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IOWA SNOWMOBILER

October 2014 • Volume 36 • Issue 2

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IOWA SNOWMOBILER

October 2014 • Volume 36 • Issue 2

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membership through renewed efforts



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2014-15 Magazine Deadlines

November	Oct. 17
December (digital)	Nov. 14
January	Dec. 19
February (digital)	Jan. 16
March	Feb. 13

COVER: Randy Van De Berg of Sibley poses next to a trailer-full of recent vintage sled finds from Minnesota. Read more about this hobby-gone-mad on page 13.

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

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President's Message

Staying Busy with Events Across the Country

The time flies by, and too many meetings with too few days to get everything done have caught up with me lately. As we are already gearing up for the flurry of the new season coming on, I want to recap a few of the events from the past year.

Hay Days 2014 was a particularly enjoyable event this year, with cool mornings and pleasant afternoon temperatures, and less dust than any recent Hay Days that I can remember. There were more vendors and displays, and the swap meet was bigger than ever.

Making Tracks

The ISSA was once again a part of the Hay Days Club Row, just down the row from Minnesota, Wisconsin, South Dakota, Colorado, Canadian Provinces and several Minnesota Snowmobile clubs. The Snow Pioneers from Iowa who were on hand to share information, promote snowmobile safety and encourage the many people at Hay Days to become a part of organized snowmobiling.

The International Snowmobile Congress at Keystone Colorado this past June was an interesting and important part of the off-season with seminars, meetings and discussions on how we, as snowmobilers, can have an impact on access, economics and public relations for our sport. ISC is an event that every snowmobiler should try to attend. The 2015 ISC will be in New York and 2016 will be in South Dakota. Watch

for more information on these.

The American Council of Snowmobile Association-sponsored DC Fly-In in April brought snowmobilers from all across the Snow Belt to meet with federal officials and policy makers to understand and give feedback on issues affecting snowmobiling



Jim Willey
ISSA President

from federal land access to fuel standards for snowmobile engines. We had meetings with all of our congressmen and senators directly or with their staff, communicating the issues that they vote on at capitol hill.

As the season gets underway, I will be sharing more updates with you next month, and I am looking forward to seeing all of my fellow members at the ISSA convention at Dubuque in November.

The convention committee has been working on the convention since February, and I can tell you that I believe the convention this year will be the best we have ever seen. Please make your reservations and get your registrations sent in. This is going to be a convention and snow show that you do not want to miss.

See you on the trail.



ISSA members at the 2014 ISC in Keystone, Colo.

Region 1 Director's Report

Following in Merv's Footsteps in Northwest Iowa

With Hay Days in the past, it means the snowmobile season is ahead. The first measurable snowfall in the Black Hills and mountain areas means the talk is starting about the upcoming snowmobile season.

Region 1 meetings and other clubs throughout the state are on a lot of people's schedules. The next few months will be membership drives for many clubs. With the hope of a good snow season, as predicted by some, hopefully local clubs and the ISSA will see memberships on the rise.

Merv Hoermann has become the ISSA vice president so I am encouraged to step from Region 1 assistant to Region 1 director. With that being said, I would like to share some of my thoughts and goals for Region 1 and the ISSA.

Merv has done an excellent job and attended as many club meetings as possible. I hope to be able to carry on this tradition so if all the clubs in Region 1 can get me their contact information and the dates of their meetings, I will do my best to help keep the communication between the local clubs and the ISSA flowing.

With all the technology and social media in today's world, there has been good improvement throughout the state of keeping snowmobilers informed of all the events and snowmobile activity that is going on throughout the regions and the state. It is always good to be invited to other clubs events.

I hope to improve on this in Region 1 and the state so everyone can enjoy all the events here in Iowa. It would be great if we all help support the Iowa clubs as well as continue our trips in other states. The ISSA and IDNR have made good strides in getting groomers in more counties. I know the Dickinson

County Snowhawks and the Clay County Sno Broncs are recent recipients of Prinoth equipment and are very excited to groom the trails well, like the other counties have been doing so for years. Now all we need is for the Snow Gods to cooperate. By now everyone should have received their grant information for the upcoming season so it is time to make our trails safe and enjoyable.

We are fortunate in the northern counties to be next to Minnesota and hook up to their trail system. Being from Dickinson County in Iowa, we have developed

great communication with Jackson County in Minnesota. Each time they groom they contact us so we can try to groom about the same time. It is great to be able to travel greater distances and even for several days on a freshly groomed trail system. Our goal as local, regional, and state clubs should be to move in this direction so we



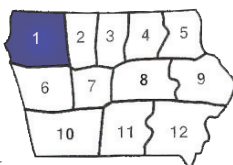
Dan Delpardang
Region 1 Director

can enjoy the state of Iowa on snowmobiles like we do when we go to Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, South Dakota, etc. I have received the list of all the registered snowmobiles in Region 1. When you look at the list and then compare it to the list of members in the local clubs, it is a little discouraging. With this being said, I would challenge everyone to invite one of the non-members to come to your next club meeting or club event. Invite them to get involved so the ISSA can keep moving in the upward direction. It is amazing how often I hear the following comment from people when I ask them why they are not a member of the snowmobile club. The #1 answer I hear is "because I wasn't asked." For those clubs that are lucky enough to have a groomer, I would encourage you to carry some membership forms on the groomer and with you snowmobiling. When you have freshly groomed trails and hear the comment on how great the trails are, ask them if they are members of the local club. If they are not, sign them up on the spot. Most club memberships are in a price range that one good outing on the groomed trails is worth the price of the membership.

At the time of writing this article, I have not been able to attend a lot of meetings as they are just getting started, but I do know the University of Okoboji Winter Games is set for Jan. 22-25. Snow has not cooperated the last few years so hopefully this will be the year for the white stuff.

The 41st Annual ISSA Convention is Nov. 21-23 in Dubuque so hopefully there will be great representation from all areas. Long distance to travel for Region 1, but as it was mentioned to me, "it is a great reason for a road trip." Hope to see everyone there and looking forward to a great snowmobile season.

Get involved in your local clubs and the ISSA.



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Region 12 Club Profile

What a Difference a Year Makes for Southeast Iowa Ridge Blasters

by Anna Dorothy

In 1981, the Southeast Iowa Ridge Blasters snowmobile club became an incorporated as a snowmobile club. In the following years, they created trails, purchased their own trail groomer and began raising money for the Spina Bifida Association of Iowa, the ISSA's official charity.

The club and its members were living the dream. Then, for whatever reason, in the late 1990s and early 2000s, membership began declining. Repairs that needed to be done to the groomer could not be afforded, and what was a club of approximately 50 members strong had fallen off to around 11. Despite the downturn, these 11 members, including ISSA stalwarts Fred Strothman, Mike Rauenbuehler and Jim Pickle, still met every month to hold meetings and to keep the club up and running.

Then in July of 2013, what began as two guys talking about a Facebook page—a page where area snowmobilers could share pictures and stores—has grown in to something great again. Jim Fitzgibbon and Aaron Dorothy started asking the questions, “Why can’t we have trails to ride?” “Why can’t we have a club that the other snowmobilers of Iowa have?”



