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#### ABOUTUS

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# **SNOWMOBILER**

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

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## **King Delivers** Message from ACSA

Organization signs Forest Service memorandum, receives federal grant



### New Region Layout Approved by Board

ISSĀ reduces two regions to improve meeting attendance; convention sponsors sought



### Reviewing Last Season, Predicting this Winter

State climatologist provides historical data, insight to shortened riding season



### Iconic Roadside Attraction Reached by Sled

Motivated by photo from youth, snowmobile trip to Bemidji crossed off list



# 2016-17 Magazine Deadlines

Nov. 18
Dec. 9
Jan. 20
Feb. 17

#### More Inside...

- News Briefs
- Calendar of Events
- Club News
- Associate Members
- Platinum Sponsors



COVER: Aaron Peterson of St. Michael, Minn., motors around the snow-covered evergreens of Itasca County during a trip there with friends from Iowa last February. See related story on page 13.

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# Remembering the Past Prepares Us for the Future

It's the start of another snowmobile season in Iowa. The leaves have changed, the air is crisp and cool and the farmers are in the fields. Snowmobile clubs across Iowa are getting together and getting ready to mark trails. The ISSA convention is just weeks away.

Fall is a time for traditions. We all have traditions unique to our families, and this time of year is when a lot of those traditions are carried out. They are simple yet cherished things we do. One of my favorites in our home is Annie's chicken noodle soup. I have tried to get her to make it at different times of the year, but she will only make it if the leaves have started to drop and the chill of fall is in the air. There is nothing better than walking in the house after

Vice

**President's** 

Message

work to the smell of homemade chicken noodle soup.

As snowmobilers, we have traditions as well. Getting

our sleds out of storage, the trail signs out, trails mowed, groomers serviced are just a few of the traditions we have as a snowmobile family. In last month's column, I talked about how we need to be ready and adapt to changes in our sport to ensure the future of snowmobiling.

We also need to remember our past as well. Just a few weeks ago, one of the pioneers and founders of this sport, David Johnson, passed away. It got me thinking. How many people even knew who he was? I asked a few people and I read the comments on "Spacebook," and what I thought to be the case was true. Very few people knew who he was. I don't care what brand you ride, if it wasn't for this guy and others like him, we wouldn't be out there in the snow having fun.

Okay, so you're asking yourself, "Where ya going with this Chris?" It's simple: Take some time and ask the guys that have been around this sport awhile in your club or at convention about the stuff they've done. Ask them where they've ridden. What sleds were their favorites? It will give you some insight to the history of the sport, your club and the ISSA. It will help the history of snowmobiling continue to be remembered. We can't have a successful future without remembering our past and where we came

At convention this year, we have had to adapt a little bit. Just like clubs have seen less interest, the vendors and exhibitors for Snow Show have had less interest in coming. But this has given us the chance to

try something new. We want to give ISSA members the opportunity to bring their favorite snowmobile-related item and show it off in our 'Show & Shine' area. This can be a vintage sled, a custom-built sled or any other type of snowmobile item. This will be open for everyone to see on Sat-



**Chris Willey** ISSA Vice President

urday of convention weekend. There will be an award for the best display. Clubs are encouraged to bring a display to show off their trails and area. This is a great way to bring people to your area to ride.

As we get started on the season, please let me know of events you have going on in

your areas. I am always looking for somewhere new to ride and people to ride with.

This is my last column as your ISSA vice president. I have been honored to serve in this position and look forward to the next two years as president. This isn't my association...it's YOURS, the snowmobilers. If you want to see improvements or changes, let me know, and we can work together to make them happen.

Hope to see everyone at convention.

# Official Notice of ISSA **Elections & Proposed By-Law Changes**



Officers & Directors from Even-Numbered Regions

#### When:

General Membership Assembly ISSA Annual Convention, Nov. 19

#### Where:

Five Sullivan Brothers Convention Center, Waterloo, IA

# ACSA Update

Organization signs Memorandum of Understanding with Forest Service, awarded national grant

The American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA) was formed in 1995. Its membership is made up of most of the snow states in the U.S., business members and individual members.

The purpose of ACSA is to unite all of the states to act as one voice which gives us more power with our numbers when working with Legislators and other recreation groups. This is the same theory states use to help them get more done in

> Guest Column

the state legislature and to get more members. Numbers are important! The only difference

is we work on a national level to help keep snowmobiling open in areas such as Yellowstone National Park.

In April of 2016, we signed a Memorandum of Understanding to work even more closely with the National Forest Service on forest issues. Nearly all snow states have national forests involved in their trail systems.

Now with the Forest Services' new Over the Snow Travel Management Plan that all forests have to do, it is very important to work even more closely with your forest district rangers and supervisors to keep the trails open in your national forest.

You may wonder how ACSA funds all of their activities. We get some financial help from the snowmobile manufacturers, and family memberships are only \$10 per family. There are varying amounts for other categories.

One of our largest money-makers is the sale of our Cash Calendars. The calendars only cost \$20 each with a payback of at

**2016 AGSA Leg** 

Defense Challenge

Floyd County Groomers.....\$200

Iowa River Riders.....\$100

Allamakee Sno-Blazers.....\$100

Proceeds benefit snowmobile

access nationwide. Contact your

Region Director to make a donation.

least \$20 per day, in addition to larger prizes throughout the year. We also have a Silent Auction at the International Snowmobile Congress each year which has turned into a great fundraiser.

Another funding avenue is contributions from snowmobile clubs. When the ACSA Legal Defense Fund was set up, a lot of

**Bob King** Council Bluffs Chair, Midwest Chapter of ACSA

clubs made major contributions to help get it funded. After it was set up, many clubs continued to make contributions. some of them to the ACSA general fund and some to the ACSA Legal Defense Fund. Since both the Legal Defense and the ACSA general funds are 501(c)3 charitable, they can be used as tax deductions by the donors.

This has to be an ongoing fundraising function. The last lawsuit we were involved with totaled over \$200,000, and ACSA spent over \$60,000. With all of the new Forest Plans implementing the Over the Snow Rule that must be done, we are sure there will be more lawsuits.

One way you can help our funding without actually having to take any money out of your pocket is three different online shopping locations that give money back to ACSA. All you need to do is designate ACSA on their web page to make a contribution to a qualified 501(c)3 organization. Those websites are Goodshop. com, AmazonSmile.com and Igive.com

Please go into our web page at Snowmobile.org and check out all of the information that is available for everyone's use. Check out the advertisers at the top of the page, look at their web pages and they will also reimburse ACSA.

