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March 2017 • Volume 38 • Issue 7

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IOWA SNOWMOBILER

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In Case You Missed It ...

The February issue of the Iowa
Snowmobiler was released digitally only
last month. The pdf is available online
at [www.iowasnowmobiler.com/issa/
magazine/digitalissues/feb17iasno.pdf](http://www.iowasnowmobiler.com/issa/magazine/digitalissues/feb17iasno.pdf).

Among the features:

- Snowmobile Iowa Ride at Cresco
- Scholarship Winners Profiled
- Spending Time with Special
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COVER: Lynn Van Dyke of the Dickinson County SnowHawks of Region 1 takes advantage of the groomed trail along Highway 9 between Spirit Lake and Superior during the University of Okoboji Winter Games Jan. 28. See related story on page 13.

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

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Meeting Up with Iowa Riders; Ending Season on Positive Note

Well, March is here, and the season is starting to wind down. I know a lot of us didn't get the snow we wanted. Even though we didn't get a lot of snow, I think snowmobiling is alive and well in Iowa.

There were several events held across the state this year and were well attended. Lack of snow didn't hinder people from getting out and riding. They loaded up and headed for the snow. I witnessed this for myself on several occasions.

When ISSA Vice President Brian Carmichael and I didn't have snow in our home areas, we loaded up and headed to the club trails in the northern

counties of Iowa. The weekends we rode out of the Cresco area, the parking lot at the fairgrounds was packed with 50-plus trucks and trailers. I heard similar reports from other areas as well.

Traveling around to ride, I got to meet and talk with all kinds of riders: trail riders, ditch-bangers, family riders and vintage riders. They all have the same passion for snowmobiling. I can't really label myself into any one of these groups. I like them all, and depending on the day, you can catch me riding with any of them.

This is what I love about this sport. I can ride with my kids on groomed trails one day, and the following weekend, I can be blasting through a tree line out west or

racing buddies across a corn field. There is always somewhere to ride and someone to ride with. Sometimes, ya just have to go find it.

The season isn't quite over yet either. We have the snocross coming up in Dubuque. This event is a first for a professional series coming to Iowa. We've had some amateur snocross events in Iowa before, but this is a first to have the pro series make a stop in our state.

The ISSA is going to be helping out with some manpower for the event. We will also have a booth there to promote snowmobiling and the clubs.

Anyone interested in helping with the event, please contact me for more information. This event is sure to be a great way to cap off the snowmobile season in Iowa.

Then, we will turn our thoughts and hopes to the next season. That's one of the things I think is great about Iowa snowmobilers. No matter how the current season has been, we always have a positive outlook for the next one. Keep up the great work you do on the trails and in your communities. I am very proud to be the president of the ISSA and to help keep this great sport going in Iowa.



Chris Willey
ISSA
President



Snowmobile trailers line the west drive at the Howard County Fairgrounds in Cresco Jan. 29, the last day of the Driftrunners' 46th Annual SnowFest. The Region 5 area was a popular destination for Iowa riders this winter as a major winter storm the last full week of January provided ample snowcover.



The Iron Dog Brigade met in Hayward, Wis., Feb. 5-8 for a trail ride for its members. Among those participating from Iowa were Brian Carmichael, Bob and Judy King and past ISSA presidents Dale Vagts, Bruno Andreini and Dennis Nauman.

Hitting the Trails with the Iron Dog Brigade

The first full week of February, I had the opportunity and privilege to ride with the Iron Dog Brigade in Hayward, Wis. My late father was a member of this prestigious group, and I was invited along as a legacy for the Feb. 5-8 trip.

Vice President's Message

For those of you who don't know, the Iron Dog Brigade is an organization of long-time snowmobilers who have spent countless hours of volunteer work for the good of snowmobiling.

That includes everything from being club officers at the local and state level to operating the groomers to maintaining the trails. They are also known to work with their legislators and their respective Department



Brian Carmichael
ISSA Vice President

of Natural Resources. Some members even worked in the snowmobile industry.

In other words, they are the movers and the shakers of the snowmobile world. Whenever I'm around them, I'm surrounded by vast amounts of knowledge.

They inspire me to get involved and do my part to help support the sport that we all love so much.

Being with the 'dogs' is a very humbling experience that I always look forward to every year.

Campout Host Needed for this Summer

The ISSA is soliciting bids from its member clubs to host the 2017 Summer Campout, normally held in July.

As always, the ISSA provides \$200 in incentive money to the host club, and as much as \$600 in expenses can be reimbursed through the ISSA.

Last summer, the Trail Blaz-ers, Inc., of Region 5 stepped forward to host, and everyone had a great time at Split Rock Campground near Fredericksburg. Events can be as simple or elaborate as desired.

If your club is interested in hosting this year's campout, please reach out to your ISSA Region Director or contact ISSA President Chris Willey at (563) 920-9010 or kioti79@gmail.com to submit a bid.



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Legislative Package

EFC members crisscross Iowa, soliciting support for proposals, changes to state snowmobile program

Editor's Note: The following story has been reprinted from the February digital issue with the latest updates available. Track the legislation's progress further online at www.iowasnowmobiler.com.

by Cameron Hanson

Equipped with a PowerPoint presentation and informational brochures, the ISSA's Emergency Funding and Legislation Committee (EFC) spent the month of January crisscrossing the state of Iowa, stumping for support of its 2017 legislative package.

In addition to the merger of the trail user permit into the annual snowmobile registration fee and the inclusion of snow bikes on public trails previously profiled in the January issue of this publication, the committee's proposal is also looking to improve transparency in the state snowmobile program and even assume administration of several of its key components.

At a meeting in Cedar Falls the first week of January, the committee informed officials with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) of the ISSA's desire to control the groomer program and the allocation of trail funding to Iowa snowmobile clubs. The ISSA already manages the groomer operator training portion. Overseeing the purchase and placement of the equipment seems to be the next logical step.

"The ISSA is willing to take those programs over," ISSA President Chris Willey said. "We have looked at a lot of different scenarios on that, and we need to run some numbers to see how it could work, but it does present some opportunities for us. The DNR has seemed favorable to that in the past."

According to the committee's brochure, "the DNR has indicated that they would like to transfer administration of the groomer inventory to the ISSA to ensure as much of the registration dollars as possible is used at the local level."

Changing the Percentages

To that end, the ISSA is proposing that 80 percent of the registration and trail pass receipts is earmarked for the local trail side. Current code allows the IDNR to spend up to 50 percent of the total revenue for the state side for program administration, salaries, law enforcement, etc. This proposal corrects the intent of the user permit when

it was passed four years ago.

"Funding generated by the trail pass was supposed to go 100 percent to the clubs and supporting the program," explained Past ISSA President and EFC member Jim Willey. "As you know, when it got passed into law, the money was thrown into the general fund and the DNR can spend up to 50 percent of that money. That's not what we intended, and that's not what the lawmakers believed we were going to do with that increased revenue."

Even though the proposal reduces the percentage to the IDNR, the impact should be minimal and should result in a net-zero loss in total dollars for the IDNR—as long as the proposal to merge the \$15 user permit with the \$15 registration fee is approved by the Iowa Legislature. Currently, an average of 6,000 registered snowmobilers in Iowa do not purchase a trail pass. Not giving them an option next year would increase revenue by at least \$90,000.

