have not been allowed to do this; however, many times when the groomer would get stuck, they'd call me to come help get them out.

One specific evening, the snowstorm quickly turned into blizzard conditions and the Delaware County Sheriff's Department called my family to help. They had received several calls from stranded motorists. We had been using the groomer earlier that day, so my dad headed out in it to help while my brother and I jumped on our snowmobiles, grabbed shovels, and followed him. Snowmobiling is not always about having fun, but can also be about helping others and guiding them to safety. If my college schedule allows, my goal before next winter includes taking the Groomer Operator Class; then I will be qualified to drive and ride inside the groomer, helping our club even more.

Snowmobiling gives me a sense of freedom and pure enjoyment; cruising down the trail as the wind is blowing against your clothes and snow flying all around you—there is nothing better. I feel the anticipation of finding an empty field to open the throttle and allow the snowmobile to "fly." No matter how many years I have gone snowmobiling, the feeling has always stayed the same: Snowmobiling creates a ride of a lifetime.

~ Ashley Heims, Manchester

Snowmobiling is something thought differently by many. For me, snowmobiling means family bonding. Each year, my family spends countless hours preparing trails in ways such as the following: trail cleanup, sign preparation and marking trails.

Since the age of two, my passion for this sport has continually grown, and created the winter season into my favorite time of year. I still remember the day my dad brought home our very first snowmobile, a 440 Ski-Doo. My older brother, Mitchell, older sister, Holly, and my twin sister, Ashley, and I were beyond excited and took turns riding around the yard for hours! As the years went by, I was allowed to drive our snowmobiles on our land, but by the State of Iowa's law, I would have to wait until the age of 12 to receive my snowmobile license and eligibility to drive on the snowmobile trails.

As years went by, I patiently awaited the time I would finally be able to drive on the trails. With my birthday in March, I was deeply saddened by the fact I would barely be missing out on driving on the trails yet another winter season. Luckily, we convinced our snowmobile instructor to allow me to take the class early, allowing me to have my first true snowmobile experience!

Ever since I was little, I have loved helping my older brother, now Vice President of Snow Pioneers club, and my dad, an active member, with everything from riding along in the Groomer all night, to snowmobile drag races. Not only does snowmobiling allow me with family bonding, but also with the opportunity to show people that snowmobiling is not only a guy sport. Constantly my family will be out snowmobiling, and we will see people look multiple times when they see a rider dressed in pink Ski-Doo apparel go by. Several girls believe it is utterly crazy to go out in the negative temperatures and drive at a high speed with frost biting wind; however, I believe it is utterly fantastic!

Now that I am 18, I cannot wait until this next winter season, so that I can assist my local snowmobile club, and have the opportunity to become a certified groomer operator. A couple of years ago, Delaware County received a severe winter storm, which stranded many motorists. Being well known in our community as avid snowmobile riders, the Delaware County Sheriff's Department contacted my family to assist in rescuing and checking in on stranded motorists. Even though I wasn't able to ride in the groomer with my dad, I jumped on a snowmobile with the rest of my family and headed out to help as well.

Helping others is a great passion of mine as I plan to pursue my Bachelors of Science in Nursing at Mount Mercy University. Some day, I hope to show my children the incredible world of snowmobiling and create a passion like mine within them.

~ Allison Heims, Manchester



Cruising Over to SnowFest

Driftrunners' 45th Annual Event
Draws Sledders to Region 5

by Cameron Hanson

Here today, gone tomorrow. Winter's roller-coaster ride in Iowa ran off the tracks the third week in February as the thermometer crept above freezing for several unwelcomed days and prematurely put an end to a six-week stretch of decent to excellent riding conditions in the northern tier of the state.

Just a week earlier, windchills had dipped well below zero, and the forecast for above-average temperatures seemed hard to fathom. Disbelief quickly turned into reality as the foot base of snow in the farm fields across from my driveway began to reveal the black topsoil underneath. The snowmobile season in Iowa was cut in half again.

The impact of this weather pattern cuts deep. If you make hay when the sun shines, then you almost need to ride snowmobile any time there's snow on the ground, work schedule and family commitments permitting, of course. So I was glad I was able to seize the day a handful of times this winter and get out on the trails when I could.

Charting a Course for Cresco

One of those opportunities came Friday, Jan. 22, when a day off from work allowed for an overnight trip to the Cresco area to celebrate the Driftrunners' 45th Annual SnowFest. Coming along for the ride was Past ISSA President Gary McVicker of Hampton, a steady companion who had joined me on a few other escapades across Iowa during seasons past.