#### FHWA Grant Award

Our biggest accomplishment in 2016 is a new Federal Highways Grant in the amount of \$100,000 per year with a \$25,000 match from ACSA. No, we cannot just take the money and put it into our checking account and use as we want to, but it helps us put out more information for you folks to use for safety and access. This is a five-year grant so that will be a total of \$500,000 over five years.

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ISSA Members Bob and Judy King of Council Bluffs won this snowmobile-themed bench at the 2016 International Snowmobile Congress in Rapid City, S.D., last June. The bench was auctioned off by the International Snowmobile Media Council with proceeds benefitting its C.J. Ramstad Memorial Scholarship. Formerly from Minnesota, the Kings are actively involved in organized snowmobiling with Bob currently serving as chair of the Midwest Chapter of the American Council of Snowmobile Associations.

Go to SnowmobileInfo.org to see all the different information that has been published so far. If you read all the information on this page, you will be busy for a long time.

Another very important snowmobilerelated group is FOSPAC which stands for the Friends of Snowmobiling Political Action Committee. This is money that can be donated to a national political candidate running for office in Washington DC. It cannot be given to state legislators, only those people seeking national office.

Last but not least, ACSA has educational webinars for anyone that wants to participate in them and they are free of charge. Please go and check out the following websites mentioned earlier at snowmobileinfo.org and snowmobile.org. I can be reached by email at Rek4cb@gmail.com.



Members of the Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club of Region 7 helped staff the ISSA booth at the Spina Bifida Association of Iowa's Walk-N-Roll in Des Moines Oct. 15.



# 

Polaris co-founder David Johnson passed away Oct. 8 in Roseau, Minn., after an extended illness. He was 93 years old.

Since he helped start Polaris in the early 1950s, David focused his career on product engineering and manufacturing. He developed a deep connection with Polaris employees during his four-plus decades with the company. In the years following his retirement in 1988, he remained one of the faces of Polaris as he enjoyed visiting the Roseau manufacturing facility and often gave tours at the Polaris Experience Center located near the plant.

"David Johnson embodied the Polaris culture and work ethic, and his positive impact on the company continues to inspire us today," said Polaris Chairman and CEO Scott Wine. "David valued hard work, passion for the riding experience and an unwavering spirit of innovation. He set a tremendous example with his dedication and commitment to the company and employees. We are saddened by his passing and offer our sincere condolences to Eleanor and David's family and friends."

After working together for a few years, David and his two cousins, Edgar and Allan Hetteen, officially founded Polaris in 1954. Polaris produced a variety of products, including several agricultural products such as straw cutter attachments for combines. But David Johnson and several co-workers who were avid outdoorsmen envisioned a vehicle—a snow machine—they could use in winter to reach their remote hunting shacks. In late 1955, David and his cohorts created the first Polaris snowmobile, a machine that made its first run across a snowy Roseau field in January 1956.

Polaris began producing snowmobiles and helped create the global market for the versatile winter machines. David later said that while Polaris did not invent the snow machine, the company was the first to successfully market snowmobiles. By the time he retired in 1988, the company had begun to diversify and was also producing and marketing off-road vehicles.

inducted David was into the International Snowmobile Hall of Fame in 1999, and he received numerous honors from snowmobile clubs and associations worldwide.

He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Eleanor, and their children, Rodney, Mary, Mitchell and Aaron. All Polaris employees were named honorary pallbearers.



Pictured here in June of 2007, Polaris co-founder David Johnson poses with a restored Polaris Sno-Traveler Ranger on display at the Polaris Experience Center in Roseau, Minn. Johnson's brother-in-law and business partner, Edgar Hetteen, rode a Ranger on a 1960 snowmobile expedition to Alaska to prove the viability of a snowmobile as dependable winter transportation. Johnson, Hetteen and other company officials retraced the 900mile trek in March of 2000.

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# **Board Reduces ISSA Regions by Two**

# Dorothy up to challenge of enlarged territory

#### by Cameron Hanson

**2016 ISSA** 

**Preview** 

Convention

Club President Aaron Dorothy of the Southeast Iowa Ridge-Blasters first heard the whistle blowing at the September ISSA Board of Directors meeting; and in October, he officially climbed

aboard the train which was steaming through his area.

Joking tongue-in-cheek of the "railroad job" from the board, Dorothy has graciously accepted the directorship for the ISSA's

Region 10, a move that tripled his territory and the time commitment it will take to serve his constituents.

"I strive to be good at whatever it is I'm doing," Dorothy said afterwards. "I hope to be a good region director, whether it's making a club's voice be heard or being present at each club's individual meetings. I feel it will be a great challenge with my farthest club being 4.5 hours away, but I always enjoy a good challenge. "



ISSA Region 10 Director

Previously agreeing to serve Region 12, Dorothy is now responsible for five

snowmobile clubs from the Missouri River on the west to the Mississippi River on the east, all south of Interstate 80 in the bottom tier of the state.

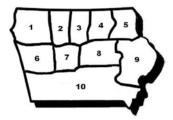
The New HUSKY **ELETINIMOTION** The Trail Leader PRINOTH'S OFFICIAL DEALER FOR IOWA THE SHOP INDUSTRIAL INC. 112 FIELDING ROAD, LIVELY, ONT. -800-663-3724

As discussed in September and approved in October, the ISSA Board of Directors has eliminated Regions 11 and 12 and absorbed those areas into the new Region 10. The board then lengthened Region 9 south to Highway 22, with Dorothy's club and the Eastern Iowa Sledheads remaining in the new region from old Region 12.

"Regions 1 through 8 remain unchanged," explained Past ISSA President Jim Willey. "The net change is Region 9 goes from five

clubs to eight clubs, and Region 10 is enlarged geographically but only has five total clubs."

The move is designed to increase the odds for a quorum being present at monthly board meetings. Attendance has been light at most meetings this year, and the board has struggled to attract enough



directors to conduct its business. Reducing the regions now means only seven officers and directors need to be present to constitute a quorum versus eight.

As explained in the October issue, when a quorum is not present or is doubtful during pre-meeting roll call by email, the board either needs to move into a "Committee as a Whole" or reschedule the meeting to an online conference call, which was the case for both September and October.

"This is the exact reason we need to change the region layout and the importance of recruiting active region directors and assistants," responded ISSA Vice President Chris Willey when learning the October meeting would need to resort to a webinar format.

The region boundaries are defined in the ISSA's Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). Those changes can be made at any time, according to ISSA By-Law/SOP Committee Chair Dick Melick. Two sections in the ISSA's By-Laws will need to be updated later this month to make the change official.