"The receipts are going to be larger if the trail pass merger goes through, so even at 20 percent, the DNR will still have the same amount of dollars available to them," Jim Willey said as he outlined the legislative package to the ISSA Board of Directors at its Jan. 15 meeting in Huxley.

Transparency Request

Members of the EFC are also looking to improve transparency in the state snowmobile program. Each June, the ISSA and the IDNR meet as a Review and Selection Committee to determine how the trail grant money will be dispersed to local snowmobile clubs for the upcoming season. Usually within a month, a spreadsheet is sent out to clubs, itemizing what each one was awarded for the winter.

The ISSA would now like to see a similar breakdown on how the state side of the registration dollars are being spent. This ongoing request is now in its fourth year, and by including it in its legislative package, EFC members hope to gain some momentum with it. Jim Willey has been championing this effort and met with IDNR officials in Des Moines Jan. 24 to hopefully get some more answers.

"As you know, we have been trying to get accurate numbers on the state side of the program, and we're getting close, but we still don't know how all of the funds have been spent over the past several years," he said. "We want the DNR to give us full disclosure. We know where the club dollars



ISSA officials met with state legislators Jan. 31 at the Travel Federation of Iowa's annual Legislative Showcase. Members promoted snowmobiling in Iowa and also discussed its proposed legislative package for 2017.

go, but we don't know how they spend the state-side dollars.

"I am not an accountant, and this is not an audit," Willey continued. "We simply want to know what they are spending on law enforcement, equipment, etc. and then have some say on how they spend it. We're not trying to do anything that they don't know about. We are proposing what we feel is the right thing to do for the program."

"We have in our legislative package that they have to provide documentation on where the money is going," Past ISSA President and EFC member Terry Durby said.

Making a Pitch to Lawmakers

A week after Willey's visit with the IDNR, members of the EFC were back in Des Moines for the Travel Federation of Iowa's Legislative Showcase at the Iowa State Fairgrounds. In addition to Durby and both Willeys, past ISSA presidents Gary McVicker and Merv Hoermann, ISSA Vice President Brian Carmichael and Region 7 Director John Kahler were also on hand to drum up support for the ISSA's plans.

"We had a very productive evening, I felt, with our legislators," McVicker reported.

So far, committee members said feedback has been fairly supportive toward the proposed changes. Chris Willey said ISSA Lobbyists Mike Heller and Paula Feltner have been pitching it around the Capitol and "are really positive about all of this."

On Jan. 11, Durby and Kahler attended a Team Iowa Snowmobilers club meeting to discuss the ISSA's legislative priorities. According to Durby, "there was a large

turnout of enthusiastic snowmobilers, and our legislative package was met with great support."

The only pushback so far has been coming from southern and western Iowa regarding the merger of the user permit and registration fees. Snowmobilers located in those areas typically own mountain sleds and said they do not ride their machines in Iowa. They therefore feel they should not have to pay for the extra \$15 if both fees are rolled into one \$30 decal.

Chris Willey has been fielding those concerns directly and is open to discuss the ISSA's proposals with any concerned stakeholder in the state. He can be reached by cell phone at (563) 920-9010 or by email at kioti79@gmail.com.

"If clubs have questions or concerns, they can reach out to us," he said.

"If you snowmobile and if you live in Iowa, then you need to support snowmobiling in Iowa, regardless of where you ride," Kahler said.

IDNR Remains Neutral

Heller and Feltner have been working with Rep. Rob Bacon, R-Slater, chair of the Natural Resources Committee in the House, and Sen. Ken Rozenboom, R-Oskaloosa, chair of the Natural Resources and Environment Committee in the Senate. As of Feb. 13, they are close to introducing Legislative Study Bills.

"We have had good indications of support early on, and I think everything is on a positive framework for our bills," Heller said. "Working with the two chairs, they have both been very helpful and have

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definitely been good on our issues."

At this point, the plan is to introduce two separate bills, keeping the proposal to merge the trail pass and registration fee away from the rest of the package. Since the user permit is currently optional for Iowa snowmobile owners, making it mandatory could be construed as a fee increase. Because it involves money, the bill also has to go through the Ways and Means Committee in both chambers.

"The merger is going to be a little bit of a tougher hurdle to clear. I think we are in good shape so far, but it's still early on in the session," Heller said. "There is concern that they don't want to be doing a fee increase unless there is broad-base support for it from the stakeholders."

"We need to convince ISSA members and snowmobilers in general that moving to one sticker will be helpful, easier to register and bring in more money for clubs and trails and other things that we care about," he continued.

Heller said the remaining components of the ISSA's legislative package are gaining

traction. Moving the percentages, he said, has been "very positive in talking with the legislators."

"We want to keep the two issues separate so we can get the rest of the bill passed if the merger proposal stalls," Heller said. "Hopefully, we will get both bills passed."

Any proposed legislation needs to be voted out of committee by early March to have any chance this session. As for the IDNR's opinion on any of the ISSA's proposals, officials at the Wallace Building in Des Moines remain silent because it is not their legislation.

"Obviously, once it gains any traction, we will be taking a real close look at it and have a position on it; but at this point, we are just neutral on the issues and will monitor it going forward," explained IDNR Deputy Director Bruce Trautman.



Trautman

ISSA to Raffle Off Pair of Grizzly Coolers at Campout, Convention

The ISSA's Grand Raffle program continues to evolve as the organization moves away from large-ticket items and cash drawings to a smaller prize package this year.

A pair of Grizzly Coolers will be raffled off in 2017: a smaller version at the ISSA campout in July and a larger one at the ISSA convention in Cedar Rapids in November. Tickets cost \$5 each. Names entered into the summer drawing will also be eligible for the second drawing later that fall.



The ISSA's Raffle Committee chose Grizzly Coolers for its prizes this year for two reasons. First, the company is based out of Decorah, and they wanted to buy local. Secondly, Grizzly has partnered with the American Council of Snowmobile Associations to raise funds for the national non-profit organization. The ISSA's coolers will be purchased through this program and will feature ACSA's logo.

For more information on the ACSA promotion, visit www.snowmobilers.org. For more information on the ISSA raffle, contact committee chair Gary McVicker at (641) 425-1375.

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 22-25, 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 Canada for the 49th Annual International Snowmobile Congress (ISC) June 7-10 at Winnipeg.

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 Chris Willey will represent Iowa on the International Snowmobile Council as well as during meetings with the full ACSA board and the Midwest Chapter of ACSA. Past ISSA President Jim Willey serves as co-chair on the Midwest Chapter.

Dubuque Ski Resort Brings Snocross Racing Back to Iowa

by Cameron Hanson

A downhill ski resort near Dubuque is bringing snocross racing back to Iowa this winter for the first time since the Frozen Few Snowmobile Club hosted its amateur events at Hawkeye Downs in Cedar Rapids in 2011 and 2012.

On March 3-4, the Amsoil Championship Snocross series will land at Sundown Mountain Resort for the Theisen's National Snocross, the seventh leg of its eight-race campaign. Streaming live online and slated for rebroadcast on CBS Sports Network on March

18, the nationally-televised event will feature the sport's most prominent racers and big-air production.

