

IOWA SNOWMOBILER

Nov. 2017
Vol. 39
Issue 3

**ISU Team
Overheats at
Challenge**

**LaVallee to
Headline
Convention**



2017 ISSA Annual Convention

**Nov. 17-19
Cedar Rapids, IA**

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel
Cedar Rapids Convention Complex
350 First Avenue NE

ISSA Snow and Powersports Show

Saturday, Nov. 18

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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2018

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IOWA SNOWMOBILER

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Middle of Michigan's Upper Peninsula



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March	Feb. 9



Toy Surprise Inside!



See p. 7 for details

COVER: The ISU team heads out on the Edurance Ride on Day Two of the Clean Snowmobile Challenge last March in Michigan. A fire in the engine compartment shortly thereafter would prematurely end their week at the competition.

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Making Progress in the Areas We Can Control

Next month, snowmobilers from across the state will get together for the annual ISSA Convention. This year, the convention will be held in Cedar Rapids, hosted by the clubs of Region 9. The planning committee has a great event put together with lots of information and activities.

I always look forward to convention. Its timing being held the weekend before Thanksgiving is pretty fitting. Thanksgiving is a time to gather with your family and friends, give thanks and reflect on the happenings of the past year.

From the President's Desk

In the same way, convention is the time for the Iowa snowmobile family to get together and discuss the past year and also look forward to the coming season. We have a lot to give thanks for this year.

Convention also marks one year for me as president of the ISSA. It's been a busy year to say the least. I set a goal to get more funds back to the clubs and make the processes uniform and streamlined. The first part of that goal is in place, and I believe we are on the right track for the second part.

At convention, we will be having an information session to explain how we have made changes to the processes for the clubs. Over the summer and this fall, I have tried to get to as many club meetings or events as possible. I think this is the best way to really get to know the snowmobilers of Iowa.

Attending the meetings, I have found common concerns with everyone: decline in membership, lack of snow and need for more or updated equipment. One of those we all know is out of our control. Member-

ship and equipment we definitely can work on together. The place to start that work will be at the convention. Come and talk with others and share your ideas and listen to others' ideas.

One of the groups we all need to listen to is the younger snowmobilers. We need



Chris Willey
ISSA
President

to include them, understand they think differently and have different ideas and wants. In this issue, our youth coordinator (and my daughter) shares some insight on her journey to start the program and her thoughts. I encourage everyone coming to convention to invite younger snowmobil-

ers from your area to come for the day or the weekend and meet others with the same passion they have.

We have to make sure the program adapts and changes to stay at the forefront of the sport. The Review and Selection Committee is looking at lots of different possibilities and options on a club-by-club basis to make sure we keep the right equipment in the right areas.

I am looking forward to the second year of being your president and getting to more clubs and riding your trails. Vice President Brian Carmichael and I have plans to get out on the trails across the state and not only ride but bring the ISSA's Trail Break trailer with us and grill some burgers for anyone who wants to come out and see us.

See everyone next month at convention and later out on the trails.

Cooler Raffle Planned at Convention

The ISSA will raffle off a Grizzly Cooler at its annual convention in Cedar Rapids Nov. 18. Tickets cost \$5 each and can be purchased convention weekend or by contacting your region director. Manufactured in Decorah, the cooler will be purchased through an American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA) promotion and will feature its logo. For more information on the ACSA promotion, visit www.snowmobilers.org.





The Kossuth County Drift Skippers Prinoth will be coming off lease this winter, thanks to Recreational Trails Program funding.

RTP Grants to Continue to Play Key Role in Groomer Funding

by Cameron Hanson

An expected side-effect stemming from the recent shift in management of the state snowmobile program from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) to the ISSA has left the latter courting a new sponsor for federal grant funding to purchase new grooming equipment.

As a result of its limited role in the program, the IDNR will no longer submit grant applications to the federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP) on behalf of snowmobiling in Iowa. ISSA officials said they were aware of this potential setback when they began lobbying for control of the program last January.

"Since the IDNR is no longer the fiscal sponsor on this anymore, we had to find a new one," past ISSA president and state snowmobile program co-administrator Terry Durby told the ISSA Board of Directors in October. "Since we are a non-profit, we do not qualify to apply directly for RTP funding. It is allowed federally but not in our state. We may need to look at changing that in the future."

In Iowa, RTP funds are approved and dispersed by the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT). According to its Office of Systems Planning, organizations such as the ISSA can only apply for a federal trail grant "if co-sponsored by a government agency."

In the absence of the IDNR, the ISSA began identifying potential grant partners earlier this year and ultimately landed on the North Central Iowa Port Authority, a consortium of four counties created in 2016 to leverage economic development opportunities in their region.

However, when the ISSA informed the IDOT of its plan to apply for RTP grants with the port authority this fall, the agency,

according to Durby, posed several follow-up questions which could not be answered in a timely manner.

With an Oct. 1 application deadline looming for the 2018 grant period, ISSA leaders had to draft Plan B and opted to submit RTP applications from the club and county level. With two county supervisors sitting in past president seats on the board and both from Region 3, this option proved to be the path of least resistance.



Durby

Durby serves on the Board of Supervisors in Winnebago County, and Gary McVicker is an elected official in Franklin County. Winnebago submitted a grant application on behalf of the North Iowa Sno-Jammers for \$198,000, and Franklin County submitted an application on behalf of the Iowa River Riders for \$200,000.

"To ensure we were going to be able to get our applications in on time and get our possible groomer funding, I went to my board of supervisors and also visited with Gary's board seeking their approval and cooperation," Durby said.

Significant Potential Windfall

If both requests are approved by the IDOT, the state snowmobile program could gain its biggest windfall ever during its 17-year participation in the RTP. Historically, annual grant awards to the IDNR to purchase grooming equipment have hovered around the \$240,000 mark.

While providing a work-around for a long-term partner, teaming up at the county level created a short-term solution that

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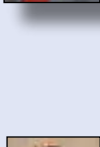
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forced the ISSA to think outside the box, acknowledged Chris Willey, current ISSA president and snowmobile program co-administrator.

"All of our grant applications through the IDNR over the years have always been the same cookie-cutter approach," Willey said. "By working with these two counties and going after some of the diversified funding, we are trying a new angle at this."

"Our requests for 2018 are more than they have ever been before," Durby added. "Hopefully, we can pull some money out of the diversified portion that we haven't been able to get before."