'We can go ahead with this change now, but the by-laws will have to be edited and approved at the November convention," Melick noted during the call last month.



by Dec. 1 are eligible to win a five-night, two-person vacation package to The Timbers Resort on Lake Gogebic in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Valued at \$800, 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 the drawing. An ISSA membership application is available online at www.iowasnowmobiler.com and on page 21.

#### **Third Weekend in November**

This year's convention will be held Nov. 18-20 at the Five Sullivan Brothers Convention Center in Waterloo. The by-law changes will need to ratified Saturday morning during the General Membership Assembly.

Also at that time, members will be tasked with electing a new vice president as Chris Willey moves up the ranks to ISSA president. When that happens, he and Jim Willey will be become the first father-son tandem to lead the organization in Iowa.

Willey's election as president will also mark the end of current president Merv Hoermann's second two-year term with the ISSA. Hoermann previously served in 2007-08 and was re-elected to the top post in 2014. Despite being the first member to serve the ISSA in two separate terms, Hoermann said he has mixed feelings as he prepares to step down.

"I don't know if I am any prouder of this term than my last term. It's like with anything, your first time in, there's always a learning curve; but with this second term, it should have been easier. I'm not sure what I really wanted to accomplish or if I did accomplish much," he said. "I did try to lead the organization the best I could with the circumstances we were given."

Hoermann admitted to being frustrated with the transition

# **Convention** ponsorships Sought

Please consinder supporting the 2016 ISSA Annual Convention with a financial contribution.

"This is a great opportunity to showcase your club and make our convention an event to remember." the convention planning committee said in announcing the fundraising campaign. "All sponsors will receive recognition for any sponsorship given. All sponsorships are available on a first-come basis."

### Donor

Gold Sponsor	\$2000
Corporate Sponsor	
Silver Sponsor	

#### Convention

Friday Night Hor'douerves	3 @ \$300
Saturday Night Entertainment	
Seminar Programs	
Photographer	\$700 or 2 @ \$350
Program Printing	\$250
Name Badges	\$250
Groomer Reception	\$500

### **Awards Banquet**

Family Award	. \$200
Youth Award	. \$200
Young Adult Award	. \$200
Dealer Award	. \$200
Snowmobiler Award	. \$200
Lady Snowmobiler Award	\$200
Groomer Award	
Club Award	

Please contact Sally Carmichael at snohawk101@ ymail.com to secure your sponsorship spot.

# 43rd ISSA Annual Convention

Nov. 18-20, 2016

**Five Sullivan Brothers Convention Center, Waterloo** 

Tentative Agenda

#### FRIDAY, November 18

4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Convention Registration

"Snowmobile Iowa" Club Showcase setup Show-N-Shine and Snow Show setup

7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Hospitality

#### SATURDAY, November 19

8:15 a.m. to 10 a.m. Convention Registration 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ISSA Snow Show **Opening Remarks** 8:30 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.

Region Meetings/Director Elections 8:50 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. 9:35 a.m. to 11 a.m. General Membership Annual Meeting

11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Lunch w/Lobbyist Update

Silent Auction opens 1 p.m. 1 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. ACSA Update 1:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. Snowmobile Iowa 2 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Youth in Snowmobiling 2:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. ISSA Scholarship Foundation 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. IDNR Open Forum

5 p.m. Social Hour

Silent Auction Closes 6 p.m.

6 p.m. Dinner

7:30 p.m. Awards Presentations, Drawings, Quilt Raffle & Grand Raffle Drawing

9 p.m. Entertainment

#### SUNDAY, November 20

ISSA Board Meeting 9 a.m.

# ISSA Charity Fundraiser

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

The Chippewa Flowage resort is working with the ISSA on its charity raffle prize of a three-night, sixperson 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 Director Matt Trunkhill at (515) 320-0737 or mtrunk@wctatel.com.

The winner will be drawn at the November ISSA convention.

in management with the state snowmobile program at the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) earlier this year as well as with the change in accounting practices that resulted in \$80,000 fewer grant dollars being available to clubs this season.

"It just seems like we haven't been given a lot of information on what's going on," he said.

Similar to attendance at board meetings, two poor riding seasons during his term has also hurt membership in the ISSA, which in turn has affected the ISSA's budget. Hoermann also noted the IDNR has also cut its grant that it awards annually to the ISSA's Emergency Funding Committee to help pay for in-state travel for groomer training and field work.

"There's hardly anything we do anymore that's reimbursable through the DNR," Hoermann said. "What has been happening to the association does not look good for my legacy. We really need to change our ways of paying for stuff around here. We can't have an open checkbook policy anymore."

#### **Convention Sponsors Sought**

On the topic of funding, the ISSA's Convention Planning Committee is looking for sponsorships from clubs to help cover convention expenses this year. An email from Chris Willey has been circulated to the board to identify which areas need assistance. Donations ranging from \$200 for award plaques to \$1,000 to cover the Saturday evening entertainment are being solicited.

"This is a great opportunity to showcase your club and make our convention an event to remember," the committee said in announcing the fundraiser. "All sponsors will receive recognition for any sponsorship given, and all sponsorships are available on a first-come basis."

Email Sally Carmichael at snohawk101@ymail.com to secure a spot or for a list of remaining sponsorship opportunities. A complete rundown is posted on page 9. Items are also being sought



Club Showcase Nov. 19, 2016 • 9 - 5 Five Sullivan Brothers **Convention Center** Waterloo, IA

Attention, ISSA Clubs: Showcase Your Trails, Generate Membership. Sign Up for a Booth Today. It's Free. Award for Top Display!

Please RSVP by Nov. 1. Electricity Extra. To register, fill out form below.

Snowmo	bile Club			
Region_	Contact Person			
Phone_	Email_			
Address				
City		State	Zip	

Please include \$45 for electricity if required. Mail completed registration form to:

**ISSA Convention** c/o Sally Carmichael 1216 Ashworth #4 Cedar Falls, IA 50613

Free AdMission!

For more information, contact Scott Nauman at (641) 425-9898 or sdnauman04@gmail.com or Brian Carmichael at (319) 215-5006 or snohawk68@gmail.com.





for the Silent Auction fundraiser, and clubs are requested to seek out their member dealers and business partners for donations.

#### **Snow Show Changes**

The lackluster riding conditions in Iowa lately are also hurting interest in the ISSA's free Snow Show planned for the Saturday of convention weekend. Despite a few local dealers which are locked in to display late model snowmobiles, very few vendors have committed to attending. To compensate, the committee is looking to shake up the format and expand the platform.

"We are adding some new aspects to the snow show this year," Willey said. "We are asking that all clubs bring a display to convention to be a featured part of the event. We are also adding a 'Show 'N Shine' aspect to the show and want you bring your snowmobile-related items to show off. We want you to show off your love for snowmobiling."