Expected to compete is high-flying superstar Tucker Hibbert of Pelican Rapids, Minn. Sponsored by Arctic Cat, Monster Energy and Ram Trucks, Hibbert is currently third in the points standing, and his

career trophy case includes 14 Winter X Games medals and 10 national pro snocross championships. Casual race observers may also recognize the names of points leader Tim Tremblay and Ross Martin.

Mark Gordon, general manager at Sundown Mountain, attended the snocross event at Shakopee, Minn., in early January to get a feel for what to expect for this event. From his vantage point in the circuit's "nerve center," he said he was amazed by the racing action as Hibbert won the weekend's Pro Open Final.

"I don't know how Tucker does it, but he ends up in the front just about every time," Gordon said.

Fairly new to the sport, Gordon was also impressed by the series' sanctioning body, the International Series of Champions (ISOC).
Carl

Schubitzke serves as its president and has been helping Gordon along the way as he prepares to host his resort's first-ever snocross race.

"The guys who run this event are simply amazing to work with," Gordon said. "While up at Shakopee, you could tell everybody knew what they were doing, as any issue that came up was addressed promptly and professionally."

Finalized Just Prior to Hay Days

Overall, the early March races at the eastern Iowa ski hill will be the third offering in the state over the last decade for this type of entertainment on snow. Besides Cedar Rapids, the ISSA sponsored amateur races at Sleepy Hollow Sports Park in Des Moines in 2009 and 2010.

Gordon was first introduced to the opportunity to host an ISOC-series event last summer when an email invitation was sent to prospective locations. Gordon seized the opportunity, and after ironing out a few wrinkles, his venue landed on the race calendar for early March, as announced last September.

"They first offered us a race in December, but we had to decline at the time," Gordon said. "Unfortunately, for us, that's right when we are trying to get our mountain opened up for the season. Then about four days before Hay Days, they called back and said they were considering us for an event in March, and we agreed to it. It was really an interesting process."

The ski runs will remain open during race weekend as the snocross track only takes up the northeast corner of the resort in front of the North Lodge. Building the track falls on ISOC officials, and work will begin in earnest the Monday of raceweek. Gordon said he is responsible for promoting the event locally, lining up vendors and securing adequate parking.

"Anything inside the fence is their responsibility," Gordon noted. "They will have a very busy week prepping everything. As for us, we have three extra food vendors coming in, beer stands and live entertainment. We want to make sure people have a good time. It's just amazing how much work goes into this."

Most of the on-site parking will be consumed by tractor-trailers from race teams and series sponsors. Spectators will be routed to off-site parking locations with "an elaborate shuttle system to get people in and out quickly," Gordon promised. Attendance is expected to be in the thousands.

"Hotels are starting to fill up fast, especially the ones closest to our place," he noted.

If purchased ahead of time, general admission tickets cost \$25 each day for Friday and Saturday, and a weekend pass is available for \$45. Spectators can save even more by purchasing a weekend package of **turn to page 12**



Advanced tickets available online at www.snocross.com or at any Theisen's store location.

ISSA Honors Downing with 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award

by Cameron Hanson

A decade removed from his father receiving the same award, former state snowmobile program manager David Downing was honored by the ISSA in 2016 with its Lifetime Achievement Award, recognizing his “outstanding dedication, commitment and support” of the ISSA over the past 14 years.

Downing, whose dad Roy first developed the fee-based program for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) back in 1973, moved to the snowmobile and all-terrain vehicle (ATV) section in 2003, becoming its first full-time director since 1991. A year ago, Downing voluntarily transferred to the department’s parks division.

Considering him a loyal friend of snowmobiling in Iowa, ISSA officials wanted to thank Downing for his years of service to their members and other stakeholders across the state. The award was slated to be handed out at the ISSA’s annual convention last November but, due to scheduling conflicts, was eventually presented to Downing at the ISSA Board of Directors meeting in Huxley Jan. 15.

“We wanted to recognize David’s contributions over the past dozen or so years,” explained ISSA President Chris Willey. “He always had the snowmobilers’ best interests in mind. No matter what was going on, you always knew David would make the decision based on bettering our sport. He was always there to champion for our cause.”

Downing said he felt humbled by the award, especially considering his father received the same recognition in 2006. He said he was proud to carry on his father’s legacy and to also leave his own fingerprint on the program, including enhancing safety initiatives, improving trail access, upgrading the aging groomer fleet and increasing revenue.

“I was an administrator, yes, but I also felt I had the stakeholders’ best interest at heart,” Downing said. “I am a snowmobiler and always have been. It became less of a job and more of a passion for me. We had eight straight years of getting legislation passed, and we did it in partnership with the ISSA. Otherwise, we couldn’t get anything done.

“I’m very proud of everything we accomplished,” he continued. “There was equal weight for everything we did. We had a groomer fleet that to say was dilapidated would have been an understatement. To get the groomer fleet back and to see the clubs grow was important. Then to attend county and city meetings to explain the program and gain access to rail beds, for example, was also neat.”

Personal Decision to Transfer

Downing said his decision to leave the program was not an easy one but had to be made for “personal reasons.” His mother was in assisted living now, and he moved south to be near his father and to help him out as needed. He still works out of the Wallace Building in Des Moines and even maintains the same cubicle. Only his responsibilities have shifted.

“My new job gave me an opportunity to move in a different direction and the opportunity for me to spend more time with my father,” he said. “I really miss the snowmobile program and the relationships I had with the snowmobilers. I had the hardest time even telling anyone about my decision. I had mixed emotions about it. That made it extremely difficult.”

Outside of the department, Willey was one of the first people to



At ISSA Legislative Ride north of Cedar Falls



At ISSA Summer Campout near Centerville



With parents Roy and Nancy (Exline) Downing at ISSA Annual Convention in Waterloo

learn of Downing's decision to leave. Downing said he notified Willey of the news two hours before the transfer request had to be submitted. It was that type of communication and friendship that Willey will always remember about Downing. He said he was always there to support the program.

"I knew I could call on him day or night to discuss matters, and I know clubs felt the same way," Willey said. "He was always there and took care of what needed to be done. Never did I think when David was in that position that somebody wasn't minding the store, that something wasn't being done to protect our funds."

Handed Four Goals

Downing easily recalls the day he was approached to take over the joint snowmobile and ATV program. He had been working in the IDNR's energy division, and his boss knew about his legacy with his father in recreation. He also assumed control at a time when the Iowa Legislature had just swept the fund, and several eyes were watching the IDNR's next move.

"The division head told me at the time I had four main goals: grow the fund, protect the fund, grow the recreational opportunities and update the snowmobile code," he said. "When the job came open, I talked to my father because it was something we always did and something we were proud of so I took it without question."

Downing credited his father for his "love of recreation." As a youngster, he would accompany his dad to snowmobile meetings around the state and learned firsthand the value of personal interaction with the user group they were and had been hired to represent. He took that responsibility seriously when it became his turn to further snowmobiling in Iowa.

As pictured at left, Downing was a fixture at many ISSA events. He also visited local club meetings and, when requested, attended city council meetings to explain the program and gain trail access through various communities. During his tenure, the amount of snowmobile trails in Iowa grew from just shy of 5,000 miles to the current level of 8,800 miles. That effort was not lost on him either.

