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November 2014 • Volume 36 • Issue 3

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for more than 14,000 miles last winter



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January	Dec. 19
February (digital)	Jan. 16
March	Feb. 13

COVER: Matt Wilde of Ankeny cruises the scenic forest trails near Grand Rapids, Minn., in February of 2013.

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Making Tracks

Looking Back on Successes, Strengths and Shortcomings

A milestone is passing for me. A bitter-sweet moment, with feelings of accomplishment, feelings of achievement and a little bit of "I wish we would have been able to finish that!"

As I prepare to turn over the leadership of the ISSA to the new president to be elected in a few weeks, I find myself thinking a lot about what has gone well while I was ISSA president, and what is yet to be completed. We have come a long way in the past four years as I have made the priorities of the ISSA my priorities. Especially for the last two years, I have invested everything I have into the responsibilities of ISSA leadership. This is my last column as your president, and in a few short weeks, I will pass the gavel on to another individual who may not choose to take the organization in the same direction...someone who may have other priorities.

I absolutely mean it when I say that it does not matter. As any organization leader knows, you do what you can while you can, and sooner or later, you pass leadership responsibilities on to others. This is true in club leadership, in my role as ISSA president and for those serving leadership roles at ACSA and other national organizations. When it is time to move on, do so gracefully. I believe it was Jimmy Durante, the great comedian, who always said "leave 'em wantin' more!" I hope that is what I will do: Leave the ISSA with the members wanting more of the leadership I have worked so hard to provide, although I do think there are a few who will be happy to see me go.

So where are we as I prepare to spend more time on my sled than in meetings about being on a sled? Let's take a look...

Different types of riders

Recent Camoplast research helped identify distinct segments among snowmobilers. Generally, snowmobile club members who also belong to a snowmobile association rack up more-than-average trail miles and routinely rush out to buy the latest snowmobile, snowmobile parts or accessories.

Club and association members place considerably more importance on their snowmobile. They devote a lot of time to prepping their machine, which is always immaculate, and are very passionate about the sport. Alternatively, the "easy rider" looks for comfort above all else. This rider

is over the average snowmobiler age and doesn't keep abreast of new products and technology. The "no frills independent" isn't the first to rush out and buy the latest snowmobile or snowmobile parts. For them, snowmobiling is just one of the many winter pastimes they enjoy.



Jim Willey
ISSA President

Understanding these segments, it becomes clear that the participants in organized snowmobiling, the club and association members, are those who best support snowmobile OEMs and aftermarket suppliers. This reinforces the mantra: No associations = no clubs; no clubs = no trails; no trails = no snowmobilers, no snowmobilers = no manufacturers.

Working for the common good

ISSA membership has not changed significantly while I have been in office. This is one of those "I wish I could have done more" areas. Overall, the ISSA does represent the majority of Iowa snowmobilers. Research tells us, as supported by the aforementioned Camoplast research, that some folks simply will not become club members or association members. Some are not joiners, some are rebels, some are lazy and some are unaware. I am always amazed when I talk with snowmobilers that think paid Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR workers build and groom snowmobile trails. There are a lot of folks who just cannot comprehend that there are people who would do all that work and not get paid for doing it.

That kind of goodwill and generosity are just not part of their DNA. It is in the makeup of snowmobile club members, however. Luckily, at least so far, there are enough with the right attitude and social consciences to work for the common good, donating their time and talents to support a sport they love and a cause they believe in.

Strategic partnerships

Legislatively, we have held our own and maybe even gained a little over the past four years. We have added the trail pass (IDNR User Permit) which has added needed funding to the program; we have made it reasonable

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REGION ELEVEN

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



Region 12 Director's Report

Keeping Up with Club Activities in Southeast Iowa

Well, the snow season is upon us down here in Region 12, and things are well under way in preparation for the upcoming snow season. As everyone knows from the last issue of *Iowa Snowmobiler* magazine, the Southeast Iowa Ridge Blast-ers have made a great comeback. I have been attending their meetings and the participation is very good. Jim Pickle and Fred Strothman both continue to mentor and assist the club in making sure all the proper forms, etc., are filled out and filed with the proper county and state people. Kudos to this group.

The Snowdrifters have been meeting all year long and are working with the city of North Liberty on a fitting trail into and out of town. I wish them the best with this difficult task. As many of you know, Mel Rinehart passed away this last winter and left the club with a very large role to fill. Many club members have stood up and taken over his areas of expertise. Mel had redesigned a new roller pan for their groomer, and this has now been completed and is ready for installation on the groomer. Additionally, the John Deere unit they were using, with some difficulty I might add, is being replaced with a new Prinoth unit. This should be a great help in their trail grooming.

The Scott County Sno-Seekers have

resumed their meetings and are ready to mow, sign and groom. They will be hosting several events this upcoming season, including the women's ride, which is a very well attended event, a radar run and a swap meet. Keep an eye on the website for dates on these events.

The Cedar County Winter Warriors will be starting their meetings by the time you read this and are anticipating using their refurbished groomer. Mel Rinehart was a great help in getting this unit back into operational mode.

The Eastern Iowa Sled Heads have been meeting year around and are in the bridge building mode once again. A new 45-foot

long bridge has been built and will be installed on a cross-country trail near Kalona. Another of their bridges is in need of maintenance due to bank erosion on one end of the bridge. This club has several members with contractors that have access to equipment to handle this chore. The bridge should be trail worthy by the time this is published.

This covers pretty much all of my clubs and activities at the present time, but I am sure mowing, signing, etc. will be in action very soon. Until next time, happy trails to you all.



Bob Scott
Region 12
Director



Join the ISSA Early &
You Could Win a Trip
to Pat's Landing!

2014-15 EMR Program



Courtesy of the ISSA's Early Membership and Renewal Program (EMR), snowmobilers who join or renew with the ISSA by Dec. 1 are eligible to win a three-night, six-person vacation package to Pat's Landing near Hayward, WI.

Valued at \$990, the trip could be yours for the price of an ISSA membership of \$15. Additionally, members who renew or join by Nov. 1 will be entered into the drawing twice.

If joining through a club, the club also earns two chances at each drawing. An ISSA membership application is available online at www.iowasnowmobiler.com/issa/2014memapp.jpg.



Cresco's High-Mile Club



From left, Roy Praska, Terry Thorne and Wayne Vokaty

by Bob Martinek

Cresco Driftrunners, Region 5

CRESCO—You might hear people say how they like to ride snowmobiles. Well, meet three guys from Cresco who don't "like" to ride. Roy Praska, Terry Thorne and Wayne Vokaty "love" to ride.

They aren't three young whipper-snappers who don't have anything better to do than ride sleds. Roy is 45 and works at Donaldson Co. in Cresco. Terry, 55, has his own painting business, and Wayne, 58, is also employed at Donaldson in Cresco. Last fall, they all bought new 2014 Ski-doo MXZs. Roy and Wayne bought MXZ TNT 600 E-Tecs and Terry got an MXZ 600 Sport.

Between the three of them, they rode a total of 14,007 miles. Yes, over 14,000 miles in one season. That wasn't a typo. All had over 4,000 miles each. Roy had 5,220 miles, Terry had 4,550 and Wayne had 4,237. So you can see what I mean when I say they really love to ride. Roy took three trips last season to Spooner, Wis., and Terry went with him twice.

Roy and Terry also took a backpacking trip from Cresco to Cornucopia, Wis., and back. That trip alone was 950 miles without any support vehicle and no troubles.

Wayne and his wife Darla—who also rode 3,550 miles on her 2013 Ski-doo GSX 600 E-Tec—went on two trips. They went for three and a half days to the U.P. of Michigan and later three days to Baxter, Minn. They put a total of 1,300 miles on with those two trips. The rest of the miles that these guys put on were all riding around Cresco and the surrounding area.

Every club has its own rivalry about who makes the best sleds, but as far as these guys are concerned, they think all brands are good or they would be out of business. Nonetheless, these guys are quick to point out that they rode all those miles and none of them had to take their sleds in for any service work the whole season. I know it will be a little hard not to let them brag. Well, okay, maybe only a little after all it was last season already!

Curt Flack Memorial Grass Drags Nov. 22 near Jefferson

by Jim Wyckoff

Raccoon Valley Snow Chasers, Region 7

JEFFERSON—The Raccoon Valley Snow Chasers (RVSC) snowmobile club will host its sixth annual Curt Flack Memorial grass drag races on Saturday, Nov. 22. This year's race has been significantly expanded into an all-day event to also include ATV and motorcycle races. A popular band will perform under a big tent on the grounds Saturday evening following the races.