After upgrading his ride at House of Sports in Mason City earlier that morning, McVicker arrived at my place around noon. By car, Charles City to Cresco is an hour drive, so we had plenty of daylight left to make it to Cresco by sled in time for the scheduled club ride that evening. Before long, we were geared up and ready to hit the trails.

Thanks to neighboring clubs working together in our area, several options existed to make it to Cresco by trail. We chose to head north to Osage and then cut over to Riceville from the Stacyville trail on the Mitchell County E-Z Riders system. Outside of Riceville, we picked up the Howard County Stumpjumper trail to Saratoga, our preplanned dinner stop for the afternoon.

All trails had been groomed to this point, and it was a quick ride to the Togie Pub, where we each scarfed down a quick sandwich and some fries. By now, we were beginning to hit traffic from SnowFest. Some riders were participating in the day's planned Ladies Ride, while others were out showing newcomers to the area the local trail system. Among the latter was Driftrunners member and ISSA Region 5 Director Matt Miner, who was helping to guide a group of riders from the Southeast Iowa Ridge Blasters of Region 12.

Most riders were preparing to leave when we arrived at the watering hole, so we made plans to meet up with them later. As their group headed south to Lourdes, McVicker and I continued our course due east. Within seven miles, we were at Highway 63 just north of Davis Corners, picking up the Driftrunners trail near Bodensteiner Implement.

So Long, Region 4

At this point, we were crossing over into Region 5 as the highway serves as the boundary line with Region 4. A little more than three miles later, we reached a T-intersection in the middle of a field with one arrow pointing north to Lime Springs and another directing us south to Schley. We chose the northern route as it appeared from the map to be the quickest path to Cresco.

About five miles from Lime Springs, we located the intersection to Cresco and began heading south and east again. Halfway down this trail, we came across an abandoned railbed which now serves

*Crossing the impressive
State Line Trail Bridge
at Florenceville*



The Driftrunners' Pisten Bully remained busy preparing the 220 miles of trail for SnowFest weekend.



Cole Wirth of Lost Nation spent the weekend with his dad at SnowFest.

as part of the Driftrunners trail system. After crossing numerous fields throughout most of the afternoon, this wooded corridor was a nice change of pace.

Not long after emerging from this trail, we could begin to see the lights from Cresco's Industrial Park and followed the trail through the Howard County Fairgrounds en route to the Super 8 motel. The signs through town led us directly to our overnight accommodations. We settled into our room around 5 p.m. and rested for a bit before the club ride in a few hours. The ride over from Charles City was approximately 80 miles.



Several Visitors from Southern Iowa

At 7 p.m., we met up with the Driftrunners club for their evening ride to Lime Springs and Florenceville. About 25 snowmobilers participated in the 40-mile ride, including Tim Wirth and his son Cole from Lost Nation, members of the Eastern Iowa Sno-Riders of Region 9. The pair had come up for the weekend based on social media reports on trail conditions.

Roger 'Roto' Hastings "We were checking on Facebook, and they were saying the trails were pretty decent here so we thought we'd come up for the weekend," Tim Wirth said. "With SnowFest going on, we thought it would be a good time. It's been good riding so far, but a little bit more snow would help. But it's more than what we have at home, so anything's better than that."

Although they had been on a few snowmobile trips out-of-state already this season, the father-son team said they would just as soon stay and ride in Iowa when they can. Based on the out-of-county plates on the tow vehicles in the hotel parking lot, several other snowmobilers were making the trek to Cresco for SnowFest weekend for similar reasons.

Bob and Mindy Scott of Lone Tree, members of the Eastern Iowa Sledheads of Region 12, also left the brown landscape of home behind for the weekend and made the three-hour drive north for their fifth year in a row. Mindy Scott said the variety of cross-country trails and the scenery keep them coming back year after year. The white stuff helps too.

"We don't have any snow back home. It's all gone now," she said. "Plus most of our trails back home are mostly in the ditches, so getting out across the fields is fun up here. This is also a close drive for us, so if we can't get away for a long, extended trip, this is a good close trip. They have good trails, and we always have a

lot of fun when we're up here."

Roger "Roto" Hastings of Keosauqua lives about five miles from the Missouri border in southern Iowa so not too many snowmobiling opportunities exist for him close to home each winter. For the past 36 winters, he has been trailering up to Cresco for SnowFest weekend and has enjoyed the club and the trails so much that he joined the Driftrunners.