"To be able to just about double the amount of snowmobile trails in Iowa and to do it in an enjoyable setting is also noteworthy to me," he said. "Our program even grew during times when there wasn't a lot of snow. There was so much enthusiasm from the clubs. It was definitely a cooperative effort we had between the ISSA and the DNR."



ISSA President Chris Willey hands David Downing the ISSA's Lifetime Achievement Award Jan. 15 at Huxley.



Clay County Sno Broncs President Doug Alger presented Larry and Donna Dailey of Spencer with the ISSA's Lifetime Achievement Award at a club meeting in December.

Spencer Couple also Recognized for Years of Service to Club

by Cameron Hanson

When Past ISSA President Merv Hoermann served as Region 1 Director, he made a point to visit every club in his territory as many as times as possible each winter. If clubs were committed to meeting regularly and furthering the sport in their communities, attending their functions, he felt, was the least he could do.

One club in particular always stood out to him. The Clay County Sno Broncs would continue to meet throughout the summer months and even during the low-snow years. When it came time for their meetings, he knew he could count on at least three dedicated couples showing up, even if nobody else did. In fact, for a few years there, a club meeting would consist of them simply going out for supper together.

At the core of the group were Larry and Donna Dailey of Spencer. They weren't charter members of the club but were close. They joined in 1975, three years after the club formed, and rarely missed a meeting in the 40 years since. That dedication impressed Hoermann enough to nominate the couple for the ISSA's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2016.

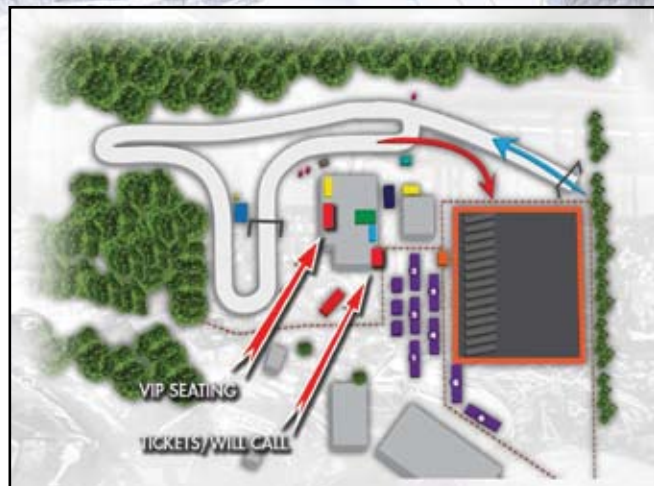
"They were not going to let the club die, and I always respected them for that," he said. "If it was only those three couples, they were going to keep the club going. Just like all clubs do, they went through some lean years, but they believed in the club. They were not quitters."

The Daileys were recognized at the 2016 ISSA Annual Convention in Waterloo. They were unable to attend the ceremony due to health reasons, but club president Doug Alger accepted the award on their behalf. "They deserved this," he said. "They no longer ride but continue to renew their membership each year, and their faith in our sport and our club is very strong."

"They have been very beneficial and loyal to the club," Hoermann added. "They are the ones who kept on coming and believed in the club, even though there were pretty thin times there for quite a while. You don't see that all the time, but I'm sure there are others in the state who are just as deserving. I always had my eye on this couple, and other club members thought it would be nice to recognize them."

Alger presented the Daileys with their award at a club meeting in December. Larry, who suffered three strokes in the past year, called the honor "pretty humbling." "They kept it a pretty good secret from us," he said.

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from page 9 four for \$110. Tickets are available online at www.snocross.com and at any Theisen's store location. Walk-up rates will be higher.

Adequate Supply of Snow

No back-up date will be necessary. The event will go on as scheduled, even as temperatures two weeks before race weekend crept toward the 50-degree mark in eastern Iowa. Like most ski runs, Sundown Mountain can create snow if needed, thus making the resort a desirable location for the series this late in the season.

"Of all the concerns that I have, snow is really not one of them," Gordon said. "We have a 'mountain' of additional snow that is already stockpiled. It would take Death Valley temperatures to shrink that, and I'm not exaggerating. We have a lot of snow."

Gordon said hosting a snocross race allows his resort the opportunity to "diversify" its offerings and draw new crowds to the area. "We have been looking to do something like this for a while now," he said. He hopes the new locale will please spectators and racers alike.

"Obviously, we are a small mountain, and we had to get creative on how to get people in there," he said. "We've come up with some neat solutions to that. We have freed up some space where people are going to have a great view of the race. The promoters want absolute visual excitement at all times. The way they are going to set up their course here is going to be punishing and exciting with tight corners and narrow passing lanes."

ISSA officials are also using this opportunity to promote its organization and is partnering with Gordon and Sundown Mountain to provide volunteers to assist that weekend. If you are available and would like to help out, please contact ISSA President Chris Willey at (563) 920-9010.

"We are looking for help on Friday and Saturday for sure," Willey said. "Volunteers who work at least four hours will receive a pass into the event and a free meal. The main help needed is directing traffic."

Sundown Mountain is located just west of Dubuque and north of Highway 20 at 16991 Asbury Road. Racing begins at 11 a.m. on Friday and ends Saturday evening with the Pro Open Final at 9 p.m. Please watch for signs for off-site parking. The entire race schedule is available online at www.snocross.com.

from page 11

The couple has since sold their sleds but easily recall their love for the sport. In addition to riding in their home area, they enjoyed taking trips to Park Rapids, Minn., and the Black Hills of South Dakota. Eventually, their adventures took them out to Big Horns, the Snowies and even Yellowstone National Park a few times.

"I've always enjoyed snowmobiling and have gone to quite a few places over the years. But I've always liked riding around Iowa and especially enjoyed river riding the most," he said, remembering several times going out to eat with his family on sleds and also participating in as many club rides as possible.

When he wasn't riding, he was always eager to help out the club when he could. A former club president, they hosted meetings in their home and helped the club get ready for the season, from clearing trail to picking up trash to installing signs. He even rode in their old groomer a bit.

"That thing didn't have a lot of power to get up out of the ditch, but now we have a new groomer which has a lot of power and it is real smooth for the operators now. What a difference," he said.

While Larry's health may have slowed them down, they are still passionate about the sport, and Alger said the award is very fitting. "They have been very active in our club over the years and are very deserving of this award," he said.

Please call
(563) 920-9010 if
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in helping out
race weekend.



Experiencing Okoboji Winter Games by Sled

*The Polar Plunge
at Arnold's Park*



Timely Winter Storm, Local Club Efforts Help Stimulate Economy in Late January

by Cameron Hanson

This winter's volatile weather pattern should probably not come as a big surprise to most loyal readers of this magazine. State climatologist Harry Hillaker predicted in the November issue that La Nina conditions would persist this season and lead to some inconsistent snowfall.

Knowing what to expect, however, and eventually accepting it is a bitter pill to swallow. Periods of cold and snow followed by stretches of warmth and rain is hard to choke down when the riding season continues to shrink year after year. It's getting old.

December started out somewhat promising. Three measurable events painted the ground white before rain over the holidays ruined most of that blank canvas. A cold snap the following two weeks then turned the northern half of the state into a skating rink until rain and above-average temperatures returned the third week of January.