Items for the Show 'N Shine display can range from vintage and unique custom sleds to retro gear and snowmobile memorabilia.

As Willey indicated, the annual Snowmobile Iowa showcase will be absorbed into the snow show this year as well. This longstanding tradition has been around since 2004 and serves as a

43rd ISSA Annual Convention Nov. 18-20, 2016 **Five Sullivan Brothers Convention Center, Waterloo** Registration Form Name: Address: City:\_\_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: Email: Snowmobile Club: Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Check all that apply: Full Registration: \$65/person Friday only Registration: \$15 Saturday only Registration: \$50/person Youth Registration: \$30/person (under 12) Full Convention Registration Includes: Friday night hospitality and entertainment Saturday lunch Saturday afternoon seminars · Saturday evening banquet, awards ceremony & entertainment

Please Note: Registration fees DO NOT include lodging. For hotel rooms, contact the Ramada Inn at (319) 233-7560. Be sure to ask

for the ISSA rate of \$79.95 plus tax.

Mail completed form and payment to:

ISSA Convention

1216 Ashworth #4

c/o Sally Carmichael

Cedar Falls, IA 50613

platform for clubs to share information on their trail systems and brag about their riding areas back home. Please fill out the form on page 10 if your club is planning on staffing a booth at the show. An award will be given to the top display.

If you have any questions regarding the silent auction, snow show or sponsorship opportunities, please contact Willey at (563) 920-9010 or fellow committee members Scott Nauman at (641) 425-9898 or Brian Carmichael at (319) 215-5006.







# Reliving Last Year's Riding Season; Looking Ahead to this Winter

#### by Cameron Hanson

espite a promising start to the season, the winter of 2015-16 failed to sustain the early momentum created by a pre-Thanksgiving snowstorm, and a mid-February meltdown eventually condensed the riding season down to a mere six-week period for most of Iowa last year.

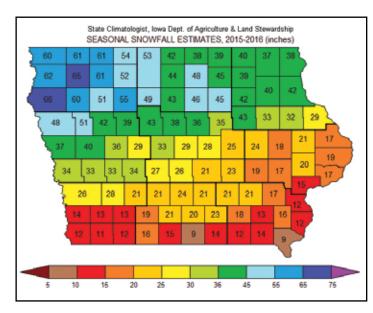
As snow events were closely followed by warming trends throughout the winter months, the fickle weather forced the cancellations or postponements of several snowmobile-related activities across the state, including the Dave Carmichael Memorial Ride for the second year in a row.

In north central Iowa, the Jack Race at Clear Lake had to be pushed back a few weeks in order for lake ice conditions to improve, while most of the sled activities planned for the University of Okoboji Winter Games at Spirit Lake were cancelled due to poor ice and snow conditions at Lake Okoboji.

"All snowmobile events for Winter Games weekend had to be cancelled except for the Youth 120 rides at the Polaris factory in town," reported Region 1 Director Dan Delperdang, a member of the host club, Dickinson County Snowhawks.

Also in northwest Iowa, the Emmet County Driftbusters were forced to cancel its cross-country races at Wallingford the third weekend in February. "We plan on trying again next year," the club posted optimistically on its Facebook page after announcing the news.





Among the few bright spots from last winter were the Driftrunners' Snowfest in Region 5 the last weekend in January and the Marlin Benson Memorial Fun Run the first weekend of February. As featured in the March issue of this publication, both events enjoyed above-average trail conditions and attendance.

#### Seasonal Snowfall Met Statewide Average

In fact, for members of the Webster County Ice Breakers, the host club for the Benson ride, they had been enjoying decent riding conditions since Christmas and even rode for a few days before Thanksgiving, club member Nancy Lundgren observed.

As travelers to the 2015 ISSA Convention at Storm Lake will recall, a wide ban of snow swept across Iowa from the west Nov. 20-21, dumping an average of 10 inches of snow along Highway 20 and north. According to the Iowa Climatology Bureau, 16 inches of snow fell in Butler County and 15 inches of snow arrived in Lyon County during this pre-season storm.

Overall, the statewide average snowfall from this system was 5.9 inches, the largest single-storm total so early in the season since November of 1957, reported State Climatologist Harry Hillaker. Another storm on Nov. 30 brought more snow to northwest Iowa, but most of it was gone before the holidays.

"Despite two large early season events, little snow remained on the ground beyond the first week of December," Hillaker noted.

The next system to produce measurable snow in Iowa arrived on Christmas Eve. Heavy snow fell along a narrow band from Council Bluffs to Ames, and totals reached the teens in Harrison County. Snow also fell on the days leading up to New Year's with six to 10 inch totals common over the north half of the state.

"January brought seasonably cold weather and allowed the late December snowfall to remain on the ground through most of the month," Hillaker said. "However, January itself did not bring any new snowfall of significance. "

Heavy snow returned in early February with six inches or more falling in northwest Iowa Feb. 2-3. Despite a dusting here and there, significant snowfall did not return to Iowa until an early spring event dumped 15 inches at LeMars and 14 inches at Sioux City March 23-24.

'There were several light snow events through the middle of February," Hillaker observed. "However, an extended period of mild weather beginning Feb. 15 melted most of Iowa's snow cover within a week."

While the trails may not have shown it, last winter did reach the state's annual average of snowfall of 32 inches for the year, but the mercury in the thermometer failed to play ball, Turn to page 18



# Overnight ride to Bemidji fulfills 40-year-old wish list

#### by Cameron Hanson

A photograph can be a memory's best friend. So when my uncle passed away last March and the family asked me to write a few reflections on his life for the funeral service, my thoughts immediately turned to the family album which used to rest on the end table at my grandmother's house during my youth.

One picture in particular from that collection had always stood out to me and eventually became the inspiration for my latest snowmobile vacation up north.

My uncle was an avid fisherman, and several photos—many of which were also on display at the funeral home—depicted their family trips to the lakes of Minnesota. The frame which always caught my adolescent eye was that of my cousins showcasing their week's catch during a trip to Bemidji in the 1970s.

It wasn't the size of the fish that fascinated me but rather the size of the iconic figures in the background: a colossal statue of Paul Bunyan and his blue ox, Babe. To a six-year-old who had rarely ventured outside Mitchell and Worth counties in northern Iowa, that photograph with the imposing lumberjack certainly made a lasting impression.

Forty years would pass before I would be able see the statues in person, and I was finally able to cross that tourist spot off my bucket list last February, one month before my uncle's death. Always a fan of destination riding, two previous attempts to reach Bemidji by sled were thwarted in 2007 and 2013, but this time, we were able to reach the historic roadside attraction.

