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March 2019 • Volume 40 • Issue 7

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IOWA SNOWMOBILER

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RTP Funding

Snowmobile Program Awarded Federal
Grant for Additional Groomer Purchases



4

Pay to Play

Trail Pass Compliance at 62 Percent this
Season; Single-Sticker Bill Moves Forward



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Snowmobilers Take Spina Bifida Kids for
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Enough Snow Arrives Just in Time
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Scholarship Winners

Education Foundation Awards Four Students
in 2018; 2019 Applications due April 15

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COVER: Zac Parry, president of the Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club of Region 7, leads a caravan of two-up sleds and cutters down the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail at Huxley Feb. 10. The charity ride was part of the ISSA's Winter Kids' Day with the Spina Bifida Association of Iowa (SBAIA). His co-pilot was SBAIA member Maria Davis of Norwalk.

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The Iowa Snowdrifters' Prinoth in Region 9 is one of two groomers coming off lease this season, thanks to federal grant funding from the Recreational Trails Program. The other Prinoth lease purchase is in Kossuth County in Region 2.

Additional Groomer Funding Made Possible by Federal Grants

by Cameron Hanson

The Iowa Transportation Commission on Jan. 8 approved \$3.2 million in total funding for 10 federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP) projects in Iowa, including \$224,000 for snowmobile trail grooming equipment for the Iowa State Snowmobile Trail Grant Program.

Created in 1991 by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), RTP is financed by a tiny percentage of the federal fuel taxes paid by off-road user groups. Iowa's share of that pool historically comes to more than \$1 million annually, but this year's total more than tripled that amount.

"This funding is available to cities, counties, state and federal agencies and private organizations through an annual application-based process," explained Craig Markley of the Iowa Department of Transportation in a press release announcing the awards.

FHWA guidelines require RTP grants to be spread across three trail user groups: 30 percent motorized, 30 percent non-motor-

ized and 40 percent diversified. Volunteers on the Iowa Recreational Trails Advisory Board grade the applications and then make funding recommendations to the transportation commission.

ISSA Region 7 Director John Kahler represents snowmobiling interests on that committee and reported at the ISSA's Feb. 10 board meeting they reviewed 39 applications from various entities across Iowa. The annual deadline for grant paperwork is Oct. 1.

"We had a lot more money to work with this year because there were projects that never got completed from previous years, and some that didn't even get started, so all of that funding got rolled back in for this year," Kahler said. "The whole process was definitely interesting."

In addition to snowmobiling, other trail-user groups involved on the review committee include off-highway vehicle owners (OHV), bicyclists, hikers, equestrians and water sport enthusiasts. Each member grades the applications based on estab-

Successful Spina Bifida Event

Hats off to the Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club for an outstanding job with the spina bifida ride last month. The new snow we got that morning made for a great day the kids. Everyone had a blast. Bruno Andreini stepped up and pulled it all together. It makes me proud to be a part of such a great organization such as the ISSA. We have always pulled together and done great things

The one-sticker legislation is looking good so far, so contact your legislators and let them know you want it to go through. We can do this with everyone's support.

Think Snow!!

From the
President's
Desk



Brian Carmichael
ISSA President

Approved RTP Funding Allocation in Iowa for 2019

Cedar Valley Nature Trail (Linn County).....	\$650,000
Red Rock Prairie Trail (Jasper County).....	\$531,400
Iowa River Trail (Hardin County).....	\$425,000
Admiral Trail-Bridge Rehabilitation (Farragut).....	\$380,160
Raccoon River Valley Trail (Dallas County).....	\$322,208
Iowa Great Lakes Spine Trail (Dickinson County).....	\$313,300
ISSA Snow Grooming Equipment.....	\$224,000
Iowa DNR Off-Highway Vehicle Program.....	\$213,812
Cedar Valley Nature Trail (Black Hawk County).....	\$129,000
Bicycle Summit.....	\$7,000

Source: Iowa Department of Transportation

lished criteria.

"Scoring the applications took forever and reviewing them at our committee meeting took forever," Kahler noted. "Everyone seems to want our portion of the money, so I offered suggestions on what needed to be changed on the questionnaire in regards to motorized trail use."

"It's by rule that motorized gets 30 percent of the total amount," pointed out Past ISSA President Terry Durby, who, as co-administrator of state snowmobile program, submitted the RTP grant application on behalf of the ISSA's Review and Selection Committee (RSC).

The only other motorized grant application to receive funding this year was for the Iowa OHV program. That award total was \$213,812. The highest grant award approved for the current funding cycle was \$650,000 to the Linn County Conservation Board for the Cedar Valley Nature Trail.

The state snowmobile program has been applying for RTP grant money to purchase grooming equipment for the past 18 years, primarily in the motorized category. Awards have typically ranged between \$200,000

and \$240,000.

"We have to justify what we're doing with each application and don't want to ask for too much and get denied," Durby said. "It becomes a balancing act."

With this latest approval, the Iowa snowmobile program is currently working with four open RTP grants and is close to completing the first one with the purchase of two Prinoth groomer leases for the Kossuth County Driftskippers in Region 2 and the Iowa Snowdrifters in Region 9.

Part of the delay in obligating this funding was created when the ISSA assumed control of the state snowmobile program from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. The RSC also works carefully to ensure equipment purchases satisfy the conditions of the Buy American Act.

Another factor to consider is these federal grants are an 80/20 match, where the snowmobile program must pony up 100 percent of the purchase price of new grooming equipment and then wait for reimbursement of 80 percent of the funds from the federal government before moving on to the next one.