As a result of this uncooperative weather, many club events this winter had to be altered, postponed or scrapped—including nearly every Snowmobile Iowa ride. But then our luck seemed to change. A major winter storm finally emerged the last week of January, arriving just in time for SnowFest in northeast Iowa and the University of Okoboji Winter Games in northwest Iowa.

According to Hillaker, the Jan. 25 event accounted for nearly all of the January snowfall in Iowa with as much as 15 inches landing in Mason City alone. Areas along Iowa's Snow Belt received at least six inches of snow with most locations reporting nine to 12 inches.

Looking back three weeks later, the snow wouldn't last long, but clubs were sure glad it showed up when it did.



Groups of snowmobilers take turns crossing between East and West Lake Okoboji through the tunnel under Highway 71.

Five-Year Absence

For the Iowa Great Lakes region, the Dickinson County SnowHawks were able to plan snowmobile rides for the first time in five years for Winter Games weekend Jan. 26-29. As soon as the snow stopped falling, groomer operators hit the ditches and spent the next 43 hours manicuring the club's 100 miles of trail in and around Spirit Lake.

"From the looks of our trails on Sunday afternoon, we had many people enjoying themselves over the weekend," observed Jantina Carney, publicity director for the SnowHawks.

Maintaining a Winter Games tradition, the club loosely organized a Fun Run on Saturday; and by mid-afternoon, a handful of members led this reporter on a 45-mile tour of the area. Visiting club sponsors along the way, we headed east from Spirit Lake to Superior along Highway 9, turned south to Terril and looped back west to Milford before returning north to the lakes.

Earlier that morning, the club hosted its popular 120 demo rides in partnership with Polaris Industries, which operates a



plant in Spirit Lake. Also at the youth event, members raffled off a Polaris 120—the club’s primary fundraiser for each of the last four years—and Past ISSA President Merv Hoermann was on hand with the state-owned snowmobile simulator.

Years previous, volunteers needed to haul in snow for the 120 rides, but not this time. Plenty of snow was available at the Okoboji Indian dealership grounds to introduce the sport of snowmobiling to the younger generations, including 11-year-old Ben Geil of Prior Lake, Minn., and eight-year-old Chloe Collins of Beloit, Wis.

“We want to get the kids hooked on our sport,” club member Randy Magg said after volunteering at the event.

Both Geil and Collins were in town visiting relatives for the 37th annual Winter Games, and their families were among the throngs of winter tourists who converged on this popular resort community for the weekend. In addition to the snowmobile events, the schedule listed as many as 100 different activities for participants to enjoy over the four days.

As an equal number of sleds and utility vehicles crisscrossed the lakes throughout the day on Saturday, helicopter rides periodically departed from Parks Marina, local residents braved the elements at a polar plunge in front of the famed Arnold’s Park Amusement Park and a fireworks show lit up the evening sky. It was quite the spectacle.

Economic Impact

The economic impact of the weekend cannot be overlooked. Ask any lodging facility in the Spirit Lake area how the week started and how it finished after the snow arrived, and they would be able to tell you plenty of the white stuff turns into plenty of the green stuff.

“We had very few reservations leading up to event before the storm, and then we picked up 90 percent of what we had within that week,” reported Bridget Johnson, who opened the Oakwood Inn Bed and Breakfast last May with her husband Bill. “I thought the weekend went great.”

Carney said local business owners were describing the snow event as a “million dollar storm,” likening it to a timely rain during the growing season in the summer. Trailers lined the parking lots



Brad Becker of Polaris Industries, Spirit Lake, goes over some of the controls on a Polaris 120 with 11-year-old Ben Geil of Prior Lake, Minn., at the SnowHawks' Youth 120 rides Winter Games weekend.



Past ISSA President Merv Hoermann lets eight-year-old Chloe Collins of Beloit, Wis., know what to expect on the snowmobile simulator.

along Highway 71 as snowmobilers filled the hotels, supported local restaurants and purchased fuel for their machines.

“Overall, our sport has a huge economic impact on our area, which is much needed during the winter months,” Carney said. “When we have good ice and then good snow conditions for Winter Games, we see a huge increase in people here.”

Overseeing two properties, Dan Toman, general manager at Bridges Bay Resort and Arrowwood Hotel and Conference Center, understands firsthand the impact of weather on Winter Games and the subsequent draw and appeal the event has for snowmobilers.

“There is no question that the influx of snowmobile enthusiasts during our Winter Games drives economic activity to various different types of area businesses, not only those related to hotel and tourism,” he said. “It is my thoughts that you would be hard-pressed to find many businesses that did not benefit from this event this year.”

Providing a Good Experience

Club member Lynn Van Dyke was among those contributing to the local economy. The Wednesday night after the storm, his family was among five families who rode to Superior for supper for a total of 17 snowmobiles in their group. He said many club sponsors called this weekend “their single busiest day of the year,” and that positive impact is why he and other club members take pride in marking and maintaining the area’s trails.

“We try to make it safe for snowmobilers to enjoy the Lakes area each year,” Van Dyke said. “We’re out there marking trails, making sure there are no obstacles, putting up signs and knocking

down weeds. We are all volunteers, and it can become a thankless job, but it is all worthwhile in the end.”

Magg, a Region 1 assistant director for the ISSA, serves as trail director for the SnowHawks and spent a tremendous amount of time in the club’s Prinoth following the storm. When asked about all that seat time, he said he is motivated to provide a pleasurable experience on the trails for visitors to the area. That in turn will help grow the club, he said, but increasing their numbers is not the primary goal.

“Sure, we would like to increase our memberships, but the real deal for us is to bring people to the area so they will spend their money here,” said Magg, a former school board member. “I would say that recruiting members would be secondary. It’s about bringing people to the area to create an economic impact. Two weeks ago, there were a lot of hotel rooms that hadn’t been booked yet. By Thursday night after the storm, they were all full. It happened that fast.”

Hoermann, a former Region 1 director for the ISSA, has long been a proponent of snowmobiling in and around the Iowa Great Lakes region. On behalf of the ISSA, he joined the Western Iowa Tourism Association, and after a snowfall like the last weekend in January, he doesn’t have to remind too many what a snowy forecast can do for an area.

“What I’ve noticed at Winter Games is as long as it snows, people will fill up the rooms at the Lakes,” he said. “Between the rooms and the eating and the socializing, they spend a lot of money each year here. It’s good for snowmobiling, and it’s good for the entire Lakes area in regards to tourism. This tourism just trickles down.”