Created in 1991 by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), RTP is financed by a small percentage of the federal fuel taxes paid by off-road user groups. Iowa's share of that pool comes to more than \$1 million annually with 2017's total ringing up at \$1.3 million.

FHWA guidelines require grant funding be spread across three trail-user groups: 30 percent motorized, 30 percent non-motorized and 40 percent diversified. A state trails advisory committee grades the grant requests each year, and Past ISSA President Merv Hoermann represents snowmobiling interests on this volunteer board.

Winnebago's application fell into the motorized category, whereas the Franklin County request aligns with the diversified group as it pertains to grooming the multi-purpose Rolling Prairie Trail from Coulter to Hansell along Highway 3.

Hoermann said he will lobby for both county applications when the advisory committee meets later this year to grade the requests. "It's good see that we are going after diversified funding, and we are stating that use on our application," he said.

Eventually Back to Plan A

RTP grants require a 20 percent match, so if awarded in 2018, the state snowmobile program will need to pony up 100 percent of the purchase price of new or updated groomers and then request 80 percent reimbursement through the federal grant program.

2017 stands as the final year the IDNR received a RTP grant on behalf of snowmobiling in Iowa. That \$240,000 has been earmarked to pay off groomer leases in Kossuth and Johnson counties. Once that reimbursement process is complete, the IDNR will be stepping down from its RTP grant obligations.

While potentially increasing the groomer funding next year, both Durby and Willey admit the county approach is not a sustainable fix for the federal grant application process going forward.

Eventually going back to Plan A for 2019, they said they will continue to work with the IDOT to recognize the port authority in the RTP process.

"The port authority is the appropriate mechanism and standard that we need to follow for future grant applications," Willey said. "They would be better than going to this county or that county for approval every year. In most cases, we have very good relationships with our county supervisors where we can do this, but there are places that we may not be able to do so."

Neither Durby nor Willey said they were concerned about working with the individual counties this time around because the equipment, if purchased through the grants, cannot be sold or reassigned later on down the road. Durby should know. He served as president of the American Council of Snowmobile Associations from 2011 to 2013 and, in that role, kept close tabs on the FWHA and RTP.

"The RTP agreement you sign with the FHWA has strict rules for where that piece of equipment can be used so it can't be used for anything but what was stated on that application," he said.

Notified Next Spring

RTP awards for 2018 will be announced next spring. If both applications are approved, new grooming equipment will land in those respective counties, and their current club units will be relocated to other areas of the state.

As a reminder, snowmobile clubs need to mark on their state trail grant applications if they are requesting a new groomer or not. The ISSA's Review and Selection Committee (RSC) determines groomer placement based on age, need and traffic. Newer units are typically placed above the Snow Belt (Highway 20) in Iowa, and older equipment is sent south of there.

Also for clarification, a 10 percent match from a club toward a groomer purchase is still recommended, but not required. Depending on the price tag, club payments in the past have ranged from \$10,000 to \$20,000. That match can be paid in a lump sum or spread out over five years, and that financial commitment survives the recent change in program management.

"We've had clubs ask if they need to continue to make payments because the ISSA is now in charge," Willey said. "They made a commitment to the program and not to the IDNR, so yes, payments still need to be made."

Besides lessening the financial burden on state snowmobile program coffers, the logic behind the cost-share option for clubs to secure new groomers is operators will be

less likely to abuse the equipment and to cause unnecessary maintenance issues and costly repairs. However, RSC members recognize this match may not be feasible for smaller clubs.

"It's a lot easier for some clubs to come up with 10 percent than it is others," Willey said. "We've always tried to decide our groomer placements on a need-basis versus what a club can afford. It's a moving target based on what a club is asking for. They may not get brand new equipment, but they will get an upgrade."

"Not all clubs have the same resources and have a lot of members who can do a lot of fundraising," added Past ISSA President Jim Willey. "That doesn't mean they don't deserve a new groomer. We look at the number of miles of trail groomed and the number of groomer operators they've trained. We take a lot into consideration. They may not have the cash, but they may do a really important job in the state and that has to be taken into consideration. That's part of the responsibility of the Review and Selection Committee."



The Iowa State Snowmobile Trail Grant Program recently acquired a Bobcat Toolcat equipped with a front-mounted flail mower. The unit is available to clubs to use to prepare their trails for the upcoming season.

Bobcat Mower Available for Clubs to Use this Fall

When the Iowa Department of Natural Resources transferred the state's groomer fleet to the ISSA in September, the volunteer organization inherited a Bobcat Toolcat equipped with a front-mounted flail mower as well.

Previously used by an individual club in southern Iowa, the unit is now being made available to ISSA clubs to mow their snowmobile trails in preparation of the upcoming season.

Past ISSA President Jim Willey is coordinating the effort. He would like to loan the unit out on a weekly basis, working to schedule its use with neighboring clubs to reduce down time and transportation costs. To reserve a time, please contact Willey at (563) 920-0911 or jim.willey@camso.co.

"We want to keep it moving across the state one week at a time," he said. "Ideally, clubs can work out getting the mower to and from one another. We really need to

keep it moving to get the most use out of it this fall."

The cab of the unit comes complete with heat and air conditioning, and only certified groomer operators will be allowed to use the mower. Clubs will need to track their time with the Bobcat in their groomer logs, and fuel expenses will need to come out of their groomer fuel grant reimbursement request.

"If anyone mows their trails before the snow flies, this unit will definitely come in handy," said Willey, who recently completed repairs and maintenance to the unit and gave it a trial run in Region 5. "It certainly can do the job."

This mower should not be confused with the ISSA's brush cutter, which is currently inactive awaiting a dedicated power unit. It is a mower only and is capable of tackling small saplings but cannot be raised for side trimming and trail clearing like the brush cutter.



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LaVallee Slated to Speak at ISSA Annual Convention

by **Cameron Hanson**

Freestyle snowmobiler and snocross team owner Levi LaVallee of Longville, Minn., will headline the 2017 ISSA Annual Convention later this month in Cedar Rapids.

Slated to speak at the Saturday evening banquet, LaVallee will share his experiences in the national spotlight as well as his appreciation for organized snowmobiling, according to ISSA officials who heard his presentation at the International Snowmobile Congress in New York in 2015.