"The people up here are really nice," the 60-year-old Hastings said. "They are a close-knit group, and they are all good friends of mine. The trail system is well marked up here, and it's been that way for a long time. I truly enjoy snowmobiling, and with my chances to ride back home very limited, I like coming up here every winter."

Hastings said he first learned of the Cresco area from others back home who used to come up for SnowFest. According to Hastings, their sleds would have a "round, white Cresco snowmobile logo" on their hoods and windshields. "We got to seeing those stickers a lot, so we decided to come up and see what it was all about," he said.

Dates Back to the Early 1970s

Founded in 1968, the Driftrunners started SnowFest in the early 1970s to showcase their trails and snowmobiling opportunities in northeast Iowa. Cresco native and Past ISSA President Dale Vagts moved backed to the area in 1982 and has been a member of the Driftrunners ever since. He said the four-day event has had several incarnations over the years, mostly due to cyclical snowfall.

SnowFest weekend used to include snowmobile races, a statewide



Driftrunners members Greg and Theresa Hudecek share a laugh with Bob Scott of Lone Tree at the club's trailside warming bin.



charity ride-in, broomball tournaments and ice sculpture contests. According to Vagts, the event was also heavily supported by the snowmobile manufacturers, and as many as 3,000 snowmobiles would blanket the fairgrounds.

"It was standing room only inside the Expo Center," he recalled. "The manufacturer reps would have banner wars and donate snowmobile gear to raffle off. There were so many people here that you couldn't even move inside. It was just nuts."

Now, SnowFest activities have been scaled back to more local events. The club still hosts charity rides for spina bifida and cancer research, and the torchlight parade from Cresco to the mill pond at Vernon Springs occurs before the Saturday evening dance. Other regular offerings include the Ladies Ride, Boy Scout Breakfast and Vintage Sled Ride.

"It's still a good time now, and we're proud of what we have, but it's not like it was," Vagts said. "As long as we get the snow, we will still have people coming in from all over."

Miner, a state-certified operator, said club volunteers have been grooming the 220 miles of trail in and around the Cresco area since early January. The area had received some timely snowfall so most of the trails were in above-average condition most of SnowFest weekend. The only thin spots were around the Kendallville area, which we discovered the second day of our ride.

"We're doing pretty good this year," Miner said. "We have had a good turnout for the snow we did get. A lot of people have been out supporting our sponsors. People we talk to like coming up here for the variety of trails and the friendly atmosphere. People are already making plans for next year to come back."

At well over 100 members, the Driftrunners are one of the largest clubs in the state and are 100 percent ISSA. In 2014, they were recognized as the ISSA's Club of the Year, and Miner said approximately half of their membership dues are collected SnowFest weekend.

"It's nice to have the Boy Scouts handle the breakfast so we can concentrate on our membership drive and raffle ticket sales on Saturday," Miner said. "SnowFest is also nice because we can show off what we have for trails and scenery in northeast Iowa, and it's good for the ISSA as we can show what our groomer operation is like for people who visit from other parts of Iowa and from out of state."

State Line Trail Bridge

One of the more popular destinations on the Driftrunners trail system is to Florenceville and its sister-city of Granger, Minn. To get there, you cross a massive 180-foot, club-built snowmobile bridge over the Upper Iowa River. Known as the State Line Trail Bridge and completed

in 1995, a sign overhead welcomes you to Iowa, and integrated wooden rails keep your sled on track as you cross the river below.

About a mile before that impressive structure is the club's warming bin, which is home to Charlie's Chili Feed every February. Preserving the memory of long-time club supporters Charlie and Fern Nast, this trailside stop features firewood, restroom facilities and large, wooden cable spools for tables. It's a pretty elaborate set-up and worth a second visit.

Having motored through the area the night before on the club ride, the bridge and warming bin were must-see stops during the daylight on Saturday. After breakfast at the Expo Center, we headed back north for a few pictures. The Wirths, Scotts and others joined on the trip, and club members Greg and Teresa Hudecek served as tour guides for the rest of the day.

From Florenceville, we travelled east 12 miles to Kendallville and then turned south back toward Cresco. Staying north of town, we continued on down to Vernon Springs and eventually ended up in Schley, where we met up with the tail end of the weekend's vintage ride. After a break at Bubba's, the Hudeceks led us back north to Lime Springs for a final fuel stop before splitting off for our return trip back home.