The events will take place at the Flack river farm, now called River Farm Recreation, five miles west of Jefferson—just south of Highway 30 and just west of county road P14. Signs will be posted on nearby roads leading to the event.

RVSC safety director Craig Flack said the usual snowmobile racing format will take place this year, including local celebrity Bill Labath calling the races. However, this year will see additional timed "horseshoe" racing for dirt-bike motorcycles and ATVs—also called four wheelers and side-by-sides.

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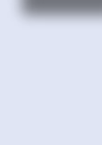
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Vintage Sled Raffle to Help Local Charities

by Michael Rochford

Trail Blaz-zers, Inc., Region 5

FAIRBANK—Three years ago, fellow club member Loren Landsgard approached me with an idea.

He told me he would like to put together a vintage snowmobile to be raffled off with half the proceeds going to the Trail Blaz-zers, Inc., snowmobile club and the other half going to local charities to help families in our community that could use it. I loved the idea immediately, but with circumstances the way they are, it took time to find the right snowmobile and to get it completed.

I can say it was worth the wait. He called me one night and said, "Mike, I got it done. Can you come look at it?" I made a point to go as soon as I could. I was not expecting to see a snowmobile that looked like this: a 1980 Polaris 440SS. A white hood makes it look sleek with matching white piping in the seat. Vintage-style graphics accent its body lines.

I asked him what his inspiration for the snowmobile was and he said, "I didn't want to make this snowmobile a trailer queen. It is not perfect or put back to original but it is a very solid build. I am hoping that someone with a new snowmobile wins this sled at our 2015 Leaf Spring Rally in February, and it fuels a new passion for the oldest sleds on the trail. I hope to see this snowmobile for years to come at our vintage ride or any other day just out enjoying it with friends or family."

Loren told me that this is a family sport at his house, and he has met some of his best friends through snowmobiling and collecting vintage snowmobiles. They go to swap meets all over and buy and sell snowmobiles and ride their new and vintage snowmobiles every chance they get.

You can tell that he has a tight-knit group that all enjoy this passion for our sport. He said the bug struck everyone in his group real hard in 2005, and the passion for these older snowmobiles has done nothing but take off to what it is today in this little town and surrounding communities.

This group of friends, one of which being Neil Beck, is what started our own Leaf Spring Rally sponsored by the Trail Blaz-zers. It began by getting together on weekends in vintage clothing and on classic barn

finds.

Loren said he doesn't

stick by any brands and currently owns 24 vintage snowmobiles, which is down from earlier this summer, when his collection was up to 35.

He told me he had to thank some people and businesses that helped him in this build. Myers Polaris, Neil Beck, Kuennen House of Power, Corkery Paint and Ohl's Upholstery all helped to put this project together in one way or another with parts or donations of time and materials. With all of this cooperation from so many different businesses and people, it shows me yet again with a good cause and people like Loren, this sport can help bring a community together.

Loren would like to invite everyone to Fairbank the first weekend in February and be a part of the fun and maybe win this 1980 Polaris 440SS that he has helped to put back on the trail for years to come.

I would like to thank Loren for what he has done. He originally turned down my suggestion when I asked if I could write an article on him and this snowmobile. He looked at me very humbly and said that wasn't why he did it. He did it to help the club with groomer fuel and whatever else and to also help local families and charities.

So if you do come to the Leaf Spring Rally the first Sunday in Fairbank, take the time to say hi to Loren. Be prepared to chat about his latest find or current project and maybe get to spend the day showing off your new 1980 Polaris 440SS.

Regardless, you will meet a man who is a true ambassador for our sport and see a blast from the past with as many as 100 vintage snowmobiles go for their 14-mile round trip, enjoying the sport we all love so much. Raffle tickets can be purchased the day of the ride and at Myers Polaris or Kuennen House of Power any time. Landsgard can be reached at (319) 269-9227.

Loren Landsgard
with his vintage
1980 Polaris 440SS



As the Groomer Carousel Spins

Equipment update, operator reception, recertification planned for convention weekend

by Cameron Hanson

The groomer carousel continues to spin in Iowa as the ISSA and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) reap the benefits of the new snowmobile user permit program and take advantage of existing federal fuel tax dollars.

More than 19,000 snowmobilers have purchased the required \$15 trail fee in each of the last two seasons, raising approximately \$285,000 in additional funding annually for the IDNR's snowmobile program coffers.

These funds are then paired up with matching grant money from the Recreational Trails Program to purchase equipment and update the state's aging groomer fleet. By this winter, nearly a third of snowmobile clubs in Iowa will benefit from this boon.

"We're trying to get a lot of needs taken care of in a short amount of time," ISSA President Jim Willey said in August. "We've been working on this for a long time, and this is what has been approved to happen. How fast it all takes place is the next question."

"We are trying to accomplish a lot and make a lot of people happy," added Past ISSA President Terry Durby, a member of the joint ISSA/IDNR Review and Selection Committee which pores over the trail grant applications each summer.

As approved by the committee on Aug. 23, 20 of the state's 64 clubs are slated for new or updated grooming equipment. Only five clubs which requested new iron were not approved, and the remaining 39 clubs did not ask for any changes. The expenditures are well in excess of \$1 million.

Scheduled to receive or already in possession of new groomers include the following clubs: Clay County Sno Broncos in Region 1, Kossuth County Drift Skippers in Region 2, Lakota Sno-Eagles and Hancock County Snowmobile Association in Region 3 and the Snowdrifters in Region 12.

The Driftrunners in Region 5 has also been approved to keep the Pisten Bully they had on loan last winter, and the match requests for new groomers for the Sno-Pak in Region 1 and the Worth County Fencestretchers in Region 4 have also been okayed.

Domino effect

As this new equipment finds their new homes, the clubs' existing groomers have been or will be relocated to other clubs in need around the state in need. For example, the Driftrunners' Prinoth is heading to fellow Region 5 club Trails Unlimited, and Trails Unlimited's 2007 Sur Trac is heading south to the Jasper County Ditch Bangers.

Jasper County in Region 8 is one of three clubs in Iowa to receive their first-ever grooming equipment this season. Another, according to the committee's spreadsheet, is the Snowmobilers of Jackson County in Region 9.

The third is the Southeast Iowa Ridgeblasters in Region 12, but their request is a bit unusual. This club will be outfitted with a side-by-side tracked utility vehicle with a smaller drag to accommodate their narrower trails.

Willey described this placement as "an experiment" that may end up being a model for other clubs in similar situations. The IDNR is currently soliciting bids from dealers for this new direction in grooming equipment.

ISSA Charity Fundraiser

The ISSA is once again teaming up with Pat's Landing in Hayward, Wis., to sponsor a charity fundraiser to benefit the Spina Bifida Association of Iowa (SBAI).

Similar to its support of the Early Membership and Renewal Program, the Chippewa Flowage resort is working with the ISSA on its charity raffle prize of a three-night, six-person vacation package valued at \$990.

Tickets cost \$5 each and all proceeds benefit the SBAI, the ISSA's official charity. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Region 3 Assistant Director Matt Trunkhill at (515) 320-0737 or mtrunk@wctatel.com.

The winner will be drawn at the November ISSA convention.



The screenshot shows the website for the 41st Annual ISSA Convention and Snow Show, held from November 21-23, 2014, at the Grand Harbor Resort and Waterpark in Dubuque, IA. The website features a navigation menu on the left with links to News Briefs, Legislation, National Issues, Magazine, Clubs & Maps, Groomer Info, Awards, Calendar of Events, Youth Safety, Charity, Board Minutes, and Scholarship. The main content area includes a large banner for the convention, a list of featured events such as the Snow Show, Snowmobile Races, and a Snowmobile Show, and a registration form. The registration form includes fields for Name, Address, City, State, Zip, and Phone, and a section for payment information. The website also mentions that the convention is hosted by Region 5 with Fun in Mind.

For complete convention information,
visit www.iowasnowmobiler.com/issa/convention.
There is still time to register. Hotel rooms are going fast.

"This club specifically asked for a smaller unit," Willey explained. "This will be the first type of groomer that is a tracked UTV in Iowa. If it works on smaller trails, it stands to be a much less costly system than what we have been doing."