Backed by Polaris and Red Bull, LaVallee, 34, rose to snowmobiling prominence through several televised stunts. In 2009, he became the first snowmobiler to complete a double backflip on a sled in competition, and in 2012, he bested his own world record from a year earlier by jumping his snowmobile 412 feet.

On the race track, LaVallee has earned medals in nearly every snowmobile discipline at the Winter X Games, including a Bronze earlier this year at Aspen. In snocross, he won the Pro Stock points championship in 2009 and was named a "fan favorite" on the ISOC circuit five times.

In 2013, ESPN recognized LaVallee as one of the 50 "most influential people in action sports," according to his website at www.teamlavallee.com. Earlier this year, his team competed at the inaugural Amsoil snocross race at Dubuque.

LaVallee will return to Iowa later this month as part of an entertainment lineup Saturday night at convention that also includes two comedians as well as the ISSA awards presentations.

Now entering its 44th year, the convention will be held at the Hilton Hotel Cedar Rapids Convention Complex in downtown Cedar Rapids Nov. 17-19. The agenda was lengthened by a day when the ISSA Board of Directors added its monthly meeting to the weekend on Sunday morning.

Tailored to Youth

Besides LaVallee, the Convention Planning Committee is also excited to host a Snow and Powersports Show on Saturday. Besides snowmobiles, gear and apparel, attendees will be able to see vendors from other lines of outdoor recreation on the showroom floor.

"Many committee members are working hard on contacting vendors to have booths at our show," reported convention committee chair Jean McPherson. "We appreciate the opportunity to expand this to include other outdoor sports. We hope this will draw many outside folks to come in and see all that is offered for winter recreation."

Following the west-to-east rotation, this year's convention is being planned and hosted by clubs from Region 9. McPherson belongs to the Jones County Snow Chasers and her husband, Tim, presently serves as the Region 9 director for the ISSA.

"We are making great progress on planning the convention this year," the McPhersons said in their update to the ISSA Board of Directors in October. "We have

assembled a great team for the planning committee."

As detailed on the forms on page 11 of this month's issue, full registration runs \$75 with reduced rates available for single days. Convention attendees earn free admission to the snow show, which is open to the general public. Admission for non-registered snowmobilers is only \$5, and kids 12 and under will be admitted free.

With a booth and promotional trailer at the show, the ISSA hopes to recruit new mem-



LaVallee



bers to the organization, and clubs are also invited to set displays for the annual Snowmobile Iowa showcase at convention.

"We encourage your club to bring your trail maps, photos and club information to share in your own booth for the Snowmobile Iowa display at the show," the McPhersons said. "There is no cost for the booth. However, if you need power for your booth, you will need to contact Double Tree to set that up."

Break-Out Sessions

The planning committee has also identified the seminars for Saturday afternoon. In addition to the trail grant forum profiled last month, topics for the break-out sessions will also include bridge building, signing and sled maintenance.

"We hope our seminars will really target the riders this year and will give some great opportunities for networking and guidance from our senior riders," organizers said.

As they are hoping to make this convention "a kid-friendly event," the planning committee has also reserved some time for the ISSA's youth program called Kids Intentionally Supporting Snowmobiling, or KISS. Youth Program Coordinator Isabelle Willey shares some of her insights on the program at right.

Sponsorship opportunities still exist to support this year's convention, and club members are encouraged to bring items for raffle drawings and the Silent Auction. Clubs should also bring their donations to the various charities and causes supported by the ISSA.

"We would appreciate any support you or your clubs can provide for this year's convention," the McPhersons said.

As listed on the agenda below, the convention kicks off Friday evening with games and hospitality. Activities resume Saturday morning with the snow show, region meetings, board elections and brunch with the ISSA lobbyists.

The convention registration fee does not cover lodging. For hotel rooms, contact the Double Tree by Hilton at (319) 731-4444. Be sure to ask for the ISSA block of rooms at the rate of \$112.00 plus tax. Please reserve rooms by Nov. 3 to get the special rate.

For questions on this year's convention, contact the McPhersons at (563) 593-0304 or timnjean@netins.net.

Kids Intentionally Supporting Snowmobiling



Convention Seminar to Drum Up Support for Youth Program

by Isabelle Willey

ISSA Youth Program Coordinator

How much effort would you put in or how much time would you give up to save something you love?

A couple of years back, I noticed that there were maybe only five younger people at ISSA events. When I brought this up to my parents (my dad was the ISSA vice president at the time and my mom used to be the secretary for the ISSA), they suggested I try to become the Youth Coordinator for the ISSA. Last November, I was elected. So this is where my story starts.

The first thing I wanted to do was start a Youth Program/Youth Organization. A Youth Organization is defined as a public organization in which young people come together and express feelings and/or organize projects.

Throughout my whole journey of getting a program started, I was asked, 'Why are you doing this?' The answer was simple. I didn't even have to think about it. I wanted to know that there was a future for my beloved sport. The snowmobiling community was and still is full of older generations. Few people under the age of 25 were showing up to these events where things like getting new trails approved and getting grants for groomer improvements happen. If they weren't showing up to these events, how were we supposed to know how to make these things happen? Changes were needed.

To make these changes happen and start a program, what was it

2017 ISSA Convention Agenda

Friday, Nov. 17

2 p.m. to 9 p.m.	Convention Registration Snow Show Set-up "Snowmobile Iowa" Set-up 7 p.m.
to 11 p.m.	Hospitality and Games Raffle Prizes

Saturday, Nov. 18

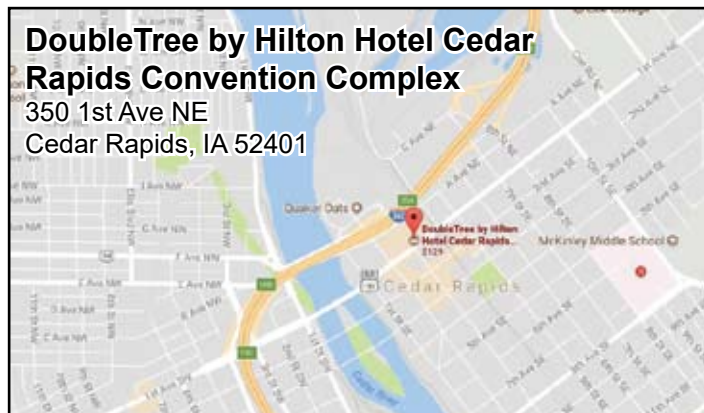
8 a.m. to Noon	Convention Registration
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	ISSA Snow Show
8:30 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.	Opening Remarks
8:45 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.	Region Meetings/Director Elections
9:00 a.m. to 11 a.m.	General Membership Annual Meeting
11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	Brunch w/Lobbyist Update
1 p.m.	Silent Auction opens
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.	Breakout Sessions
3 p.m.	ISSA Grant Program
5 p.m.	Social Hour
6:00 p.m.	Silent Auction Closes Dinner
6:30 p.m.	Guest Speaker
7:15 p.m.	Awards Raffle Prizes
8:30 p.m.	Entertainment