Iowa State Snowmobile Trail Grant Program Review and Selection Committee

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- Chris Willey, Past ISSA President
- Terry Durby, Past ISSA President

Members By Position

- Brian Carmichael, ISSA President
- Scott Nauman, ISSA Vice President

Members By Election

- Randy Magg (Western representative)
- John Kahler (Central representative)
- Todd Sieverding (Eastern representative)

Iowa DNR Representative

- Rhonda Fowler

Iowa Recreational Trails Advisory Committee Representative

- John Kahler (by appointment)

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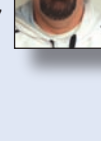


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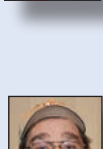
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Bringing Smiles to Kids' Faces

Greetings, fellow snowmobilers. Hopefully when this article is printed, there is still abundant snow across the state for riding and grooming of trails.

The past month or so did turn out to be adequate to get some riding in despite the rapid ups and severe downs of the temperatures at the end of January and the beginning of February. I commend the work the clubs across the state put

Vice President's Message

in planning and hosting events not always knowing if they will be able to actually have the conditions required to hold it.

One of these events was the annual Jack Race in Clear Lake. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the race events last month due to it being moved to the back up date this year and having other plans that weekend. But from the reports I heard, the events were a success. Thank you to all the volunteers and racers who made it possible.

Another notable event from the begin-

ning of last month was the annual day of snowmobile rides for kids with spina bifida that takes place in Huxley each year. It was



Scott Nauman

ISSA Vice President

a welcome change to have a good amount of snow this year. It is always fun to see the kids and their families each year and to see how much fun they have riding on the snowmobiles and in the cutters. Some of them even complained when they had to get out to go inside and warm

up—just to come back out and do it all over again. I would like to thank all of the people that help each year to make this event possible with or without snow. And a very special thank you to Bruno Andreini, past ISSA president, for putting all of the plans together each year to make the day run smoothly.

Campout Host Needed for this Summer

The ISSA is soliciting bids from its member clubs to host the 2019 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. Events can be as simple or as elaborate as desired.

Last year, the Snow Pioneers of Region 5 stepped forward to host a fall campout, but wet weather thwarted those efforts.

If your club is interested in hosting this year's campout, please reach out to your ISSA Region Director or contact ISSA President Brian Carmichael at (319) 215-5006 or snohawk68@gmail.com



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2018-19 Amsoil Championship Series points leader (as of Feb. 14) Elias Ishoel (200) crosses the start-finish line at the Theisen's National Snocross race at Dubuque last March. The circuit returns to Sundown Mountain Resort March 8-9.

Professional Snocross Series Returns to Sundown Mountain this Month

The Amsoil Championship Series returns to Iowa this month for the third year in a row for the Theisen's National Snocross race at Sundown Mountain Resort March 8-9.

The weekend marks the seventh of eight venues on the International Series of Champions' 2018-19 circuit and is bookended by Salamanca, N.Y., and the season-ending grand finale at Lake Geneva.

Tickets are on sale now at any one of Theisen's 24 retail locations across Iowa and Wisconsin. Tickets can also be ordered online at snocross.com.

The track layout will remain the same as

the 2018 race, and all spectator parking is at the Northeast Iowa Community College lot in nearby Peosta 12 minutes away.

Seven buses will arrive in the lot every 10-15 minutes to take spectators to the front door at Sundown Mountain. These same buses will be available to take everyone back on the same schedule. The cost for parking is \$10 per car.

Later on in March, Sundown is also hosting the first of four Midwest Extreme Snowmobile Challenge events from Cor Powersports. The March 23-24 event will include hillcross, cross-country racing and hill-climbing competition.

Awards Deadline Extended to July 1

After serving as chair for nine years, Mindy Scott, president of the Eastern Iowa Sledheads of Region 9, retired last November from the ISSA Awards Committee. She was first appointed to the position at the 2010 ISSA convention in Storm Lake.

Following the 2018 convention at Okoboji, ISSA President Brian Carmichael appointed Region 4 club members Carol Nauman and Sally Carmichael co-chairs. Both are spouses of past ISSA presidents, Dennis Nauman and the late Dave Carmichael, respectively.

The committee is currently in the process of reviewing the ISSA's awards program and will be announcing any changes to the clubs by email later this spring. Their first order of business is to extend the nomination deadline from June 1 to July 1.

The ISSA currently recognizes members in the following categories: snowmobiler, lady snowmobiler, family, youth, young adult, groomer operator, club and dealer. Annual winners are recognized at the fall convention and then forwarded on to the national competition in June.

Once updates are completed, Carmichael will be accepting nominations by email at snohawk101@gmail.com.

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The International Watercross Association will return to Rock Valley Aug. 2-3 for the Sioux County Snowmobile Club's fifth annual Rivers Bend Shootout. Drag racing will begin at 3:30 p.m. Friday, and oval racing will start Saturday at 9 a.m.

ISU Enters Clean Snowmobile Challenge

Engineering students from Iowa State University will be among 22 collegiate teams competing in the 2019 SAE Clean Snowmobile Challenge at Michigan Tech University at Houghton, Mich., this month.

This year marks the fourth straight year students from ISU, called Cyclone Snowmobile Engineering, have entered the week-long competition, which begins at the Keweenaw Research Center in the U.P. March 4 and ends March 9.

In December, members of the Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club toured the team's facility in Ames and presented them with a donation to offset the costs associated with participation in the event.