To become eligible for a new groomer, a club must request it in writing on their trail grant application in May. While most of the decisions have created a domino effect throughout Iowa, not all of the awards involved major purchases. Several clubs are also getting new or different drags, and in marginal snow areas, clubs are asking for mowing equipment.

Groomer topics at convention

The groomer placement and selection criteria are historically hot topics at the state snowmobile convention each November. The five clubs which did not get what they wanted are sure to be heard from this fall, but plans are in place to satisfy their needs in 2015.

This year's open forum with the Review and Selection Committee at convention is planned for late Saturday morning, Nov. 22, at the Grand Harbor Resort in Dubuque. The adjacent Grand River Center will also have new groomers on display during the ISSA's Snow Show, and later that afternoon, a groomer reception is planned for all certified operators in the state.

Sunday morning will feature groomer operator training for both new and existing operators in need of recertification. As of last July, all club members operating state-owned groomers in Iowa need to carry a current card.

Since the requirement began in 2005, 1,100 volunteers have completed this training in Iowa, but only half were recertified by last summer's deadline. In fact, one club in Iowa does not have a member currently certified to operate its machine.

Recertification is now required every three years, and just because a member has operated a groomer for the past 30 years, Willey said, "doesn't mean that should be good enough."

Technology and techniques have changed, making this training mandatory.

"Bottom line is we want to make sure these volunteers have the opportunity to get recertified," he continued. "We don't want anybody out there without a current license so make plans to come to Dubuque convention weekend to get your training done."

Clubs are being cautioned to restrict non-certified club members from operating the six-figure machines. As they have in the past, IDNR conservation officers will be doing spot checks this winter to ensure operator compliance.

"Make sure everyone in your club knows that if they don't have a current operator certificate, they can get a ticket," Willey said. "Having an unlicensed groomer operator in your machine is just like smoking or drinking in it. Don't do it. It's all the same. The IDNR will pull it."

"The IDNR has stated to us that if a guy is not certified and is operating that groomer, then you are endangering that groomer to the club," ISSA Groomer Operator Training Coordinator Chris Willey further clarified.

"We've never had to pull a unit, and we never want to do it," Jim Willey said.

Operator cards

Chris Willey recommends each club keep a copy of their operators cards with their logbooks in the groomer. For those club members who have completed the training but do not have their current certificates, he hopes to have that mess straightened out by convention weekend.

"Last year, a large batch of cards for current operators was made and sent out. However, some cards didn't get to the correct clubs and/or operators," he said. "If your club has operators who have taken a class and not received an operator card, please let me know."

Continued on page 11

The poster for the 2014 ISSA Grand Raffle features a large red starburst graphic with the text "Buy Your Tickets Today!". Below the starburst, the text "2014 ISSA Grand Raffle" is prominently displayed. The poster also includes the phrase "Win the Sled of Your Dreams!" and a list of prizes, including a snowmobile, a sled, and a snow machine. The poster mentions that the winner will be responsible for all taxes, titles and fees, and that the ISSA will provide payment to the dealer for up to \$10,000. The Grand Prize Drawing is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 22, at the Grand Harbor Resort, Dubuque. Tickets cost \$20 each or six for \$100. The poster also includes a small image of a snowmobile and a sled.

Special Ride for Javin last March

by **Bryan Sebastian**

Clay County Sno Broncs, Region 1

SPENCER—As the leaves are falling and we all prepare for the approaching winter, I reflect back to this past winter and one of the last rides we put in the memory column. We just celebrated October as Spina Bifida Awareness Month so this story seems fitting.

This past March, one of our own from the Clay County Sno Broncs had an opportunity to do something fun with a youngster from Spencer. Mitchell Sebastian spends most of his winter racing cross-country with the Yamaha team on the Cor Powersports series, but on this given weekend, the racing season was over and there was just enough snow left in northwest Iowa to do something cool.

We loaded up the race sled and met up with a young man by the name of Javin Williamson Smith and his family. Javin was found to have Spina Bifida during a routine ultrasound at 33 weeks. Many tests were done to see if there were any other problems associated with the condition.

On Sept. 9, 2009, Javin was born in Sioux Falls, S.D. Surgery followed to repair his spinal cord. Another surgery followed to install a shunt to remove excess fluid from his brain. The following weeks were met with ups and downs, including

infections and more surgeries. Javin was awarded the "Patient of the Month" in October of 2009, becoming the youngest patient to receive this award from the hospital.

After getting home and settling in, the work began. Physical therapy got started with the doctors still unsure if Javin would even be able to walk. He is a very determined little guy. At age 3, Javin continued with physical and speech therapy. He also received his first set of leg braces and a walker.

Javin has just turned five. He wears his braces but does not need a walker anymore. He goes to school full time and does everything a five-year-old boy likes to do: He walks, runs and picks on his sister.

On our day this past March, Javin showed us how much he enjoys the great outdoors from the seat of a snowmobile. We rode the ditches on Highway 18 East between Spencer and Ruthven, and in the following

days, all he could talk about was how much fun he had riding.

Javin may have Spina Bifida, but it does not have him. His smile stretches a country mile, and we are already making plans for this year's ride. Thank you to his family for helping arrange the ride and thank you Mitchell Sebastian for making it extra special with a true "hotrod" race sled for Javin.

Here's to a great fall and hopes of a great winter from Javin and the Clay County Sno Broncs to all of you fellow sledders.



Groomers

Continued from page 10

Wiley said he needs the following information: name, address, phone, club and location of the class. Please email him back at kioti79@gmail.com. Also if a club has received certificates that belong to other clubs, please send them to him as well.

"Once verified that the operator is on the current operator roster that we have from the last three years of classes we have held, a new card will be mailed directly to the operator at the address provided," Wiley explained.

For those who are unable to attend this month's convention, Jim Wiley said he hopes to have operator training in each region of the state before the snow flies.

"Obviously, the training at convention is the best opportunity, but we plan to eventually get these scheduled across the state so our operators know when and where they can recertify," he said.

Official Notice of ISSA Elections & Proposed By-Law Changes

Who:

Officers & Directors from Even-Numbered Regions

When:

ISSA General Membership Assembly
ISSA Annual Convention
Nov. 22, 2014

Where:

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Continued from page 4

to register vintage snowmobiles in Iowa; and we have made it possible for families to ride their sleds on state trails together, no matter how young some of those family members are.

We have strengthened the ISSA partnership with the DNR through ISSA acceptance of responsibilities and cooperation in administering programs, as evidenced by the groomer training and certification program administered by Chris Willey and the youth safety education program administered by Tyler Willey. It is not an accident that these important partnerships were entrusted to ISSA members who I have great confidence in, and possibly influence with.

Ensuring that the programs were successful was critical to the success of the programs and partnerships, and they were a lot of work. I admittedly leaned on my boys to make the commitments to invest their time in these partnerships which have strengthened the bonds of the DNR and ISSA, and I thank them for their willingness to accept these responsibilities. In like manner, I also thank each and every individual who stepped up when I asked, especially the committee chairpersons who are so vital to the success of the ISSA and the Iowa snowmobile program.

Not to be ignored are the professionals we work with in the IDNR. From Chuck Gipp and Brian Trautman, who handle the political issues with skill and expertise, to our own David Downing, Rhonda Fowler and the folks they work with at the Wallace building to make the snowmobile program machine run. David's legacy and commitment to Iowa snowmobilers is legendary. Rhonda is the glue that holds the program together, working to elevate the education programs and club support to produce a state program that we all can be proud of.

Giving credit when due

The ISSA region directors and assistants are the lifeblood of the ISSA. Charged with the responsibility to represent the clubs of their regions and to ensure communication between the ISSA and the clubs, they are critical to the mission and success of the ISSA. The ISSA officers like myself are elected by the board to serve for a time, but cannot accomplish anything without the hard work and support of the directors and assistants.

The ISSA past presidents are the most involved group of former leaders I have encountered in any organization I have been involved with. The experience and expertise these individuals bring to the organization are a valuable resource. I look forward to joining their ranks, not to be in charge, but to assist.

Mostly, however, credit must be given to the clubs. The mission of the ISSA is to support the clubs, to identify their needs and address them, because without the clubs, there is no program. In recent years, we have made great strides in equipping clubs, updating older equipment for the clubs with the most demanding needs and moving older equipment to areas where it will be useful.