And that is when it started. Fitzgibbon and Dorothy began talking to Fred and Jim about the old club and the way it used to be. They both joined the Ridge Blasters, proposed snowmobile routes throughout the county, attended six different city council meetings, contacted the Iowa DOT and began meeting with the Henry County engineer. After receiving approval from a number of city councils, they assisted in drafting an ordinance for another city and met with the county supervisors. What had seemed like a full-time job for approximately three months straight was finally rewarded with a formal trail system in Henry County of over 60 miles of trails.

Not to mention during those three months, they were boosting membership in the club, and with help from Matt Kinney, they put together a float for two local parades of vintage snowmobiles. It's easy to see why Dorothy was nominated and voted to be club vice president and Fitzgibbon to be secretary/treasurer.

But the work wasn't done yet because those trails need to be cleared and marked, and trail maps needed to be created and printed. That's when the next hurdle became apparent. They had already missed the trail sign order for the year, but a

Turn to page 8



Ridge Blasters Parade Float

2011



Winner: Mindi Gabrielson, Britt
Participating Dealer: Trimble's
Cycle Center, Austin, Minn.

2012



Winner: Al Zuehlke, Coun-
cil Bluffs Participating Dealer:
Leisure Life Sports, Omaha

2013



Winner: Jeannie Sorensen, Lake View
Participating Dealer: Nishna
Valley Cycle, Atlantic

2014



Winner: You
Participating Dealer: ISSA
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Questions? Contact ISSA Raffle Committee
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Ridge Blasters

Continued from page 6

valuable lesson was learned at the same time: Snowmobilers stick together. A number of clubs as close as the next county to the north and from as far away as northwestern Iowa all came together with any extra trail signs that they had to provide the Ridge Blasters with the trails signs they needed. With a growing number of members, the work load started to be shared more as well, and with the help of Brian Black, Dallas Kyle and DeWayne Mullen and a few other members, signing those trails only took a couple more weeks.

Then in early December, the club set up their first display booth at the New London holiday stroll. The booth consisted of a few snowmobiles on display, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) snowmobile simulator and a display of the trails, snowmobile information and club t-shirts. It was a big hit, and there were a lot of happy and excited youth that evening.

Then came the snowmobile season, and the trails were finally put to use. By the end of the season, membership had been boosted some 400 percent from July, thanks to all of this hard work. Trail sign removal was divided up and set for the first of April.

After the snow had melted, all of the signs had been pulled and the snowmobiles had been put away for the summer, Fitzgibbon, Dorothy and the rest of the Ridge Blasters started planning for next season. This included a 67-mile trail expansion of mowed, cleared, marked and groomed trails that, when completed, will connect 11 communities and one state park.

Then came the question of how do they make the trail work easier. They turned to the club's IDNR snowmobile trail grant application. Because aside from requesting a number of trail signs for the upcoming year's trail expansion, they had spent a number of evenings and nights researching the right equipment for the job.



Southeast Iowa Ridge Blasters officers, from left, Jim Fitzgibbon, secretary/treasurer; Mike Rauenbuehler, past president; and Aaron Dorothy, current president.

They decided on and requested a Polaris Brutus with a Camoplast track kit and an Arrowhead drag. The ISSA/IDNR Review and Selection Committee agreed and approved their request.

At the club's annual meeting in June of this year, members showed their appreciation for the guys by re-electing them to office. Following in their footsteps, even more members stepped up and said, "I want to be a part of this," and took on increased roles.

It goes to show that with help from fellow snowmobilers, the wise knowledge from a few founders and hard work from a couple of guys who put their heart in to the sport they love, a club can turn things around. What a difference a year can make.

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Shown here at the 2011 ISSA Snow Show, A-Maize-Ing Kustoms is expected to return to this year's event.

Snow Show Returns to ISSA Convention

Seven Informative Seminars to Be Offered Saturday Afternoon

by Cameron Hanson

Snowmobilers in Iowa can save five bucks and be entered into a drawing for a wild boar hunt in northeast Iowa if they register for the 41st Annual ISSA Convention by Oct. 15. After that early bird deadline, the cost jumps to \$60.

As detailed on the convention registration form on page 11, the feral hog hunt is courtesy of the Big Oak Elk Ranch of West Union in Region 5, just one of several partners helping out the ISSA Convention Planning Committee this fall.

According to chair Andrea Willey, the committee has secured more than \$11,000 in donations and pledges. Three of the four sled manufacturers are on board as well as other valuable sponsors, including Camoplast, which also has ties to Region 5.

This year's convention is being held at the Grand Harbor Resort and Waterpark in Dubuque Nov. 21-23. Clubs in Region 5 are hosting the event and are bringing the

ISSA Snow Show back after a two-year absence.

Planned for the adjacent River-view Center on Saturday, the show will feature sleds from local dealers representing all four OEMs as well as the latest in grooming equipment. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources' (IDNR) snowmobile simulator is also expected to make an appearance.

Vendors ranging from sled customization experts to resort owners from Canada and Michigan will be there as well. Snowmobile clubs from across Iowa will also be featured as part of the annual 'Snowmobile Iowa' showcase at convention.

The show is free and open to the public. Doors open at 9 a.m. and close at 5 p.m. If your club is interested in participating in the show, please pre-register by Nov. 1 by filling out the form in the September issue of the *Iowa Snowmobiler* or by visiting the convention website at www.iowasnowmobiler.com/issa/convention.

Stay for the Weekend

If you are coming to the snow show, Willey hopes you will make a weekend out of it by staying for the entire convention. Festivities start Friday night with hospitality and continue Saturday with the election of officers, meetings, raffle drawings, seminars and awards banquet.

The convention wraps up Sunday morning with an avalanche awareness seminar and the following ISSA/IDNR workshops: Snowmobile Safety Instructor Certification and Groomer Operator Certification for both new and existing operators. A tentative convention agenda appears on page 11.

"Talk to your fellow club members and encourage people to attend," ISSA President Jim Willey said. "The committee is off to a great start. The clubs in Region 5 are

all working together, and it's going to be a great convention. We hope to see people there from all over the state."

The hotel has blocked off 100 rooms at the ISSA rate of \$109 per night through Nov. 1. The state snowmobile convention is not the only event at the resort this weekend so Andrea Willey strongly suggests ISSA members reserve their rooms now as they will probably go quickly after the hold date lifts.

As of Aug. 23 ISSA board meeting, "a quarter of those rooms have already been spoken for, and we're three months out, so if you have not booked your rooms, please do so today," she urged.

Seminar Line-Up

In addition to the Sunday morning offerings, Saturday afternoon at convention will feature seven informative seminars for ISSA members. Topics range from women in snowmobiling and vintage sled restoration to cold weather survival and trail planning and signing.

- A featured speaker at the 2013 convention in Altoona, Julie-Ann Chapman of British Columbia returns this year to discuss the impact of **Women in Snowmobiling** as well as their current level of participation in the sport.