The competition is designed to bring innovation to the sport of snowmobiling. Fuel economy, exhaust emissions and engine technology are judged, and entries are also tested for endurance, including a ride to Copper Harbor.

The ISSA will be represented at the event by past president Merv Hoermann, who has volunteered there for more than a decade.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March

- SAE Clean Snowmobile Challenge March 4-9 at the Keweenaw Research Center, Mich.
- Theisen's National Snocross March 8-9 at Sundown Mountain, Dubuque.
- ISSA Board of Directors meeting March 10.
- Midwest Extreme Snowmobile Challenge March 23-24 at Sundown Mountain, Dubuque.

April

- Scholarship applications due April 15.
- ACSA D.C. Fly-In TBD.

May

- 2018-19 Snowmobile Trail Grant Reimbursement Requests due May 1.
- 2019-20 Snowmobile Trail Grant Applications due May 1.
- ISSA Board of Directors meeting TBD.

June

- 51st International Snowmobile Congress June 5-8 Amway Grand Hotel & Conference Center, Grand Rapids, Mich.

July

- ISSA Summer Campout TBD.
- Award nominations due July 1.

August

- Sioux County Snowmobile Club's fifth annual Rivers Bend Shootout Aug. 2-3.





A group of riders heads down a freshly-groomed trail near Ely on the Iowa Snowdrifters' trail system in Region 9 in January without any trail pass stickers visible. Revenue from the \$15 user permits helps pay for trail maintenance, including groomer fuel and trail insurance.

Moving Forward with Single-Sticker Legislation; Trail Pass Compliance this Season at 62 Percent

by Cameron Hanson

As of the second weekend in February, only two-thirds of the registered snowmobilers in Iowa had purchased user permits to legally ride on snowmobile trails, in ditches and on public ice in Iowa, according to officials with the Iowa State Snowmobile Trail Grant Program.

Figures provided by program co-administrator and Past ISSA President Terry Durby show 18,766 snowmobiles had been registered in Iowa through Feb. 9, but only 11,708 owners had bought the optional trail pass for an overall compliance rate of just 62.4 percent. Dickinson County had the highest rate in the state at 100 percent, and Sioux County was the lowest at seven percent.

ISSA board members Dan Delperdang and Randy Magg both belong to the Dickinson County Snowhawks and credit a positive working relationship with their county recorder's office for the perfect score in their area. Regular patrols by conservation officers with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)—including multiple checkpoints during Okoboji Winter Games in January—also help tremendously, they said.

Past ISSA President Jim Willey, chair of the ISSA's Legislative Committee, recognizes the value of spot checks by law enforcement to improve compliance but also realizes riders are going to continue to attempt to evade the two-sticker system currently on the books in Iowa.

The \$15 trail pass was created six years ago as a compromise to an increase in the \$15 registration fee to offset rising program

costs. The total fine plus court costs for riding without a registration or trail pass sticker is \$127.50 for each.

"The problem here is two-fold," Willey said. "People wait until it snows before

they'll buy a trail pass or they will say they don't ride in Iowa at all. Law enforcement cannot be everywhere, and many ride on the trails without paying for the permit. With no penalty to that behavior, the problem only gets worse."

Following landmark legislation two years ago, the ISSA assumed control of the state snowmobile program from the IDNR. The ISSA keeps 70 percent of the registration and trail pass revenue for trail maintenance, and the IDNR applies the remaining balance to law enforcement and education.

The ISSA's Review and Selection Committee oversees program expenditures and makes decisions on groomer placement and re-

Pay to Play



A conservation officer with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources issues a citation on Clear Lake in January of 2018. This season, compliance checks have been reported in Okoboji, Ventura and Slater.

pairs. Durby projected the ISSA's portion of this season's revenue at nearly \$428,000, which will cover trail insurance, trail signs, groomer fuel and repairs and also help with groomer purchases.

"Right now, our registrations are slightly behind last year and so are the trail passes," Durby reported at the ISSA Board of Directors' Feb. 10 meeting. "The only area that's up are the late fees," which are charged to those owners who register their sleds after the first of year.

With a third of the registered snowmobilers in Iowa not buying trail passes this year, close to \$74,000 (70% x \$106,000) is not being collected to offset those trail expenses, most of which are incurred regardless if it snows in Iowa or not, Willey pointed out.

For more than two years, the ISSA has been working to close that gap. Members have lobbied to combine the registration sticker and the trail pass into one \$30 sticker, but their efforts failed last spring when a House bill in favor of the merger failed to emerge from the Senate Ways and Committee.

The bill perished at the end of the 2018 legislative session, and at their annual convention in November, ISSA members renewed

2019 Club Challenge Donations

Snowdrifters.....	\$500
Howard County Stump Jumpers.....	\$500
Tri-County Snowmobile Association	\$401
Central Iowa Snowmobilers.....	\$350
Snow Pioneers	\$350
Sac County Snow Lovers	\$303
Floyd County Groomers Association	\$300
Bremer County Sno-Knights.....	\$250
Cedar Falls Snow Hawks	\$250
Eastern Iowa Sledheads.....	\$250
Team Iowa Snowmobilers.....	\$200
Dickinson County Snowhawks	\$150
Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club.....	\$150
Iowa River Riders	\$100

Proceeds benefit the ISSA's legislative efforts in Des Moines by offsetting the costs of retaining lobbyists.

SPINA BIFIDA GROWS UP

FIFTH IN A SERIES



their commitment to push for the same legislation this year. With no changes in language, Rep. Rob Bacon (R-Slater) agreed to sponsor the bill, now known as House Study Bill 104.

