

2015 ISSA
Convention
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IOWA SNOWMOBILER

October 2015 • Volume 37 • Issue 2

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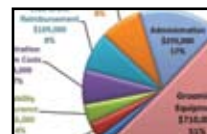
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COVER: Jason Mcpheeters of Zimmerman, Minn., motors across the water in the Pro Open class at the Rivers Bend Shootout in Rock Valley Aug. 22. Photo courtesy Eric Sherman Images.

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 Desk

Representing the ISSA at Various Functions this Offseason

The signs of fall and winter are finally here. The days are getting shorter, leaves are turning, the crops are maturing and harvesting is under way. Cooler weather, snow falling out west, grass drags, snow shows and the rainfall lately, I have been told, usually equals more snow this winter. We can only hope so.

This past January, I was at a club meeting in Sioux Center at Jesse Wynia's garage, and the topic of a snow groomer machine came up. After much discussion, the club began coming up with a number of ideas on how to raise the money needed for the optional cost-share match, and one that was mentioned—that was different and new to the area—was to host a watercross event. After much planning and many meetings, the idea became a reality in August with the Rivers Bend Shootout in Rock Valley.

With perfect weather and 47 racers signed up, the event was a success, mostly I feel, because of the club members and the many volunteers putting in many hours working together. During Saturday night's award ceremony, the International Watercross Association announced they will be back next year in August, so if you are looking for something to do next summer, come to Rock Valley for Rivers Bend Shootout II.

In August, I was at the Western Iowa Tourism meeting in Harlan, and the presenter was V.J. Smith, talking about "The Richest Man in Town," a simple man, Marty, who ran a cash register in Wal-Mart. He worked hard, was good to people, and that, in turn, made him happy. Can it be so simple...to be free of complications, to be a better person, not one wealthier or more successful or more powerful? What one learns is that "relationships matter most in life," "try to do a little more" and "only you can make you happy."

In one or two minutes of time, we have the opportunity to define ourselves as human beings. There isn't much room for error. In a precious few minutes, what we say and what we do can be lasting. Utter two simple words, Thank You, say it often and people will love you for it.

September brought the annual pilgrimage to North Branch, Minn., for the Sno-Barons' Hay Days, the "Official Start of Winter." I was there with the ISSA Trail Break trailer, setting up to meet and greet fellow snowmobilers.



Merv Hoermann
ISSA President

I met many Iowans and also many out-of-staters, asking where to snowmobile in Iowa, trail permits and the upcoming ISSA Snow Show. The weather up there was cool and dry, the best I can ever remember. I also heard the vendor area was quite busy, and the swap area was okay. Next year marks the 50th Anniversary of Hay Days, and according to club members up there, plans are underway for a big celebration.

Lastly, I want to remind all to not forget the ISSA Annual Convention, Nov. 20-22, at King's Pointe Resort in Storm Lake. Be sure to register and get your room reserved today. Friday will be the social, while Saturday will be the annual membership meeting, brunch, presentations, off-site activities, social, dinner and awards. On Sunday, there will be DNR training for safety class instructors and groomer operator certification. I also want to remind our clubs to reserve a table for the "Snowmobile Iowa" showcase. That is a good chance to show off your club and your trail system.

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.



Vice President's Message

Planning to Take Advantage of Social Media this Winter

I just got home from Hay Days, so it marks the start of another snowmobile season. It is always great to head to the "Official Start of Winter" and see friends from all over the country.

I hope everyone had a great summer. As you read in the last issue with the help of your phone calls and support, we were able to keep the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) from being eliminated. Thank you for your support. Without this program, we wouldn't be able to keep our groomers updated.

When I first started helping with the grooming program, the ISSA and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) were getting the first John Deeres tractors on the snow and developed a plan to get newer equipment in the heavily travelled areas and groomers in parts of the state that have never had one.

We have done just that and have the best equipment in the right places to keep the trails in top shape. We also were able to give more funds to each club this year for operation of groomers and trail development. This was possible with the snowmobiler's support of the IDNR user permit and the RTP funds.

I got to do a couple things this summer I had never done before. I attended the International Snow Congress in June. This was a great event, and I learned a lot from fellow snowmobilers from around the world. I really enjoyed hearing the different perspectives from people.

There were meetings and seminars on everything from trail management and grooming to GPS uses and youth involvement. Congratulations also to two Iowa snowmobilers—Bob King and James Willey—for being elected as ACSA Midwest officers while at ISC. Next June, ISC will be in South Dakota, and I encourage every-

one to try and make it out there.

As we enter this new season, I have set a goal to connect with the clubs and snowmobile riders across Iowa. I read some research recently that showed one of the best ways to get your product out the public is to use social media. This got me thinking.



Chris Willey
ISSA Vice
President

I have a few clubs that I get info from via social media. If your club has a Facebook page or Twitter account, let me know. I would like to know what's going on with your club. I also want to get out on the trails in some new areas and ride with new people.

This summer, I worked with some friends who edit and produce snowmobile videos. I was able to learn some new programs and ways to share the fun of snowmobiling to a broader audience. You might even catch some footage from Iowa-based riders in one of the films to come out this fall. I look forward to riding with club members both on sleds and in groomers across Iowa and gather some footage to share on how great riding in Iowa can be. If you have a great area to ride, let me know.

The ISSA is your organization. We represent you, the snowmobilers of Iowa. Let your region directors and myself know what's going on in your area, and if you have concerns, be sure to let us know. We're glad to help share your event through email and our social media accounts.

Don't forget we have the Snow Show coming up this month in Dubuque Oct. 24-25 and the convention next month in Storm Lake Nov. 20-22. Both are sure to be great events.

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REGION TWELVE

Director position is open. If you are interested in serving, please contact ISSA President Merv Hoermann.

Submit Trail Photos to ISSA Calendar

The ISSA is once again teaming up with the *Iowa Snowmobiler* magazine to produce a calendar featuring Iowa snowmobile trail scenes for 2016. The calendars will be available for purchase at the ISSA Annual Convention in November at Storm Lake, by mail order or through your region director. Volume discounts will be available again.

The magazine is currently soliciting photo submissions from Iowa snowmobile clubs for consideration in the fourth annual calendar. Please email your trail shots or snowmobile-related club events to editor@iowasnowmobiler.com by Nov. 1. Minimum 1MB file size required.



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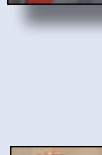
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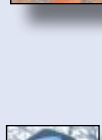
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News Briefs

Pair of Central Iowa Grass Drags Events Planned this Fall

A pair of central Iowa snowmobile clubs are hosting their annual grass drags this fall. The first event is hosted by the Central Iowa Snowmobilers of Region 8 on Sunday, Oct. 25, at the Central Iowa Fairgrounds in Marshalltown. Registration runs from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. with racing starting promptly at 11 a.m.

According to club secretary Angie Bessman, this year's grass drags will have trophy and payback classes, vintage racing, radar runs and 120 and mini classes for the youth. New to the event this year is ATV drag racing.