#### Base camp at Nashwauk

Perhaps it's too early to start thinking about a bucket list in my life already, but the grey hair in the mirror and the calendar on the wall might be trying to tell me something different. Touring the trails to Bemidji was my only condition for our trip last season, and the three of us agreed to stay at a cabin in Nashwauk 30 miles northeast of Grand Rapids and complete an overnight run there at some point during our five days in northern Minnesota.

Last season's trip also rekindled our tradition of taking snowmobile vacations over Super Bowl weekend. Off and on for the past 15 years, this had been the preferred time to plan for a trip, and with February failing to hold any snow in Iowa for much longer, the first weekend of the month seemed appropriate to head north.

As dismal as the season was becoming back home, our fortunes were observably much better than our neighbors to the north. Once north of Owatonna, the snowcover dissipated to the point of non-existence as we trailered through central Minnesota. Trail reports researched earlier in the week kept our spirits high, though, and we pressed on into Itasca County, where the snow was abundant.

We arrived at our cabin late afternoon, Feb. 4, and before long, we were breaking a path down the ditch to the nearest trail intersection a mile away. The connection was fairly straightforward, but fearing any covered obstacles in the snow, we were uncharacteristically careful as our sleds meandered down the power lines to reach the turnoff.

As with most of our trips, the goal for the first day was more about getting our bearings than pounding the trails. We managed to find our way to the nearest town to fuel up and eat dinner before heading back to the cabin for an early night. The next morning would be our 200-mile run to Paul Bunyan's birthplace, and this photojournalist wanted to make sure we made it there by nightfall to record the occasion.

#### **Following the Paul Bunyan Trail**

On the trail the following morning around 8 a.m., we followed a local path for about eight miles before reaching the Lud Mandich Trail and eventually the Lawron Trail. Lawron would lead us to



Matt Wilde of Ankeny emerges from the Bushwaker Trail en route to Bemidji.

the Clearwater Trail, which we followed south before splitting off toward Cohasset for an early lunch. After following Highway 2 on the Bushwacker Trail, we picked up the Winnie Trail and followed it south and around the massive Lake Winnibigoshish near Federal Dam

At this point, trails were beginning to thin out, but they were still manageable and tolerable. Besides, we weren't going to turn around at that point anyway. Determined, we eventually picked up the Soo Line Trail (Corridor 80) and followed it through Cass



Crossing the trail bridge into Bemidji

Lake until its merger with the Paul Bunyan Trail (Corridor 37) south of Bemidji. Given that trail's moniker, we knew we were closing on our featured destination for the day.

With the sun appearing lower in the west, we wasted little time in order to reach the legendary statue before dusk. There was no trail

and no signs leading to roadside attraction, but we didn't think it would be too hard to locate an 18-foot statue. After tooling up and down the local town spur, we eventually jumped onto Lake Bemidji and found it near the Tourism Information Center on the lake's south shore.

As proudly promoted on the town's website, Bemidji is billed as the birthplace of Paul Bunyan, and the concrete structures—erected in 1937—are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Local officials claim the pair are the second most photographed roadside attraction in the nation.

When we arrived at the statues, there was no ceremony. No bear hugs around the giant's legs. Just a few pictures with the cell phone to mark the occasion, and I was satisfied to cross another destination off my list.

#### Off to Longville

At this point, we needed fuel so back across the lake we went and over to the gas station we descended. After playing Frogger to cross the divided highway with our sleds, we turned back south from Bemidji down the PBT.

However, once we reached the intersection with the Soo Line Trail, we opted to continue south, hoping for better trail conditions and creating a southern loop for the second day of our run. The rail-trail brought us along the Paul Bunyan State Forest before dumping us off onto Leech Lake at Walker. There, we skirted the shoreline before emerging on the south end for a late dinner at Charlie's.

After fueling our bellies and our sleds again, we continued south on a local trail before picking up Trail 93 to Longville, the home of famed snocross racer and stunt rider Levi LaVallee. We finally settled into our hotel room just before midnight with 212 miles showing for the day.

The following morning brought a little easier ride back to the cabin with bright sunlight and improving trail conditions as we followed Trail 93 east to the Lost Girl Trail. This spur would eventually return us to the Soo Line Trail and back onto the Itasca County trail map. After dinner in Remer, we followed the Soo to Hill City and picked up the Rabey Trail to Jacobsen.

There, we connected with the Greenway Trail to the Goodland Trail before Corridor 76 brought us to the Nashwauk Trail intersection. At this point, we had basically looped all the way around Grand Rapids and would be back at the cabin shortly, eventually ending the day with another 123 miles on the books.

#### **Retaining Our Man Card**

Day 4 was Super Bowl Sunday and a quick run up the Taconite Trail (Corridor 80) was in store for the three of us. A fresh snow had fallen overnight, and we pretty much had the trails to ourselves. Given the day of the week we were on, you could have even called the trail conditions heavenly.

Our first traffic for the day came at the intersection of the Herb Brandstrom Trail where a local couple told us, "There's nothing better than a Sunday morning ride on the Taconite." Their plans were a little more ambitious than ours for the day as they were continuing on for an overnight in Ely.

We stopped way short of there, following a spur trail to Side Lake and dinner at Bimbo's Octagon restaurant. The snow was continuing to fall as we ate, and the trails back to the cabin were ideal as a result. From the lake, we headed south toward Chisolm and Hibbing before cutting back over to the Nashwauk Trail on the Day Brook Trail.

Our goal for this final day of riding was to make it to back to the

couch in time for the Super Bowl, which we did. Not bad for a fairly undisciplined trio of riders. We had no horse in this annual football contest, but the expectation to watch the game in its entirety each year is required to retain your man card.

With just 110 miles to show for Sunday, we loaded up the following morning with 465 miles racked



Sunday morning on the Taconite

up for basically three full days of riding. As conditions continued to plummet in Iowa, the trip ended up being the final ride of the season for us, but it did have value for me by creating my own memory and record for posterity.

Who knows? Perhaps my son or my nephew will feel inspired to retrace my steps in the years to come.



#### Region 1

### O'Brien County Snowtrackers

by Zelda Buse Christensen, Reporter

I am writing this in the exact middle of October. What of interest has been happening lately in northwest Iowa? A variety of things are being decided.

On all levels—elementary, junior high, high school, college, professional—football contests are glorifying winners and bypassing losers. Other sports are nearing season's end, while still other sports are just starting to get interesting.



Combines and grain wagons and trucks are busy, sometimes continuing many hours after dark—when farmers decide conditions are favorable.

Hunters are using both arrows and shells to get what they are after—sometimes having to decide if the target is near enough.