This year three clubs will get their first grooming equipment in the areas of Jackson County, Jasper County and Henry County. We have improved the average age of the fleet dramatically, and we are grooming more miles of trail each winter than ever before, now offering 8,800 miles of snowmobiling opportunities. In a study of the past seven years of log sheets it shows that when a club receives a new groomer, their average grooming miles increase from 242 to 847 miles per year, a 350 percent increase.

Spending time with club members

One of the benefits of being ISSA president is the opportunity to spend time with clubs all over the state and to see how clubs in different areas do things. This was repeatedly demonstrated to First Lady Becky and me as we visited the Iowa snowmobile clubs from the east coast of Iowa at the Mississippi to the west coast on the Missouri.

Getting to know the clubs has demonstrated that there are many ways to do the same things, and while it would certainly not be my place to say any of the ways of accomplishing the challenge of building and maintaining a

Continued on page 20

Grass drags

Continued from page 7

"River Farm Recreation is excited to again host this year's grass drags," said Flack. "We plan on having a big bonfire Saturday evening, along with a very popular rockabilly band called the Barrel House Rockets performing inside a big tent." Flack, long known as a local daredevil, also said he will attempt a water-crossing, also called water-skipping, on his snowmobile.

Registration for the races is from 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Saturday morning, Nov. 22, with racing to begin shortly thereafter. The races will include several classes of snowmobiles. Trophies will be awarded for the top three finishers in each class. The snowmobile racetrack is 500 feet in length, and the race format will be double-elimination. All racers must be at least 18 years of age. Specific details of the snowmobile, motorcycle and ATV races will be available at the race.

An admission fee for the races and the band will be collected by race officials upon entering the race grounds. Food and soft beverages will be available at the event. Also, RVSC club merchandise will be available for purchase at the race.

The annual fall race is in memory of long-time snowmobile enthusiast Curt Flack of Jefferson. The Flack family were snowmobiling pioneers in Greene County, dating back to the 1960s. For more information call RVSC president Mike Patten at (515) 669-0473 or email him at mjpatt76@aol.com

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Return to Snowmobile Country

Experiencing Grand Rapids again after eight years...and a little arm-twisting

By Cameron Hanson

A bucket list snowmobile trip which has long eluded me has been to ride from my backyard in northern Iowa to International Falls, Minn. My neighbor's dad and my brother's buddy completed the journey to the Canadian border city some 10 years ago, and their success has latently served as my inspiration.

A backpack trip to the Icebox of the Nation simply intrigues me. I've made a couple of stabs at it—once in January of 2010 and again last February—but was thwarted each time by an array of unfortunate circumstances, including breakdowns, subzero temperatures, diminishing trail conditions and merely navigating the Twin Cities metro area.

As consolation, I guess I can chalk those first two false starts up to reconnaissance missions for the southern half of the route. There is definite value in knowing which trail to follow and which trail intersection is actually the same as what is showing on the map. As long as the trails don't change too much, I am fairly confident the next time I attempt a ride to International Falls, I can make it back up and around the cities in significantly less time than taken during the previous two trips.

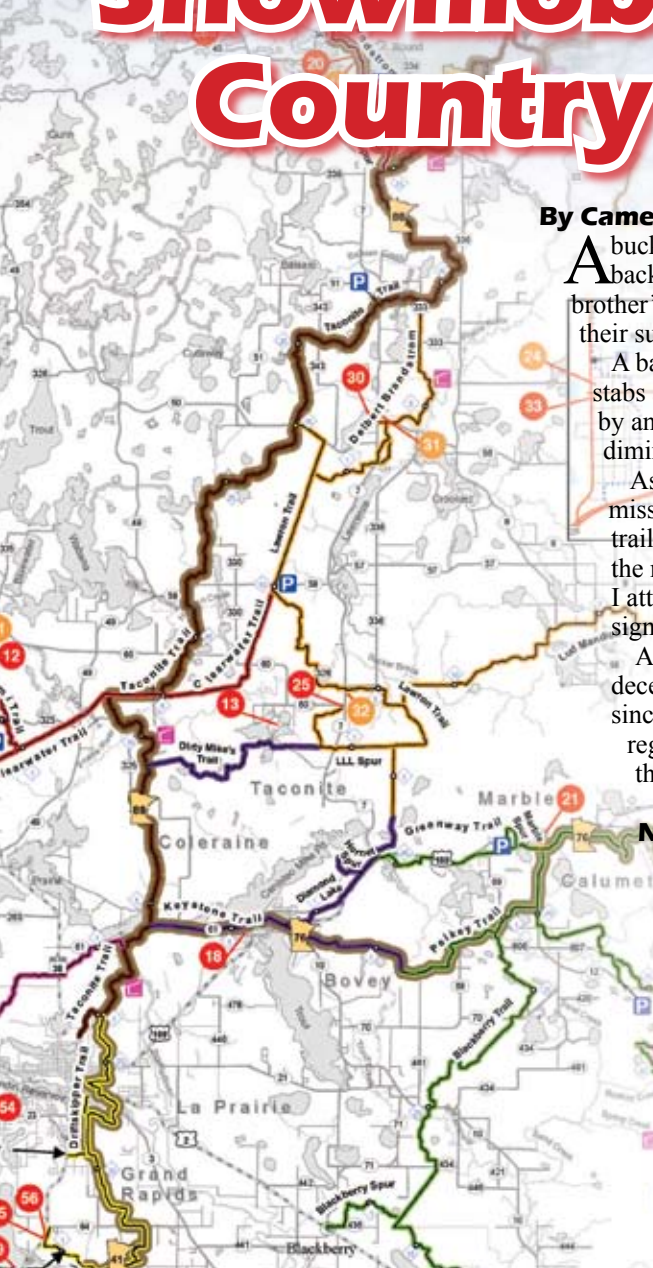
And if I ever make it that far north during any subsequent rides, I also feel pretty decent about my trail knowledge in northern Minnesota, having visited there off and on since 1999. Ranging from Brainerd to Lake Vermillion and on up into the Arrowhead region at Finland, I have spent quite a few winters traversing the vast forest trails of this region.

Northern bookend

Serving as one of my preplanned overnight stops had we made it that far last season, Grand Rapids is perhaps one of my favorite places to visit in Minnesota. I have heard about this area since I was kid, listening to my uncle talk about his fishing trips to Moose, Deer and Bass lakes. While his recreational pursuits were in a boat, mine have always been by sled, and I was first presented the chance to ride this area in 2005 while on an ISSA retreat to the Wendigo Lodge.

A large contingent of ISSA board members had made the trip to Grand Rapids back then to celebrate the induction of the late Past ISSA President Dave Carmichael into the International Snowmobile of Hall of Fame (ISHOF).

Held the same weekend on the adjacent golf course, we also participated in a groomer expo hosted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources





Grooming the Taconite Trail

(MNDNR).

As part of this working vacation, we were able to squeeze in some trail riding, and it didn't take long to realize we were in snowmobile country. Besides being the then-location of the ISHOF, the Grand Rapids area also featured several active snowmobile clubs—some with their own clubhouses—including the Itasca Driftskippers and the Swampsiders.

It was all very impressive to this ditchbanger from Iowa. Making the weekend especially memorable was my one and only meeting and interview with Edgar Hetteen, the Grandfather of Snowmobiling, at the ISHOF ceremony. Founder of both Polaris and Arctic Cat, Hetteen was a charter inductee of the ISHOF and lived in Grand Rapids up until his death in 2011.

Eight winters would pass before I allowed myself the opportunity to return to this area. I consistently resisted the temptation to go back by trying new areas to ride, including a backpack trip to Hayward, Wis., and three treks across the state of Iowa. The ample snowfall in Iowa between 2006 and 2011 also helped to keep me closer to home.

When that local stretch of above-average riding conditions ended abruptly during the 2011-12 season, the need to begin trailering to outside destinations resumed. First there was a trip to the Cable, Wis., area in March of 2012, and then I persuaded the other guys—all of whom had a strong penchant for northern Wisconsin—to take my word for it and visit Grand Rapids in February of 2013.

Slippery Start to the Week

In two separate units, we arrived in Itasca County on Monday, Feb. 11. What should have taken roughly five hours to get there burned up three additional hours as a three-day storm system was making its way from Nebraska to northern Michigan. Slowing us

down to a crawl on I-35, freezing rain changed to blinding snow during the first half of the commute.