The fairgrounds are located at 1308 East Olive Street. Near the track will be a free swap meet, and concessions will also be available on site. The club is planning a 50/50 cash drawing as well. For more information, contact Blake at (641) 485-3161 or Scott at (641) 751-7150.

The second grass drag event reported to the ISSA is the Capital City Shootout, hosted by the Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club of Region 7. Their races are planned for Saturday, Nov. 7, at Todd's Airfield in Ankeny (Exit 94 off I-35 at 2747 NE 110th Street).

Registration for this event is from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Radar runs begin at 9 a.m. with racing starting at 10 a.m. Classes include non-studded stock, trail performance, improved stock and studded trail stock.

120 races are returning this year, and expected to be on hand for the event is club member Aaron Casler with his world record lake racer sled, Black Mamba. Also planning to attend is the Iowa State University Clean Snowmobile Challenge team.

Grounds admission and pit passes are \$5. The initial entry fee is \$20 with \$10 for each additional class. Proceeds will benefit the Spina Bifida Association of Iowa. For more information, contact club president Craig Krapfl at (515) 707-7237

Avalanche Awareness Seminars Coming to Iowa this Preseason

Avalanche expert Mike Duffy of Eagle, Colo., will return to Iowa this fall to lead a series of avalanche awareness seminars to interested mountain riders.

The first class will be held Saturday, Oct. 17, at Maverick Powersports in Independence. This four-hour class will teach snowmobilers how to identify risks, how to increase their awareness and how to rescue a fellow snowmobiler trapped in the snow.

"Our classes are taught from a snowmobiler's perspective," Duffy said. "You will learn techniques that work for snowmobilers by an avalanche instructor who has 20 years of mountain riding experience. You will learn how to avoid getting caught in avalanche situations that are inherent to snowmobiling."

The course at Independence starts at 10 a.m. and costs \$49. To sign up, contact Paul at (319) 334-4570 or pbachman@maverickps.com. Participants are encouraged to attend with their riding partners and bring their beacons along.

The remaining four sessions in Iowa are on the new advanced course on "Avalanche Rescue Skills." The first one is Thursday, Nov. 19, at 6 p.m. at Sioux City Yamaha/Can-Am followed by Friday, Nov. 20, at 6 p.m. at House of Sports in Mason City. Both of these classes are sponsored by BRP and free to attend.

Those two sessions are followed by another on Saturday, Nov. 21, at 6 p.m. at McGrath Powersports in Cedar Rapids. There is a \$49 registration fee for this session. The last class currently scheduled in Iowa is at Lake Mills Motorsports 2 in Algona on Thursday, Dec. 3, at 6 p.m. This event is sponsored by the dealer and free to attend.

For more information on Duffy or any of his avalanche awareness classes, visit his website at www.avalanche1.com.

Participate in SBAI Walk-N-Roll Oct. 17

The ISSA will once again be participating in the Spina Bifida Association's (SBAI) Walk-N-Roll Saturday, Oct. 17, at Principal Park in Des Moines. The event starts at 9 a.m. and ends around noon.

Staffing a booth along the path, the ISSA encourages snowmobile club members to participate in the mile-long walk. Spina Bifida is the official charity of the ISSA.

"This is a great opportunity for us to get involved with the folks from Spina Bifida," explained Past ISSA President Bruno Andreini, who serves on the SBAI board. "They always speak highly of our group. We all need to join in on this. It is a great event."

Poor Snow Results in Registration Decline

The 2014-15 snowmobile season was highlighted by sporadic snowfall followed by what seemed like warm spells and sometimes rain. So when we had measurable snow, it didn't last long. I had more than one in-state snowmobile trip cancelled by rain last year.

The lack of rideable snow and ice negatively impacted the number of miles operated, special events held (fun rides, radar runs, Winter Games, etc.) and lowered registration and user permit numbers.

Last year, county recorders registered 23,858 snowmobiles, and license agents issued 16,233 resident user permits. This is down from the previous year where there were 26,600 snowmobile registrations, and 19,329 resident user permits issued. As a result, snowmobile program revenue at the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) mirrored the decline, down about 11 percent.

If you ask a snowmobiler or the general public how the snowmobile program is funded, you will often hear bits-and-pieces of the correct answer. The program is funded by fees from new snowmobile registration, registration renewal, title, lien, user permit and late registration. These varying sources of revenue are impacted by the weather, dealer and person-to-person sales, and the economy.

To supplement this income, the IDNR also applies for National Recreational Trail (NRT) grants through the Recreational

Trails Program (RTP). We use these grants to cost-share the purchase of grooming equipment in Iowa. We have been fortunate to receive a number of these grant awards (which comes from federal off-highway gasoline tax apportionments), utilizing \$620,000 in NRT grant funds over the last two seasons.



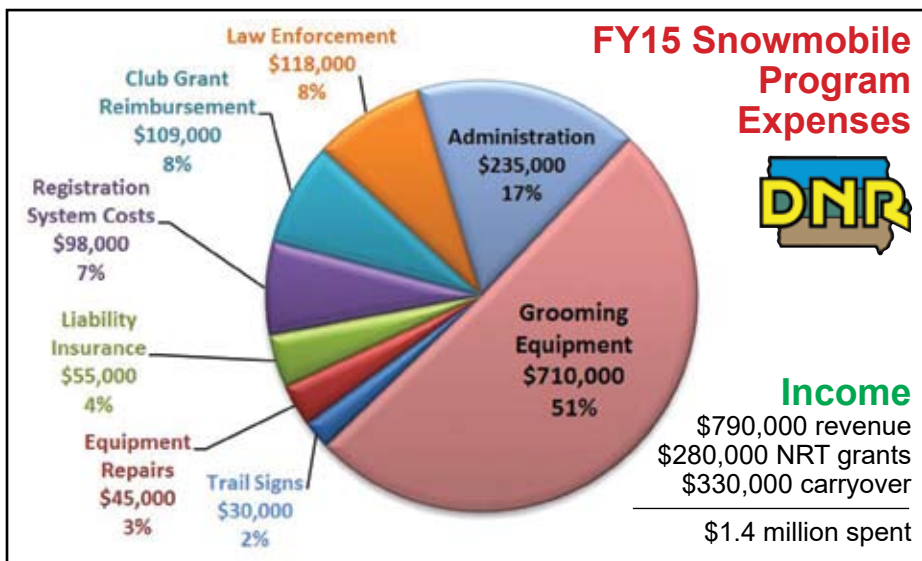
David Downing
IDNR Snowmobile
Program Manager

The program operates with a "revolving fund" type of budget, with revenue not obligated (spent) during the current fiscal year being moved to the next fiscal year, to meet future expenditure needs. At the end of each snowmobile season, the IDNR would like to carry over approximately \$200,000, or roughly 20 percent, of the annual budget to the next season. This will allow the IDNR to pay for trail signs, preseason repairs and trail liability insurance early in the season, prior to the normal revenue period.

Snowmobile revenue typically begins to increase after Sept. 1, with the biggest revenue months occurring in November, December and January.

We are beginning this fiscal year with a lower than average snowmobile carry-over balance. This is due to

Turn to page 8



More information on the IDNR Snowmobile Program will be offered at the ISSA Annual Convention in Storm Lake Nov. 20-22. See the agenda on page 10 for date and time.