An extreme mountain rider, Chapman will also discuss riding techniques and tips for female snowmobilers, sharing her personal preferences for snowmobile set-up and "how to line yourself up for success," Willey said.

- Tapping into her experience as a back-country rider, Chapman will also lead the seminar on **Cold Weather Survival**. She will be providing tips on how to plan ahead

Official Notice of ISSA Elections & Proposed By-Law Changes



Who:
Officers &
Directors from
Even-Numbered
Regions

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

Where:
Grand Harbor Resort
and Riverview Center
Dubuque, IA

before a trip, what to carry for survival gear, how to dress for the ride and what to do in an emergency.

"If the situation calls for staying out overnight, she will tell you how and where to establish a shelter and how to build and start a fire," Willey said.

• Another seminar devoted to the female audience at convention will be led by Dee Dee Raap, a motivational speaker from Sioux Falls, S.D., and wife of Kim Raap, a consultant for the American Council of Snowmobile Associations.

Already planned for a morning presentation on Generational Leadership, Raap will spend part of the afternoon on her popular **Women's Program: Making the Journey Great**. She will discuss the way women deal with all that life throws at them while maintaining the passion to be their personal best every day.

According to Raap's website, "audiences are inspired to consider the impact of not only what they do, but why and how they do it as they discover within themselves the only real secret to success."

• For the tinkers in the crowd, the Antique Snowmobile Club of America will have a representative on hand at convention Saturday afternoon to discuss the **Repair and Restoration of Vintage Snowmobiles**.

The seminar will outline the current state and growth of the vintage/antique hobby and explain the different clubs, organizations and events currently available to the novice enthusiast.

"They also plan to cover some ideas on what to look for in vintage sled acquisition, and what to expect for costs/parts availability

for the different types of machines out there," Willey said.

With handouts available on various resources, most of this seminar will be focused on the restoration of vintage and antique machines, but ideas on how local snowmobile clubs can become involved in this popular segment of the sport will also be covered.

• For those interested in recording and sharing their snowmobile adventures online, Joe Gill of High Country Octane Productions, Elko, Nev., will be on hand at convention to lend his experience in the field of **Action Videos and Video Editing**. He will be sharing tips and tricks to allow the beginner to be successful in the world of film editing.

"This entails a basic understanding of computer systems and editing software," Willey said. "He hopes to send all attendees home with the basic understanding of what they need to do to create and share their own snowmobiling adventures."

• The remaining two seminars on the convention docket will be led by ISSA committee members. At 1 p.m., the ISSA Awards Committee will explain how the **Club Recognition and Awards Program** works.

"Mindy (Scott) and her team will go over the nomination process, how to submit the paperwork, who is eligible, what is expected and what makes an award nomination good," Willey explained.

Then at 2:30 p.m., ISSA Trail Sign Coordinator Matt Miner will discuss **Trail Planning, Signing and Landowner Relations**. Club members here should be prepared to take good notes on how to plan your trails and mark them properly.

Miner hopes to have an updated manual to hand out on proper trail signage at convention. He will also highlight the expectations of the IDNR, proper insurance coverage and landowner relations.

"As you can see, we have put a lot of effort into convention this year," Willey said. "Speakers are coming in from all over as we are really trying to raise our game. We invite you come over to eastern Iowa this November and have fun while we improve our sport."

ISSA Charity Fundraiser

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

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

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

The winner will be drawn at the November ISSA convention.

2014 ISSA Club Challenge

Wapsipinicon Snowmobile Association.....	\$1000
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Floyd County Groomers.....	\$500
Eastern Iowa Sledheads.....	\$500
Dickinson County Snowhawks.....	\$400
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Palo Alto Rough Riders.....	\$150
Winneshiek Trail Twisters.....	\$100
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41st Annual ISSA Convention Nov. 21-23, 2014 Registration Form

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

Check all that apply

____ Early Bird *Registration by Oct. 15: \$ 55/person
____ Full Registration after Oct. 15: \$60/person
____ Friday only Registration: \$15
____ Saturday only Registration: \$45/person
____ Youth Registration: \$30/person (under 16)
____ ISSA Calendar: \$10

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- Saturday Afternoon seminars
- Saturday evening Banquet and Awards Ceremony and Entertainment
- Sunday Seminars

Please Note: Registration fees DO NOT cover lodging. For lodging contact Grand Harbor Hotel. Rooms start at \$109 per night and include free passes to the waterpark. Block of rooms are held until November 1st. Call 1-866-690-4006 for reservations and more information.

Mail complete Form and Payment to:

Andrea Willey
1220 E Main St.
Manchester, IA 52057
563-920-4398
Momingstar.willey@gmail.com



41st Annual ISSA Convention Nov. 21-23, 2014 Tentative Agenda

Friday, Nov. 21

3 p.m. to 9 p.m. Convention Registration
3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Snow Show set up
6 p.m. to 11 p.m. Hospitality/Entertainment

Saturday, Nov. 22

7 a.m. to 9 a.m. Snow Show Set up
7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Convention Registration
8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Silent Auction
8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Welcome/Annual Meeting/Region Meetings
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Snow Show
9:30 a.m. Generational Leadership

Speaker: Dee Dee Raap

Brunch

Open Forum: IDNR/Insurance/ASCA

Youth Event @ National River Museum

Seminars

1 p.m. Women in Snowmobiling

Presenter: Julie Ann Chapman

Repair and Restoration of Vintage Snowmobiles

Presenter: Antique Snowmobile Club of America

Club Recognition and Awards

Presenter ISSA Awards Committee

Cold Weather Survival

Presenter: Julie Ann Chapman

Action Videos and Editing

Presenter: Joe Gill, High Country Octane

Trail Planning, Signing and Landowner Relations

Presenter: Matt Miner

Women's Program: Making the Journey Great

Presenter: Dee Dee Raap

Banquet

5 p.m. Groomer Reception

Social

5:30 p.m. Silent Auction

5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

6 p.m. Dinner

Keynote Speaker: Bret Rasmussen

Awards/Raffles and Entertainment

Sunday, Nov. 23

9 a.m. Avalanche Training (Meeting Room 1)

9 a.m. Groomer Operator Certification (Meeting Room 2)

9 a.m. Safety Instructor Certification (Meeting Room 3)



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INSIDE the Life of a SNOWMOBILE Picker

Sibley's Van De Berg Scours the Midwest for That Next Great Barn Find

by Cameron Hanson

It's a hot August afternoon in the small, northwest Iowa community of Little Rock. The cell phone rings, and on the other end is a snowmobile collector from Wisconsin. He's looking for the Ariens snowmobile cover he saw advertised for sale online recently.

Answering the call is Randy Van De Berg of Sibley, an insurance agent and fellow vintage sled enthusiast. On this day, Van De Berg is unable to satisfy the caller's inquiry as the cover has just been sold. "Sorry," he said, the bad news echoing inside his machine shed on the north end of Main Street.

Regardless of the time of year, Van De Berg regularly fields these types of phone calls, and very rarely does he not come through. Had the out-of-state client been looking for a 1972 Motoski Capri or a 1970 Boatel Grand Prix, he probably could have hooked him up.