By the Numbers

According to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), nine conservation officers and five park rangers patrolled the area



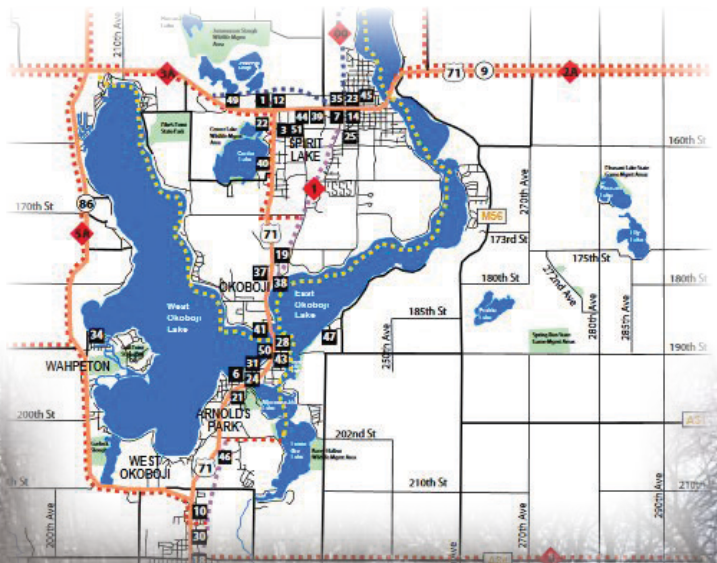
Fueling on West Lake Okoboji

that weekend, making more than 1,100 contacts with snowmobiles and ATVs/UTVs.

IDNR Supervisor Randy Schnoebelen, who oversees the snowmobile and ATV program, reported officers stopped 660 snowmobiles and 490 ATVs/UTVs. Forty-two citations were handed out, and five warnings issued.

For more information on snowmobiling at Okoboji, including trail reports and maps, visit the SnowHawks’ website at www.dickinsoncountysnowhawks.com. You can also follow them on Facebook.

“If people haven’t been here before, we invite them to follow us on social media and come on over for the day,” Carney said.





ISSA CLUBS

Clubs in red reported
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REGION ONE

Buena Vista Blizzard Busters

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

Clay County Sno Broncs

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

Dickinson County SnowHawks

www.dickinsoncountysnowhawks.com
P.O. Box 504, Spirit Lake, IA 51360
President: Kevin Winters
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(712) 320-9530, kwinters93@gmail.com

Lyon County Sno-Lyons

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

O'Brien County Snowtrackers

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

Osceola County High Point Riders

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

Powder Players Inc.

P.O. Box 154, Remsen, IA 51050
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(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, (712) 209-3330

Humboldt Sno-Skimmers

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

Kossuth County Drift Skippers

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

Palo Alto Rough Riders

President: Kurt Bonnstetter
111 Iowa St., P.O. Box 62, Cylinder, IA 50528
(712) 424-3011, kbonnstet@windstream.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) 297-7383, kjwagner@windstream.net

REGION THREE

Hancock County Snowmobile Assn.

President: Dan Stromer
1840 Hwy 69, Klemme, IA 50449
(641) 587-9903, stromerd@yahoo.com

Iowa River Riders

President: Lenny Watts
2835 Sycamore Ave., Dows, IA 50071
(515) 571-6034, lenny@usa-chemical.com

Region 1

O'Brien County Snowtrackers

by Zelda Buse Christensen, Reporter

Finally, O'Brien County got some snow—more than a couple of inches—actually eight to 10 inches. And it got used in the brief time it lasted!

I was fortunate to join four others for three and a half days of riding in the Black Hills (not excellent, but good), coming home on Monday, Jan. 23. The timing was perfect, for the predicted blizzard started about noon on Tuesday. On Thursday night, 11 people met at the warming hut on the north side of Sanborn to ride to Melvin for taco night.

Riding was good Friday and Saturday. Invitation was open for any to start at Primghar at 12:30 p.m. Saturday, ride west to the Archer blacktop, south to Highway 10, east through Paullina to Sutherland for pizza, north to Highway 18, west through Sanborn to

Sheldon, south to Granville, east and south a little to Germantown for broasted chicken and back north and east to Primghar—probably around 100 miles. Five guys did make the complete trip. With other obligations, I headed toward home after the pizza but did put on 50 miles that afternoon.

By Sunday, the temp reached about 40 degrees, with several thawing days off and on since. Yesterday, Feb. 11, I rode my bicycle on gravel road over three miles, needing no gloves or cap or heavy jacket because it was so warm. Nearly all of the snow we received has disappeared into ice and then water and mud.

I heard of two guys actually cancelling a trip out west because there was snow to ride on here! (Probably that trip has since been rescheduled.) I have heard of other trips west that have been successful. One group in December initiated a new outfit with air-ride cab and suspension on its first mountain trip of 1,960 miles.

Five or six guys timed it perfectly last week, reaching Cooke City at the same time that four feet of fresh powder fell there. Some comments from Facebook: "Epic trip with awesome sleds and great riders and athletes...riding four full days in four feet of fresh snow into unreal scenery." Even in much snow, it is still possible to hit a hole, as one guy did: "One of the little obstacles that can swallow you up," with the handlebars just barely visible!

It's always handy to have a mechanically-minded person in the group, especially if a sled is showing its age a little bit. I heard this happened when a Cat ran out of gas way too soon, got some from a can someone else was carrying and soon was about out again. When the leak was found to be a worn hole in the fuel drain tube at the bottom of the carburetor, a couple inches were cut off. The problem was found, but not fixed. Adapting to the limited material available, the creative guy cut off a couple inches of similar tubing from the piece that supplied fuel on top of the carburetor. Still, something else was needed to wedge into the end of the tube, and the right size of a Phillips screwdriver fit. The repair job held for the next three days out west—and probably is now the permanent fix.

We appreciated the snow while we had it, but now we need more. And several ditches half full of water need to freeze first!

Region 3

Worth County Fence Stretchers

by Nicole Knudson, Secretary

It was looking like a perfect winter...a couple rounds of measurable snow followed by over a foot of snow. Wahoo! We were like kids in a candy store up here in Worth County!

The groomer was able to go out a few times, and we enjoyed great trail riding in January

2017 Charitable Contributions

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

Proceeds benefit the Spina Bifida Association of Iowa.

and early February. However, warmer temperatures moved in and ended our fun early.

Our club just returned from a great club trip up north at Pat's Landing in Hayward, Wis. Once again, Randy and Kris Neuman were great hosts!

March brings us the unknown. Will we have a round of late snow or will spring temps move in? As for our club, we will look forward to a family bowling and pizza party, and hopefully, Mother Nature will surprise us with one last round of measurable snow!

Region 5

Cresco Driftrunners

by Bob Martinek, Treasurer

Wow, last issue of the season already! How quickly the winter went. Snow early, then all day Christmas rain followed by enough snow to ride back to rain again. However, I am not complaining (too much) because we did get several opportunities to ride...mostly pretty decent riding, too.

As I reflect back, one thing I am very proud of is "our" club. I was told many times and Facebook comments also said how much fun and good times visitors and locals alike had on our trail system. Local bar and restaurant owners commented on how friendly and nice all the snowmobilers were along with how much they enjoyed having them.

To make a club is not one person; it is many people each pitching in their part (large or small) to get everything done. So whether you are a landowner that allows us to cross your land with a trail, a member who marks trail and builds bridges, a groomer operator, a board member who helps plan and run our events, a person who donates funds or equipment to keep things going, the person(s) who fill out all the state paperwork, a member who rides or one that doesn't even have a sled anymore, I would like to say THANK YOU! All of you make it "our" club.

This year, we added approximately 40 new members to our club. Welcome. If you are not a member and would like to be, it is not too late. Just send a check for \$40, payable to the Driftrunners to me at 15854 Valley Ave., Cresco, Iowa 52136.

Thanks and until next season...