One of the major decisions for all voters is who would be the best candidate for the next U.S. President (or maybe which one of the undesirables would be the least undesirable)? One way or another, a decision will be made!

Snowmobilers have other decisions to make: to pessimistically decide that snowmobiling is too much work and too expensive and not worth the effort or to optimistically decide that you are going to make the most of all the snow that falls this winter to have fun riding with others and challenging yourself.

Then you will remember all the enjoyment you have had in past years. You will get your sled ready to go. And you will pay your club dues and volunteer for any jobs (like putting up signs, for example) to help keep the club alive and functioning.

The O'Brien County Snowtrackers plan to kick-start the club with a supper soon—tentatively at Langers in Sheldon Nov. 12. More news will be coming—keep an eye on the web site and watch for other notification!

And optimistically plan for much good riding snow this winter!

#### Region 3

### **Worth County Fence Stretchers**

by Nicole Knudson

Well, fall is here and harvest is underway...finally despite Mother Nature's rain and more rain. Hopefully, that is an indication for what our winter will be like...lots of precipitation in form of snow, lots of snow!

The Fence Stretchers are gearing up for the upcoming season! Our annual membership drive will once again be held at the Manly Legion on Saturday, Nov. 12, at 6 p.m. This is a night to promote memberships in the club. Members enjoy a delicious supper provided complete with tasty smoked meat by our very own Scott Wilde. This year, especially, we look to promote the sport of snowmobiling and increase sled registrations and trail permits locally to keep the sport of snowmobiling alive in Iowa. This means safe trails for us all to ride in Iowa.

Our club again will host a snowmobile education class for youth. This will be held on Nov. 19 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Northwood. Also in November, our trail signing crew will



The Frozen Few Snowmobile Club of Region 9 held their annual grass drags at Palo

#### **ISSA GLUBS**



Clubs in red reported 100% ISSA Membership

#### **REGION ONE**

Buena Vista Blizzard Busters

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

Clay County Sno Broncs

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

www.dickinsoncountysnowhawks.com P.O. Box 504, Spirit Lake, IA 51360 President: Kevin Winters P.O. Box 305, Lake Park, IA 51347 (712) 320-9530, kwinters93@gmail.com

von County Sno-Lyons

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

O'Brien County Snowtrackers

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

Osceola County High Point Riders

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

Powder Players Inc.

P.O. Box 154, Remsen, IA 51050 www.powder-players.com President: Dee Jay Kellen 23657 Marble Ave., Le Mars, IA 51031 (712) 540-5723, dkellen91@yahoo.com

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**

Immet County Driftbusters

President: Tyson Enerson 4591 195th St., Estherville, IA 51334 Enerson747@gmail.com, (712) 209-3330 Humboldt Sno-Skimmers

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

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

Palo Alto Rough Riders

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

Sno-Pak

P.O. Box 122, Rockwell City, IA 50579 www.snopak.com President: Kolby Wagner 749 South Street, Rockwell City, IA 50579 (712) 297-7383, kjwagner@windstream.net

#### **REGION THREE**

lancock County Snowmobile Assn.

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

Iowa River Riders

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





#### ISSA GLUBS

Clubs in red reported 100% ISSA Membership

Lakota Sno-Eagles

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

Iowa Sno-Jammers

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

(641) 567-3674, vholtan@wctatel.net

North Iowa Snow Seekers

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

Worth County Fence Stretchers

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

#### **REGION FOUR**

**Bremer County Sno-Knights** 

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

**Butler County Snow Snoops** 

President: Seth Bram

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

Cedar Falls Sno Hawks

President: Brian Carmichael

14784 290th St., Aplington, IA 50604-9368

319-215-5006 snohawk68@gmail.com

Chickasaw Sno-Riders

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

Dewar Snow Chasers

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

Floyd County Groomers Association

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

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

Mitchell County E-Z Riders, Inc.,

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

#### **REGION FIVE**

Allamakee Sno-Blazers

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

Asbury Snowhawks

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

Clayton County Snowbirds

12469 Hwy. 18, Postville, IA 52162 President: Dan Torkelson

302 E Church St, Farmersburg, IA 52047 (563) 880-2422

get together to assess any trail needs, change of land ownership etc. Any extra help from club members is much appreciated. More hands mean lighter work for all!

So, as harvest comes to an end, November brings excitement as we look forward to the winter snow season!

#### Region 4

### Floyd County Groomers

by Joe Obermeier

We held our October meeting on Oct.10 at TJ's Bar and Grill in Greene. Discussion centered on completing our trail maps. Some of our trails will have detours around high water areas as like last year. Let's all hope for cold weather to freeze creeks up.

We will be having a trail marking day, Nov. 20, at 9 am, we will meet at Steve King's shop in Marble Rock.

After trail marking, we will have a soup dinner and meeting to follow at 5 p.m. All are welcome. We also discussed groomer maintenance in December. Let's respect all of our trails and landowners that let us ride on trails.

Until next month.

#### Region 5

#### Winneshiek Trail Twisters

by Jessica Speicher

All the rain we have had this summer has made some extra work for us on the trails this year but not as bad as you would think! We have assigned trail bosses and have started planning what needs to be done to the trails to get them back into good order.

With the flooding, we need to build some bridges and fill in certain washed out spots. Some people plan on starting marking and working on the trails within the next few weeks. Anyone who would like to help is more than welcome! Just give Jake Ludeking a call! Extra help is always appreciated.

We had our first meeting of the year and have ironed out some details for this coming season. Our Snow Show membership drive will be held on Nov. 12 at the fairgrounds in Decorah. We are going to have a raffle so any donations are welcome! Also, our Chilly Weenie roast is planned for Feb. 4. Our landowner's appreciation fish fry will be a little earlier this year on March 10.

Hopefully, we have a good snowfall this year for some good riding! Gather friends and take them riding! Try to recruit new people to snowmobiling. The more members in groups, more money towards the state and local clubs which can really help get grants and help improve the work load that goes into the trails and local clubs putting on events.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### November

- Trails Unlimited Membership Drive Nov. 4 at the Zipper, Festina.
- · Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club grass drags Saturday, Nov. 5, 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. at Todd's Airfield, Ankeny. Proceeds benefit the Spina Bifida Association of Iowa.
- · Western Iowa Tourism region meeting Nov. 16 at Oakland.
- · Winneshiek Trail Twisters Snow Show and Membership Drive Saturday, Nov. 12, at the Winneshiek County Fairgrounds in Decorah.
- · Worth County Fence Stretchers Membership Drive Saturday, Nov. 12, at 6 p.m. at the American Legion in Manly.
- 43rd Annual ISSA Convention Nov. 18-20 Waterloo.
- ISSA Grand Raffle drawing Nov. 19.
- · Worth County Fence Stretchers Youth Snowmobile Safety Course Nov. 19 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Northwood.
- ISSA Board of Directors meeting Nov. 20 at 9 a.m. at the Ramada Inn, Waterloo.
- Driftrunners Toys for Tots Drive/Kick-off Dance Nov. 26 at 8 p.m. at The Place, Protivin.