Sunday, Nov. 19

9 a.m.	ISSA Board of Directors Meeting
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DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Cedar Rapids Convention Complex

350 1st Ave NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401



2017 Final Donation Tally

Club Challenge

North Iowa Snow Seekers/The Jack Race	\$1,500
Webster County Ice Breakers.....	\$1,100
Eastern Iowa Sledheads.....	\$500
North Iowa Sno-Jammers.....	\$500
Snowdrifters.....	\$500
Mitchell County E-Z Riders.....	\$500
Tri-County Snowmobile Association	\$376
Central Iowa Snowmobilers.....	\$350
Snow Pioneers	\$350
Floyd County Groomers	\$300
Sac County Sno-Lovers.....	\$300
Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club.....	\$250
Bremer County Sno-Knights.....	\$250
Humboldt Sno-Skimmers.....	\$250
Howard County Stumpjumper.....	\$250
Cedar Falls Sno Hawks	\$250
Chickasaw Sno-Riders	\$250
Lyon County Sno-Lyons	\$200
Eastern Iowa Sno-Riders.....	\$200
Iowa River Riders	\$100
Trails Unlimited	\$100

Spina Bifida Association of Iowa

Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Association.....	\$2,350
Hancock Snowmobile Association.....	\$2,250
Eastern Iowa Sledheads.....	\$500
Tri-County Snowmobile Association	\$376
Floyd County Groomers	\$300
Bremer County Sno-Knights.....	\$250
Snowdrifters.....	\$250
Central Iowa Snowmobilers.....	\$200
Trail Blaz-zers, Inc.	\$200
Snow Pioneers	\$100
Iowa River Riders	\$100

ACSA Legal Defense Fund

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

Clubs Reminded to Bring Donations to Convention

The ISSA's annual fund drive turns over each year at convention, so clubs are encouraged to bring their donations to Cedar Rapids this month to kick off the 2018 campaign.

Collected at the general membership meeting Saturday morning, checks are accepted for the following ISSA official charities: the ISSA Education and Scholarship Foundation and the Spina Bifida Association of Iowa.

To help keep an eye on snowmobile access issues in state and across the Snow Belt, members are also asked to donate to the ISSA's Club Challenge and the ACSA Legal Defense Fund.

The Club Challenge collects money to help pay for the ISSA's lobbying efforts, and the Legal Defense Fund helps the American Council of Snowmobile Associations defend lawsuits which threaten snowmobile access elsewhere.

Other charitable donations accepted convention weekend also benefit the ISSA-recognized groups of the Iowa Chapter of the ALS Association, the Pink Ribbon Riders and the Autism Society of Iowa.

going to take? A lot of time, work, and commitment. The first step was to come up with a name and a game plan. I planned out a youth ride where a whole bunch of kids, those who have and haven't gone riding before, get together and go out to ride trails marked and taken care of by a club that is part of the ISSA. This never did get to take place in the past year due to a lack of snow.

Another big part of starting a program is going around asking different dealers and businesses if they would like to donate items for a give-away or money to put towards the costs of the event. That took a lot for me because I didn't like talking to strangers a whole lot. Even though I had to step out of my comfort zone for this, it revealed how persistent I am.

Besides being persistent, what else does starting a youth program/organization reveal about me? One quality that I believe is most evident is perseverance. Through all of the struggles and setbacks while starting this up, I still never gave up. Free time isn't something I have a lot of, so it also took a lot of persistence to not give up. Even though there were days that all I wanted to do was sleep and not go talk to people, I still went.

Lastly, this whole thing shows how much I actually do care about snowmobiling. It's been something that my grandfather did with his kids, my dad did with my brother and myself, and I want it to be around for me to do with my kids. So all in all, yes, this does take determination, perseverance, and persistence, but it is all worth it in the end if it ends up saving snowmobiling.

As a result of all my hard work that took a ton of persistence, the state of Iowa has its own Youth Program called KISS, Kids Intentionally Supporting Snowmobiling. Snowmobiling is a sport that I have loved and always will love, so I put my all into doing what I could to save it. Now I have a slot at this year's convention again so I can speak about the program. More youth are starting to come to big state events, like the convention, too. The hard work is worth it all, if it saves something you love.



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 Hurley Chamber of Commerce / 715.561.4334 hurleywi.com
 Mercer Chamber of Commerce / 715.476.2389 mercercoc.com
 24 Hr. Snow Report 715.476.SNOW

2017 ISSA Annual Convention Nov. 17-19 Cedar Rapids, IA

Sponsorship Opportunities

Donor

Title Sponsor \$2500 +
Platinum Sponsor \$500
Gold Sponsor \$100

Convention

Guest Speakers 6 @ \$500
Seminar Programs 6 @ \$200
Friday Night Beverages 3 @ \$300
Friday Night Entertainment 2 @ \$250
Saturday Night Entertainment 2 @ \$1000
Saturday Night MC \$200
Program Printing \$250
Name Badges \$250
Youth Event \$200

Awards Banquet

Past President Award \$200
Family Award \$200
Youth Award \$200
Young Adult Award \$200
Snowmobiler Award \$200
Lady Snowmobiler Award \$200
Groomer Award \$200
Club Award \$200

Business _____
Address _____
Phone Number _____
Email _____

Sponsorship Type: ☐ Donor ☐ Convention ☐ Awards
Sponsorship Item: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

To secure your sponsorship, please send your sponsorship check made out to the ISSA and this sponsorship form to: Jean McPherson P.O. Box 225 Olin, IA 52320 or email it to timnjean@netins.net. For more information, call (563) 593-0304.

2017 ISSA Annual Convention Nov. 17-19 Cedar Rapids, IA

Registration Form

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone Number _____
Email _____
Snowmobile Club _____
Organization _____

Check all that apply:

☐ Full Registration \$75
☐ Friday only Registration \$20
☐ Saturday only Registration \$60
☐ Youth Registration \$30 (5 to 12 years old)
☐ Under 5 are Free.