Allamakee Sno-Blazers

by Amy Howard

Howdy from the Allamakee Sno-Blazers. We had our annual fundraiser/first radar run this year. All in all, it was a good time for everyone who attended and helped make the day a successful one. Although the weather was a little warm, it all worked out and was a good time. We had over 50 registered racers. We even had some racers come up from Dubuque.

We would like to thank all the great support we received from all the local businesses in northeast Iowa and southeast Minnesota. It is greatly appreciated. We plan on making this an annual event the same time in the years to follow. Hope to see more and more racers as the years go on.

In conclusion, remember to stay on the trails and respect landowners.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March

- Theisen's Snocross National, Sundown Resort, Dubuque, March 3-4.
- ISSA Board of Directors meeting TBD.

April

- Trails Unlimited Landowners Appreciation Breakfast April 2.
- ISSA scholarship applications due April 15.
- ACSA D.C. Fly In April 22-25.

May

- IDNR reimbursement requests and grant applications due May 1.
- ISSA Board of Directors meeting TBD.

June

- ISSA award nominations due June 1.
- 49th Annual International Snowmobile Congress June 7-10 at Winnipeg

July

- ISSA Summer Campout TBD.
- Rivers Bend Shootout watercross races July 28-29 at Rock Valley.

August

- Snowdrifters' Third Annual Tractor Pull Aug. 19, Hawkeye Downs, Cedar Rapids.

ISSA CLUBS

Clubs in red reported
100% ISSA Membership

Lakota Sno-Eagles

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

North Iowa Sno-Jammers

P.O. Box 103, Lake Mills, IA 50450
www.northiowasnojammers.com
President: Valere Holtan
38320 210th Ave., Forest City, IA 50436
(641) 567-3674, vholtan@wctatel.net

North Iowa Snow Seekers

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

Worth County Fence Stretchers

P.O. Box 27, Northwood, IA 50459
President: Steve Arnold
1906 Hwy 105, Northwood, IA 50459
(641) 324-1125, (641) 390-0567
k44arnold@gmail.com

REGION FOUR

Bremer County Sno-Knights

President: Dennis Koehler
805 9th St NW, Waverly, IA 50677
(319) 352-5576, (319) 240-5756
koehler805@gmail.com

Butler County Snow Snoops

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

Cedar Falls Sno Hawks

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

Chickasaw Sno-Riders

President: Dan Feenstra
1310 Jasper Ave., New Hampton, IA 50659
(319) 404-5482, 148danfeen@gmail.com

Dewar Snow Chasers

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

Floyd County Groomers Association

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

Howard County Stump Jumpers

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

Mitchell County E-Z Riders, Inc.,

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

REGION FIVE

Allamakee Sno-Blazers

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

Asbury Snowhawks

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

Clayton County Snowbirds

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



ISSA CLUBS

Clubs in red reported
100% ISSA Membership

Driftrunners, Inc.

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

Dyersville Driftskippers

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

Snow Pioneers

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

Trail Blaz-ers Inc.

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

Trails Unlimited

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

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

Winneshiek Trail Twisters Inc.

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

REGION SIX

Sac County Snow Lovers

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

REGION SEVEN

High Bridge Trailblazers

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

Raccoon Valley Snow Chasers

President: Mike Patten
5204 Neva Pt., Panora, IA 50216
(641) 755-3863, mjpatt76@aol.com

Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club

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

Team Iowa Snowmobilers

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

Webster County Ice Breakers

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

REGION EIGHT

Central Iowa Snowmobilers

P.O. Box 1751, Marshalltown, IA 50158
President: Matt McKibben
1013 Broadmore Dr., Marshalltown, IA 50158

2017 ACSA Legal Defense Challenge

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

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

Trails Unlimited

by Bud Winter

Greetings from Trails Unlimited.

Like almost everyone else, we do not have any snowmobiling to talk about. Another unfortunate Iowa winter, I guess. When we did have snow, there were a lot of sleds that got out and rode so things were as good as they could be for the given time. Many of our club sponsors have passed along positive feedback thus far, so at least from that perspective, there is some positive news. Our landowners appreciation breakfast will be April 2 in Festina. If we do not get any big snowfall, that will really be the only event for our club to finish the year.

Region 9

Snowdrifters, Inc.

by Ron Roe

Almost spring. On television last night, the meteorologist said 34 days until spring. I think it has already arrived. Even though there's no snow, we can't even get cold weather to do things on frozen ground.

Our club had their meeting last Thursday. We had a good attendance and discussed a lot for this summer. We are planning our Third Annual Tractor Pull at Hawkeye Downs in Cedar Rapids Aug. 19. That makes for a good evening. Some of our members are helping with the convention in November. As it gets closer, I'm sure we will get more involved.

We still have members who are up north sledding if they find good snow. I think some areas still have good snow and are still getting more. It should last until the middle of March in a good winter.

I have trouble enjoying these in-between seasons. I am for real winter or go right to summer. Anyway, everyone should enjoy what we have left as much as we can. Enjoy summer when it gets here. See y'all in the fall.

2017 ISSA Club Challenge

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

Proceeds benefit the ISSA's lobbying effort.

Textron Announces Arctic Cat Acquisition

Arctic Cat signed a definitive merger agreement Jan. 25 under which Textron Inc. will acquire the company in a cash transaction valued at approximately \$247 million, plus the assumption of existing debt.

Under the terms of the agreement, which was unanimously approved by the Arctic Cat board of directors, Textron, through a wholly-owned subsidiary, will commence a tender offer to purchase all outstanding shares of Arctic Cat at \$18.50 per share in cash. The completion of the acquisition is subject to customary conditions and regulatory approvals.

"Arctic Cat's board believes that Textron's offer delivers compelling and immediate value to our shareholders," said Christopher Metz, Arctic Cat's president and chief executive officer. "This transaction presents increased opportunities for the business to leverage our combined scale, accelerate growth and enhance product

innovation in ways that will benefit our customers, dealers and employees."

Textron is a multi-industry company with over \$13 billion in annual revenues and approximately 35,000 employees. Arctic Cat will become part of Textron's Specialized Vehicles business, maintaining its iconic Arctic Cat brand, as well as its current manufacturing, distribution and operational facilities, with a focus on growing the business.

"Arctic Cat and Textron Specialized Vehicles have complementary product portfolios of recreational, utility and specialized vehicles. The combined businesses will be well positioned to be a powersports industry leader with a wider product line-up, and allow for more aggressive investment in product development, dealer networks, marketing and customer service," a Jan. 25 press release posted on Arctic Cat's website stated.

Scholarship Applications Due April 15

The ISSA Education and Scholarship Foundation (ISSAESF) is accepting applications for its 2017 scholarship program. Last year, the foundation awarded three \$1,000 scholarships to students from ISSA-member families.

Recipients for 2016 included Kelsey Delperdang of the Dickinson County Snow-Hawks of Region 1, Tori Henniges of the Trail Blaz-zers, Inc., of Region 5, and River Kelly of Lake Park in Region 1.

The deadline for applying 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 onto 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.

Applications will be judged for neatness, completeness, spelling, grammar and school and community involvement. Student applicants are also asked to write an essay on 'What Snowmobiling Means to Me.' Entries are judged anonymously, and all decisions by the foundation are final.