According to ISSA lobbyist Mike Heller, the bill has been assigned to a subcommittee of three legislators from Gibson, Mason City and Glenwood. The ISSA Legislative Committee is now urging snowmobilers to attend political forums in their areas to stump once again for the merger.

"We need to start talking to our local legislators now to keep this out in front of them so we don't experience the same fate we did after the last two years," Willey said.

"Our bill needs to come out of the full committee by March 8 to remain alive for the year," Heller reported in his Feb. 10 weekly update to the board. "We will work with the members of the subcommittee to try to get a meeting scheduled as soon as possible."

If the legislation passes this year, a \$15 non-resident trail permit would still be required for out-of-state riders, and even at \$30 plus writing fees, the cost to register a snowmobile in Iowa would pale in comparison to the fees charged in neighboring states, Willey noted.

"Most snowmobilers in Iowa support adequately funding our program and to continue having good trails maintained by Iowa clubs with good equipment," he said. "When they understand the reasons for the one-sticker legislation, I have not had any Iowa snowmobiler say that it does not make sense."

"The bonus to adequately supporting the program is that they only have to put one registration sticker on their sled to legally ride, and sleds registered under the Iowa vintage sled program will once again be able to be ridden on trails without the additional requirement for the trail pass," he said.

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

by Diane Glass

SBAIA Board Member

When Carly Sorensen skates across the ice in hockey practice, you forget she has spina bifida. Using a specially designed sled with hand controls, she turns circles, skims the distance of the rink, hits the puck, works with her teammates and cheers when someone scores.

Her approach to hockey resembles her approach to life: Follow your interests, adapt to address obstacles, take advantage of help and make good friends along the way.

Carly, 16, chose hockey because "it's a sport I know I can play." Her father, Chris, took up hockey when he was 33 and now coaches her and other young adults from across Iowa. To watch a practice session at the Buccaneers Hockey Club in Des Moines, as I did on a cold, sunny day, is to appreciate how much patience and endurance it takes to come close to the professionals practicing nearby.

Once you become acquainted with Carly the athlete, you learn about the Carly who loves biology and the Carly who plans to study education at the University of Iowa. Her goal? To become a teacher. But for now, she's focused on high school and her favorite sport.

Carly and her family—her dad Chris, her mother Megan, and her sister Ally—passionately support the Spina Bifida Association of Iowa. They attend educational events and help to raise money at the annual Walk-N-Roll.



**Carly Sorensen
Goes the Distance!**

annual Walk-N-Roll.

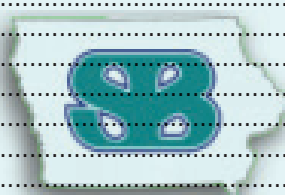
Carly has her own campaign: to educate people about spina bifida. "Initially people are a little hesitant to get to know me because they don't know about spina bifida. I am always telling people what it is."

She's a typical teenager. A recent highlight was going to Krispy Kreme doughnuts with her friends. She also enjoys watching television—"whatever looks interesting"—and playing with her black Lab, Sherwood.

Minimizing any obstacles she has faced along the way, Carly has a quick response to any new challenge: "How can I adapt so I can do that?"

2019 ISSA Club Donations to the Spina Bifida Association of Iowa

Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club.....	\$2,200
Hancock County Snowmobile Association	\$1,800
Cedar Falls Snow Hawks	\$500
Central Iowa Snowmobilers	\$500
Eastern Iowa Sledheads.....	\$500
Tri-County Snowmobile Association	\$401
Lyon County Sno-Lyons	\$390
Floyd County Groomers Association	\$300
Bremer County Sno-Knights.....	\$250
Snowdrifters.....	\$250
Team Iowa Snowmobilers.....	\$200
Trail Blaz-zers, Inc.,.....	\$200
Butler County Snow Snoops.....	\$100
Iowa River Riders	\$100





Winter Kids' Day

Snowmobilers Spend Quality Time with Spina Bifida Families at Annual Huxley Event in February



by Cameron Hanson

Piloting his buddy's Ski Doo 600 Renegade snowmobile, club member Barry Starmer of Ankeny pulled up to the curb in front of city hall in Huxley the second Sunday in February with a bright yellow cutter in tow. He had a very enthusiastic VIP to drop off.

When the tandem unit came a stop, 10-year-old Christian Davis climbed out of the 'Ski Boose', adjusted the open-face helmet he had squeezed on over his stocking hat and turned to his mother waiting for him on the sidewalk. "I'm going to go again!" he announced, repeating it to anyone who would listen.

Davis of Norwalk suffers from spina bifida, and his family belongs to the Spina Bifida Association of Iowa (SBAIA), the ISSA's official charity since 1982. They were in town for the ISSA's annual Winter Kids' Day, an event now in its 13th year devoted to fellowship between the two organizations.



Cooper Greenslade from Performance Powersports and Marine, DeSoto, gives 10-year-old Christian Davis his second ride on the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail Feb. 10.

"This is the highlight of his year," Christian's mother, Sarah Davis, said. "He really looks forward to riding on the snowmobiles." Twenty minutes later, her son was perched on the back of a two-up sled for a different perspective on his second lap around town.

Saylorville Club Chips In

Coordinating the ride once again were members from the Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club from Region 7. Along with ISSA board members, they brought in the equipment as well as the gear and blankets for the SBAIA families to wear. In addition to the kids, siblings, parents and even a grandmother went for rides on the nearby multi-purpose Heart of Iowa Nature Trail, which is part of the Saylorville Dam trail system.