Time constraints prevented us from touring the southeast portion of the Driftrunners trail system, including Protivin and Ridgeway, but with darkness approaching, we figured we had better start heading back. After fueling, we bid farewell to the group at Chester, opting this time for a more northern route back through Howard and Mitchell counties.

Shortly after leaving Chester, we ran into Jim Owen from the Howard County club on the trail, and he and his friend led us to McIntire, where we met up with some buddies from back home. From there, it was a scenic ride through the Pinicon-Alders Wildlife Area to Stacyville and then due south to home in Floyd County.

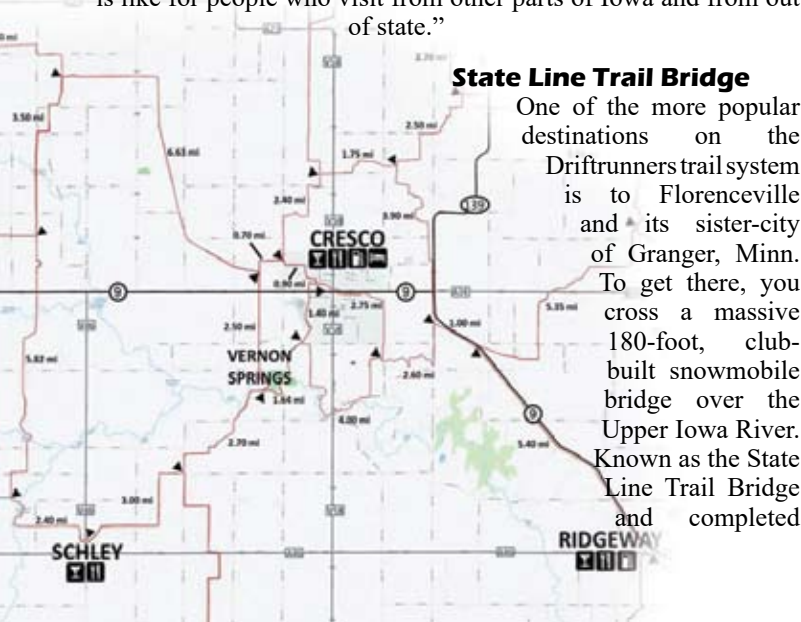
Arriving back at McVicker's trailer at 10 p.m. Saturday, we ended the two-day trip at approximately 260 miles and encountered some of the best riding of the year. Writing this as the snow melts on my front lawn, I am thankful we seized the opportunity and took advantage of the great trails when we did.



The Howard County Stump-jumpers certainly have a unique way of marking their trail intersections.



The crowd at the Togie Pub Friday afternoon



Snowhawks Introduce Spirit Lake High-Schoolers to Snowmobiling



by **Cameron Hanson**

The Dickinson County Snowhawks of Region 1 recognized International Snowmobile Safety Week Jan. 16-24 by hosting an afternoon snowmobile ride with students from Spirit Lake High School Tuesday, Jan. 19.

The event drew 23 high-schoolers and three teachers and was held in conjunction with the school's "J Term," a month-long course each January where students follow a project-based learning model. One of the options available to them is winter recreation and is intended to answer the question, "How come there's never anything to do around here?" explained teacher Tim O'Hagan.

"Our mission is to expose our students to as many recreational activities in the greater area as we possibly can and hope that a few of them stick," O'Hagan said. "As the students go from activity to activity, we try to have guests/business owners explain their personal background, education and interests and let the students see what it might take to make these passions become a part of their lives."

According to Snowhawks youth safety instructor Dan Delperdang, the local snowmobile club has been trying to incorporate snowmobiling into the J Term



schedule for several winters, but poor snow and trail conditions have thwarted those efforts. This winter, Mother Nature finally cooperated, and "we were finally able to make it work," he said.

The morning began with about two hours of classroom instruction on snowmobile safety, operation and regulations. Then after lunch, students were bussed down to the Okoboji Boat Works snowmobile rental shop to get fitted for helmets and clothing for those who needed them. The group was then transported to Okoboji Boat Works owner Leo "Butch" Parks' private property for the snowmobile ride.

Some students brought their own sleds, club members offered some of theirs for use by the kids and Okoboji Boats offered free snowmobile rentals as well. Helping Delperdang from the club for the day were members Randy Magg and Mark Dykema.