2017 ISSA Magazine Makers

Eastern Iowa Sno-Riders.....	\$300
Iowa River Riders	\$152
Tri-County Snowmobile Association	\$151
Eastern Iowa Sledheads.....	\$100
Floyd County Groomers	\$100
Sac County Sno-Lovers.....	\$100

Help offset the costs of keeping the Iowa Snowmobiler magazine in print. Send your contribution to your Region Director or mail to ISSA Membership, 1924 270th Street, Marble Rock, IA 50653. For more information on this program, contact ISSA Communications Chair Jim Willey at (563) 920-0911.

ISSA CLUBS

Clubs in red reported
100% ISSA Membership



(641) 750-1281, mattsmckibben@gmail.com
Jasper County Ditch Bangers
President: David Huffaker
P.O. Box 391, Baxter, IA 50028
(641) 751-0622, huffaker-dave@hotmail.com
Tri-County Snowmobile Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 231, Traer, IA 50675
President: Jamie Erhardt
312 Mill St., Traer, IA 50675
(319) 415-8189, jhardt88@yahoo.com

REGION NINE

Cedar County Winter Warriors
ccwwarriors@yahoo.com
President: Jerry Meier
1241 Jackson Ave., Tipton, IA 52772
(319) 325-6021, jerrymeier2040@gmail.com
Cascade Snowmobile Club
President: Steve Peiffer
916 6th Ave. SE, Cascade, IA 52033
(563) 599-1875
Eastern Iowa Sledheads
P.O. Box 519, Lone Tree, IA 52755
easterniowasledheads@aol.com
President: Mindy Scott
P.O. Box 435, 204 W. Dougherty Dr.
Lone Tree, IA 52755, scott4@iowatelecom.net
(319) 629-4630(h), (319) 325-8917(c)
Eastern Iowa Sno-Riders
President: Dylan Bousset
P.O. Box 13, Grand Mound, IA 52751
polarisdude900@gmail.com

Frozen Few
P.O. Box 184, Coggon, IA 52218
President: Jamie Prull
1101 First St., Palo, IA 52324
(319) 981-0397, jprull@aol.com
Jones County Snow Chasers
P.O. Box 225, Olin, IA 52320
President: Chris Nelson
41 Anderson Rd., Anamosa, IA 52205
cnelson85@hotmail.com

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

Snowdrifters, Inc.
P.O. Box 5135, Coralville, IA, 52241
www.iowa-snowdrifters.org
President: Jeff Wardenburg
1745 Radio Rd, Marion, IA 52302
(319) 331-1651
Jeff.Wardenburg@Titanmachinery.com
Snowmobilers of Jackson County
President: Aaron Michels
39014 308th St., Bellevue, IA 52031
(563) 599-4935, jcsnowmobile@gmail.com

REGION TEN

Southwest Iowa Snow Scooters
President: Trent Larson
25817 208th St., Crescent, IA 51526
(712) 309-1516, trentlarsn@gmail.com
Stag Island Skol Patrol
President: Brad Landhuis
3046 210th St., Clarinda IA 51632
Appanoose County Trails, Inc.
P.O. Box 825, Centerville, IA 52544
Southeast Iowa Ridge Blasters
President: Aaron Dorothy
502 E. Cedar Ln., Mt. Pleasant Ia 52641
(319) 986-5188(h), (319) 217-6361 (c)
aarond65@hotmail.com





ISSA ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

REGION 1

Glen's Sport Center, Inc.

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

North Lake Truck Repair

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

Project Mayhem Power Sports

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

Storm Lake Honda

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

REGION 2

Advanced Crop Management

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

Algona Machine & Supply

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

Becker Bros. Trucking

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

Brian's Construction

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

Champion Chrysler Center

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

Cruise Farms

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

The Flipside Pizza & Pub

11 Dewitt St., 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

Nalltronics

2204 150th St., Corwith IA 50430
(515) 368-0715

Ramthun Trucking, Inc

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

Rasmuson Electric

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

Rock-N-J Café & Catering

2602 240th Ave, Wesley, IA 50483
(515) 320-4096; gjranch@hotmail.com
Sedlacek Snowmobile Salvage
135 Lake St., Rockwell City, IA 50579
(712) 210-0718
Find us on Facebook!

Sentral Insurance Service

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

Shore Side Pub&Grub

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

REGION 3

Amsoil Regency Direct

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

Auto Parts Wholesale

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

Boone's Removal

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

Brakke Implement

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

The Branding Iron

Fine dining
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(641) 584-2912

Buffalo Lanes, LLC

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

C R Fuel

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

Chappy's on Main

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

The Corner Restaurant & Lounge

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

County Line Seeds, LLC

129 Industrial Dr., Forest City, IA 50436

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
dkafc@dkarndtcpa.net
www.dkarndtcpa.net

Donna's Lounge

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

Don's Motor Mart

401 W Main St., Lake Mills, IA 50450
(641) 592-9966
www.facebook.com/donsmotormart

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

Friesenborg & Larson Custom Spraying

45884 70th Ave.
Buffalo Center, IA 50425
(641) 584-2258, joe@fandlirc.com

The Garage Tavern

103 Main St, Coulter, IA 50431
(641) 430-6855
step@mulfordconcrete.com

Goody's Welding & Metal Art

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

Gorder's Service

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

Gun Bank

155 Jackson St., Thompson, IA 50478
(641) 584-2907
gmlarson@wctatel.net

H & S Auto Parts, Inc.

301 1st Ave., Buffalo Center, IA 50424
(641) 562-2515

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

Hometown Market

11717 Hwy 9, Thompson, IA 50478
(641) 584-2300

House of Sports

3431 4th St SW, Mason City, IA 50401
(641) 424-2861, (641) 430-2315
JAHHelgren@gmail.com

Howie Equipment and Tire

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

Iowa Central Electric

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

J-T Machine & Tool Co.

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

Keel Farms

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

Kirschbaum Heating & Cooling

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

Lake Mills Motor Sports

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

Latimer Community Grocery

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

Main, Inc.

6401 Hwy 9, Buffalo Center, IA 50424
(515) 538-0337

Manufacturer's Bank & Trust

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

Mason City Powersports

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

Maxyield Cooperative

Britt, IA 50423
(641) 843-3878

Muhlenbruch Insurance

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

Mulford Concrete Inc.

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

Murra Hardware

204 N Main St.
Buffalo Center, IA 50424

No Where Bar & Grill LLC

107 2nd St., Bradford, IA 50041
(641) 648-0067

kristigorder@gmail.com

North Central Building Supply

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

Northside One Stop

1208 4th St NE, Hampton, IA 50441
(641) 456-4157

jizzyrpms@yahoo.com

Pakoda's Steakhouse

719 Central Ave W, Hampton, IA 50441
(641) 425-6209
lrsliter@gmail.com

Pralle's Wash City

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


Priebe Seed Sales

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

Principal Builders Inc.

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

RLP Specialties

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

Ron's LP Gas, LLC

43437 225th Ave, Lake Mills, IA 50450
(641) 592-4206

Seamless Gutterworks Co.

131 E Rocksylvania Ave.
Iowa Falls IA 50126
(641) 648-2755, (641) 373-0308
seamlessgc@msn.com

Sheri's Southside Store

125 State Ave. S.
Crystal Lake, IA 50432
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