#### December

· Early Membership Renewal drawing Dec. 11.

#### **January**

- Jack Race Jan. 20-21 Clear Lake. Visit www.theiackrace.com for more information.
- Driftrunners Snowfest Jan. 26-29 Cresco.
- University of Okoboji Winter Games Jan. 26-29 Spirit Lake.



#### **Cresco Driftrunners**

by Bob Martinek, Treasurer

Hello from Cresco. I am not going to ramble too much this month but did want to run over one more time all the things going on this month. First off, I would like to invite everyone to the Winneshiek Trail Twisters Snow Show on Saturday, Nov. 12, at the fairgrounds in Decorah. I don't know too many details, but I do know I always enjoy myself there. Then Nov. 18-20 in Waterloo is the 43rd Annual ISSA Convention. Details and agenda in the front pages of this issue.

Finally as I mentioned last month on Saturday night, Nov. 26 from 8 p.m. to midnight at "The Place" in Protivin, the Driftrunners will be having our Kickoff/Toys for Tots Dance. Admission will be an unwrapped toy or cash donation at the door. All toys and cash will then go to Community Action to be passed out before Christmas. Anyone is welcome to donate. Just drop your toys off at "The Place" or Cresco Chamber office.

Lastly I want to thank all who have already renewed their memberships for the upcoming season. At this time, I have forwarded 68 memberships to ISSA! I guess that's all for now. Thanks.

#### Region 9

#### Snowdrifters, Inc.

by Ron Roe

It's that time of year again. We had our monthly meeting and had a very good turnout. There was room for more of our former members, but we'll get them next month or so. We are just happy to have the ones who do show up, pay their dues and be helping members. We did have some totally new people come and sign up in the club. Good job guys.

We have worked on some of our trails with 30-40 members helping out Oct. 15. It made it much easier to get a lot of trails cleaned in one day. We still have crops in the fields so we will have to wait on some trails, but that's minor if we can get most mowed and marked. We plan to work on them again on Nov. 12. We are thankful that we have permission to use the fields when they are empty, and nothing is said when we come back to finish. Actually, it's early to get started on trails now. It won't seem right if we don't have to drive some stakes threw frost.

We had a new couple in our club that joined last fall that were getting married on our trail work day. Really thought they could have tied the knot at the meeting, then they could have helped on the trails on that Saturday with the rest of us. Seriously, congratulations, you two, and hope you have many years of happiness and good luck.

The important part about the night was I talked with a friend and got some dates lined up to go sledding in northern Wisconsin and the U.P. of Michigan. Thanks, Donnie. Now they need snow in January.

We have plans to go to convention this year. We haven't gone in a while. It should be a good time with lots of people from this area going this year.

That's all for now. I will have more next month if I remember to jot something down. Happy Thanksgiving to everyone.

# 2016 ISSA Club Challenge

Webster County Ice Breakers	\$1,100
Wapsipinicon Śnowmobile Association	
Snowmobilers of Jackson County	
Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club	
Eastern Iowa Sledheads	\$500
Mitchell County E-Z Riders	\$500
Tri-County Snowmobile Association	
Central Iowa Snowmobilers	\$350
Snow Pioneers	
Clay County Sno Broncs	\$301
Floyd County Groomers	\$300
Bremer County Sno-Knights	\$250
Dickinson County Snowhawks	\$250
Chickasaw Sno-Riders	\$250
Humboldt Sno-Skimmers	\$250
Cedar Falls Sno Hawks	\$250
Driftrunners	\$200
Palo Alto Rough Riders	
Snowdrifters	\$100
Allamakee Sno-Blazers	\$100
Contributions for 2017 accepted at the 2016 ISSA Annual Convention in Waterlo	o Nov 18-20

#### ISS/A GLUBS



Clubs in red reported 100% ISSA Membership

Driftrunners, Inc.

Join Us on Facebook under 'Groups' President: Dean Zakostelecky 124 Fourth Ave. SW, Cresco, IA 52136 (563) 380-8385, dkzakostelecky@mchsi.com Dyersville Driftskippers

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

**Snow Pioneers** 

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

Trail Blaz-zers Inc. President: Randy Kaune, Sr. 11419 90th St, Fayette, IA 52142

(563) 920-8491, randysr05@hotmail.com Trails Unlimited Trails Unlimited 15778 282nd St., West Union, IA 52175

President: Bud Winter (319) 231-3337, bwinter@acegroup.cc Wapsipinicon Snowmobile Association

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

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

#### **REGION SIX**

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

#### **REGION SEVEN**

High Bridge Trailblazers

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

Raccoon Valley Snow Chasers

President: Mike Patten 5204 Neva Pt., Panora, IA 50216 (641) 755-3863, mjpat76@aol.com

Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club

Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club P.O. Box 3133, Des Moines, IA 50316 www.saylorvilledamsnowmobileclub.org President: Craig Krapfl 3614 SW 29th, Ankeny, IA. 50023

(515) 707-7237, ckrapfl@gmail.com

Team Iowa Snowmobilers

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

Webster County Ice Breakers

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

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Clubs in red reported 100% ISSA Membership

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President: David Huffaker P.O. Box 391, Baxter, IA 50028 (641) 751-0622, huffaker-dave@hotmail.com

nobile Association, Inc.

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

#### **REGION NINE**

Cedar County Winter Warriors

ccwwarriors@yahoo.com President: Jerry Meier 1241 Jackson Ave., Tipton, IA 52772 (319) 325-6021, jerrymeier2040@gmail.com Cascade Snowmobile Club

President: Steve Peiffer 916 6th Ave. SE, Cascade, IA 52033

(563) 599-1875

Eastern Iowa Sno-Riders President: Dylan Bousselot P.O. Box 13, Grand Mound, IA 52751

polarisdude900@gmail.com Frozen Few

P.O. Box 184, Coggon, IA 52218 President: Jamie Prull 1101 First St., Palo, IA 52324 (319) 981-0397, jprull@aol.com

ounty Snow Chasers

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

Scott County Sno-Seekers

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

Snowdrifters, Inc.