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Downing

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strong spending on groomer equipment purchases, equipment repairs, ongoing administrative costs and lower than anticipated revenue (mostly due to a lack of good snow conditions).

The IDNR and the ISSA are working in cooperation with snowmobile clubs to prioritize repairs and make purchases that are both necessary and timely with regards to the revenue stream. We are in a good position at the present time to meet our obligations as the season progresses. However, both the IDNR and ISSA are keeping a close eye on registration and user permit numbers as we move into what we hope are the "snowy" season months of December and January.

The IDNR is going to apply for the next round of NRT grant funds for groomer equipment purchases this month. The IDNR is usually notified in January if we have been successful in our grant application, with funds being available for the next fiscal year.

To put things into perspective, all of the progress the snowmobile program has made over the last 10 years to upgrade the groomer fleet, and increase the number of designated trail miles, has been made possible by a combination of club volunteer efforts, club cost-share payments on grooming equipment and wise use of the newly acquired user permit revenue as match with NRT grant funds.

In the program's 40-year history, we have never had more operating groomers and drags on the snow in Iowa or come close to the current 8,800 miles of designated snowmobile trails. This effort will continue into the future, with an eye on both the revenue stream and the weather patterns.

As the program manager, I would like to thank the ISSA and our snowmobile club members for their hard work this last season and in the coming year. Hope to see all of you at convention.

MICHIGAN'S TRAILHEAD

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SNOWmobile Iowa

ISSA Looking to Expand Program with Local Club-Sponsored Rides this Winter

by **Cameron Hanson**

Now entering its second decade at this year's gathering, the ISSA is looking to expand upon an existing convention tradition and, in turn, capitalize on the tourism opportunities of snowmobiling in Iowa.

Conceived by ISSA President Merv Hoermann, then Region 1 director, at the 2004 ISSA Convention at West Lake Okoboji, the 'Snowmobile Iowa' promotion has served as a platform for snowmobile clubs from across the state to showcase their trails and promote tourism back home.

2015 ISSA Convention Preview

At that first event 11 years ago, 18 clubs participated in the program by individually staffing a booth at convention. Last year, 14 clubs continued the custom at Dubuque, and at this year's convention at King's Pointe Resort in Storm Lake Nov. 20-22, Hoermann—once again chairing the convention in northwest Iowa—is encouraging clubs to display their wares.

"This is a good opportunity to brag about your trails and your home area to the rest of the snowmobilers in Iowa," Hoermann said. "Who else can better advertise for your region than your own club at convention?"

As listed on the tentative agenda on page 10, the ISSA is now wanting to expand on that concept by encouraging local clubs to host trail rides throughout this winter. A special seminar is being held convention weekend to gauge the interest in this type of event long term.

"What we are looking to do is start a program where all of our clubs are given the opportunity to be a host club once a week throughout the entire snowmobile season," explained Past ISSA President Bruno Andreini. "It would be completely voluntary, but the idea is club members would set a date and then have a group of people who would offer tours of riding the trails in their area."

'Snowmobile Iowa' Club Showcase

Nov. 20-22, 2015

King's Pointe Resort, Storm Lake

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The Snow Pioneers of Region 5 were one of 14 snowmobile clubs from Iowa to set up a booth at the ISSA Convention and Snow Show in Dubuque last November. 2015 convention organizers are again reminding clubs to showcase their trails and tourism opportunities this year in Storm Lake.

"Of course, where we ride would always be subject to snow availability, and you could even have more than one region hosting events during a given weekend," Past ISSA President Jim Willey added.

The discussion on expanding the Snowmobile Iowa program came on the heels of the ISSA's snowmobile retreat to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan last March. Close to 20 people participated in that event, and in the evening after each day's ride, the group would often get together and share stories of riding in their area back home.

Andreini, who helped organize the U.P. ride, said the interaction among the ISSA members on the trip was "very interesting and productive," and as a result, several thought they should hook up again and ride back in Iowa.

"I have been at this game for longer than most of the people in the ISSA, and I do not know all the trails throughout the state of Iowa, and I doubt if anyone else does either," Andreini said.

By promoting these type of events, he said other riders like himself can learn what other areas of the state have to offer and, in turn, help people stay in Iowa this winter.

"People would get a much better understanding of what's here already. Maybe there's a lot of secrets out there that not everybody knows about," Andreini said. "I really want to see this happen. I think we have so much here to sell and we're not doing a very good job with that.

"With Snowmobile Iowa, we have the perfect opportunity to do that, and it's such a simple thing to do," he continued. "If the ISSA

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. 21, 2015

Where:
King's Pointe Resort
Storm Lake, IA

42nd Annual ISSA Convention

Tentative Agenda

FRIDAY, NOV. 20

4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Convention registration
"Snowmobile Iowa" setup
7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Hospitality & entertainment w/raffles

SATURDAY, NOV. 21

8:15 a.m. to 10 a.m. Convention registration
8:30 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. Opening remarks
8:50 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Region meetings/director elections
9:35 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. General membership annual meeting
10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Brunch w/lobbyist update
Silent auction opens
1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Women's off-site

ISSA seminars

1 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.: Snowmobile Iowa expansion
1:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. Mich/Can/Ska charity ride
2 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Geomapping/tracking
2:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. ISU Clean Snowmobile Challenge
3 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Watercross racing
3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. IDNR Open Forum

Awards Banquet

5:30 p.m. Social hour. Silent auction closes
6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Dinner
7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Entertainment
8 p.m. to 9 p.m. Awards
9 p.m. Drawings, quilt raffle & grand raffle
10 p.m. Closing ceremonies

SUNDAY, NOV. 18

8 a.m. to noon Groomer operator recertification
8 a.m. to noon New groomer operator certification
8 a.m. to noon Youth safety instructor training

42nd Annual ISSA Convention

Nov. 20-22, 2015

**King's Pointe Resort
Storm Lake, IA**

Registration Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Snowmobile Club: _____

Organization: _____

(Check all that apply)

____ Early Bird* Registration by Nov. 1: \$55/person

____ Full Registration after Nov. 1: \$65/person

____ Friday-Only Registration: \$15

____ Saturday-Only Registration: \$45

____ Youth Registration: \$30

*Early bird registrants eligible for two
(2) special drawings.

Included in Full Convention Registration:

- Friday night hospitality
- Saturday Brunch
- Saturday afternoon seminars
- Saturday evening Banquet and Awards Ceremony w/entertainment

PLEASE NOTE: Registration fees DO NOT cover hotel rooms. Lodging rates start at \$109 per night. For more information, contact King's Pointe Resort at (866) 552-5960 or visit www.kingspointeresort.com. Be sure to ask for the ISSA room rate.

Mail completed form and payment to:

Kevin and Teri Eddie
5456 Highway 71
Storm Lake, IA 50588
(712) 732-4083

For more information or questions on the convention, contact ISSA President Merv Hoermann, 2015 Convention Planning Committee Chair, at (712) 260-4810 or mebeefeater2@yahoo.com.