Full Convention Registration Includes:

- Friday night hospitality and entertainment
- Saturday lunch, afternoon seminars
- Snow Show admittance
- Saturday evening banquet

Please Note: Registration fees DO NOT include lodging. For hotel rooms, contact the Double Tree by Hilton at (319) 731-4444. Be sure to ask for the ISSA block of rooms at the rate of \$112.00 plus tax. Please reserve rooms by Nov. 3 to get the special rate.

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Please make check payable to the ISSA. Mail payment and completed registration form to: Jean McPherson, P.O. Box 225 Olin, IA 52320 or email it to timnjean@netins.net. For more information, call (563) 593-0304.



2017 ISSA Snow Show Nov. 18 Cedar Rapids, IA

Vendor Registration Form

Business _____
Address _____
Phone Number _____ Email _____
Booth Size: ☐ 10x10 \$75 ☐ 10x20 \$150 ☐ 10x30 \$225 ☐ 10x40 \$300

Amount Enclosed _____ Make check payable to ISSA.
Mail form and payment to: ISSA Snow Show c/o Chris Nelson
41 Anderson Rd., Anamosa, IA 52205

All booths come with pipe and drape. Electricity, Internet and AV equipment costs extra and will be billed separately by the hotel. For more information, email cnelson85@hotmail.com or call (319) 826-5000.

Official Notice of ISSA Elections & Proposed By-Law Changes

Who:

Officers & Directors from
Odd-Numbered Regions

When:

ISSA General Membership Assembly
ISSA Annual Convention, Nov. 18

Where:

DoubleTree Hilton Hotel
Cedar Rapids Convention

Students Head Back to the Drawing Board

by Mitchell LaFrance

Iowa State Daily

Reprinted with permission

After a thermal event that ended with their vehicle in flames, the Iowa State Clean Snowmobile Challenge team is heading back to the drawing board with big plans for next year's competition.

The Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) International association holds an annual competition each year that encourages college teams from around the world to redesign existing snowmobile technology to be more fuel efficient and quieter on the trails.

In previous years, park rangers from popular national parks have gone to the competitions to give talks to the competitors about the importance of advancing cleaner and quieter snowmobiles.

"We take a stock snowmobile and our goal is to make it more fuel-efficient and quieter, while also making it fun to ride," said Charlie Bootsmiller, project director for the SAE Clean Snowmobile Challenge this year.

The SAE Clean Snowmobile Challenge is a competition that pits multiple colleges from around the world to modify and create a better snowmobile. The competition is primarily an engine competition, said the members of the team. However, that doesn't prevent them from modifying other things on the sled.

"You can touch literally anything you want on the entire snowmobile as long as it still meets the

turn to page 19



Clean Snowmobile Challenge Ends Prematurely for ISU Team

by Cameron Hanson

Sporting an updated sled with a flashy graphics package and a team hauler to boot, engineering students from Iowa State University arrived in style last March at Houghton, Mich., ready to improve on their first two years' performance at the Clean Snowmobile Challenge (CSC).

Earning Rookie of the Year honors in 2015 and finishing a respectable sixth place in their class last season, the Cy-Clean team was poised to make some headlines at the March 6-11 event at the Keweenaw Research Center. Instead, their entry garnered some unwanted attention on just the second day of competition.

Entered once again into the internal combustion category, the Iowa team along with their competitors from other Snow Belt universities headed out on the endurance ride to Copper Harbor, but not too long after departing the campus of Michigan Tech University, their sled unexpectedly caught on fire and prematurely ended their week at the competition.

Describing the catastrophic failure as a "thermal event," the team and judges at the competition determined "material selection" was the root cause for the fire. Fortunately, each sled on the ride was required by rule to carry a fire extinguisher, and the blaze was contained rather quickly and no injuries were reported.

"From the first day, we put great effort into safety training in the use of extinguishers to control thermal events," explained Jay Meldrum, CSC coordinator at Michigan Tech. "One of the most important lessons we preach is that the

turn to page 15



Catching a tow back to town

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A Birthday Present That Kept On Giving

Willeys Spend First Part of February in the Middle of Michigan's Upper Peninsula

by Jim Willey

My wife, Becky, had a birthday coming up last February, and I wanted to do something special for her, so I devised this extravagant plan to take her to Hawaii.

After thinking it over, though, the realization that surprising her with tickets in hand and declaring we were leaving in the morning—as exciting as that had seemed in my head—would probably fall short of expectations, and I thankfully reconsidered and decided that perhaps letting Becky have some time to get ready for the trip was a better idea.

So instead, I surprised her with a trip to the local travel agency where we discussed options and their costs with the agent. On our way home, my wife of—well, more years than she would probably want me to put in print but who still is able to surprise me occasionally—said to me, “Instead of going to Hawaii, why don’t we go up to the U.P. and go riding with Jim Duke?” I love this woman, and this unassuming question quickly reminded me why I married her.

A little background here. Jim served as president of the American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA) from 2003 to 2005 and lives in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. We got to know him and his family during my years as ISSA president and my service as vice chair of ACSA’s Midwest Chapter.

As you might guess, I was receptive to my wife’s suggestion, and by later the next day, I had talked with our good friend up north, and he began making arrangements for us. Before the week was out, we had a room reserved at the White Pine Motel in Christmas, Mich., (highlighted on the map below) and had dinner planned with Jim and his daughter, Karyn, for Becky’s birthday.