P.O. Box 5135, Coralville, IA, 52241 www.iowa-snowdrifters.org President:Jeff Wardenburg 1745 Radio Rd, Marion, IĂ 52302 (319) 331-1651 Deff.Wardenburg@Titanmachinery.com

owmobilers of Jackson County

President: Aaron Michels 39014 308th St., Bellevue, IA 52031 (563) 599-4935, jcsnowmobile@gmail.com

#### **REGION TEN**

Southwest Iowa Snow Scooters

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Stag Island Skol Patrol

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

Appanoose County Trails, Inc.

P.O. Box 825, Centerville, IA 52544

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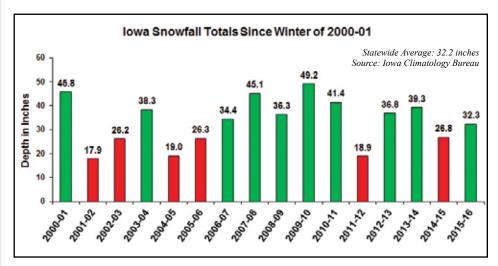
P.O. Box 519, Lone Tree, IA 52755 easterniowasledheads@aol.com President: Mindy Scott P.O. Box 435, 204 W. Dougherty Dr.

Lone Tree, IA 52755, scott4@iowatelecom.net

(319) 629-4630(h), (319) 325-8917(c)

theast Iowa Ridge Blasters

President: Aaron Dorothy 502 E. Cedar Ln., Mt. Pleasant la 52641 (319) 986-5188(h), (319) 217-6361 (c) àarond65@hotmáil.com



From page 12

however, and keep the snow on the ground. In southeast Iowa, Fort Madison finished the year with just 6.6 inches of snow, while Sheldon in northwest Iowa nearly beat a 54-yearold record with 71.6 inches of snowfall for the winter.

#### La Nina Conditions Exist for this Winter

The winter of 2015-16 finished the season as the 60th snowiest among 129 years of recordkeeping. Looking ahead to this winter, snowmobilers in Iowa are hoping the wet summer will continue into winter and bring consistent snowfall to the state.

Hillaker said La Nina conditions appear to be developing in the tropical Pacific Ocean this fall, although the transition from El Nino to La Nina has progressed much more slowly than initially anticipated. The last time Iowa experienced a La Nina event was the winter of 2011-12, which saw an unusually mild winter with little snow in Iowa, he said.

During La Nina events, according to Hillaker, the north central U.S. tends to be wetter than normal from December to February, while the southern U.S. tends to be warmer and drier. What impact that will have this season in Iowa remains to be seen.

"Iowa is somewhat between the two extremes, but historically, we are slightly more likely to be on the cold and wet side of normal for the winter," he said.



Iowa Congressman Rod Blum recently met with ISSA Vice President Chris Willey, ACSA Midwest Chapter Vice Chair Jim Willey, and ISSA Eastern Iowa Tourism Chairperson Becky Willey to talk about snowmobile recreation opportunities and economic impact in Iowa and across the country. Congressman Blum continues to support snowmobilers and access for snowmobiling and all Powersports in Washington DC. The snowmobilers presented Congressman Blum with a check for his reelection campaign from FOSPAC.

All snowmobilers are encouraged to get out and vote in the upcoming election to keep and send legislators to Washington, D.C. and to state capitols who will support snowmobiling issues, Powersports access, and the freedoms that we all enjoy.



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jesse\_wynia@hotmail.com

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brianslama@hotmail.com

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(515) 200-9155, bcruise@excite.com *The Flipside Pizza & Pub*P.O. Box 128, LuVerne, IA 50560

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Klocko Construction

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motorinnautogroup.com

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www.happytimeresort.com

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# Join the ISSA Today!

f you enjoy the sport of snowmobiling in Iowa, you are not alone. In 2016, more than 23,000 sleds registered with the ▲ Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and more than 50 clubs around the state maintained an 8,000-mile trail system.

The glue that bonds us together is the Iowa State Snowmobile Association and its network of 2,347 dedicated family members and associates. Since 1973, our organization has helped to maintain an expansive fleet of groomers and lobbied on behalf of snowmobile-friendly legislation.

Without the ISSA over the past 30 years, snowmobiles—for example—would have been held to a 15 mph speed limit, and

there would not have been any night riding, ditch riding nor access to state parks. Our efforts continue, and your support would be greatly appreciated.

Fill out the form below and join the ISSA today.

With your paid annual membership, you will receive a free subscription to the Iowa Snowmobiler magazine (our official publication) as well as a complimentary accidental death and dismemberment insurance policy. In order to receive the full \$3,500 benefit, though, please list each family member in the space provided.

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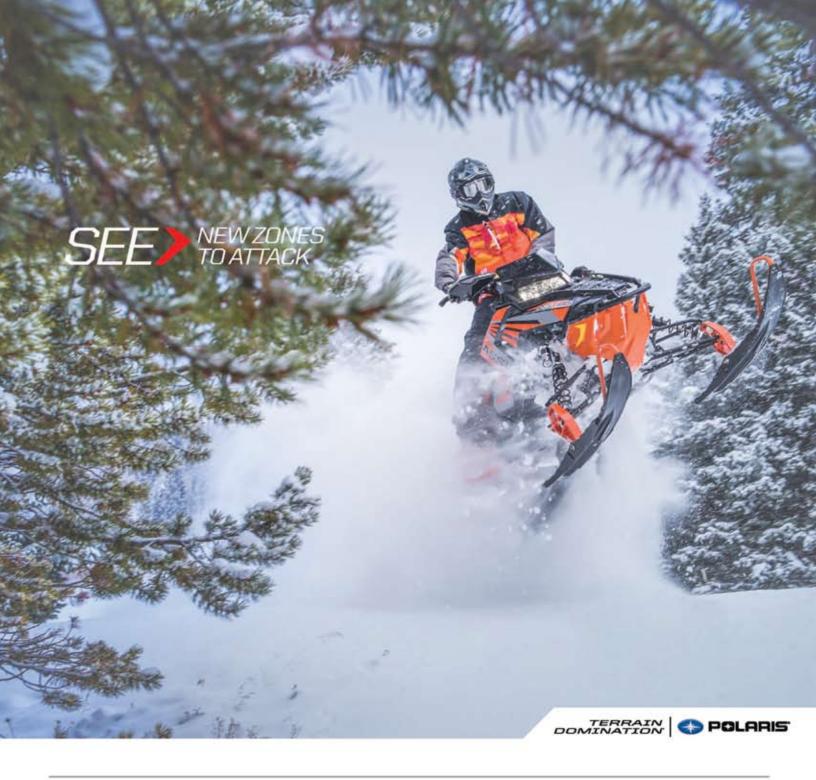




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