Hope to see you there!

administer the program and clubs step for a weekend, it wouldn't take too much to do this."

Six seminars planned for convention weekend

The proposed expansion of the Snowmobile Iowa program is just one of six seminars planned for convention Saturday this November. Others include a report on the Clean Snowmobile Challenge (featured last month) and a presentation on the unique watercross event at Rock Valley (featured this month).

Another seminar will be on GPS mapping and tracking through your mobile phone, and a fourth session will see the return of the Mich/Can/Ska Snowmobile Club to Iowa. Featured at the 2010 International Snowmobile Congress in Coralville, this group of extreme riders will share stories of their snowmobile trips around the world, including Russia earlier this year.

The last seminar will be the annual snowmobile program update from David Downing, program manager for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. He is expected to go into further detail on the program finances he touched on in this month's guest column on page 7.

Bookending the seminars on Saturday will be the general membership meeting, officer and director elections and lobbyist presentation in the morning and the banquet, awards presentation and raffle drawings in the evening.

The convention wraps up Sunday morning with the usual IDNR training sessions: groomer operator recertification, new groomer operator certification and youth safety instructor training.

Photos courtesy
Marcie Boerner

In Search of a Few Bright Spots from Last Winter

2014-15 Season Recap

Marlin Benson Memorial Ride Among Handful of Club Activities to Survive Last Season

2015-16 Winter Preview

by **Cameron Hanson**

A pre-Thanksgiving snowstorm created quite a buzz in the snowmobile community in Iowa last year, but the enthusiasm was short-lived as the winter of 2014-15 ended up a buzzkill for most of the Hawkeye State.

Just about every snowstorm last season was followed by an unwelcomed warm stretch, and snowmobile events across the region were either scrapped or adjusted in the aftermath of the inconsistent and insufficient snowcover.

"We witnessed the impact firsthand last year where clubs which submitted requests for special event permits were either cancelling their plans or changing them," observed David Downing, snowmobile program manager for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. "I certainly hope we don't see that again this year."

Two traditional snowmobile events in Iowa definitely felt the sting last January. At the Okoboji Winter Games, snowmobile activities were limited to the Kids' Rides in the Polaris factory parking lot; and in the opposite corner of the state, the Driftrunners at Cresco had to suspend its club rides and Torchlight Parade for the 44th Annual SnowFest weekend.

"Last season was definitely a bad year for snowmobiling," lamented Matt Miner, ISSA Region 5 Director and Driftrunners member. "We would get the snow but not the temps to hold it."

The misery spilled over into February as well. The Sac County Snow Lovers in Region 6 spent the first Saturday of the month grooming its trails for a fun run the following day only to have the thermometer reach into the 50s and turn the trails to mush.

In late February, warm weather also forced the Cedar Falls Sno Hawks to cancel its David Carmichael Memorial Ride from Spencer to Cresco. Then to pour salt in the wound, they were greeted a by a tardy snowstorm on what would have been the first day of the three-day ride.

Webster County pulls ride off

Frustrating to say the least, the snowmobile season did have a few bright spots last winter. The Jack Race on Clear Lake survived the roller-coaster weather pattern the third weekend of January, and on Saturday, Feb. 7—the day before the Sac County club was forced to cancel its event—the neighboring Webster County Ice Breakers club was fortunate enough to host its seventh annual Marlin Benson Memorial Ride. Ice Breakers Club President Jim Suchan said they plan their event each February and keep their fingers crossed that Mother Nature will cooperate.

"We try to set a date each year, but as everyone in Iowa knows, the snow can get pretty iffy any more at that time of year," Suchan said. "We kind of lucked out last season. We booked the date and got enough snow for the event. It did get pretty warm while we were out on the ride, and by the time we got back, the trails had pretty much melted away."

Incorporated in 2010, the Ice Breakers of Region 7 is one of the youngest snowmobile clubs in Iowa. Local snowmobilers began the memorial ride in 2008 to honor Benson of Gowrie, an avid snowmobiler and local car dealer who passed away shortly after Christmas, 2007, at the age of 51. The ride is the club's primary fundraiser, and last



Webster County ride lasted 70 miles and drew 130 riders to the area.

season's event drew approximately 130 participants.

Money generated by the 70-mile, eight-stop ride benefits the club's \$1,000 annual scholarship to the Southeast Valley High School in Gowrie and also supports the Ice Breakers' contribution to the ISSA Club Challenge. Additional funds are donated to the Namakagon Trail Groomers of Cable, Wis., which Suchan described as their "sister club."

"Those are our three main fundraising efforts, plus keeping our local trails going," Suchan explained. "That is pretty much our goal as a club. We don't need to make a million dollars. We want to keep things going and promote the sport in this area and continue to grow as a club and connect to our neighboring trail systems."

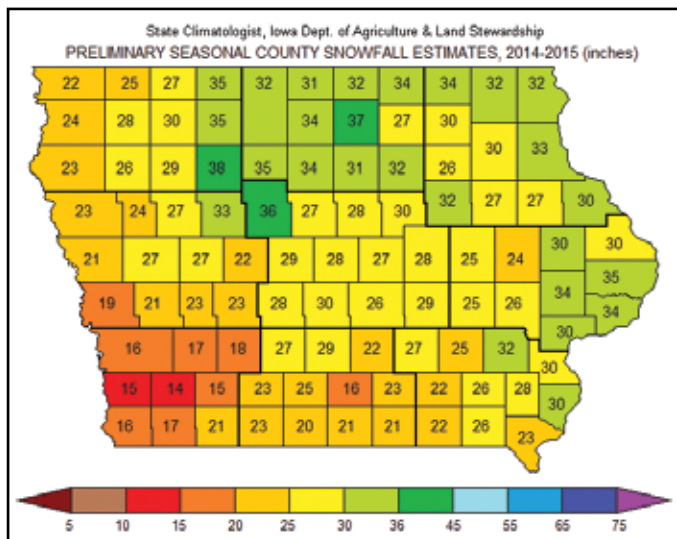
Suchan said the donations and memorial ride serve as a reminder of the contributions Benson made to the area before the club was formed. According to Suchan, "Marlin was very involved in snowmobiling and enjoyed traveling to Wisconsin to ride around Lake Namakagon." In fact, a stretch of trail outside the Pioneer Bar up there is named after him, and the Namakagon club even donated its old drag to the Webster County club a few years back.

Suchan said the memorial ride is the primary reason he and other snowmobilers from the area decided to organize. "We met in my shed about six years ago and decided we should get a club together," he explained. "It kind of snowballed from there."

The date for the 2016 ride will be set later this fall. "We will tentatively plan for a weekend later this winter and then wait and see what the weather will do," Suchan said. "Hopefully, this winter will be better."

Located along snow line

Perhaps one of the reasons the weather in Suchan's region is so unpredictable is they are located along Highway 20, generally accepted as snow line in Iowa. According to state climatologist Harry Hillaker, central and west central Iowa finished the season



at roughly 26 inches of snow last year, equaling the statewide average. North central Iowa received the greatest total last winter at 33 inches, while southwest Iowa finished the season with the least at 16 inches.