Once we reached the top side of the cities, visibility improved, and we were able to make up some ground. However, the extra trail time created by our early start that morning had been wasted on the slippery roads. We were still able to get some riding in that night but were limited to only 80 miles, with most of that time spent getting re-acclimated to the area.

While impeding our travel north the previous day, the storm system did blanket the region with a nice covering of snow, and we were able to get out early Tuesday morning and make some of the first tracks out on the trails. The beauty of mid-week riding is to avoid the trail pressure from the weekend, and on this day, we pretty much had the trails to ourselves.

From Grand Rapids, we ventured north on the well-known Taconite Trail, a 165-mile, multi-purpose path which starts in Grand Rapids and ends in Ely. The trail's name reflects the area's iron ore industry, and early on in the ride, you pass by remnants of its mining past. This is also where we picked up our first groomer sighting, always a good sign for the start of any trip.

Otherwise known as Corridor Trail 88, we followed the Taconite to the intersection with the Herb Brandstrom Trail (Corridor Trail 84). At this point, the Brandstrom Trail led us to the Scenic Pines Bar and Grill for our first gas stop and rest break. Along the way, we passed by the Swampsiders clubhouse on County Road 52 and stopped for a picture with its iconic sign and vintage sled perched atop.

Borrowing its name from some of the local soil conditions, the Swampsiders started in 1978 when a group of local residents felt the need to develop a local trail system. They incorporated some of the trap-line trails established by Brandstrom, one of the area's earliest settlers, and hence named the 47-mile stretch after him.

After lunch, we continued on Corridor 84 before eventually looping over west and south to the Suomi Trail. Here, the riding was slowed by the twisting and turning of these local, wooded trails, and we began to miss the interstate quality and gentle curves of the Taconite Trail.

Approaching 170 miles for the day, we eventually made it to the Clearwater Trail, and from there it was only a short jaunt back onto the Taconite. Before long, we were back in Grand Rapids for a late supper at the Timberlake Lodge. It was during dinner that my obsession with International Falls surfaced again, and I pushed for an overnight run in that direction for the next day.

Unusual Accommodations

The group conceded, and by 7 a.m. Wednesday morning, we were gassed up and back on the trail. The first leg of the journey started out pretty much the same way as the previous day. However, this time we continued north on the Brandstrom Trail through George Washington State Forest.

At Scenic State Park, the Brandstrom trail ended, and the

Bigfork Lions trail commenced, taking us to the Effie Connection on the Marcell trail system. Just as the Brandstrom Trail had done earlier in the day, all of these local trails combined to make up the northwest segment of Corridor 84, making it easy to stay on course.

After an extended dinner break and refueling in Bigfork, we were back in the saddle, heading north on the Effie trail in the early afternoon. By now, we were close to riding ourselves off the Itasca County snowmobile trail map and inching our way closer to Corridor 37, the railroad grade which would lead us right into International Falls.

Also called the Blue Ox Trail, this 107-mile corridor starts at Bemidji State Park on the south and ends at International Falls. Its name derives from the folklore legend of lumberjack Paul Bunyan and his blue ox, Babe. Bemidji is one of six cities in the U.S. which claim to be the birthplace of Paul Bunyan and even boasts a larger-than-life statue of the flannel-shirted man and his ox there.

Unfortunately, our merger with the Blue Ox trail would be significantly delayed as we were sidelined by a breakdown in the woods of the Pine Island State Forest. After trailside troubleshooting to get the sled operating better, it was determined the late model machine had dropped a cylinder, and we would have to limp it to the next town. By now, we had run out of daylight, and any chance of making it to International Falls this night was severely diminished.

We eventually made it to Corridor 37 and landed in Big Falls shortly thereafter, sharing our misfortune with anyone who would listen at the community-owned bar and grill. A few patrons offered to take the sled and its rider back to Grand Rapids for the night, while another suggested we stay with a local outfitter who rented rooms above his family's 1912 hardware store.

With International Falls another 90 minutes away and without any other hotel reservations in front of us, we decided we had better not push our luck and decided to stay in Big Falls for the evening, bedding down at Rivers North Outfitters. A bed-and-breakfast it was not, but the rooms did pass for clean and comfortable...and warm.

Looping back east

The next morning was Valentine's Day, and waking up to four other guys above a 100-year-old hardware store was far from romantic. There was no breakfast in bed, and if you wanted coffee, you got up and made it yourself. After a quick shower and some toast for breakfast, we were ready to improve on yesterday's mileage total of just 129.

Our first order of business for the day was to line up transportation to haul the disabled sled back to Grand Rapids. On the third attempt, we finally bribed a wrecker service to come up to Big



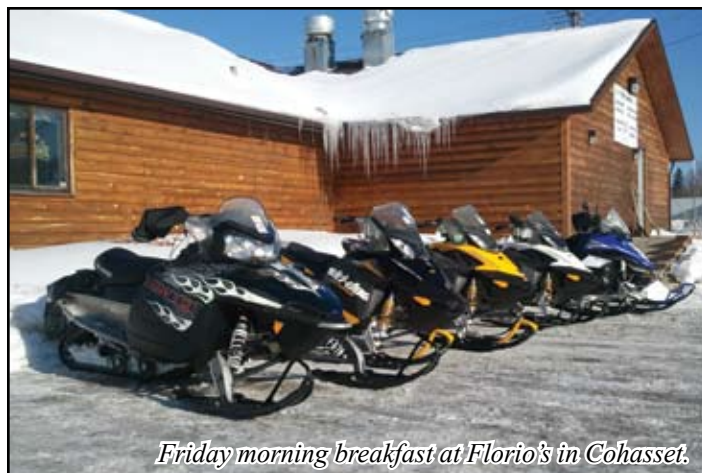
Getting within three miles of International Falls at the Arrowhead Trail intersection

Falls and rescue man and machine. Upon his return, a spare sled awaited him at the hotel, and we agreed to rendezvous with him back at Scenic Pines later that evening.

Now down to four, our two-day backpack trip continued north on the Blue Ox trail toward International Falls. About three miles south of town, we hooked up with the Arrowhead Trail and headed east and eventually south toward Ash River. Living up to the area's nickname, the mercury read 10 below this morning, and it was a cold ride through the Koochiching State Forest.

Along the way, we encountered some MNDNR officers performing spot checks for proper trail permits, but they left us alone. We eventually reached the Bill Morgan Trail intersection and headed down to Elephant

Continued on page 20



Friday morning breakfast at Florio's in Cohasset.

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Clay County Sno Broncos

President: Doug Alger
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(712) 260-6855, eliteautodoug@hotmail.com

Dickinson County SnowHawks

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

Lyon County Sno-Lyons

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

O'Brien County Snowtrackers

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

Osceola County High Point Riders

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

Powder Players Inc.

P.O. Box 154, Remsen, IA 51050
www.powder-players.com
President: Steven Wiersma
708 Petrich Ave., Sanborn, IA 51248
(712) 461-2774

Sioux County Snowmobile Club

www.siouxcountysnowmobileclub.com
Search Sioux County Snowmobile Club on
Facebook under club info in Iowa Snowmobiler
President: Dave Taylor
313 Hunter Ridge, Rock Valley, IA 51247
(712) 449-5556, Dave.Taylor@interstates.com

REGION TWO

Emmet County Driftbusters

President: Tyson Enerson
4591 195th St., Estherville, IA 51334
Enerson747@gmail.com

Humboldt Sno-Skimmers

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

Kossuth County Drift Skippers

President: Jeremy Walker
1402 170th St., LuVerne, IA 50560-8552
(515) 295-8721, jlkwalk@gmail.com

Palo Alto Rough Riders

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

Sno-Pak

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

REGION THREE

Hancock County Snowmobile Assn.

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

Iowa River Riders

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

Club News

Region 1

O'Brien County Snowtrackers

by Zelda Buse Christensen

High school football playoffs are soon here, soybeans are 95 percent combined, corn harvest is in full swing, some extremely colorful leaves are rapidly falling off the trees, and some nights are pretty nippy.

I recently picked up my spring-ordered 600 E-TEC Skidoo, a couple club members have been talking about doing some signing soon, our president Merv has decided it's time to have a membership meeting soon, SnowGoer has picked its 2015 Snowmobile of the Year, the annual ISSA Convention is scheduled for this month in the far eastern edge of the state—fall activities are leading us into winter.