You see, Van De Berg is more than a collector; he's a vintage dealer. Some call him a 'sled hunter'; others say he's a 'snowmobile picker', a description made famous by the *History Channel* show of a similar name. Either way, he's the man to contact if you are in the market for a rare snowmobile.

"I just enjoy buying, selling and trading them," he said, estimating he's owned close to 400 vintage sleds since the self-described obsession began eight years ago. "It's a hobby that's gone mad. It's a disease more than anything. But it sure is fun."

BUY

Now numbering around 85 sleds, Van De Berg's collection is spread across three buildings in downtown Little Rock. The machine shed is a former lumber yard. A block south is the 1904 grocery store now known as Randy's Sled Shed, and kitty-corner from there is an alley garage, the only heated building of the bunch.

None of the storage facilities would qualify as a museum, and to call the garage a showroom would even be a stretch. But that's just fine with Van De Berg. He's more interested in being the middle man, the guy who can find that snowmobile to complete another

man's collection. He wants to give his customers that "barn-find" experience.

"I've thought about creating a museum, but I prefer to do it this way. Besides, it's hard to keep them clean in this type of building," he explained, standing in a sea of dusty sleds. "If people want to come over and look at my sleds, I will gladly show them; and if someone is interested in buying one, I will take it over to my garage shop and clean it up."

Renewed Connections

Usually by the time a sled migrates south to the smallest of his three buildings, it's been sold and is awaiting delivery to its new owner. Staged in his garage on this summer day were a 1972 AMF Ski-Daddler, a 1973 AMF Harley-Davidson and an Arctic Cat Panther 440, among others. Standing out from the crowd was a fully-restored 1970 Chaparral,

"When I sell them, I try to make them as nice as I can," Van De Berg said. "I've been doing this long enough that people know my name. They know if they deal with me, it's a straight shot and the sled is represented as advertised. I've even had guys show up and say it's nicer than I said it was. I'd rather have my buyers happy when they leave than disappointed."

In all, eight of the garage-stored vintage snowmobiles were being shipped off to a retired fuel hauler near Lloydminster, Alberta, Canada. The two met at the 2013 Waconia Ride-In at Waconia, Minn., and have since developed a friendship over their mutual passion of vintage sleds.

"This is his retirement," Van De Berg explained, recalling the first sled he sold to him was a 1971 Eskimo. "He is trying to build up his collection so he can pass it on to his kids. He will probably be buying some more from me."

Another repeat customer is a retired snowmobile dealer from



near Salt Lake City, Utah, who, according to Van De Berg, is on a mission to own a snowmobile from every manufacturer ever made. “At one point, I had 12 of the ones he didn’t have in his collection, and he’s bought three more since then,” he said. “I guess he’s a nut like me.”

Like his Canadian buddy, Van De Berg also met the Utah dealer at the Waconia event, which is billed as the world’s largest vintage snowmobile show and swap meet. For Van De Berg, the ride-in at the southwest Minneapolis suburb becomes a reunion each January. Hay Days each September is another popular venue to make or renew connections, he said.

“The guys I deal with are fellow hobbyists, and in some cases, we’ve become very close friends,” Van De Berg said. “I’ve been doing it for so long now that people will come up to me at Hay Days or Waconia and tell me they bought a sled from me. That’s really neat. You build up a comradery with this vintage market.”

Far from Mainstream

For the most part, Van De Berg collects vintage snowmobiles from 1965 to 1975. He considers anything before that era an antique. He can tell you where each one in his stable came from, and he usually knows the history behind its manufacturer. The rarer the better, he said. There’s an occasional Arctic Cat or Polaris, but for the most part, the sleds in his collection are far from the mainstream.

“I’m looking for the oddball stuff,” he said. “Some sleds are hard to find, but I’ve met enough people now that they call me up and share where some are at. Other times I find out

SELL

about a bunch of sleds a family wants to get rid of, and I make them an offer. I’ve had as many as 45 different brands at once.”

Word-of-mouth helps, but Van De Berg admits his conquest has been aided greatly by the Internet. As a member of both the Antique Snowmobile Club of America and the Vintage Snowmobile Club of America, he regularly searches their online classifieds for his next big find. He also posts his sleds and related accessories for sale on their free websites.

“You could do this without the Internet but I would not have near as many sleds as I do without it,” the 58-year-old confessed. “I really don’t care too much for computers, but for what I do, they’re great. I wouldn’t have three-quarters of the contacts I have right now without it.”

The rarest sled Van De Berg has ever owned was a mini snowmobile called a Sno Wolf. Only 50 of those were made, he said, and he owned one for about four years. His current pride-and-joy is an Easy Rider tracked utility vehicle. Originally intended for military use in Viet Nam under the French name Passe Par Tout,



1968 Easy Rider



1972 Viking Vigilante 440

Pro Football Influence?

Randy Van De Berg often jokes he could field a professional football league with some of the vintage sleds he’s owned over the years. There’s been the twin-tracked Raider, a Dauphin with its dolphin logo, a Panther, a Colt and, yes, plenty of Vikings.

Available in five different colors, Viking sleds were manufactured in Twin Valley, Minn., ending production in 1976. Given his close proximity to Minnesota, Van De Berg said he has no problem selling these models, “especially the ones with purple hoods.”

300 surplus units ended up in Michigan and were converted to civilian use under the Easy Rider name.

“They had gun mounts on the side, and it steers like a tank—two speeds forward and one reverse,” Van De Berg said, simultaneously turning the key in the ignition to highlight its electric start feature. “The Army didn’t want them so they were marketed to civilians. I found this one in Wisconsin, and it’s all original. Can’t be a lot of them left. Occasionally, you find a Passe Par Tout, but this is the only Easy Rider I’ve ever found.”

His latest obsession are Gilson snowmobiles, manufactured by the Gilson Bros. of Plymouth, Wis. This lawn and garden equipment maker also developed snowblowers and eventually snowmobiles in the early 1970s. Snowmobiles manufactured under the Gilson name only lasted three years, which makes them “very rare,” Van De Berg noted.

Earlier this year, he bought five Gilsos from a gentleman in Michigan and met him in Gary, Ind., to complete the transaction. Van De Berg estimates he puts on 6,000 miles each year on his pickup, traveling around the country buying and delivering vintage sleds. He recently completed a day-trip through Minnesota and made eight stops along the way, including one for another Gilson machine.

“With gas prices so high, I will try and buy other sleds in the same area,” he explained. “I think I put on 952 miles that day alone. By the time I got home, I was tired, but I got the job done.”

Condition is Everything

According to Van De Berg, most of his picking is done in the Midwest, primarily in Minnesota and Wisconsin, the “mecca of vintage snowmobiles,” he calls it. An hour north of Minneapolis at Ogilvie, Minn., he located a 1968 Boatel Ski Bird, while a little closer to home at nearby Sanborn, Minn., he rescued a 1968 Polaris Mustang from a rundown chicken coop.

“The Boatel had a stuck motor, but it was so rare that it really didn’t bother me,” he said. “The Polaris was a nice little survivor as well. The seat was perfect. You just don’t find them like that.”