Overall, the winter of 2014-15 finished 5.4 inches below the normal average of 32.2 inches and marked the second lowest total in the last nine seasons, surpassed only by the 2011-12 mark of 18.9 inches. Hillaker said last winter ranked in the bottom third of 128 years of snowfall recordkeeping in Iowa, and in fact, the statewide average for December was only 1.5 inches, the 12th lowest total for that same timeframe.

Unlike December, November was unusually cold and snowy with the largest event coming Nov. 15-16. "However, even an unusually cold November typically isn't cold enough to sustain a lasting snow cover despite Des Moines setting a record for the longest duration of sub-freezing temperatures ever during the month of November," Hillaker noted.

According to the Iowa Department of Agriculture, the largest snow event of the winter—and actually the largest single event since the 2009 holiday week—brought a statewide average of 8.5 inches of snow on Jan. 31-Feb. 1. The greatest snow totals with this storm came in central and east central Iowa with 14.7 inches at Madrid and 16.0 inches at Le Claire.

"However, this snow cover was relatively short-lived as temperatures climbed above freezing fairly often starting on Feb. 6," Hillaker said. "There was a period of fairly decent snow cover the first two weeks of January, thanks largely to widespread four to six inch snow amounts on Jan. 5 from northwest to east central Iowa."

El Nino expected to persist this winter

Another snow event brought three to six **Turn to page 21**

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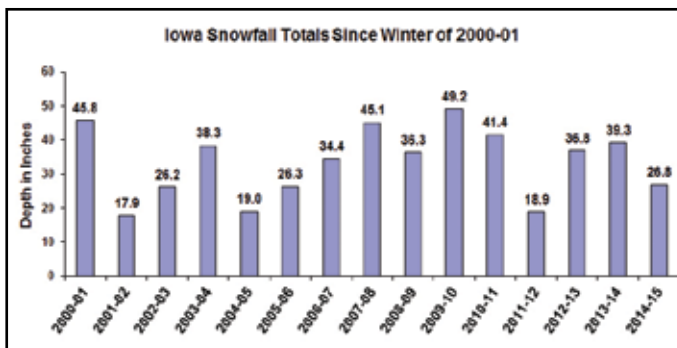
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ITBEC



Making Waves in Rock Valley

Sioux County Snowmobile Club Brings the 'Fastest Show on H₂O' to Northwest Iowa in August

Photo courtesy Eric Sherman-Images



Brian McCurdy of Lindstrom, Minn., celebrates his Pro Open title with a victory lap around Cabin Cove Pond during the Rivers Bend Shootout.

by Cameron Hanson

Rock Rapids introduced us to ice ovals. Snocross action drew us to Des Moines and Cedar Rapids. Vintage Lemans competition continues to entertain us at Clear Lake, and Marshalltown, Ankeny and others help keep the grass drag tradition alive in the state.

Now, a new color has been added to the crayon box of snowmobile racing in Iowa. This offseason, the Sioux County Snowmobile Club of Region 1 hosted its inaugural Rivers Bend Shootout, a watercross competition sanctioned by the International Watercross Association (IWA).

Held Aug. 21-22 at the city-owned Rivers Bend Campground in Rock Valley, the mix of oval and drag races around buoys on open water featured 47 competitors and drew an estimated 1,000 spectators to the campground's Cabin Cove Pond, a donated 13-acre sand pit near the Rock River.

Billed as the "Fastest Show on H₂O," the northwest Iowa event served as the fifth and final stop on the IWA's circuit. A month earlier, racers had competed in the World Championship at Grantsburg, Wis., and club volunteers in Sioux County were hopeful they could meet the competitors' expectations at their untested venue.

"Going into it, we were all pretty nervous," club member and race organizer Kelly Roder admitted. "We didn't know what to expect, but by Friday afternoon, we were all feeling pretty good about how everything was going. We really didn't have too many hiccups along the way."

"The races went off better than expected," IWA President Shawn Zurn said. "The club went above and beyond my expectations, especially for a first-time event. The community was excellent as well and seemed pretty accepting of this type of snowmobile racing in their area."

ISSA President Merv Hoermann represented the ISSA at the event with the Trail Break trailer and the snowmobile simulator. He too marveled at the response from the community, noting the number of volunteers donning their matching orange T-shirts.

"The main thing I noticed was they had more volunteers than

club members helping out," Hoermann said. "I was impressed. These were just friends of club members doing their part to make this thing work. It just blew me away how much cooperation and support from the community there was that weekend."

Environmentally conscious

As spectators lined the banks of the pond and as a drone filmed the event from overhead, racers launched to the water from the starting gate on the beach at the northeast corner of the shore. Bouys outlined the course, and during the oval racing, racers were making hairpin turns while attempting to keep out of each other's turbulence.

"These guys were good," Hoermann said. "Whoever had the most horsepower usually got the holeshot and the cleaner water,



The weekend's event saw plenty of side-by-side action.

and whoever was running behind usually got washed up in the wake.”

Roder said at least one sled would sink in the water during each race, and to minimize the environmental impact, rescuers would respond quickly. Per IWA rules, each sled is equipped with a marker buoy and tether rope to aid in the recovery process, and all premixed gas is contained in a small, leak-proof tank to prevent water contamination.

“These guys were very environmentally conscious and certainly did not want to be known as polluters,” Hoermann said. “Everything is sealed up, and they only put in enough gas for one race. The first thing the riders would do when they went down is kill the motor and grab their rope. A pontoon with an open bow would then come along, straddle the sled and hoist it up. Ten minutes later, the machines were dried out and ready for more action.”

While a stock sled could compete on the course, Roder said most of the machines were modified with shorter skis and narrower front suspensions. Rear suspensions, especially in the Pro class, were also adjusted to help the rider “pop up” out of the water faster and navigate the liquid course better, he noted.

“It was pretty exciting to watch,” Roder said. “They were coming into the corners basically laying their sled on their sides, and their front skis were completely out of the water. It’s unbelievable to see them in action. There’s a lot of suspension work to make that happen.”

Watercross racing has been around for nearly 40 years with the first event recorded at Grantsburg in 1977. Headquartered in Pine City, Minn., the IWA was formed in 1988, and according to its website, the organization “has remained committed to keeping the level of competition consistent, the rules fair for all participants and ensuring the safety of all attendees.”

“I think we offer a form of snowmobile racing that the fan



Justin Mackedanz of Melrose, Minn., at the starting gate in the Semi Pro Stock class.

can enjoy more,” Zurn said. “We are extreme and the weather is warm.”

Seed planted two years ago

According to Roder, the seed for hosting the races was planted a few years ago at Hay Days. Club members ran into some IWA racers at the annual September show and began corresponding with them and attending their races. One member even signed on as a sponsor for five of the race teams, he said.

Then this past January, as the club learned it was on the short list for a new groomer, members began drumming up fundraising ideas to offset the optional 10 percent club match of the purchase price. It wasn’t long before the club agreed to host the watercross event.

“At the time, I didn’t know much about this kind of racing,” Roder confessed. “I had watched videos of it, but within a month,



The club’s converted pontoon boat helped recover sunken sleds.