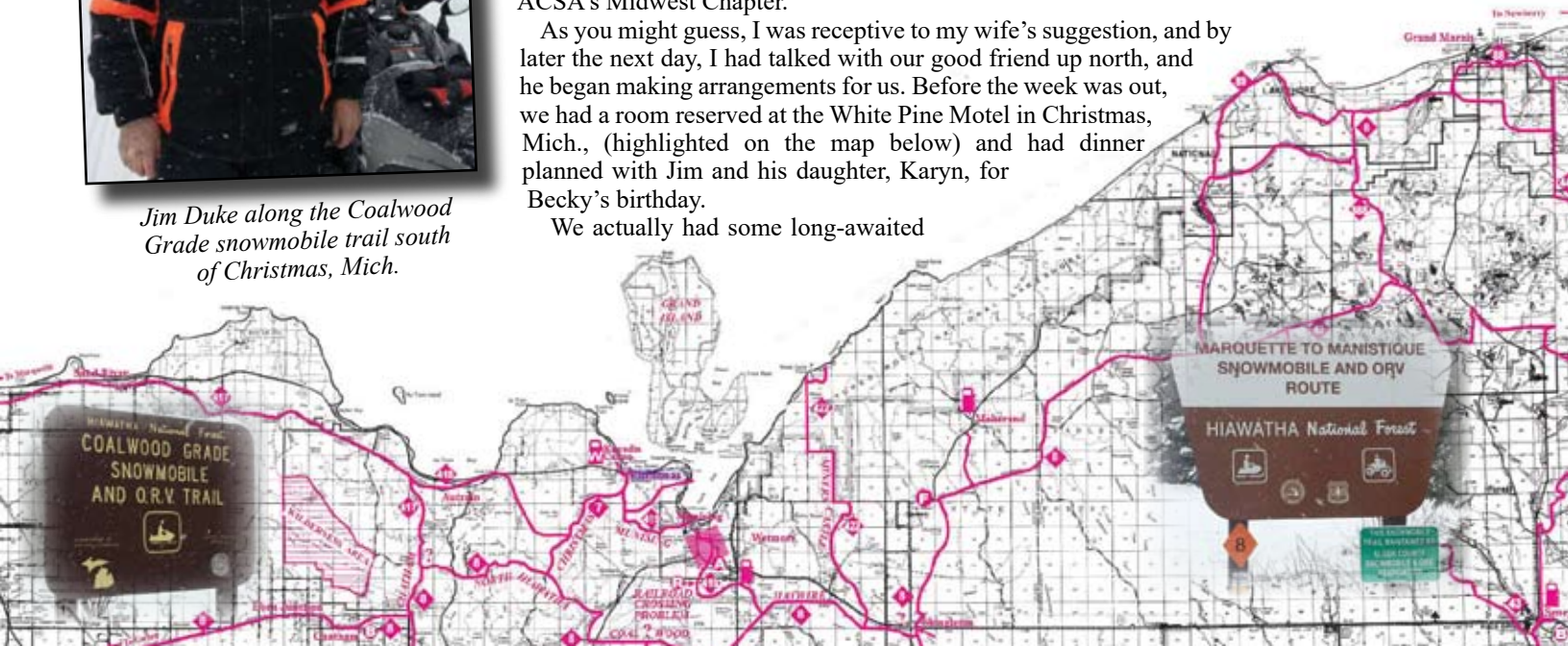
We actually had some long-awaited



Jim and Becky Willey outside the Buckhorn Resort at Munising, Mich.



Jim Duke along the Coalwood Grade snowmobile trail south of Christmas, Mich.



days of riding looming before us in the not-too-distant future, so before long, we were headed north with the Arctic Cat in the trailer and snow covered trails ahead of us. After crossing the bridge at Dubuque and an enjoyable drive through Wisconsin—albeit with seeing very little snow in most of one of the top snowmobiling states in the country—we were starting to realize that our Iowa trails were not the only ones suffering from a lack of snow last season.

After a quick wave to Jimmer Montgomery in Menomonee, and seeing Escanaba in da daylight (only a few of you will understand these references), we were soon at Christmas and the White Pine motel. The snow was deep and the people friendly. Jim came over to bring us our trail pass, and we had a good visit, catching up on events and family, and making plans for the ride the next morning.

We left Christmas the next day, heading out on well-groomed trails and rode through occasional snowfall through beautiful stands of the Hiawatha National Forest. While it was a great advantage to have a good friend as a guide, the trails up here were well marked,



Fuel line at Grand Marais

and trail maps were readily available.

Lake-effect snow keeps the Christmas and the entire Munising to Grand Marais area covered in a deep blanket that we wished we could take home with us. Besides the forest trails, we were able to ride along the shores of Lake Superior, and took in the outlook at Miner's Castle on Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore at Munising.

During our stay, we also made it to Grand Marais, a major destination in the U.P., and the only fuel stop in town here had gas lines equal to those that I had not seen since the 1970s. A later stop at the Bear Trap Inn at Shingleton provided an opportunity for hot chocolate, coffee, snowmobiling stories and “where shall we go next?”

West of Shingleton found us on the Coalwood Grade Snowmobile and ORV Trail, a multi-purpose rail-trail that stretches 26 miles from Shingleton to Chatham. Snow was falling this day, and we also encountered several groomers along the trail. In fact, on Saturday, we came across three groomers in just 80 miles of riding. According to Jim, who remains active in the Michigan Snowmobile Association, a groomer is assigned to every 50 miles of trail in the U.P. with clubs and volunteers running them 24/7.

Despite the excellent snow and trail conditions, we eventually had to bid farewell to the white stuff and to our friends. We had a great trip to the U.P., and my wife made a great choice on where to go for her birthday. It was a present that kept on giving.

Riding with good friends like Jim Duke and his daughter, Karyn, should happen as often as possible. As we witnessed the end of another slim snow year in Iowa, it is heartening to know that our friends with ample snow are willing to share their white bounty and their hospitality with us.

Editor's Note: If you have a ride story you would like to share with our readers, please email editor@iowasnowmobiler.com.



Miner's Castle Outlook on Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore at Munising.



One of many groomer sightings in the U.P.

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from page 12 extinguisher on the back of your sled is to assist another competitor when they have a thermal event. That worked perfectly this year with another team coming to the rescue.”

“After partaking in a root-cause analysis, our team along with the competition judges came up with the conclusion that the thermal event was caused by excessive heat for the area around the catalyst,” explained Austin Dewberry, a project director for the ISU team. “As for anything much more in detail than that, everyone has their own slight variance of theories.”

As detailed in the related story on page 12, the ISU team is planning to return to the competition in 2018 with their back-up sled from the first two years. Despite the setback, Meldrum, who serves as Keweenaw director, is encouraged to hear the team has rebounded, as one of the purposes of the CSC competition is to continually look for ways to improve snowmobile technology.

“I would prefer to highlight the positive aspects and learning achievements of the teams at CSC each year and not necessarily this mishap,” he said. “Yes, the team from Iowa State pushed the envelope, and we like to see that. The positive outcome from this whole ordeal has been a rules modification to know all the material properties of additions to the sled in relation to the environment in which it will be placed.”