"Because the majority of the students had



Spirit Lake High School students hit the trails Jan. 19.

not taken the snowmobile education class and did not have the proper certificates, they were split into two different groups," Delperdang said. "Those students who had passed the snowmobile education class and had their certificates went on a trail ride from the YMCA to East Okoboji to Superior and back."

The trail ride lasted until about 3 p.m. Those students who had not taken the education class had to remain on the privately-owned field south of the YMCA. Here, they were allowed to ride or drive the snowmobiles. The school bus was also parked in this area so students had a place to warm up while they waited their turn to go snowmobiling.

"All of the students were able to experience the sport of snowmobiling in one form or another," Delperdang said. "It was a very successful day for all students and teachers as it was a great opportunity to

introduce many people to their first ride on a snowmobile. We especially want to thank Butch Parks and Okoboji Boat Works snowmobile rentals for their free use of the snowmobiles and land as well as to the club members who helped out. We also want to thank the employees of Okoboji Boat Works and Parks Marina for helping to drive the rentals to and from the ride site."

According to O'Hagan, the students enter J Term with such a wide range of experiences, so it's exciting to see the peer encouragement and leadership that comes from those who are experienced at a certain task, like snowmobiling.

"The relationships formed during these experiences is priceless," he said. "We hope this extends beyond the parameters of the classroom calendar and students go back to these activities and maybe bring new people along to recreate, volunteer or pursue it as an occupation."

2016 ISSA Magazine Makers

Driftrunners, Inc.	\$100
Allamakee Sno-Blazers	\$100
Wapsipinicon Snowmobile Association	\$100
Snow Pioneers	\$100

This new fundraising mechanism is intended to offset the costs of keeping the *Iowa Snowmobiler* magazine in print. Send your contribution to your Region Director or ISSA Treasurer Kim Herman. For more information on this program, contact ISSA Communications Chair Jim Willey at (563) 920-0911.

Club News

Region 1

O'Brien County Snowtrackers

by Zelda Buse Christensen, Reporter

And the word in O'Brien County by mid-February is still "SNOW!" We aren't setting any records with amount—except when compared to recent years when we got virtually none. Our ditches do have some snow in them. Having the groomer operating is a definite change!

The Snowtrackers have not yet planned a Fun Run, but the last three Saturdays have been filled with the Okoboji Winter Games and two neighboring snowmobile clubs having benefit fun runs for members needing assistance.

One Thursday night, 15 riders met at the "warming hut" in a field on the north edge of Sanborn to ride to Melvin for Taco Night there. A former chicken brooder house, the warming hut is complete with electricity, a stove, a supply of firewood, some seating, a trailmap on the wall—a great place to gather. It's just as good as any warming hut out west!

On the subject of "out west," several Snowtrackers have visited various mountainous places. All the reports I have heard vary from "great snow" to "excellent snow" to "so much snow that we got stuck with our sleds in the parking lot and on the trail!" There are at least two schools of thought regarding getting stuck: Some insist that if you aren't getting stuck, you aren't having fun. Others insist that spending more time digging out than actually riding is not really fun.

Keep enjoying the SNOW!

Powder Players

by Jim Skinner, Vice President

Our club met, as usual, the first Wednesday of the month, Feb. 3, right after a two-day snowstorm which included some lovely 50-plus mph winds.

Our monthly host, Reggie at The Triangle, served another great meal of taverns, side dishes and a dessert. Can't wait until next month to see what Reggie cooks up.

Our club has always been wonderful about taking care of their own. A benefit/fun run/silent auction is scheduled in February for one of our members. He has been a member for years, has been an officer and on the board of directors for years, and has also been an active groomer operator for many years. This member has had some major medical issues since June 2015 which eventually ended with an amputation of part of his leg. Despite all that he has had to overcome, he is determined to get back to life as normal—or at least as normal as life can be—after such a life-changing event. One accomplishment that he is quite proud of is the fact that he got back in the groomer and has been grooming trails for our club this season. That is called DEDICATION.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March

- ISSA Board of Directors meeting TBD

April

- Trails Unlimited Landowner Appreciation Breakfast April 3.
- ACSA DC Fly-In April 16-19.
- Scholarship applications due April 15.

May

- 2015-16 Trail Grant Reimbursement Requests due to IDNR May 1.
- 2016-17 Trail Grant Applications Due to IDNR May 1.

June

- ISSA Award Nominations Due June 1.
- International Snowmobile Congress June 9-11 Rapid City, S.D.