According to Van De Berg, condition is everything, and that

keeps the hunt challenging and exciting. He quickly passes over the “junk” and is only interested in quality finds. To satisfy his criteria, the seat should not be ripped, the hood needs to be intact, and for the most part, the motor needs to at least pull over. A complete windshield is a bonus.

“I’m pretty fussy about what I buy because there’s a lot of junk out there,” he said. “These sleds are only original once. If it’s not a complete sled, I usually don’t mess with it unless it’s ultra rare. The condition of the seat is also very important. If you find one with a nice seat, you should buy it.”

As evidence by the odometer on his pickup, Van De Berg said he will go the extra mile to secure that perfect sled. If he cannot make the trip himself, he can arrange shipping through his network



1970 Chaparral Awaiting its New Home

of contacts, mainly other guys who are already heading to the Midwest for Waconia or Hay Days and can drop the machine off on their way through.

He was able to coordinate delivery of three Harley-Davidson snowmobiles from Oregon this way as well as a 1966 Ski-Daddler from Connecticut. The furthest away he sold a sled was to a collector in the Northwest Territory of Canada near the Alaskan border. “He had heard about my sled collection and bought it from just a picture,” Van De Berg said.

Stays Busy in the Summer

Van De Berg estimates he spends about nine months out of the year searching for and selling unique, vintage snowmobiles. By the time winter is over, he is usually burned out and spends the springtime recharging his batteries. When summer rolls around again, his interest in the hobby is renewed.

“During the summer is usually when I’m on the lookout because you can buy the sleds cheaper then,” he said.

Take the time when he was fishing near Aberdeen, S.D., in August of 2013. On their way home, he and his companions noticed a 1968 Ski-Doo Alpine with a single ski and dual track sitting outside at a farm as they passed by. On their return trip this summer, they stopped by the farmhouse to inquire about it.

“I knocked on the door, but the owner wasn’t home,” he recalled. “The kids gave me his phone number so I called him up. Not only did he agree to sell it to me, but he offered to bring it down to Sioux Falls for just \$200. It was an offer I couldn’t refuse.”

Cold-calling comes with the territory and is one of the reasons Van De Berg was initially lured to the hobby. He bought his first vintage sled in 2006 after seeing a 1965 Ski-Doo for sale at Lake

Okoboji. “That’s where it all got started,” he said. “The next day, I bought an Arctic Cat Panther VIP with a cutter, and it just mushroomed from there.”

Upon further examination, Van De Berg admits the seed was probably planted a lot earlier than that. As a teenager back in the early 1970s, he worked after school at a Rock Rapids dealership, wrenching on Starcrafts, Sno Jets and Johnson snowmobiles. “That’s actually how I got the bug,” he said. “I would help set up the new ones and clean up the used ones.”

Van De Berg said the hunt for vintage snowmobiles does bring back his childhood “a little bit.” Both the Eskimo and the bubble-nose Scorpion he’s owned were models he rode as a kid, but like most of his collection, they hold very little sentimental value. He’s more interested in making other people’s dreams come true and rescuing sleds for posterity.

“Some of my sleds have been super, super rare, and I say I will never get rid of them, but then someone will come along and tell me they had a certain sled as a kid. They will make me a ridiculous offer, and I let it go,” he said. “It’s then I realize that I’m not married to them *that* much. If I found one, I can probably find another.”

Because he acquires them with very little investment, Van De Berg said he is able to sell his sleds fairly reasonably. He said he’s not flipping them to get rich, and the proceeds from each sale help finance his hobby. In fact, the money doesn’t stay in his pocket very long: As one leaves the garage, two more arrive.

“I don’t have any money borrowed on any of this. If it gets to a point that I have to borrow money to buy them or if they have to sit outside, I won’t buy them,” he said, explaining why his collection has grown from a two-stall garage at Okoboji to three buildings on Main Street in Little Rock.

No Cure in Sight

Van De Berg has yet to find a cure to his obsession, not that he’s looking very hard. He said he gets great satisfaction out of locating that rare machine or completing a fellow hobbyist’s collection. He’s found a niche in the vintage snowmobile market and fulfills a role few others like him share.

“Nobody else does this around here,” he said. “I am probably the farthest out in the realm of vintage snowmobiles involved in this sort of work. You always have to go north or east to find other guys like me.”

Valdi Stefanson, president of the Antique Snowmobile Club of America, believes there is a “valuable and legitimate” purpose for sled hunters in the vintage world. With new machines costing more than \$10,000, he feels the collector market will continue to grow as an affordable alternative for the sport.

“If this collectors’ game is to continue to grow, these individuals are necessary and wanted,” said Stefanson, who estimates there have been at least 130 snowmobile manufacturers in the world. “And it will grow so long as future barn finds are discovered and can continue to satisfy the demand out there.”

“Quite frankly, guys like (Van De Berg) elevate the hobby and facilitate new people coming into it. This hobby has grown through the services of sled hunters,” he said.

Van De Berg said he is always on the lookout for that “next great find.” If you know of a vintage sled hidden in an outbuilding somewhere, let him know at (712) 261-3941, and he will probably come take it off your hands.

Trade



Butterfly handlebars of a 1971 Boatel Grand Prix



ISSA CLUBS

Clubs in red reported

100% ISSA Membership

REGION ONE

Buena Vista Blizzard Busters

President: Jeffrey Sassman
709 Hudson St., Storm Lake, IA 50588
(712) 732-6500

Clay County Sno Broncos

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

Dickinson County SnowHawks

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

Lyon County Sno-Lyons

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

O'Brien County Snowtrackers

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

Osceola County High Point Riders

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

Powder Players Inc.

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

Sioux County Snowmobile Club

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

REGION TWO

Emmet County Driftbusters

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

Humboldt Sno-Skimmers

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

Kossuth County Drift Skippers

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

Palo Alto Rough Riders

President: Kurt Bonnstetter
111 Iowa St., P.O. Box 62, Cylinder, IA 50528
(712) 424-3011, kbonnste@iowatelecom.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) 830-3821, kolbywagner@yahoo.com

REGION THREE

Hancock County Snowmobile Assn.

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

Iowa River Riders

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

Club News

Region 1

O'Brien County Snowtrackers

by Zelda Buse Christensen

Mid-September, when I am writing this, is a time for wishful thinking. Here are a few possible examples of wishful thinking for Snowtrackers members:

The old snowmobile has been gotten out of storage, dusted off and checked over to be ready for the season. The new sled, ordered last spring, has been paid for and brought home, raring to go. The snowmobile trailer has been gone over and is ready for any length trip.

The annual membership supper has been held, with a turnout larger than those of the last few years. Twenty new families joined. After the delicious supper and an informative meeting, numerous donated prizes were distributed.

So many volunteers worked to put up signs on the trails that the job was done incredibly fast. With sufficient snow, groomer operators have taken turns keeping trails in good shape for some fun runs and a snowdeo/radar run. All events ran smoothly, since so many members volunteered to help with them.