Founded in 1999 at West Yellowstone,



Heading Out for the Endurance Ride

the snowmobile challenge has spent the last 15 seasons at Michigan Tech in the Upper Peninsula. The contest, according to Meldrum, is designed to promote ingenuity and reduce the sport’s environmental footprint. Past results from the competition can be seen in today’s production sleds.

Tasked with designing and building cleaner, quieter snowmobiles, the students compete in three categories: internal combustion engines, diesel utility engines and zero emissions. The rules are strict, and during the week-long marathon,

snowmobiles are judged on, among other measures, emissions, fuel economy, acceleration, cold-starting and endurance.

Teams are expected to arrive to the competition ready for the testing and riding. Their projects must pass inspection, after which the hoods are sealed to prevent further tinkering and tampering. According to Meldrum, the students need to show up at the competition ready to “compete with and not complete” their project.

Next year’s event is scheduled for March 5-10.

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Buena Vista Blizzard Busters

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

Clay County Sno Broncos

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

Dickinson County SnowHawks

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

Lyon County Sno-Lyons

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

O'Brien County Snowtrackers

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

Osceola County High Point Riders

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

Powder Players Inc.

P.O. Box 154, Remsen, IA 51050
www.powder-players.com
President: Jim Skinner
4871 Pierce Ave., Paullina, IA 51046
(712) 448-2567

Sioux County Snowmobile Club

Find us on Facebook
President: Kelly Roder
708 18th Ave SE, Rock Valley, IA 51427
(605) 759-1615, kellyroder31@yahoo.com

REGION TWO

Emmet County Driftbusters

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

Humboldt Sno-Skimmers

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

Kossuth County Drift Skippers

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

Palo Alto Rough Riders

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

Sno-Pak

P.O. Box 122, Rockwell City, IA 50579
Find us on Facebook
President: Kolby Wagner
749 South Street, Rockwell City, IA 50579
(712) 830-3821, kolbywagner@yahoo.com

REGION THREE

Hancock County Snowmobile Assn.

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

Iowa River Riders

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

Region 1

O'Brien County Snowtrackers

by Zelda Buse Christensen, Reporter

Nearly half way through October—time to get crops out of the fields in between rains. Also time to be thinking about getting signs planted to mark snowmobile trails.

And time to speculate on how much snow will fall in Iowa this winter—hopefully more than usual! Time to make sure groomer is serviced and checked over and ready to make smooth trails. Time now to make sure sleds are ready to go, with new license and permit in place.

Think snow!

Region 3

Iowa River Riders

by Karen McVicker

Greetings from the Iowa River Riders! This past summer, we did hold our summer fun run for classic cars and motorcycles the end of June. We had a nice turnout for our Show N

Shine prior to the fun run. It's always nice to see those older models from around the neighborhood and beyond. On our route, we made stops at several of our business sponsors' establishments and then returned to Coulter for a meal of smoked chicken and a band and fireworks in conjunction with Coulter Fun Day. Good times!

We have heard a promising forecast from the Farmers Almanac for a snowy winter and are counting on that! Last month, we held a club meeting with chili and scotcheroos to motivate and inspire members—new and old—to gear up for the snow season! We have new member interest and new sponsors from the area south of where we have typically been active, so we are very excited to see that! We can always use more support and new areas to ride!

Also in the plans are our normal fun runs, youth safety class, helping with THE JACK race at Clear Lake, and a club trip to northeast Iowa in February. Fundraising for a new

Club
News

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November

- Trails Unlimited chicken dinner fundraiser Nov. 3 at The Zipper, Festina.
- Worth County Fence Stretchers membership drive Nov. 4 at 6:30 p.m. at the VFW, Northwood.
- Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club Grass Drags Nov. 4 at Todd's Airfield, Ankeny. Registration at 8 a.m., radar runs at 9 a.m. and racing at 10 a.m.
- Frozen Few Snowmobile Club Grass Drags Nov. 12 at Palo. Gates open at 8 a.m. Racing starts at noon.
- 2017 ISSA Convention and Snow Show Nov. 17-18 Cedar Rapids.
- Worth County Fence Stretchers youth snowmobile safety course Nov. 18 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Carquest, Northwood. To register, call (641) 425-8336
- ISSA Board of Directors meeting Nov. 19 Cedar Rapids.
- Driftrunners Toys for Tots Drive and Kick-Off Dance Nov. 25.
- Mitchell County E-Z Riders Fundraiser Dinner Nov. 25 at the American Legion, St. Ansgar. Meal service starts at 5:30 p.m. Raffle drawings through midnight.

December

- ISSA Board of Directors meeting TBA.

January

- 9th Annual Jack Helgren Memorial Iowa Race Jan. 19-20 Clear Lake. Visit www.thejack-race.com
- International Snowmobile Safety Week Jan. 20-28. Visit www.snowmobile.org.
- University of Okoboji Winter Games Jan. 25-28. Visit www.uofowintergames.com.
- Driftrunners' 47th Annual Snowfest Jan. 25-28 Howard County Fairgrounds, Cresco.

February

- Driftrunners Charlie's Chili Feed Feb. 10 near Kendallville.
- Take-A-Friend Snowmobiling Week Feb. 10-19. Visit www.snowmobile.org.

groomer for our club is always a goal thru the season too. This season we will be printing new club shirts for sale, with our sponsors' logos on the back. That's always fun. So, the sport of snowmobiling is still alive and well here!

We have some members attending the ISSA convention in Cedar Rapids and hope to see you all there!

Worth County Fence Stretchers

by Nicole Knudson, Secretary

The chill of fall is in the air, definitely reminding us of what season is ahead. Here in the "north"—a.k.a. Worth County—harvest is in full swing, and we find ourselves preparing for winter days ahead.

The Fence Stretchers have set our schedule of events for the upcoming season, including our membership drive Nov. 4. This will be held at the VFW in Northwood at 6:30 p.m. with a supper and raffle. Please join us if this works!

On Nov. 18, our club will again host a snowmobile education class for youngsters ages 12 and up. Joe and Ann Determan do a fabulous job putting this together and educating our youngsters! We thank them for all they do in regards to this class. To register, you can call (641) 425-8336. This will be held in Northwood at Carquest from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Region 5

Cresco Driftrunners

by Bob Martinek, Treasurer

November is here, and harvest continues to drag on in Cresco. If the moisture we got in October continues in December and January as snow, we are going to have some great riding this winter! The Driftrunners' plans for November include the ISSA Annual Convention in Cedar Rapids on Nov. 17-19. We have several members planning to attend, and all are welcome. Convention details are printed in the front of this issue.