July

- Rivers Bend Shootout IWA watercross races July 29-30 Rock Valley. Hosted by the Sioux County Snowmobile Club of Region 1.
- ISSA Summer Campout TBD.

ISSA CLUBS

Clubs in red reported
100% ISSA Membership



REGION ONE

Buena Vista Blizzard Busters

President: Jeffrey Sassman
709 Hudson St., Storm Lake, IA 50588
(712) 732-6500

Clay County Sno Broncs

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

Dickinson County SnowHawks

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

Osceola County High Point Riders

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

Powder Players Inc.

P.O. Box 154, Remsen, IA 51050
www.powder-players.com
President: Dee Jay Kellen
23657 Marble Ave., Le Mars, IA 51031

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, kbnnste@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 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

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
(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
snohawk68@gmail.com

Chickasaw Sno-Riders

President: Dan Feenstra
1310 Jasper Ave., New Hampton, IA 50659
(319) 404-5482

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
(641) 985-2699.

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

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: Mark Bries
21352 Highway 18, Monona, IA 52159
(563) 539-4555, mbconstruction@neitel.net



Members of the Iowa River Riders of Region 3 test out the new bridge crossing on the Rolling Prairie Trail.

Mr. Marvelous Merv (ISSA's current President) was present and, at many times, was lucky enough, but also understanding, to hear some of our club's observations and concerns that we are feeling and seeing. Hoping Merv can share some of our ideas and concerns with the right people and maybe start some discussion on it. If our club has these concerns, we have to wonder how many others do as well. We are thankful that Merv has always been understanding with our input and concerns and has always been a great resource for us.

I trained a new groomer operator this season. It was my wife, and of course, it is kind of nice to be able to tell her what to do, but that didn't last long as she is sort of a perfectionist, so needless to say she has done a good job and lays an awesome trail. Since the time to volunteer to groom takes away from home and family, it is nice to be able to spend this time together. Our club is lucky enough to have many dedicated groomers, and many of those who are willing to help each other out and do grooming as a team, as that just makes it so much easier. I also got to groom with our club's president. It was a great opportunity to discuss snowmobiling and many issues/ideas.

Learned an interesting tidbit this week when we finally went to register our three sleds and get trail permits. While at our county recorder's office, we were reminded that our stickers needed to be placed on our windshields. Hmm...so that got us to thinking... what is the first piece of a sled that usually gets broke off if you have an "OOPS?" YEP—the windshield...soooo...no windshield....no stickers. So we asked what the replacement cost would be and were told the entire trail permit cost would have to be paid again, even if you have your receipt, plus there is a lesser fee for a duplicate registration sticker. Hmm...who knew??? Well us now, and gives one more incentive to keep one's sled upright.

By the time you read this, we will have had our last meeting in March and another awesome monthly meal. It brings a smile to my face, and much pride, to know that even when our meetings end for the season, our club dedication does not. We continue to be active and volunteer in our community. Feel free to come join us at the Remsen Derby in June. We will be the ones smiling, grilling and selling burgers to help out the Remsen Jaycees.

Enjoy the rest of our season and be safe riding.

Region 5

Cresco Driftrunners

by Bob Martinek, Treasurer

Wow! Hard to believe this is the last issue of the season! Seemed like we couldn't catch a snow early (only rain) then finally we did, and it did turn out to be a decent season. I am almost sure when you are reading this, our riding will be or is almost done. Mother Nature is so fickle!

Not to complain. Cresco had trails to groom, ride and enjoy. After word was out, we

had visitors from all over. It was great to see. Now if you were one of those who visited us and our trails or maybe a local who rode here, think back on how much fun you had. Are you a member of the Driftrunners? Do you want to be? I think you should be. Of the \$40 membership dues, I forward \$15 to the ISSA for their dues and \$25 stays with us to operate the groomer, light and heat the clubhouse, put on SnowFest and our Landowner dinner along with all the other things we do.

Now I have heard all the excuses for not joining. "We don't groom enough", "We don't groom the right way", "I don't know how to join or who to pay" or "I already belong to a different club". My answers are: If you are not a member, then don't complain. If you want to join us, mail me a check payable to the Driftrunners for \$40. My address is Bob Martinek, 15854 Valley Ave., Cresco, IA 52136. And if you already belong to another club, you can still join ours. Heck, I belong to three clubs myself.

Okay down off my soapbox. Our last event of the season is our Landowner Appreciation Dinner. As of mid-February, we have not finalized the date or details so I can't report on that so I guess I will say "Thanks" until next fall again!