Last month marked only the sixth time the charity ride was held on snowmobiles. Beginning in January of 2007, the event started

off strong with four straight years of snowmobile rides. Then poor trail conditions forced organizers to resort to hayrack rides and UTV rides over the next four years.

Before this year, 2015 was the last time spina bifida kids were able to ride with snowmobiles. The last three years had also been on UTVs. Planning this event around suitable snow had become a moving target for the ISSA. Batting one for eight over the last nine winters, event organizer and Past ISSA President Bruno Andreini knew he needed to change his luck.

So earlier this year, he decided to postpone the event a month in hopes of increasing their chances for rideable snow in February. The decision proved fortuitous as conditions on the Heart of Iowa trail survived an unseasonable warm-up the previous weekend and then were buoyed by measurable snow the morning of the event.

"It's so much nicer to have this event on snow," said Andreini of Dallas Center, a member of the Saylorville club and the ISSA's liaison on the SBAIA board. "I know road conditions probably kept some families at home today, but I really want these kids to experience what we do as snowmobilers."

Great Community Support

In all, seven sleds participated in the ride, and approximately 50 people attended the event at the Huxley Safe Room, a multi-purpose civic center connected to the police department, city hall



Larry Spaulding of Webster City helps his daughter Alaina, 12, slip into her snow pants before her snowmobile ride.



Event organizer Bruno Andreini clowns around with Ruffee.

and middle school in Huxley. In addition to the rides, the event included an ISSA-catered meal, games, crafts and a visit from three Shriner clowns.

Since its inception, the Winter Kids' Day has been held in Huxley, primarily due to the nature trail running through this central Iowa community. Andreini said the city has been very accommodating and does what it can to make sure enough snow is available to get out to the trail.

"The City of Huxley has just been great to work with over the years," Andreini said. "They furnish us with these fine facilities at no cost and offer their help in any way they can. The cooperation of this community is the best I've ever dealt with."

"It's great to have you guys here," city administrator John Haldeman said. "We love doing this. With all the departments we have involved here today, none of them balked at helping out with this event. We look forward to it every year."

From the Safe Room, the Saylorville club staked a trail past the football field and over to a farm field on the west edge of town. From there, the caravan turned south and picked up the Heart of Iowa and followed it to Highway 69, where they turned around and headed back. A second tour commenced after a brief warm-up period inside.

Largest Benefactor

Besides the obvious entertainment value, the Winter Kids' Day, according to Andreini, is designed for families and members from both organizations to get acquainted with one another. "If we get to know these families on a first-name basis, it should encourage us to work harder for them and to increase the willingness of making that extra step," he said.

Over the past 37 years, ISSA members have donated more than \$250,000 to the Urbandale-based organization, and so far this season, they have raised close to \$8,000. For the past two years, the Saylorville Dam club has earned the SBAIA's top fundraising award with roughly \$2,200 donated each year.

According to president Zac Parry, the club earmarks a large portion of the proceeds from its annual fall grass drags in Ankeny to

spina bifida. He said it just makes sense with SBAIA offices right here in their backyard and with the participation of club member Andreini on its board.

"Being involved with spina bifida is almost like our club's legacy," said Parry of Des Moines, who led the trip through town and gave Maria Davis, Christian's older sister, a ride on his two-up sled. "We've always done it, and we give as much as we can from our grass drags."

Parry also said the donation and volunteering with the Winter Kids' Day provides great publicity for the club and the sport, at a time when most news coverage reflects negatively on snowmobiling. In fact, ABC-affiliate Channel 5 from Des Moines came up to cover the event and shed a positive light on their efforts.

"This is a great way to reach out to the community and to let people know we're not just a bunch of guys hopping from bar to bar and riding where we're not supposed to," Parry said. "We're actually giving back to our community and doing some good. Events like this are a good way to spread that message around."

Networking for Families

For Carlyn Crowe, executive director of the SBAIA, the Winter Kids' Day is an opportunity to thank the ISSA for its generous support over the years as well for their members to socialize and interact with snowmobilers and to take in an experience that they may not get otherwise.

"It's also great for us to get face-to-face with the snowmobile association because we don't always have that opportunity to connect with one another," she said. "Think about it. We are polar opposites. Snowmobilers want more snow, but for our members and families who deal with mobility issues, ice and snow does make it tricky for most of them to get around."

Spina bifida is a birth defect where the spinal cord does not develop properly. Children with the condition have limited sensation in their lower body, and as a result, mobility and incontinence are major obstacles for the families to overcome. Crowe said her organization relies on contributions from snowmobilers to offset travel expenses associated with medical care.

With ISSA donations, the SBAIA is also able to perform outreach and offer educational programming. Each fall, the SBAIA raises additional funds through its annual Walk-N-Roll at Principal Park in Des Moines, in which the Saylorville club also partakes.

"Events like these are great from a social perspective to get everybody together every few months," she said. "It's a time for our members to catch up with each other and to touch base on the programs we are working on because we are so spread out across the state as a small organization."



Members of the Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club accept their top fundraising award at the 2018 ISSA convention in November.



Region 5 Profile

Driftrunners' Pisten Bully out grooming Thursday

Snow Arrives Just in Time for Snowfest



New trail signs



Early Bird Ride Thursday at Bluffton



Ladies' Ride Friday



At the warming bin Friday night

After getting skunked out last winter, enough timely snow arrived this season for members of the Cresco Driftrunners to host their 48th Annual Snowfest the last weekend in January.