We need to get ready for SNOW, which we will hopefully get in abundance this year... for a change!

Dickinson County Snowhawks

by Jantina Carney

Greetings from the Iowa Great Lakes! We are gearing up here for our annual Winter Games, which will take place Jan. 23-25. That is a weekend filled with many events. You can check out all the festivities at www.uofowintergames.com. Our club will be putting on some really fun events, including a fun run on Saturday and a radar run and "grudge match" on Sunday...weather permitting of course!!

If you haven't had the opportunity to visit our area, we encourage you to do so! We have over 100 miles of trails that we groom in our area so it's a great place to take the family for a short winter getaway!

We held our fifth annual golf tournament in August, and again this year, it was a great success. This fundraiser helps offset the cost of grooming our trails! Check out our website at www.dickinsoncountysnowhawks.com for additional information on our club!

Let's all do the SNOW DANCE and hope for a great winter of riding!

Region 3

Worth County Fence Stretchers

by Nicole Knudson, secretary

Well, it is that time of year again. Harvest is well underway, the leaves are changing and we are gearing up for yet another snow season! Yippee!!

This past summer, we did not hold monthly club meetings but did see many of our club members out and about! Our club was able to make an appearance at each parade in Worth County this summer to rekindle the snow spirit a bit!

Our club was again able to give the "Tom Coyle Memorial Scholarship" to a deserving graduating senior whose family is a member of our club. This is given each year in remembrance of our friend, Tom Coyle, who is no longer with us but was such a dedicated club member and friend of snowmobiling.

Planning is in the works for our upcoming membership drive, which will be held in November. This is a family night for our club to come together and enjoy supper, raffle and kick the season off!

Well, until next time, happy fall and a safe and bountiful harvest to all!!

Region 4

Cedar Falls Sno Hawks

by Dick Melick, Secretary

Greetings from Cedar Falls. We have had two meetings so far, and by the time you receive this letter, our November meeting will be history and the club will have new officers for 2015.

The Five Star Snow Trails Association IDOT Trail crossing permit applications have been completed and approved by the IDOT. Some trail signing may start soon on segments that are not running across farm fields. We will need to wait on that for completion of harvests.

A problem surfaced in the Janesville area. A bank has purchased property we formerly utilized for a trail to get to the Kwik Star Station in Janesville and is building a new bank on a portion of that property. The trail has been re-routed from 7th St to Barrick Road (by Kwik Star) to run along the west ditch of a newly named street, Wildcat Way. Be sure to follow the signs carefully.

Club News

In the process of securing city approval for the trail, I was advised by the city clerk that the Janesville City Council has asked for complete enforcement of Section 75 of the city code covering snowmobiles. Please be aware of a few items for enforcement:

1. No snowmobile operation between the hours of 10 p.m. to 8 a.m. and the speed limit on city streets is 10 mph.
2. There is a new pedestrian bridge across the Cedar River. If there is obvious indication that snowmobiles have used that bridge, the city council intends to eliminate all snowmobile usage in the city.
3. Be sure to drive only on the street surface, not on sidewalks or the "parking" area between the street and sidewalks.

I realize that this is a bunch of regulations, but it is important, especially to the residents who ride from home to the trail system.

We are making plans to attend the ISSA Convention Nov. 21-23 at the Grand Harbor Resort and Waterpark in Dubuque. Be sure to stop by and check out our table at the Snowmobile Iowa club showcase at the convention.

There will be an ALS Memorial Ride honoring Sno Hawks club founder Dave Carmichael Feb. 26-28. More info will be available later.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, Nov. 3, at our regular meeting place, the Comfort Suites, 7402 Nordic Drive in Cedar Falls. Club meetings are normally held the first Tuesday of the month, September through April starting at 7 p.m. As usual, all interested snowmobilers and ISSA officers and directors are invited to attend any of our meetings.

For more info about our trails, the club and/or meetings, contact club president Brian Carmichael at (319) 215-5006 or secretary Dick Melick at (319) 231-0819.

Region 5

Driftrunners Inc.

by Bob Martinek, treasurer

Hello from Cresco. Well, it has been an interesting fall so far. Mostly just later than we have been used to the last few years. That being said, I am sure the trail bosses will still get all the trails signed and marked. Don't be afraid to volunteer and help them!

As far as November events go, we have three big ones (besides Thanksgiving) planned. First, we start with the Snowmobile Youth Safety Class on November 15 for anyone age 12 or older. Check the Cresco paper or Facebook for contact information on registering your kids. Thanks again in advance to Greg, Theresa and Warren for teaching this class many, many years running.

Second is the ISSA convention in Dubuque Nov. 21-23. This is fairly close and sounds to be a very fun time. As I've said before, it's a great way to see firsthand all the good that the ISSA does for snowmobiling in Iowa.

Then the next weekend on Saturday, Nov. 29, at Kleve's Pub in Cresco, we are having

2014 ACSA Legal Defense Challenge

Eastern Iowa Sledheads	\$1000
Snowdrifters	\$500
North Iowa Sno-Jammers	\$450
Iowa River Riders	\$200
Humboldt Sno-Skimmers	\$100
Chickasaw Sno-Riders	\$100
Cedar Falls Sno Hawks	\$100
Bremer County Sno-Knights	\$100
Sac County Snow Lovers	\$100
Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club	\$100
Tri-County Snowmobile Association	\$100

All donations benefit the American Council of Snowmobile Associations Legal Defense Fund and its fight to keep lands open to snowmobiling across the country.

The ISSA will match club donations up to a total of \$3,000. Send your contribution to: ISSA, c/o Past ACSA President Terry Durby, 42792 160th Ave., Leland, IA 50453. For more information, you can contact Durby at (641) 590-7007 or tdurb@yahoo.com.



ISSA CLUBS

Clubs in red reported
100% ISSA Membership



Lakota Sno-Eagles

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

North Iowa Sno-Jammers

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

North Iowa Snow Seekers

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

Team Iowa Snowmobilers

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

Worth County Fencestretchers

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

REGION FOUR

Bremer County Sno-Knights

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

Cedar Falls Sno Hawks

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

Chickasaw Sno-Riders

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

Dewar Snow Chasers

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

Floyd County Groomers Association

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

Howard County Stump Jumpers

President: Nathan Hale
4145 Hillcrest Dr., Riceville, IA 50466
(641) 985-2699.

Mitchell County E-Z Riders, Inc.,

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

Snow Snoops Snowmobile Club

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

REGION FIVE

Allamakee Sno-Blazers

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

Asbury Snowhawks

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





ISSA CLUBS

Clubs in red reported
100% ISSA Membership

Clayton County Snowbirds

12469 Hwy. 18, Postville, IA 52162
President: Mark Bries
21352 Highway 18, Monona, IA 52159
(563) 539-4555, mbconstruction@neitel.net

Driftrunners, Inc.

Join Us on Facebook under 'Groups'
President: Dean Zakosteelsky
124 Fourth Ave. SW, Cresco, IA 52136
dean@decorahautocenter.com

Dyersville Driftskippers

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

Snow Pioneers

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

Trail Blaz-ers Inc.

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

Trails Unlimited

Trails Unlimited
15778 282nd St., West Union, IA 52175
President: Bud Winter
(319) 231-3337, bwinter@acegroup.cc
Wapsipinicon Snowmobile Association
P.O. Box 802, Independence, IA 50644
www.wsaiaowa.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: Bradley Garrels
307 Adams St., Lake View, IA 51450
(712) 210-4262, garrelsbrad@hotmail.com

REGION SEVEN

High Bridge Trailblazers

President: Jason Moorman
614 West Oak, Ogden, IA 50212
(515) 230-4171, jmmoorman@netins.net

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 Krapf
3614 SW 29th, Ankeny, IA. 50023
(515) 707-7237, ckrapf@gmail.com

Webster County Ice Breakers

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

REGION EIGHT

Central Iowa Snowmobilers

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

Jasper County Ditch Bangers

President: David Huffaker
P/O/ Box 311, Baxter, IA 50028
(641) 511-0622, huffaker-dave@hotmail.com

Club News

our annual Toys for Tots Drive and Kickoff Dance. "No Passengers Allowed" DJ service is once again providing the music starting at 8 p.m. until ?? Admission is a new unwrapped toy or a cash donation. All toys and monies collected are donated locally in time for Christmas. I cannot remember how many years we have been doing this, but I know it has been a long time and it always feels "real good". If for some reason you are unable to attend but wish to donate, just contact myself or any board member and we will get your donation included and delivered.