Trails Unlimited

by Bud Winter

At the time of writing, I'm looking out my window at work at an awesome, freshly groomed trail! It's been a good couple of weeks (at least in our area) so if the snow disappears next week—like the forecast says—then I guess we'll just have to be happy with what we had! Last weekend, we had our poker run which saw 87 riders participate. There were many more groups also riding around the area so it was great to see our trails getting used. We received a lot of compliments via Facebook, emails and, of course, face-to-face. So many riders said, "Wow you guys really do have some nice scenic trails up here—I always just thought it was flat fields!" Our club members just chuckle of course. We know what we have. We're proud of our trails, what we've done the past few years and some plans we have for more trail improvements in the next couple of years.

The comment makes me think about what many people throughout the state have said before: Ride in Iowa when you get a chance! Trailer up an hour or two and go chase an Iowa snow storm when it hits. Or heck, just go to the neighboring club trails that you



The Driftrunners hosted Charlie's Chili Feed Feb. 13 on the trail near Florenceville.



The Allamakee Sno-Blazers of Region 5 hosted their second annual club ride and dance Feb. 6 at the Green Valley Getaway in Waukon. An estimated 70 snowmobilers participated in the event with riders showing up from as far away as Waterloo, Cedar Rapids and Monticello.

ISSA CLUBS

Clubs in red reported
100% ISSA Membership



Driftrunners, Inc.

Join Us on Facebook under 'Groups'
President: Dean Zakostelecky
124 Fourth Ave. SW, Cresco, IA 52136
ddzak1964@hotmail.com

Dyersville Driftskippers

www.dyersvilldriftdippers.net
President: Phil Helle
610 6th Ave NE, Dyersville, IA 52040
(563) 590-0549, philhelle@yahoo.com

Snow Pioneers

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

Trail Blaz-zers Inc.

President: Tim Arthur
20197 130th St., Sumner, IA 50674
(563) 578-5417, trail.blazzers.inc@gmail.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
(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, jsmgr@lvcta.com

REGION EIGHT

Central Iowa Snowmobilers

P.O. Box 1751, Marshalltown, IA
50158, President: Kevin Weese
(641) 485-0123, yamaha.family@yahoo.com

Jasper County Ditch Bangers

President: David Huffaker
P.O. Box 311, Baxter, IA 50028
(641) 751-0622, huffaker-dave@hotmail.com





ISSA CLUBS

Clubs in red reported
100% ISSA Membership

Tri-County Snowmobile Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 231, Traer, IA 50675
President: Jamie Erhardt
312 Mill St., Traer, IA 50675
(319) 415-8189, jhard88@yahoo.com

REGION NINE

Cascade Snow Punchers

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

Eastern Iowa Sno-Riders

President: Dylon Bousset
2687 178th Ave., Calamus, IA 52729
(563) 210-4002, Polarisdude90@gmail.com

Frozen Few

P.O. Box 184, Coggon, IA 52218
President: Jamie Prull
1101 First St., Palo, IA 52324
(319) 851-2522, jprull@aol.com

Jones County Snow Chasers

P.O. Box 492, Anamosa, IA 52205
President: Brett Benter
607 N. Birch, Monticello, IA 52310
brettbenter@hotmail.com
(319) 480-0586

Snowmobilers of Jackson County

President: Aaron Michels
39014 308th St., Bellevue, IA 52031
brittany-farrell@hotmail.com

REGION TEN

Southwest Iowa Snow Scooters

President: Trent Larson
25817 208th St., Crescent, IA 51526
trentlarsn@gmail.com

Stag Island Skol Patrol

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

REGION ELEVEN

Appanoose County Trails, Inc.

P.O. Box 825, Centerville, IA 52544

REGION TWELVE

Cedar County Winter Warriors

ccwwarriors@yahoo.com
President: Jerry Meier
1241 Jackson Ave., Tipton, IA 52772
(319) 325-6021, jmeier@hupp-electric.com

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)

Snowdrifters, Inc.

P.O. Box 5135, Coralville, IA, 52241
www.iowa-snowdrifters.org
President: Jeff Wardenburg
1745 Radio Rd, Marion, IA 52302
Jeff.Wardenburg@Titanmachinery.com

Scott County Sno-Seekers

www.snoseekers.org
P.O. Box 2332, Davenport, IA 52809-2332
President: Kevin House
(563) 505-3385, khouse805@yahoo.com

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

maybe haven't ridden before. I think everyone would be pleasantly surprised at how great some of the trails are right in our own backyards. Yes it's not the deep snow of out west, but there's a lot of opportunity for a great ride.