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we were committed to doing it.”

As the first hurdle to clear, Roder said he met with the Rock Valley City Council three times before receiving final approval to move forward with the shootout. The club also garnered permission from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, since two years ago the Iowa Legislature banned recreational snowmobiling on public waters during the offseason.

Club members began planning the event in April and created a Facebook page to help with the publicity. Next, they secured race sponsors, and in July, volunteers converted a pontoon boat into a “sled retriever.” To help promote the races, the modified watercraft was entered in the local Rally in the Valley parade in early August. Before long, it was the week of the races, and the call for volunteers rang out.

IWA officials arrived early Thursday to help set up the course, and competitors trickled in throughout the day, some even arriving as late as midnight. Since most of the circuit’s racers hailed from Minnesota and Wisconsin, Roder said club members were a little concerned their geographical location in northwest Iowa would hurt attendance. But as club members and hosts of the former ice ovals in neighboring Lyon County can attest, “If you build it, they will come.”

“Our pond was quite a few hours away from most of these guys, and some were kind of on the fence on whether or not to come since it was a new site,” Roder said. “Come Friday morning, however, the racers who did make the trip were texting photos back to their buddies who stayed home. After that, they all wished they had shown up.

“Several of them even commented on our location and how well we had everything set up,” Roder added. “There were racers there who had been doing this for 20 years and said this was the best place they had ever raced at. They were blown away by what we were able to put together as first-timers.”

Wait ‘til next year

In the end, Roder said they were only about 10 racers shy of the predicted turnout. As an incentive to attract competitors to the event, the IWA had coordinated a special drag race shootout that was unique only to the Rock Valley course. By invitation only, 16 top-level racers competed for the \$1,000 purse Friday evening with the winner taking home \$480.

“That shootout was unique to our race and a pretty good payout for just one event,” Roder said. “For the watercross racers, that’s pretty sizeable take-home money to offset their expenses.”

For the balance of the weekend’s slate, racers competed in heats and finals across eight classes, accruing points for the season-ending championship. Trophies for the Rivers Bend event were handed out Saturday night with Brian Mccurdy of Lindstrom,

Minn., winning the Pro Open class. He was also the season points champ in that category as well.

Roder said the club met “80 percent” of its goals for its inaugural race. They plan on spreading the word about next year’s race with a presentation at the ISSA convention in Storm Lake in November. They readily admit they still have some work to do in order to come up with the funds to match their share of a new groomer.

“2015 was a learning year for us, figuring out what worked, what didn’t and looking to see what we can improve on for next summer,” Roder said. “You always wish you made more money, but we ended up with more than what we started with so it was a successful event. I would call that a win. Now with a year under our belt, we are looking ahead to 2016 to see what we can do to make it better. Next year will be a good time for sure.”

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(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: 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: Dee Jay Kellen
23657 Marble Ave., Le Mars, IA 51031

Sioux County Snowmobile Club

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

REGION TWO

Emmet County Driftbusters

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

Humboldt Sno-Skimmers

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

Kossuth County Drift Skippers

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

Palo Alto Rough Riders

President: Kurt Bonnstetter
111 Iowa St., P.O. Box 62, Cylinder, IA 50528
(712) 424-3011, kbbonste@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: Dan Stromer
1840 Hwy 69, Klemme, IA 50449
Stromerd@yahoo.com

Iowa River Riders

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

Club News

Region 1

O'Brien County Snowtrackers

by Zelda Buse Christensen

With temperatures on many recent nights—including both August and September—reaching down into the lower 40s, most people definitely think of autumn. Snowmobilers, of course, jump ahead another season and think of winter (and SNOW) coming next!

At a couple of meetings recently of some O'Brien County Snowtrackers, club president Kelly Jongerius and other members discussed several items. Merv has visited towns to get permission forms signed from each. Some land leases are being updated. A work night will be scheduled to put new wheels on the groomer after they arrive.

The annual ISSA Convention will be in Storm Lake Nov. 20-22 this year. The Snowtrackers are donating \$300 to help with expenses. Merv plans to have a groomer operator class scheduled during it.

Saturday night, Nov. 14, was chosen for a membership supper at the Primghar Community Center. Jenni Rohlfen is finding a caterer. New members that night will eat for free.

Another meeting is scheduled the first week of October to finalize details. Hopefully, with the help of some prevalent snow for riding in northwest Iowa this winter, the club can revive, grow and be active!

Region 4

Cedar Falls Sno Hawks

by Brian Carmichael, President

Greetings from sunny Cedar Falls. The fall snowmobiling season got off to a good start with the ISSA Annual Summer Campout Aug. 7-9 in Manchester and hosted by the Snow Pioneers Club. The weather was basically good. A little warm but it is Iowa. The Cedar Falls Sno Hawks were well represented, and a good time was had by all. The food was outstanding, and all facilities were great. A very special thanks goes out to the Campout Co-Chairs Becky Willey and Sherri Vorwald for putting together a GREAT weekend with a couple of new twists.

We had a good turn out for our annual fundraiser at Sturgis Falls and Irish Fest.

With Hay Days over, it seems everyone is looking to get their sleds out and get them going. I got mine out of storage and some people think I'm crazy, but they just don't know snowmobilers. THINK SNOW!!

2015 ISSA Club Challenge

Webster County Ice Breakers.....	\$1,001
Wapsipinicon Snowmobile Association	\$1,000
Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club.....	\$500
Frozen Few.....	\$500
Floyd County Groomers	\$300
Eastern Iowa Sledheads.....	\$500
Iowa River Riders	\$400
Tri-County Snowmobile Association	\$351
Jones County Snow Chasers	\$351
Central Iowa Snowmobilers.....	\$350
Sac County Snow Lovers	\$301
Snow Pioneers	\$350
Bremer County Sno-Knights.....	\$250
Cedar Falls Sno Hawks	\$200
Howard County Stump Jumpers.....	\$150
Palo Alto Rough Riders	\$150
Driftrunners.....	\$100
Trails Unlimited	\$100
O'Brien County Snowtrackers	\$100
Emmet County Driftbusters	\$100

Fundraising campaign renews at the annual ISSA convention.

All donations benefit the ISSA's lobbying efforts at the State Capitol in Des Moines.

Send your contribution to your Region Director or ISSA Treasurer Kim Herman.

Contact information can be found in the front half of this magazine.

Region 5

Cresco Driftrunners

by Bob Martinek, Treasurer

Hello from Cresco. Hard to believe, but in a few short months, we will be hitting the trails and the deep white stuff. Or at least that's our plan. Between now and then, the club is making plans for quite a few trail bridge improvements, repairs and replacements. Of course, we have to wait until the crops are out to access many of them. If you know of any trail changes or repairs that need to be made, please contact me or any board member. It is a lot easier to fix things now than later. Also, we are always looking for more help with trail work. Step up and volunteer. Perhaps "adopt a section of trail" as your own. Any board member can help you get started if interested.