Remember, these are examples of wishful thinking. Now we stop just wishing and instead start actually doing.

Hopefully, this is the winter that O'Brien County actually gets some usable snow!

Region 3

Iowa River Riders

by Karen McVicker, Secretary

This past June, our club held a Fun Run for classic cars and motorcycles. The rides came to Coulter early that day for a "Show and Shine" period before we left on the route. It was a fun day with about 50 riders and great weather to enjoy.

The Iowa River Riders had a club campout at Lake Cornelia Sept. 12-14. Members listened to the big game between Iowa and Iowa State followed by a tasty potluck supper. We then huddled around the campfire to have a meeting.

Discussion on the coming season's events was held, including our club trip location, and the sixth annual Jack Race at Clear Lake. We're optimistic that the snow will come sooner than later this season, so we're planning trail signing days for the first two Saturdays in November. We decided to hold our meetings on the first Thursday of the month this year. We will keep you informed of our events on Facebook and our web page.

Here's to putting the lawnmowers away soon and getting the snowmobiles out!

Region 4

Cedar Falls Sno Hawks

by Dick Melick, Secretary

Greetings from Cedar Falls. It is starting to look like fall around here. Some of the trees are turning to the fall colors and crops are getting close to harvest. There is not a lot of

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

2014-15 EMR Program



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

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

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

Club News

news as it is so early in the season.

Club members Bruno and Marilyn Andreini, Brian Carmichael, Sally Carmichael and Dick Melick attended the International Snowmobile Hall of Fame (ISHOF) weekend in Eagle River, Wis., the weekend of Sept. 11-14. A great time was had by all, and as usual, there was a lot of time for good conversation and great snacks at the World Snowmobile Headquarters located next to the World Championship Racetrack.

Rain on Friday threw "cold water" on the planned boat trip on the connecting lakes in the area. A wonderful banquet was held Saturday evening. The Sno Hawks send our congratulations to the Eastern Iowa Sled Heads club who were selected by ISHOF as their 2014 Club of the Year, a very new program for ISHOF. Congratulations also to ISSA Region 5 Director, Chris Willey, on his selection by Arctic Cat as the 2014 Groomer Operator of the Year. These awards were presented at the ISHOF awards banquet.. Thanks to Tom Anderson and crew for a wonderful weekend in Eagle River.

Work is progressing on the Iowa DOT Trail Crossing permit application. A big "Thank You" to club member Tony French who is assuming the duties of preparation of these documents for the Five Star Snow Trails Association.

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

The next club meeting will be Tuesday, Oct. 7, at our regular meeting place, the Comfort Suites, 7402 Nordic Drive, Cedar Falls. Club meetings are normally held the first Tuesday of the month, September thru April, starting at 7 p.m. As usual all interested snowmobilers and ISSA officers and directors are invited to attend any of our meetings. For more information about our trails, the club and/or meetings, contact club president Brian Carmichael at (319) 215-5006 or secretary Dick Melick at (319) 231-0819.

START THINKING SNOW!!!!

Region 5

Driftrunners Inc.

by Bob Martinek, board member

Hi from Cresco.

First off I am going to report on our annual meeting and steak fry we just completed. The main part of the meeting was our board and officer elections we held to fill terms completed. New board members are Brian S., Christy S., Dan O. and Alex F. New secretary Kelly M. and stepping up from vice president to president Dean Z. I would like to say "welcome" to all. Also I would say "Thank You" to members going off the board: Dustin P., Shawn E., Corey G., Kyle O., Lori M., and Matt M. And yes technically Matt is still on the board as past president and Lori is also a board member still as she and Kelly just officially switched positions. Oh and almost all of the ones leaving are planning to help mark trails, run the groomer and etc. Anyways, thanks to all.

Otherwise not a lot going yet as we are waiting for some crops to come out to begin marking trails. Several members have made plans (and it's not too late to join them) to attend the ISSA convention in Dubuque on Nov. 21-23. Sounds like a pretty fun time. If you haven't ever been to convention, I would consider going. It's a great chance to see the inner workings of the ISSA and mingle with sledders from all over the state.

Right after convention on Nov. 29, the Driftrunners are holding our annual Toys for Tots Drive and Kickoff Dance (location to be determined yet). Also in case you haven't blocked off and circled on your 2015 calendar yet, our 44th Annual Snow Fest will be Jan. 22-25. Lastly, Charlies' Chili Feed is set for Feb. 14. I guess that's it for now. Thanks.

Winneshiek Trail Twisters

by Janet Borseth, Reporter

The cool frosty mornings of early fall should be reminding everyone of the wonderful winter we had last year and making us wonder what this next winter will bring.

The Trail Twisters just held their annual camp out in Bluffton the weekend of Sept. 27. Sitting around the campfire, we told stories of last year's rides, the new trail from Ridgeway to Bluffton and who has snow-checked a new sled.

We are busy planning the 6th annual Snow Show/Membership Drive scheduled for Nov. 1 at the Danan Lansing Building on the Winneshiek County Fairgrounds. Sponsored by local radio station KVIK 104.7 and the Trail Twisters, we will again have a variety of vendors showing sleds, gear and clothing. Polashek's meat locker will also be on hand with meat samples and sales. Food will be available on site, offered by WTT. A swap meet will be held outside in the parking lot. Mark your calendar; it is always a fun day.

The Trail Twisters meet the 1st Monday of each month at Jake's clubhouse. I will have more events to talk about next month. Keep Winneshiek County in mind when planning

ISSA CLUBS

Clubs in red reported

100% ISSA Membership



Lakota Sno-Eagles

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

North Iowa Sno-Jammers

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

North Iowa Snow Seekers

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

Team Iowa Snowmobilers

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

Worth County Fencestretchers

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

REGION FOUR

Bremer County Sno-Knights

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

Cedar Falls Sno Hawks

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

Chickasaw Sno-Riders

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

Dewar Snow Chasers

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

Floyd County Groomers Association

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

Howard County Stump Jumpers

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

Mitchell County E-Z Riders, Inc.,

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

Snow Snoops Snowmobile Club

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

REGION FIVE

Allamakee Sno-Blazers

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

Asbury Snowhawks

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





ISSA CLUBS

Clubs in red reported
100% ISSA Membership

Clayton County Snowbirds

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

Driftrunners, Inc.

Join Us on Facebook under 'Groups'
President: Matt Miner
17879 State Hwy 9, Lime Springs, IA 52155
(563) 380-7142, mmmfarms@hotmail.com

Dyersville Driftskippers

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

Snow Pioneers

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

Trail Blaz-zers Inc.