Our year will conclude with our landowners appreciation breakfast and fundraiser April 3. After that, we've got a lot of summer trail work to do, grants to write, etc. We wish everyone the best and safe riding as our snowmobile season concludes.

Region 12

Snowdrifters, Inc.

by Ron Roe

Well, here we are, another month down and no snow for us here in Region 12. Seems like we get missed most of the time. Other areas have been more fortunate than us, so that's good. At least we are receiving some snow in Iowa.

We can't win for losing. It seems like we have a lot of places that like us to have our monthly meetings at their place, but it is hard to find a place that has a room that is quiet enough for a meeting. It doesn't take much noise to distract from a business meeting. I don't think some people realize this. I suppose this is the same problem a lot of clubs have. We have talked about buying or building a building to hold our meetings, but when you get into the cost and maintenance of a building, a little noise seems a lot quieter compared to the cost.

It seems this season has gone by so fast. By the time this comes out, it will be time to remove stakes and signs for the season that just started, so it seems.

I can remember a few years back that the manufacturers had shows and open houses to show the new sleds coming out. I used to like to go to these and get all excited about a new sled for the next season and purchase one in the spring. I don't know if they have them anymore or not. We would sometimes take our sleds with us and stay north of the Twin Cities, and then after the show was over, we would go farther north and do some riding before we came home. Some of these used to be later in March, and I'm not sure there will be snow left in March.

We will be making a trip up to the U.P. in Feb. It will probably be our last for the year. Well, this is all I have for this season, so everyone get in the last ride and then think summer. See everyone next season. Have a great summer.

Southeast Iowa Ridge Blasters

by Aaron Dorothy, President

Hello from the Southeast Iowa Snow Dome!

Not that we are much different than most other clubs in the state so far this year, but when I say it has not been a good year for us, with the lack of snow, I mean guys around here were happy when we got just a dusting of snow on the ground last month.

Not that anyone really got to go out and ride it, but it was just nice to be reminded of what snow was. A fellow snowmobiler always says, "Well, that's the Southeast Iowa Snow Dome for ya," every time the big snows just miss us. Not that we have so much snow down here that we have our own dome for it; nope, not that at all. What he means is every time the big snows move in, they somehow just miss our area. But I don't think this year has been "GREAT" for anyone.

With that aside, it has not stopped us. We were able to actually put our new trail groomer to work a few times this year. Back just before New Year's, we were able to get a lot of our trails groomed and put it to work before a club ride on New Year's Day. I must say it worked really well with the heavy wet snow that we had. It was easy to get the snow to roll and pack down good, and there was a lot of positive feedback come the club ride. A lot of riders were really impressed with the trails that day.

One thing the lack of snow has done is it has allowed two very important things to happen. It has not only allowed our club to plan for the future by planning a trail expansion for next season by adding a major city and city that sets in the heart of our trail system. If we are able to get this city added, it will not only make a major connection of four trails, but it will allow access to food, fuel and lodging. The other thing this free time has allowed is club members to visit and enjoy other trails in the state. A large group went up to Cresco for SnowFest; a few weeks later, a group went to Manchester to visit the Snow Pioneers and their trails; and a group is planning on attending the Dave Carmichael Memorial Ride.

So even with a year of low snow, there is still a lot going on, and it is more important then ever for riders to remember that just because it wasn't the best year for snowfall in our area, there is still lots of things going on, and our club, along with all the club throughout the state, still need your help to make and keep things going strong. And remember, it can only go up from here. Just think snow!!!

REGION 1

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

REGION 2

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

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

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

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

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

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

Crystal Lake Bar & Grill

135 State Ave, Crystal Lake, IA 50432
(641) 565-3030

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@dkarndtcpa.net
www.dkarndtcpa.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

Goody's Welding & Metal Art
304 S. 4th Ave E., Lake Mills, IA 50450
(641) 909-4660
agundmonson@hotmail.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

The Garage Tavern

103 Main St, Coulter, IA 50431

ISSA ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

(641) 866-6771
step@mulfordconcrete.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

J-T Machine & Tool Co.

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

Kirschbaum Heating & Cooling

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

Keel Farms

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

Lake Mills Motor Sports

Polaris
45563 C Hwy 69, Lake Mills, IA 50450
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