Following convention, on Saturday night, Nov. 25, we are having our annual "Toys for Tots" drive and Kick-Off Dance at the Fireman Inn in Ridgeway from 8 p.m. until ???. Jane is hosting and has lined up "DJ Digger" to play the tunes. Admission will be a new unwrapped toy or cash donation towards a toy purchase. We use the cash to purchase more toys to go with the donated ones. Then all are given to Community Action to be passed out in time for Christmas. The "Toys" drive truly is one of our best "feel-good" events of the year! If you are unable to attend but would like to donate, you can leave toys (donation) at the Fireman Inn or the Cresco Chamber office anytime beforehand.

Otherwise in order to get your vacation days booked, our 47th Annual Snow Fest will be Jan. 25-28, and Charlie's Chili Feed is set for Feb. 10. Details to follow in upcoming issues. Well, thanks for now, and I hope to see all at the Kick-Off dance later this month!



Volunteers with the Driftrunners place a bridge on their trail system Oct. 14.

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

North Iowa Snow Seekers

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

Worth County Fence Stretchers

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Bremer County Sno-Knights

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Butler County Snow Snoops

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Cedar Falls Sno Hawks

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www.floydcountygroomers.webs.com

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Mitchell County E-Z Riders, Inc.,

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Raccoon Valley Snow Chasers

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Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club

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Region 9

Snowdrifters, Inc.

by Ron Roe

Hello, everyone. I am back at my desk with pen in hand and not knowing just where to start.

I have gotten some trail work started. I went out and did the dirt work that needed taken care of. I think I pushed more trees out of the way than dirt. I had a lot of trees and parts of trees to push to the side. I had the chain saw along to cut some of the bigger ones. I could push most of them out of the way. There was one I couldn't get at an end, and I had to cut it to my size. I cut some small branches out of the way and then got the skid loader where I could take off the pressure that would pinch the saw blade. That makes it much easier work and not have to worry about a pinch and have to use a wedge to free the saw. I am experienced at doing that with a dumb move and getting caught.

The bridge I have on this trail had one corner sinking down from the dirt washing away. I had a strap that I got between the decking and around the two poles and lifted it up, and then we were able to get under and wedge two 6x6 blocks under the poles. When I let the pressure off, the bridge stayed where I had it, looking good. After that, I had to scrape up some dirt and build the shoulder of the bank out further. The dirt was very sandy and easy to get between the planks on the bridge. I should have it in good for a few years now. This has been sinking for quite a few years so it should be good now. My wife Chris was pretty handy at crawling under the bridge to place the blocks and used the maul to drive them in place tight. Now I need to mow the trail and mark it to be ready for snow.

Our club held our monthly meeting, Oct. 13. We discussed items for the ISSA Convention coming up later this month. The following morning, we met for breakfast and then worked on trails where a lot of manpower is needed. The Solon Legion appreciates us for breakfast on these Saturdays. There will be another work day this month.

Now is the time of year for our annual membership drive. If you want to sign up or renew your membership, you can go to the Snowdrifters website and get an application form. Last month, our local Arctic Cat dealer held his annual open house. A good time comes along with this. A lot of people you get to visit with that you don't see too often and always good food. Thanks, Steve, and your crew for a good time.

That's all for now. We are getting a little closer to winter now.



Snowdrifters members also tackled trail work in October.

Please Notify Membership Chair of Officer, Address Changes

If your club has elected new officers, please email ISSA Membership Chair Brittany Paulus at bepaulus@outlook.com so we can keep our Club Directory current. You can also notify her of any address changes for the mailing list of the magazine.



ISU team photo following Opening Ceremonies at the 2017 CSC in Michigan.

from page 12 rules,” said Austin Dewberry, project director for this year’s team. “There’s not many things that are against the rules, so anything you see on the snowmobile, or you can think of, you can do.”

The team members also said that while you can modify most anything on the snowmobile, the majority of teams stay away from modifying the chassis due to the fact that the competition requires intricate geometrical analysis of a redesigned chassis for safety reasons.

Other things that most teams modify are centered around the engine, tracks, suspension, skis and everything else that goes onto the chassis, said Dan Zimmerman, engine team lead for the project this year.

For 2018, the team will be running a back-up snowmobile from a few years ago due to a “thermal event,” as the team called it, that saw their primary snowmobile catch fire during the 2017 competition.

The snowmobile is powered by a 800cc, 140 horsepower two-stroke engine. A two-stroke engine is different from the engine you would find in your car due to the number of strokes it takes to turn the crankshaft in the engine. For example, most modern cars on the road feature a four-stroke engine.

The competition is primarily broken up into three classes, separated by type engine: internal combustion, diesel utility and zero emission. While the team said that the 2018 competition will not have a zero emission category, they will be competing in the internal combustion class.

“We had a few team members in the past who wanted to put a diesel motor in our chassis,” said Zimmerman, “but we’ve decided against it each year due to resources and time.”

For this upcoming competition season, the team has a few goals it hopes to achieve in terms of vehicle modification.

“We for sure want to do a standalone ECU,” said Dewberry.

An ECU, or engine control unit, is a device that controls how an internal combustion engine performs and allows for a user to tune specifically how that engine performs.

“For most any vehicle, they have aftermarket applications that are just plug and play, but for a two-stroke application, there’s nothing like that that exists currently,” Dewberry said.

“We’re throwing a lot of ideas around,” said Zimmerman. “We might put in a 600[cc] two-stroke engine so it lowers our horsepower. If we run the 800cc, we’ll probably have to put a rev-limiter on it so we don’t go over the horsepower limit for the competition.”

The team will be traveling to Michigan’s Upper Peninsula in March 2018 to Houghton, Mich., where they will be competing against other collegiate teams from around the world to develop and push the boundaries of the snowmobile industry.

Bootsmiller went on to talk about the club and how they encourage students from all backgrounds to consider joining.

“I joined my freshmen year without really knowing anything about snowmobiles,” Bootsmliller said. “We have a slightly smaller learning curve than other SAE teams because we’re not building a vehicle from the ground up and I think that makes us a little more approachable.”

Editor’s Note: The Iowa State Daily is the student newspaper at Iowa State University.

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100% ISSA Membership



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Jacobsen Seed

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