The most significant weather pattern arrived the weekend before with nearly a foot of snow falling in the Howard County area. Extremely cold temperatures later in the week helped firm up the trails, and the club was able to move forward with most of their activities Thursday-Saturday, Jan. 24-27.

"We had all major events as planned except for the torch-light parade," reported club president Brandon Plaht. "The ice (at Vernon Springs Mill Pond) was not safe to ride on so we cancelled that as well the bonfire. Otherwise, the trails were in good condition at the beginning of the weekend, but by the end, they got beat up pretty well."

While the cold weather and marginal trail conditions in some areas kept some folks away, Plaht estimates 200 people showed up for the Snowball Dance Saturday night. "We had a decent amount of out-of-towners come and ride for the weekend, but it is hard to say for sure the total number of snowmobilers," he said.

The weekend did start out on a somber note when a 28-year-old club member was tragically killed while riding near Lime Springs early Friday morning. Enthusiasm for the weekend seemed subdued after that, as noted by club treasurer Bob Martinek in this month's Club News.

The club also overcame a groomer breakdown and was able to return to service Saturday afternoon. Operators worked to pull snow back onto the trails and preserve what base was left. Had a weather system earlier in the week not detoured south and followed up the previous weekend's total as forecasted, the trails would have held up much better, Plaht noted.

"But the biggest thing with the weather was the below-zero temps we had all weekend," he said. "That sort of kept a number of people home, but there was still a good crowd overall."

Throughout the week leading up to the event and even during the weekend, the club posted timely updates on social media on trail conditions and events to benefit riders visiting from outside the area. Photos from the club's Facebook page accompany this Region 5 Profile.

Past ISSAEF 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 Kintzle
2010
Nicole Schotanus
Nathan Nall
Kara Marie Netsch
2011
Kelli Ann Gerdes
Joran Durby
Holly Jo Heims
2012
Austin Bonnsetter
Brienne Sharff
Jordan Nall
2013
Makaya Henniges
Lori Roseland
Trevor Rohach
Hunter Carmichael
Taryn Kline
2014
Hunter Thome
Kara Denner
Ty Lauritsen
2015
Samuel Nissly
Emily Bonnsetter
Ashley Heims
Allison Heims
2016
River Kelly
Kelsey Delperdang
Tori Henniges
2017
Carly Hassel
Emily Parks
Kelsey Craun

Foundation Awards Four Scholarships in 2018

The ISSA Education and Scholarship Foundation is proud to do its part to further educational opportunities for ISSA-member families by continuing to offer academic scholarships to qualifying students.

Since 1998, the foundation has supported 50 deserving kids in Iowa. Last year, four scholarships totalling \$2,750 were awarded, and the board is once again encouraging high school seniors to apply for financial assistance this spring.

"The main purpose behind creating a scholarship program 20 years ago was to get people interested in pursuing their education beyond high school," explained Past ISSA President Bruno Andreini, executive director of the foundation.

New in 2018, the foundation added a fourth scholarship opportunity for ISSA students who are already enrolled in college. Students who have previously earned an ISSA scholarship, however, are not eligible to apply for this second offering.

Jeanette Kempe, a 2016 graduate of South Hamilton High School, was the first person to receive the second-year scholarship last year. Other recipients in 2018 included high school seniors Clayton Ollendieck, Cresco; Ryley Helle, Worthington; and Hannah Miller, Webster City.

Annual scholarship amounts are determined by the proceeds from the foundation's investments as well as the success of its fundraising efforts. The program was first created with the seed money left over from the ISSA's hosting of the International Snowmobile Congress in Cedar Rapids in 1995.

At last November's ISSA convention in Okoboji, the scholarship program received \$450 in donations from snowmobile clubs and another \$250 from Sally Carmichael's annual quilt raffle. The Silent Auction added \$542, bringing the total haul from convention weekend to \$1,242.

Scholarship applications are available for download on the ISSA's website. Applicants should check the box on the form if they are high school seniors or students already enrolled in college.

Application materials must be postmarked by April 15 and mailed to foundation secretary Carol Nauman at 402 Fifth Street, Rudd, IA 50471.

According to Andreini, the chances of earning a scholarship through the ISSA are above average, given the relatively small number of entries each spring. Applications are judged anonymously, and the decisions of the scholarship committee are final. Scholarship funds are deposited when the school of choice confirms enrollment.

The top applicant each year is also forwarded onto the International Snowmobile Media Council's (ISMC) C.J. Ramstad Memorial Scholarship competition. To align itself with that program, the ISSA's scholarship application mirrors ISMC requirements.

Applicants are graded on neatness, completeness, accurate spelling, correct grammar and school and community involvement. They must also submit essays on 'What Snowmobiling Means to Me'. Last year's essays accompany this article on the ensuing two pages.

The award is also based, in part, on need, and since 2012, each applicant has been asked 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 need 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 an EFC number.



Nikki Kempe, left, from Team Iowa Snowmobilers of Region 7 won Sally Carmichael's quilt raffle to benefit the ISSA's scholarship program at last fall's state convention.

Scholarship Donations

Floyd County Groomers.....	\$200
Dickinson County Snowhawks.....	\$150
Snow Pioneers.....	\$100

WHAT SNOWMOBILING MEANS TO ME

Ever since I can remember, my family and I have snowmobiled. It has been and is a huge part of our family that I am forever thankful. When other families spend time together, it usually is watching a movie or playing board games. When I was younger and there was snow on the ground, you could find my family on snowmobiles tearing up the ditches! I remember thinking, "I can't wait until I am 12 because I am going to get my license and ride alongside my dad!" Until then, we often rode double or took turns going. Up until around the age of 8, my mom and I went together. I have so many memories where I was bundled up in front of her with nearly frostbitten fingers because any chance we got to go snowmobiling, we took! The cold did not keep us inside!