Well I am not going to ramble on much more other than to list the dates for our 44th Annual Snow Fest as Jan. 22-25. Also, it is true we do have the "Madd Hoss Jackson" band booked for our Snow Fest dance on Jan. 24. Oh and Charlie's Chili Feed will be on Feb. 14. Thanks. Until next time...

Winneshiek Trail Twisters

by Janet Borseth, Reporter

Hello from the Winneshiek Trail Twisters. Autumn can be so unpredictable. Today, we received three inches of rain. Farmers have put harvesting on hold until crops can dry out. As a result, this will put our trail work behind as well.

Most snowmobile riders only have to think about getting their sleds ready for another season of riding. Who clears the wooded trails of the downed trees? Who puts the bridges back over the waterways after the late spring floods? Who signs all 180 miles of trails through fields and valleys? If you have some time this fall, please consider contacting your club trail bosses and volunteer to help. Many hands make for light work. Let's all enjoy the trails.

I want to mention a couple of upcoming events for our club. We will have a Youth Snowmobile Safety Course at Jake's Clubhouse on Nov. 29. If you didn't sign up at our Snow Show, please contact Jake Ludeking at (563) 380-6747 or jakeludeking@gmail.com. Remember the law requires that youth aged 12 to 17 years need to complete this safety course to operate a sled on state trails and public property. Also, save the date for the chili feed, back by popular demand at Mark and Barb Arneson's on Jan. 17 at 3140 US Hwy 52. This has been a very popular event for us in the past, and we look forward to seeing everyone there again.

The clubs in our region are hosting the 41st Annual ISSA Convention in Dubuque Nov 21-23. There is sure to be something for everyone interested in the sport of snowmobiling that weekend.

ISSA Club Challenge

	2014	2015
Wapsipinicon Snowmobile Association.....	\$1000	
Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club.....	\$500	
Floyd County Groomers.....	\$500	
Eastern Iowa Sledheads.....	\$500	
Dickinson County Snowhawks.....	\$400	
Tri-County Snowmobile Association.....	\$351	
Central Iowa Snowmobilers.....	\$350	
Sac County Snow Lovers.....	\$301	\$301
Snow Pioneers.....	\$300	
Humboldt Sno-Skimmers.....	\$300	
Snowmobilers of Jackson County.....	\$300	
Worth County Fencestretchers.....	\$300	
Clayton County Snowbirds.....	\$300	
Bremer County Sno-Knights.....	\$250	
Lyon County Sno-Lyons.....	\$250	
Snowdrifters, Inc.....	\$250	
Chickasaw Sno-Riders.....	\$250	
Jones County Snow Chasers.....	\$201	
Sno-Pak.....	\$200	
Palo Alto Rough Riders.....	\$150	
Winneshiek Trail Twisters.....	\$100	
Driftrunners.....	\$100	
Trails Unlimited.....	\$100	

Fundraising campaign renews at the annual ISSA convention.

All donations benefit the ISSA's lobbying efforts at the State Capitol in Des Moines. Send your contribution to your Region Director or ISSA Treasurer Kim Herman. Contact information can be found in the front half of this magazine.

Club News

Allamakee SnoBlazers

by Brandon Fahey

The Allamakee Sno Blazers have been busy getting ready for the upcoming season. We implemented a Member Challenge in September by asking each member to bring a new or renewing member to the next meeting. We had great participation and doubled our attendance at our October meeting! This challenge will continue next month hoping to keep the ball rolling and increase our overall numbers.

We have also started a sponsorship drive hoping to get new maps printed toward the middle of the season. Once our trails are established, we will work to get them all on GPS and updated prior to printing. Anyone interested in becoming a club sponsor can contact me at snoblazers@yahoo.com or send the \$90, two-year sponsorship to P.O. Box 94, Waukon, IA. We are all hoping for another great season with cold temps and above average snowfalls!

Region 12

Snowdrifters Inc.

By Ron Roe

Hi everyone. One month closer to the snow and the weather we are waiting for. I just had two inches of rain yesterday and six-tenths today; that would have made a nice snow storm if it would have been 45 days later in the season.

Our club has been busy selling sponsorships for our maps. We do this every two years. Out of the business owners that I had to see, I only had one that was not interested in being on the map this time. It seems like some of the small towns are out to stop snowmobiling in their town. Her reason was that she didn't really get snowmobiles to her business because they changed the route in town. The other ones I talked to were more than happy to sign up and pay again. It makes for easy work when they use the same ad as before. At our club meeting, it seemed like most everyone had gotten their sponsors signed up for two more years.

I made a quick run to Hurley and Mercer Wis. last weekend for their annual Pumpkin Run (a large poker run actually). They had a large turnout of ATVs and side-by-sides. They have had a lot of rain and the trails held water and mud real well. I only had trouble getting through one area because of the mud. Most of the trails are rock, sand, or dirty water. This one I hit water about to my knee, and of course, my waterproof shoes don't work when the water comes over the top and fills up my shoe. Was it cold? Most certainly, when it had been 22 degrees overnight and in the 40s most of the day. It was a great time and I ran into some people from the year before. We had some good talks and tales to tell.

I realize our swap meet will be over when this comes out, but we are hoping for good weather and signing up a lot of past members and a lot of new ones. More on that next month. I want to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

November

- Frozen Few grass drags Saturday, Nov. 8, at noon at 812 Iowa Ave., Palo. Gates open at 7 a.m. Registration ends at 10:30 a.m. Radar runs from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. For more information, visit www.frozenfewsnowmobileclub.com.
- Cresco Driftrunners Youth Snowmobile Safety Course Saturday, Nov. 15.
- 41st Annual ISSA Convention Nov. 21-23 at the Grand Harbor Resort in Dubuque.
- ISSA Annual Meeting Saturday, Nov. 22, at 8:30 a.m. in Dubuque.
- Raccoon Valley Snow Chasers sixth annual Curt Flack Memorial grass drag races Saturday, Nov. 22. For more information, contact RVSC president Mike Patten at (515) 669-0473 or mjpat76@aol.com
- Driftrunners Toys for Tots and Kickoff Dance Saturday, Nov. 29, at Kleve's Pub, Cresco.
- Winneshiek Trail Twisters Youth Snowmobile Safety Course Saturday, Nov. 29, at Jake's Clubhouse. For more information, contact club president Jake Ludeking at (563) 380-6747 or jakeludeking@gmail.com.

December

- ISSA Board of Directors meeting at 9 a.m. at Farm Bureau, Hampton.
- Iowa River Riders Youth Snowmobile Safety Course Saturday, Dec. 6, at Mayne's Grove, four miles south of Hampton. For more information, contact 641-425-3247.
- ISSA/IDNR Groomer Operator Recertification Course Dec. 11 at 6:30 p.m. at the Coulter Community Center, Region 3.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ISSA CLUBS

Clubs in red reported
100% ISSA Membership



Tri-County Snowmobile Association, Inc.

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

REGION NINE

Cascade Snow Punchers

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

Eastern Iowa Sno-Riders

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

Frozen Few

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

Jones County Snow Chasers

P.O. Box 492, Anamosa, IA 52205
President: Terry Brownell
8151 Madison Rd., Wyoming IA 52362
(515) 402-3430, terrancebrownell@gmail.com

Snowmobilers of Jackson County

President: Ryan Lott
PO Box 32, Sabula, IA 52070
(563) 687-3037, keshialott@yahoo.com

REGION TEN

Southwest Iowa Snow Scooters

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

REGION ELEVEN

Appanoose County Trails, Inc.

P.O. Box 825, Centerville, IA 52544
Snowmobile Trail Coordinator: Gene Paris
21845 458th St., Centerville, IA 52544
(641) 895-0259, gbpar@sirisonline.com

REGION TWELVE

Cedar County Winter Warriors

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

Eastern Iowa Sledheads

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

Snowdrifters, Inc.

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

Scott County Sno-Seekers

www.snoseekers.org
P.O. Box 2332, Davenport, IA 52809-2332
President: Kevin House
(563) 505-3385, khous805@yahoo.com

Southeast Iowa Ridge Blasters

President: Aaron Dorothy
502 E. Cedar Ln., Mt. Pleasant Ia 52641
(319) 986-5188(h), 319-671-0329 (c)
aarond65@hotmail.com



Grand Rapids

Continued from page 15

Lake for lunch at Melgeorge's. We fueled up here as well and returned to the Arrowhead by early afternoon.