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

Trails Unlimited

Trails Unlimited
15778 282nd St., West Union, IA 52175
President: Bud Winter
(319) 231-3337, bwinter@acegroup.cc
Wapsipinicon Snowmobile Association
P.O. Box 802, Independence, IA 50644
www.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: Dan Bohr
217 Washington, Decorah, IA 52101

REGION SIX

Sac County Snow Lovers

P.O. Box 464, Lakeview, IA 51450
President: Bradley Garrels
307 Adams St., Lake View, IA 51450
(712) 210-4262, garrelsbrad@hotmail.com

REGION SEVEN

High Bridge Trailblazers

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

Raccoon Valley Snow Chasers

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

Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club

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

Webster County Ice Breakers

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

REGION EIGHT

Central Iowa Snowmobilers

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

Jasper County Ditch Bangers

President: David Huffaker
P/O/ Box 311, Baxter, IA 50028
(641) 751-0622, huffaker-dave@hotmail.com

Club News

your winter trips. We have 180 miles of groomed trails that take you to the towns of Burr Oak, Bluffton, Ridgeway, Cresco, Kendallville, Hesper, Frankville, Ossian and Waukon.

Region 7

Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club

by Craig Krapf, President

Well, it's October, and with the cooler weather these days, I am sure we are all thinking about that first ride of the season! Our club already has had a lot of activity this year.

Trail work has started at Big Creek; we had our first club meeting on Sept. 9 with a great turnout. Our next big event is our annual grass drags. Please mark your calendar: Saturday Nov. 1 at 10 a.m., the SDSC Capital City Shootout will take place at Todd's Airfield in Ankeny to benefit the Spina Bifida Association of Iowa and the SDSC.

We are hoping for a great turnout this year and welcome everyone. We will have several classes plus we are bringing back the mini sleds this year. So get those sleds out of the garage, clean them up and bring them out to race. We will have plenty of parking, food and refreshments.

I would also like to take a minute to congratulate our own club member, Aaron Cassler. Aaron was at Hay Days this year and set a world record for Lake Racer/King of the Hill class. Aaron raced his sled, Black Mamba to a top speed of 127.7 MPH in 3.994 seconds in 500 feet.

Way to go, Aaron! Keep up the good work! Aaron will be sure to be at our annual grass drags this year. With any luck, he will bring the Black Mamba out for display.

Trail work will start soon. Please watch your email and our Facebook page for updates from Barry and Zac. A little help goes a long way to make a trail system great.

If we missed you at our first meeting, be sure to come out to our next meeting on Oct. 14 at 7 p.m. at the Nite Hawk in Slater. If you have any questions about our club or want to get involved, please feel free to contact me at (515) 707-7237 or via email at ckrapfl@gmail.com. Until then, think snow, and I will see you on the trails!!!



Aaron Casler and the Black Mamba Team

Highbridge Trailblazers

by Robert Reutter, Trail Boss

I was reading in *Snow Goer* magazine a story about a man and his son who got stranded in a blizzard in the U.P. of Michigan. They walked for 22 hours before they were found in 30-below temps. They did not have the things with them to survive the night. They did make it but not without suffering.

I have been out there, and when I got trapped in Idaho, we thought that we were ready to survive a night in the wilderness. I don't think any of us are ready even if we think we are. You will not be ready until it happens to you. First thing I did when I got home from that trip was buy a 12x14-foot tear proof tarp. I have carried it with me since you need it to knock down the wind. All three of my sleds have a 18-inch axe mounted on the tunnel. There are at least three butane lighters in each sled. I carry three gallons of gas with me at all times. You can not believe what a great feeling it is to know that is there. Firewood is hard to find out in the timber under 3-4 feet of snow. You have to find dead trees to cut down.

We were in a blizzard with a 40 mile per wind; a tarp would have been a beautiful thing to have. We all have cell phones. My sleds all have cigarette lighters on them and a cord that will fit the lighter so you can charge your cell phone. This we found out about cell phones: Even if you do not have a signal, that call will go through. The line for 911 is for emergencies only, and it may take three or four attempts to get through. Believe me, I have been through this, and I know what I am talking about.

I will be at the ISSA convention in Dubuque in November if you want to talk to me some more about my experiences. The Trailblazers begin meeting this month.

Region 8

Central Iowa Snowmobilers

by Tammy Weese

Happy fall, fellow snowmobilers! The chill in the air reminds us of the up and coming season that we all love so much! That's right...GRASS DRAG SEASON !!! The Central Iowa Snowmobilers will be presenting our biggest event of our season on Oct. 26 at the Central Iowa Fairgrounds in Marshalltown. This event will include a swap meet where anyone can bring their items to sell free of charge. Our website and Facebook page will have more information coming up.

We have been very happy with technology as our Facebook page has almost 400 likes and gives us a way to communicate more quickly and on a more frequent basis with our club members. We have gone kicking and screaming into the new age. Looking forward to getting our season started, and if we can believe the Farmers' Almanac, we should have some very happy riders come winter. See you at the grass drags!

Region 12

Snowdrifters Inc.

By Ron Roe

Hello, everyone. Here we are one month closer to snow season. It's still hard to get into the snow mode yet, although Hay Days did help a lot when you see all the sleds. I did go out to Fast City and started looking at sleds to see what I would like to get. A little hard to get real interested when a new machine is for my wife and not me. Mine came in last winter, but it is still fun to look at them and see what all they have on them that's new.

Before I go too far, we need to congratulate the Sledheads snowmobile club. They received the International Snowmobile Club of the Year Award from the International Snowmobile Hall of Fame at Eagle River, Wis. Also Chris Willey from Manchester won the International Groomer of the Year Award. Iowa was well represented at the banquet on Saturday, Sept. 13. Good going, Iowans!

We as the Snowdrifters are having our annual swap meet and membership drive on Oct. 26 at LD Express in North Liberty. It is in the same place as before and will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Everyone is welcome, the more the better. There will be a poster sent out on this.

I didn't make last month's meeting, so I don't know any more on trails or bridge work than I did last month. I will have more next month on what's being done.

See you later. Two down and five to go. It's time to start thinking snow.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October

- ISSA Board of Directors meeting Sunday, Oct. 12, at 9 a.m. at the Farm Bureau office in Hampton.
- Walk-N-Roll for Spina Bifida Saturday, Oct. 18, at Principal Park in Des Moines. For more information, visit www.sbaia.org.
- Central Iowa Snowmobilers grass drags Sunday, Oct. 26, at the Central Iowa Fairgrounds in Marshalltown. Registration 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Racing at 11 a.m. For more information, contact (641) 485-3161 or (641) 751-7150.
- Snowdrifters annual swap meet and membership drive Sunday, Oct. 26, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at LD Express, North Liberty.

November

- Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club Capital City Shootout grass drags Saturday, Nov. 1, at 10 a.m. at Todd's Airfield, Ankeny. Proceeds benefit the Spina Bifida Association of Iowa.
- Winneshiek Trail Twisters 6th annual Snow Show/Membership Drive Nov. 1 at the Danan Lansing Building, Winneshiek County Fairgrounds, Decorah.
- Frozen Few grass drags Saturday, Nov. 8, at noon at 812 Iowa Ave., Palo. Gates open at 7 a.m. Registration ends at 10:30 a.m. Radar runs from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. For more information, visit www.frozenfewsnowmobileclub.com.
- 41st Annual ISSA Convention Nov. 21-23 at the Grand Harbor Resort in Dubuque.
- ISSA Annual Meeting Saturday, Nov. 22, at 8:30 a.m. in Dubuque.
- Driftrunners Toys for Tots and Kickoff Dance Saturday, Nov. 29. Location TBD.