Hannah Miller

Webster City
Team Iowa
Snowmobilers

Memories are not the only things I take away from snowmobiling. Due to it always being the whole family going for rides together, it became significant to us. When we weren't riding, you could find us either working on the sleds in the garage or drooling over the latest Ski-Doo magazine together. When I think of snowmobiling and the winter, I automatically think about and look forward to the time spent with the ones I love as well as usually a few family friends. Unfortunately, we didn't get too much of that this past year being that snow has been scarce and not very good for riding, but that didn't mean it didn't impact my life.

Crazy enough, one of the major deciding factors on picking who I wanted to room with next year at college was, in fact, snowmobiling. These days, future students are able to utilize the internet and social media to find possible roommates rather than random institution selection. When I posted a little about myself on a webpage dedicated to roommate searches, a girl reached out to me. As it turns out, snowmobiling was a HUGE part of her life as well! We were both super excited to learn that there was another person—let alone female—who shared the same passion of snowmobiling!

In conclusion, snowmobiling means a lot to me. The most important means of it are by far the quality time spent with my family and the new opportunities it has brought me. I am beyond thrilled to room and share new snowmobiling experiences with my roommate. I am just hoping we get a winter filled with lots of snow next year!

Ever since I was eight years old, I have spent my winters on the back of a snowmobile. Snowmobiling is an amazing pastime that has allowed me to form amazing bonds not only with my dad and brother, but my community.

What snowmobiling means to me goes far beyond riding the trails and eating a cheeseburger at the local bars. In our town, snowmobiling is a community and a passion. Over the years, I have learned that getting snow every winter is not a given thing anymore. But for the years that we are blessed with an unusual amount of snow, we make it count. I have spent numerous hours in the groomer with my dad preparing the trails for local events such as our Snowfest. Snowmobiling is one thing, but the art of perfecting the trails in the groomer is on another level. Scurrying through the woods and tugging across the long Iowa cornfields in mid-winter will always have a place in my heart.

What snowmobiling means to me is safety. This past fall (2017), my father and I constructed a retaining wall under an older bridge in our trail system. Even though the project took up some of my free time, I really enjoyed being part of it. The retaining wall transformed the area, making a gorgeous setting for snowmobilers in our community. Not only did it transform the appearance of the trail, but also the safety. This bridge is the gateway to my favorite trail in our community. Hundreds of miles have been rode on this specific trail to go along with all the fun memories. I am very proud to have helped with project, hoping to preserve this trail and our local system for decades to come.

What snowmobiling means to me is freedom and happiness. While most people despise the winter months, that is all I look forward to. Riding snowmobile allows me to get away from any stress I have been experiencing that day or week. I forget about everything and concentrate only on the trail ahead of me. That is another reason I love to snowmobile, because it takes me to new places. Every year my dad, brother and I take a trip up north to either upper Michigan or Minnesota. The northern states possess crazy amounts of snow and trails that will take your breath away. Snowmobiling allows me to explore the perfections of nature. The most mesmerizing view in this world lies atop of Copper Harbor in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

What snowmobiling means to me is life, and I just want everyone to experience it.



Clayton Ollendieck

Cresco
Driftrunners

WHAT SNOWMOBILING MEANS TO ME

Snowmobiling means family time for me. Ever since a young age, I have been involved in the sport of snowmobiling. Ever since I could walk, I have gone snowmobiling every winter. It truly was a family affair because I would go with my uncles and my father as well. When I was very young, I would ride on the front of my dad's sled, and sometimes it would wear me out to the point that I would fall asleep. I started attending meetings in 2005 when my uncle was the president of the Dyersville Driftskippers, and I can count on one hand how many meetings I have missed over the years.



Ryley Helle
Worthington
Dyersville
Driftskippers

Snowmobiling means volunteering. Without volunteers, snowmobiling would be non-existent. A lot of people don't realize the time that some volunteers put into the local clubs. I personally love volunteering for the snowmobile club because it's fun just to be around people who share the same passion. As a young boy, I always loved going to the meetings and putting in the trail with my uncle and my father. I actually took over as trail boss in 2012 over the trail from Dyersville to New Vienna. I have been putting in the trail ever since.

Another project we completed this last winter (2017-18) was a 40-foot bridge in Dyersville. This took multiple weekends to put together, and we worked hard to get it done. Once we had it constructed, it was struggle to set it in place, but we got the job done.

These past few years have been tough on snowmobiling because of the shortage of snow in our area. I took it upon myself to try to promote the club and get some younger friends from school to join the club because money was tight. I knew that my friends had snowmobiles, and I asked them if they were a member of the club. They said they weren't so I gave them information on how to join a local club. On the day of the February meeting last year, I received a text from my uncle saying that the president and vice president had something come up last minute. He told me that I needed to conduct the meeting, and right away, I started preparing. I really enjoyed conducting this meeting and received numerous compliments afterwards. Some members even told me that I should be the next president, but I told them I will need to be focusing on my college endeavors.

Snowmobiling means having fun with people who share the same passion. Snowmobiling is a way for me to get my mind off things and just ride. I have always loved high speeds as I race motocross. In my opinion, there was nothing better than catching some wind and taking in some Iowa scenery on my snowmobile, all while smelling that two-stroke exhaust.