By our calculations, we had covered at least 100 miles on the Arrowhead to this point. We could have continued east on this Corridor 94 for another 35 miles toward Tower to pick up the Taconite for an elongated loop back to Grand Rapids, but we had a dinner date to keep and decided to drop down through Orr and Cook to save some time.

After following a Cook area trail out of town, we eventually picked up the Tim Corey Trail, the Bear Lake Trail and parts of the Taconite before reconnecting with the Herb Brandstrom trail at dusk. It wouldn't be long before we would be enjoying our prime rib dinner at Scenic Pines that night.

After dinner, we began visiting with some of the locals who had ridden their sleds in for the special occasion. One of them ended up being Elmer Cone and his family. Ironically enough, I had met Cone during my only other visit to the area in 2005. Instrumental in establishing many of the trails in the Grand Rapids area, Cone founded the ISHOF in 1984 and emceed the ceremony during Carmichael's induction.

The chance encounter with the local legend definitely made for a small world that evening, and I must admit it was fun listening to Cone—himself a 2007 Hall of Fame inductee—describe the area's trail system's evolution from narrow, brush-filled paths to double-wide snowmobile highways. It was also inspiring to see him ride his snowmobile up from nearby Bovey at his age, complete with his vintage gear and Hall of Fame jacket.

Not to keep his family waiting, we ended the conversation with a handshake, and despite their head start, it didn't take us long to catch up to them out on the trail. They graciously let us by, and we were back in the hotel in Grand Rapids by 9 p.m. Making up for the previous day's delay, we finished Day Four with 234 miles.

Arm-Twisting Pays Off

For three of us, Friday would be our last day to ride in the area. Having ventured north on the Taconite the previous four days, we were itching to try out some new territory so off to the west we went with Bemidji loosely nailed down as our turnaround point. After breakfast in Cohasset, we continued along the Bushwacker

Willey

Continued from page 12

great snowmobile club are wrong or even less effective, we have noticed some particularly good examples of clubs doing things right.

As most of the southern Iowa snowmobile clubs will admit, the further south you go in Iowa, the less confident they can be about having rideable snow from October to April. Southern Iowa clubs always maintain hope for that banner year, but realistically are happy with amounts of snow that make the northern tier of counties scoff at as a "dusting." Nonetheless, these clubs faithfully meet, plan and execute the business of snowmobiling, and I would go so far as suggest that it takes as much time to plan and map, negotiate with landowners, build, sign and maintain a southern Iowa trail as it does a northern Iowa trail, but with significantly less expectation for the number of days the trail will be rideable.

Those who maintain the vigil of trail building year in and year out, with as many bad snow years as good, (or even more bad than good) are a special breed of snowmobilers, and my hat comes off to you.

This does certainly not diminish the efforts of those northern Iowa areas that see more good snow years than bad, and we all

Trail toward Lake Winnibigoshish and then followed the Winnie Trail south toward Federal Dam and Corridor 80.

By the time we finished eating and fueling, the clock read 3 p.m. so any thought of continuing on west to Bemidji disappeared. Instead, we turned back east on Corridor 80 and followed this rail-trail to Hill City, located 18 miles south of Grand Rapids. Thanks to this quick ride, we made it to Hill City before nightfall and spent a longer than normal warm-up break there.

From Hill City, Corridor 41 led us back north past the Driftskippers clubhouse and the Wendigo Lodge before landing us on the hotel spur back into Grand Rapids. Mileage for this day exceeded 190 miles, so had we gone on to Bemidji, we would have approached 300 miles. Overall the five-day escapade ended with 803 miles on the odometer.

So impressed with the trail system that two guys stayed back and put on another 600 miles over the next three days before returning to Iowa. One even brought his wife back for a couple of days of uncongested riding. I guess my arm-twisting paid off.



Second groomer sighting of the week, courtesy of the 38ers snowmobile club near Grand Rapids

know that when the snow is poor in Iowa City, Des Moines or Sioux City, there will be a lot more sleds on the trails at Waterloo, Okoboji and Decorah. The only advantage I can see for the southern Iowa clubs is that their sign posts do not have to be as tall.

I cannot end this message without giving credit to the one person that I absolutely could not have completed this challenge without—my First Lady of Iowa Snowmobiling for the past two years, my wife Becky. Becky has attended every meeting, driven when I could not; kept notes and promises I would have missed, and made the commitments and experience much more enjoyable. As my snowmobiling and life partner since 1977, I could not have done this without her. Thank you, Becky.

So there you have it, folks. I have enjoyed meeting you, working with you, fighting for you and, in some cases, fighting with you—all in the name of furthering snowmobiling in Iowa. I love Iowa, and I love Iowa snowmobiling. I will go other places to ride, further north, out west and out east, but most of my miles will be on these Iowa trails made possible by the pure passion of Iowa-stubborn snowmobilers who get itchy this time of year, wanting to see the crops get out and the trails go in. Looking forward to those first flakes giving way to swirling white, and the first miles of the season on a perfect white and blue day or a star studded moonlit night of white. This is Iowa snowmobiling. It is what we do.


REGION 1

Glen's Sport Center, Inc.
208 16th St., Sheldon, IA 51201
glens1@qwestoffice.net

**Project Mayhem
Power Sports**

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

REGION 2

Byron's

112 S Main St., Pomeroy, IA 50575
(712) 468-2372
www.byronsbar.com
Best live music in northwest Iowa!

Fonda Golf

13251 Hwy 7, Fonda, IA 50540
(712) 288-6419, www.fondagolf.com
Family rec center.

J & K Snowmobile

2703 7th Ave. S., Estherville, IA 51334
(712) 362-3031

KDM Trucking

Ken Miller
2726 220th St., Manson, IA 50563
(515) 408-8001
kdmtrucking@hotmail.com

Rasmuson Electric

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

Ramthun Trucking, Inc

2271 Upland Ave., Manson, IA 50563
(515) 480-3970

Sedlacek

Snowmobile Salvage

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

**Southern Calhoun
Ag Services, Inc.**

3598 Ogden Ave., Lohrville, IA 51453
tom.mcclue@plantpioneer.com

Vinny's BBQ

P.O. Box 118, Dakota City, IA 50529
(515) 332-2046

REGION 3

Advance Concrete

420 Helgren St., Thompson, IA 50478
(641) 584-2080

Agvantage FS

206 Ash St., Thornton, IA 50479
(641) 998-2112
rhalsne@agvantagefs.com

Allen Seed and Grain

2059 Olive Ave, Sheffield, IA 50475
(641) 892-4058

**Antique Pontiac
Parts & Accessories**

14083 P Ave.
Iowa Falls, IA 50126-8686
641-648-9086

Auto Parts Wholesale

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

Buffalo Lanes, LLC

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

Chappy's on Main

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

Crystal Lake Bar

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

Countryside Turf & Timber

11328 Hwy 65, Iowa Falls, IA 50126
(641) 648-2382
countrysidet@prairieinnet.net

Dave's Auto Service

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

DK Arndt, PC

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

Don's Motor Mart

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

Donna's Lounge

427 1st St, Meservey, IA 50457-1004

Dows Farmers Coop

304 Ellsworth, PO Box 410
Dows, IA 50071
(515) 852-4136

Duck's Bar & Grill

112 E Main/PO Box 4
Aredale, IA 50605
(641) 894-3312, ducksbar@live.com

Dudley's Corner

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

Dura Clean by Doug

1003 S. Washington
Lake Mills, IA 50450
(641) 592-5772

E & E Repair

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

Fahrman

Plumbing & Heating

1678 Grouse Ave, Latimer, IA 50452
(515) 290-9605

Farm & City Insurance

PO Box 248, Forest City, IA 50436
(641) 585-2925
www.rvadvantage.com

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

**Goody's Welding
& Metal Art**

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

Gorder's Service

201 Main St PO Box 95
Bradford, IA 50041
(641) 425-0975

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

Hometown Pizza & Pub

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

House of Sports

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

Howie Equipment

Trailer & Tire Sales
1273 Mallard Ave, Hampton, IA
50441 (641) 456-5651

Jed's Jalopy Joint

2059 Olive Ave, Sheffield, IA 50475
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