December

- ISSA Board of Directors meeting TBD.

ISSA CLUBS

Clubs in red reported
100% ISSA Membership



Tri-County Snowmobile Association, Inc.

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

REGION NINE

Cascade Snow Punchers

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

Eastern Iowa Sno-Riders

President: Ron Benhart
1772 140th St., Lowden, IA 52255
(319) 784-7087, famous@netins.net

Frozen Few

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

Jones County Snow Chasers

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

Snowmobilers of Jackson County

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

REGION TEN

Southwest Iowa Snow Scooters

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

REGION ELEVEN

Rathbun Snow Riders

www.rathbunsnowriders.com
President: Gene Paris
21845 458th St., Centerville, IA 52544
(641) 895-0259, gbpar1@yahoo.com

REGION TWELVE

Cedar County Winter Warriors

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

Eastern Iowa Sledheads

P.O. Box 519, Lone Tree, IA 52755
easterniowasledheads@aol.com
President: Greg Martin
1714 Davis Ave., Nichols, IA 52766
(319) 723-4365

Snowdrifters, Inc.

P.O. Box 5135, Coralville, IA, 52241
President: Thayne Lowman
820 Club House Rd, North Liberty, IA 52317
thayne_lowman@msn.com

Scott County Sno-Seekers

www.snoseekers.org
P.O. Box 2332, Davenport, IA 52809-2332
President: Kevin House
(563) 505-3385, khouse805@yahoo.com

Southeast Iowa Ridge Blasters

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



ISSA ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

REGION 1

Glen's Sport Center, Inc.

208 16th St., Sheldon, IA 51201
glens1@qwestoffice.net

Project Mayhem Power Sports

509 Inc.
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kdmtrucking@hotmail.com

Rasmuson Electric

2781 Valley Ave.
Rockwell City, IA 50579
(515) 467-7488

Ramthun Trucking, Inc

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

Sedlacek

Snowmobile Salvage

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(712) 210-0718
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Southern Calhoun Ag Services, Inc.

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

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

REGION 3

Advance Concrete

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

Agvantage FS

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

Allen Seed and Grain

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

Antique Pontiac Parts & Accessories

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

Auto Parts Wholesale

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

Buffalo Lanes, LLC

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

Chappy's on Main

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

Crystal Lake Bar

130 State Ave, Crystal Lake, IA 50432

(641) 565-3030

Countryside Turf & Timber

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

Dave's Auto Service

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

DK Arndt, PC

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

Don's Motor Mart

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

Donna's Lounge

427 1st St, Meservey, IA 50457-1004

Dows Farmers Coop

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

Duck's Bar & Grill

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

Dudley's Corner

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

Dura Clean by Doug

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

E & E Repair

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

Fahrman

Plumbing & Heating

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

Farm & City Insurance

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

Forest City Ford-Mercury, Inc.

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

Goody's Welding & Metal Art

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

Gorder's Service

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

Hair Designs

236 E J St., Forest City, IA 50436
(641) 585-2405
sbenson@wctatel.net

Hansell Ag Repair Inc.

1612 Vine Ave., Hampton, IA 50441
(641) 456-2034
dannek2034@gmail.com

Happy Time Resort

526 470th St., Lake Mills, IA 50450
(641) 592-2267, smantha@wctatel.net
www.happytimeresort.com

Hickman Chiropractic

820 4th St NE, Hampton, IA 50441
(641) 456-2280
hickmanjr@hotmail.com

Holland Contracting

1400 S. 4th St., Forest City, IA 50436
(641) 585-2231
www.hollandcontracting.com

Hometown Market

11717 Hwy 9, Thompson, IA 50478

(641) 584-2300

Hometown Pizza & Pub

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

House of Sports

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

Howie Equipment

Trailer & Tire Sales
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50441 (641) 456-5651

Jed's Jalopy Joint

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

J-T Machine & Tool Co.

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Hampton, IA 50441
(641) 456-4513
jtmachinetool@iowaconnect.com

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

Lake Mills Motel

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(641) 592-3711
barb_james69@yahoo.com

Lake Mills Motor Sports

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

Little Willie's Bar & DJ

114 S Main St, Clarion, IA 50525
(515) 532-9781

Manufacturers Bank & Trust Co.

106 W Main St, Lake Mills, IA 50450
(641) 592-0041, www.mbtbank.com
www.mbtbank.com/email

Mother's Place

115 N Akir, Latimer, IA 50452
(641) 579-6401
nlparks@frontiernet.net

Mason City Powersports

4499 4th St SW, Mason City, IA 50401
(641) 423-3181
mcps@netconx.net

Muhlenbruch Insurance

PO Box 426, Dows, IA 50071
(515) 290-2968
buck@trvnet.net

Mulford Concrete Inc.

1312 Hwy 3 West, Hampton, IA 50441
(641) 456-5200

Overtime DJ Service

208 S. Lake St., Lake Mills, IA 50450
(641) 592-2089
justinoverland@hotmail.com

Pakoda's Steakhouse

719 Central Ave West
Hampton, IA 50441
(641) 456-2462
lrlsliter@gmail.com

Pralle's Wash City

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

Priebe Seed Sales

129 Industrial Dr.
Forest City, IA 50436
priebemi@gmail.com

Principal Builders Inc.

1312 Hwy 3 West, Hampton, IA 50441
(641) 456-5200

Ron's LP, LLC

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

Ridgestone Golf Club

7 Brickyard Road, Sheffield, IA 50475
(641) 892-8040
ridgestone2002@gmail.com

Sheffield Lanes

106 Gilman St., Sheffield, IA 50475
(641) 903-9398
sheffieldlanes@frontier.com

Sheri's Southside Store

125 State Ave. S.
Crystal Lake, IA 50432
(641) 565-3100

Smith Crop Insurance Agency

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(515) 689-3986
smithins@wmtnet.net

Snow Trails North

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(515) 851-0080

Squid Willy's Bar & Grill

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(641) 584-2820
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Stromer Power Sports

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sales@leerscyclecenter.com
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Polaris
110 Oak St., Riceville, IA 50466
(641) 985-2619
nates@omnitel.com
www.natesoutdoorrec.com

REGION 5

Barney's Bar and Grill

"Welcome Snowmobilers"
3607 236th Ave, Burr Oak, IA 52101
(563) 735-5900
ryan-trisha@hotmail.com
www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=8538037738

Bests Powerhouse

11217 E Dunkerton Rd.
Dunkerton IA 50626
(319) 822-2599
corybest@dunkerton.net



Blue Moon Bar & Grill
116 S Main St, Protivin, IA 52163
(563) 569-8261

Bubba's Bar & Grill
On the trail in Schley
14726 Robin Ave, Cresco, IA
52136, (563) 547-4298

Camp Powersports
700 E Bridge St Ste B
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(563) 245-3838
campdrew@hotmail.com
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(563) 547-3680
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(319) 334-3731
www.garysskidoo.com
garysskidoo@indytel.com

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Polaris
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(712) 668-2243

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