We don't have any events planned for October, but in November, we have several. The ISSA Convention in Storm Lake is Nov. 20-22. It's always a fun time and a great way to see up close the inner workings of the ISSA. More details are located in this issue of the magazine. We have also set our annual "Toys for Tots" and Kickoff Dance for Nov. 28 at the K-Town Tap in Kendallville from 8 p.m. until ?? We have "No Passengers Allowed" DJ service lined up to play the tunes. Actually, Pat donates his time and talent every year for this event so be sure to thank him. Admission is a new unwrapped toy or cash donation. We work with the local Community Action so all gifts stay local and are handed out just in time for Christmas. It's a real "feel good" event so please make plans to join us.

As we go into 2016, SnowFest will be Jan. 21-24 and Charlie's Chili Feed is on Feb. 13. More details on these later. I hope everyone has a safe harvest and fall. See you on the trails this winter. Thanks for now.

Trails Unlimited

by Bud Winter

Since last month's article, we've seen a lot of corn get chopped in our area, which always seems to get everyone thinking of trail signing. It will definitely be here before we know it. We had our first meeting Sept. 16 and had a pretty respectable attendance, all things considered. We got a couple of dates set for club activities.

Nov. 6 is our annual membership drive and chicken dinner at The Zipper in Festina. We also set Jan. 30 as a Club Family Day. After last year's successful anniversary party, we wanted to continue having something during the actual snowmobile season that was club and family oriented. Our initial plans are to have a club trail ride during the day followed up by a brick oven pizza party and bonfire in the evening. It's definitely something different than our club has done in the past, but there is nothing wrong with trying new things.

We look forward to the snow show in Dubuque and the state convention in Storm Lake.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October

- Snowdrifters swap meet Sunday, Oct. 25, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at 900 Penn St., North Liberty. Spots are \$10. For more information, contact (319) 351-9100.
- Central Iowa Snowmobilers grass drags Sunday, Oct. 25, at the Central Iowa Fairgrounds in Marshalltown. Registration 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Racing starts at 11 a.m. Swap meet and atv racing as well. For more information, contact Blake at (641) 485-3161 or Scott at (641) 751-7150.
- ISSA Snow Show Oct. 24-25 at the Grand River Center, Dubuque. Doors open both days at 10 a.m. The show ends Saturday at 6 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m.
- ISSA Board of Directors meeting Sunday, Oct. 25, at 9 a.m. at the Grand River Center, Dubuque.

November

- Trails Unlimited membership drive and chicken dinner Nov. 6 at The Zipper, Festina.
- 42nd Annual ISSA Convention Nov. 20-22 at King's Pointe Resort, Storm Lake.
- Capitol City Shootout Grass Drags, Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club, Saturday, Nov. 7, Todd's Air Field, Ankeny.
- O'Brien County Snowtrackers membership supper Nov. 14 at the Primghar Community Center.
- Driftrunners Kick-Off Dance and Toys for Tots Drive Nov. 28 at 8 p.m. at K-Town Tap, Kendallville. Music by No Passengers Allowed.

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

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@poppecc.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

Clayton County Snowbirds

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





ISSA CLUBS

Clubs in red reported
100% ISSA Membership

Driftrunners, Inc.

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

Dyersville Driftskippers

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

Snow Pioneers

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

Trail Blaz-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: Jake Ludeking
2005 Centennial Rd, Decorah, IA 52101
(563) 380-6747, jakeludeking@gmail.com

REGION SIX

Sac County Snow Lovers

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

REGION SEVEN

High Bridge Trailblazers

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

Raccoon Valley Snow Chasers

President: Mike Patten
5204 Neva Pt., Panora, IA 50216
(641) 755-3863, mjpatt76@aol.com

Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club

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

Team Iowa Snowmobilers

www.teamiowasnowmobilers.com
President: David Eide
teamiowasnowmobilers@hotmail.com
(515) 230-0389

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

Region 12

Snowdrifters, Inc.

by Ron Roe

Hi everyone. Well, another month has gotten us closer to the snow season. We went to Hay Days in Minnesota, and it was just as big as ever. There were a lot of vendors and tons of swappers. We walked for two days. After it was over, we went on into Wisconsin to do some ATV riding. The weather was perfect while we were there, but when we came home on Sept. 17, we hit rain all the way. We got into St Paul around 6 a.m. when it first started pouring rain. That didn't help things any when you are running three to six vehicles wide at 65 mph. I'd leave a space so I could stop quickly, and someone would cut in front of you and jump a couple lanes to get off the freeway. We got past St Paul and the southbound traffic really let up. The northbound traffic was three lanes wide for miles. I can't imagine doing that every morning and then eight hours later doing it all over again.

Well, back to snowmobiling. At our club meeting, we got the report on the tractor pull we had at Hawkeye Downs on Aug. 22. We were trying to make some money for our new groomer, and it was a success.

We have three bridges that need to be replaced. We will be working on these real soon. Some of our guys are farmers and want to do this before the harvest gets started. We all need to jump in and help when they are available to work on them. They are average size bridges so they won't take long to build with a lot of help.

I have plans to check out my trails this next week to see what I have to do. If I have much dirt work to do, I'd like to do it early before the leaves fall.

Our club is having its annual swap meet and open house on Sunday, Oct. 25, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It will be held in the same location at 900 Penn Street in North Liberty. Swapper sites are \$10. For more information, contact Ron Roe at (319) 351-9100.

I am a member of the Sledheads snowmobile club and this summer they sold raffle tickets for a quarter of beef with a total of 4 winners. Luck behold, I won one of the them. I am not usually a winner of anything, but I will have to stop saying that now.

Well that is all for this month. Think winter, not snow yet, but keep it in your mind.



Club member Ryan Hajek presents a trophy to Steve Lantow at the Snowdrifters Truck and Tractor Pull at Hawkeye Downs in Cedar Rapids Aug. 22.

2016 Convention Host Sought

The ISSA Board of Directors is seeking bids to host the 2016 ISSA Annual Convention. As the convention rotates each year from west to east, clubs in the central part of the state are responsible for coming up with a site for next year's convention. As determined by the board in August of 2013, the ISSA regions which make up the central are 3, 7, 8 and 11. If your region or club is interested in hosting the convention, please submit a bid to your region director by the Oct. 25 board meeting in Dubuque.



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, jhard88@yahoo.com

REGION NINE

Cascade Snow Punchers

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

Eastern Iowa Sno-Riders

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

Frozen Few

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

Jones County Snow Chasers

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

Snowmobilers of Jackson County

President: Aaron Michels
39014 308th St., Bellevue, IA 52031
brittany-farrell@hotmail.com

REGION TEN

Southwest Iowa Snow Scooters

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

Stag Island Skol Patrol

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

REGION ELEVEN

Appanoose County Trails, Inc.

P.O. Box 825, Centerville, IA 52544

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

Snowdrifters, Inc.

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

Scott County Sno-Seekers

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

2015 ISSA Snow Show October 24-25 Grand River Center Dubuque, IA

Location:
500 Bell Street
Dubuque, IA 52001

Hours:
Saturday, Oct. 24
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 25
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Admission:
\$5 per person
Kids 12 &
Under are Free

Attention, Vendors!