I have grown up in a family where time together means everything. We have many activities we do together, I like camping, bowling and snowmobiling. When we are snowmobiling, we count on each other to be safe, responsible and have fun. I consider the time on the snowmobile family bonding, even if we are on our own machines. Each time is special even if we take the same route. We always manage to create a new story each ride. As a family, we can go on trips with the snowmobiles on spring break.

Not only do I have fun with my family on snowmobiles, but also with friends. My birthday is in January. Even in Iowa unpredictable winters, there has been snow. For my birthday parties, I have invited my friends to ride our snowmobiles around the yard in mini "races" and just something fun to do in the snow. These times are always something we now look back on and miss as we grow apart in our adult lives. I always love remembering what fun we have had. As a family as well, we ride with others to share even more stories with.

Snowmobiling has been a great source of family fun, but the time is also good for time with nature as well. In the winter, most people stay in, and that's how they get sick. On a ride, I am outside with nature looking at the beauty of winter that most people choose not to see. For most people, winter is a time for horrible driving and cold. Driving a snowmobile is never bad on Iowa or Wisconsin trails or ditches. With about 20 pounds of extra clothes, it is hard to be cold.

On my own snowmobile, I am often left with my own thoughts. When I am riding, I think about how much fun I am having. I think about everything I have had to accomplish to be able to ride. I also think about how I should not take things—like rides on my own snowmobile—for granted because there are many who will never experience the same thrill. To never take for granted that I can ride with my family and friends.

To answer the question, "What does snowmobiling mean to me?," I will have to say that it means a lot. Snowmobiling means a lot to me because of family, friends, memories, nature and mentality.



Jeanette Kempe
Jewell
Team Iowa
Snowmobilers

Region 1

O'Brien County Snowtrackers

by Zelda Buse Christensen, Reporter

One week into February as I am writing our club's news, I am again facing the same problem as in the last two winter months: nothing to write about, as far as snowmobiling is concerned.

After last weekend's unusually warm temps, any remains of the minimal snow still lurking under wind-blown dirt melted into mud. But radio and TV often remind us that this is winter, with forecasts of "winter advisory" and "winter storm watch" and "winter storm warning."

Club News

In worried anticipation, schools call off classes, community events are postponed, and some businesses and work places and offices are closed. Occasionally, the joke is on the general public when virtually nothing happens (except for people getting unexpected vacations). But winter has expressed itself and caused real difficulties with temps down to 25 degrees below zero—BEFORE the strong wind chill is factored in.

Snow actually did play a part in our most recent halt of activities this week. The wind blew the new snow to make visibility lacking and driving extremely hazardous. But, since the amount of snow received was pretty much around an inch—or two at the most—snowmobiles are still parked in the shed where they have been peacefully sitting.

A couple months of winter still remain, according to the calendar. Will we ever get enough good snow to ride in? Will the groomer get used? We try to be optimistic: A miracle could happen! Good snow could still come here!

Region 5

Cresco Driftrunners

by Bob Martinek, Treasurer

I am sure all have heard that we started off our Snowfest with a tragedy this year. All I can say is the Driftrunners, Cresco community and surrounding ones were shocked and numbed! Kelly M. and Christy S. organized a "Ride for Ross," group of 20 sleds that rode from Cresco to the Burr Oak Church to join in the funeral procession. It was a small tribute to show our sympathy and support to the Wilson family.

Now to move on. Only in Iowa can you have a Polar Vortex on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, perfect riding on Friday and garbage trails by Saturday evening! Because of the huge meltdown, we postponed Charlie's Chili Feed. Of course I hope by the

time you read this, we have been able to reschedule (and have) Charlie's.

Otherwise, the only event we have left this season is our Landowner Appreciation Dinner, tentatively set for either March 31 or April 7. Details are not finalized yet. And now because I am optimistic, I will end with Thanks and see you on the trails!



A group of snowmobilers are ready to head back out on Iowa Snowdrifters' trails following a break in Swisher in January.

Region 9

Iowa Snowdrifters

by Ron Roe

Hello, everyone. The subject should be snow, as we have waited a lot of years to get this much snow at one time. I haven't talked to anyone who has been riding our trails, but there should be good snow to ride. It looks good and crusty.

On Feb. 14, we will be having our club meeting and then we should get some good reports on the trails and riding. It's good to look outside and see the bright white snow. So much different than the last several years. This should help the clubs that are planning club rides and parties. I'm not sure who has the most snow, but I think most of the state has good riding now. Just remember to ride safely and don't tear up the towns when you go thru them. Obey the trail signs and cautions. They are there for a reason.

After the snow season, the clubs will be doing different summer activities. The Eastern Iowa Sledheads will be holding their annual tractor ride. It starts on Friday, June 21, and the ride will be Saturday, June 22. This year, you will be able to ride double on the tractors with the proper seating. For more information on the tractor ride, you can contact Mindy Scott at (319) 325-1903.

This is all for now. Hope to see new riders and meet new friends out snowmobiling. See everyone in the fall when we start planning for the next snow season. Have a good summer.



Contact ISSA President Brian Carmichael at snowhawk68@gmail.com to purchase a 2019 ACSA Raffle Calendar. Winners drawn daily.

2019 ACSA Donations

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Eastern Iowa Sledheads.....	\$250
Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club.....	\$250
Team Iowa Snowmobilers.....	\$200
Floyd County Groomers Association	\$200
Central Iowa Snowmobilers.....	\$200
Iowa River Riders	\$100
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Proceeds benefit snowmobile access nationwide.
Contact your region director to make a donation.



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