Booth space is still
available. To reserve
your spot, contact
Andrea Willey at
(563) 920-4398 or
morningstar.willey@
gmail.com.

**Hope to
See You
There!**



2015-16 EMR Program

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



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/2015memapp.jpg.



ISSA ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

REGION 1

Okoboji Boatworks Sled Rentals

1401 Lakeshore Dr., Okoboji, IA 51355
(712) 332-9904
rentals@okobjiboatworks.com
www.parkmarina.com

Project Mayhem Power Sports

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

REGION 2

Big Ride Restoration

2031 Tabor Ave., Manson, IA 50563
(712) 210-1267
bigridere restoration@yahoo.com

Carlson Auto Body Repair

504 High St., Rockwell City, IA 50579
(712) 297-5517
carlsonauto@hotmail.com

J & K Snowmobile

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

Rasmuson Electric

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

Ramthun Trucking, Inc

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

Sedlacek

Snowmobile Salvage

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

Wagner Truck Sales

404 Broad St., Rolfe, IA 50581
(712) 848-3443
wagnertruckandauto.com
www.wagnertrucks.com

REGION 3

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

C R Fuel

223 N Main St., Clarion, IA 50525
(515) 293-1569
nelsoncurt2@yahoo.com

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

Dave's Auto Service

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

Deb's Wild Horse Saloon

1932 Nettle Ave., Hampton, IA 50441
(641) 892-4922
DebLaRue@rocketmail.com

DK Arndt, PC

116 East I St., Forest City, IA 50436
(641) 585-4631

dkafe@dkaarndtcpa.net
www.dkaarndtcpa.net

Don's Motor Mart

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

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

E & E Repair

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

Farm & City Insurance

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

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

Hickman Chiropractic

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

Holland Contracting

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

Hometown Market

11717 Hwy 9, Thompson, IA 50478
(641) 584-2300

Hometown Pizza & Pub

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

House of Sports

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

Howie Equipment

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

J-T Machine & Tool Co.

602 S Federal St/PO Box 304
Hampton, IA 50441, (641) 456-4513
jtmachinetool@iowaconnect.com

Kirschbaum Heating & Cooling

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

Lake Mills Lumber Co.

313 N Washington
Lake Mills, IA 50450, (641) 592-2721

Lake Mills Motor Sports

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

Main, Inc.

6401 Hwy 9, Buffalo Center, IA 50424

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

Murra Hardware

204 N Main St.
Buffalo Center, IA 50424

Oranges, LLC

309 5th Ave SW
Buffalo Center, IA 50424

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

Sheri's Southside Store

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

Smith Crop Insurance Agency

2285 Taylor Ave, Rowan, IA 50470
(515) 689-3986
smithins@wmtel.net

Squid Willy's Bar & Grill

387 3rd Ave. W, Thompson, IA 50478
(641) 584-2820
squidwilly@wctatel.net

The Branding Iron

135 Jackson St., Thompson, IA 50478
(641) 584-2912

Timber Tree Service

Forest CityIA
(641) 581-2579

Uptown Liquor

306 Hwy 69 S., Forest City, IA 50436
(641) 585-5137
squidwilly@wctatel.net

Vinje Pub

15960 490th St, Scarville, IA 50473
(641) 568-3150

Weaver's Leather Store

112 N Main St.
Buffalo Center, IA 50424

West Scott Farm LLC

Muhlenbruch Bros
1332 Eagle Ave., Latimer, IA 50452

REGION 4

DR Powersports

Formerly Leer's Cycle Center
Ski-Doo/Kawasaki
101 Fletcher Ave, Waterloo, IA 50701
(319) 235-6453
kent@drpowersports.com
www.drpowersports.com

Nate's Outdoor Recreation, Inc.

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

REGION 5

Buliceks Landing, Inc.

306 Franklin St., Delhi, IA 52223
(563) 245-3838

Myers Polaris Inc.

Polaris
304 E Main St., Fairbank, IA 50629
(319) 635-2311
myerspolaris@mchsi.com
www.myerspolaris.com

Kuennen's House of Power

PO Box 216/455 Main St N
Maynard, IA 50655 (563) 637-2870
V & V Insurance Agency Inc.
P.O. Box 159, Cresco IA, 52136-0159
(563) 547-2161
insurance@vandvins.com

Waukon Power Sports

Ski-Doo/Polaris/Yamaha
Home of the Low Price Guarantee
208 Hwy 9 SW, Waukon, IA 52172
(563) 568-4025
wyamaha@rconnect.com
www.waukonpowersports.com

REGION 6

Al's Corner

1801 Kittyhawk Ave., Carroll, IA 51401
(712) 830-2047

Blackhawk Marine Sales & Service

3001 Hwy 71 175
Lake View, IA, 51450-7204
(712) 657-2368

Boulders Inn

119 Boulders Dr., Lake View, IA 51450
(712) 657-2660

D & K - 10th Hole Golf Course

16323 120th St., Breda, IA 51436
(712) 673-4653

Denny's Texaco

Hwy 71/175, Lake View, IA 51450
(712) 657-2123

Dolly's Bar & Grill

109 Pine St, Auburn, IA 51433
(712) 688-2220

First State Bank

200 Moorehead Ave
Ida Grove, IA 51445
(712) 364-3500

Hemers Plumbing

213 Maple St., Odebolt, IA 51458
(712) 668-2243

Jarod Frank's Repair

3235 396th St., Breda, IA 51436
(712) 473-4661

Laney's Corral

PO Box 684
Lake View, IA 51450-0684
(712) 657-2008

Odebolt Bowling Alley

401 S. Des Moines St.
Odebolt, IA 51458

Outlaws

907 9th St., Lake View, IA 51450
(712) 665-3332

Quality Sign

1690 260th St., Odebolt, IA 51458
(712) 668-2878

Quirk Seed Center Inc.

P.O. Box 256, Lake View, IA 51450
(712) 657-2000

Red's Place

116 Main St., Breda, IA 51436
(712) 673-4410

Rudd Sanitation



2955 Union Ave W, Sac City, IA 50583
(712) 662-4711

Ryan's Bar & Grill

111 Boulders Dr., Lake View, IA 51450
(712) 657-2212

The Bar

416 Main St., Lake View, IA 51450
(712) 665-2614

Thirsty Carp

930 9th St., Lake View, IA 51450
(712) 657-2313

REGION 7

Fast Trax Sports

102 - 1st St, Sully, IA 50251
(641) 594-4462
fasttrax@netins.net

Hicklin Power Sports, LLC

Ski-Doo
3160 SE Grimes Blvd Suite #700
Grimes, IA 50111
(515) 986-4880
hicklin3160@gmail.com
www.hicklinpowersports.com

Spina Bifida Association of Iowa

8525 Douglas Ave., Suite 39
Urbandale IA 50322
(515) 287-0209

REGION 10

Nishna Valley Cycle, Inc

Yamaha
2500 E 7th St., Atlantic, IA 50022-8301
(712) 243-6343
rob@nishnavalleycycle.com
www.nishnavalleycycle.com

Olsen's Outdoor Power

Ski-Doo
2800 E 7th St, Atlantic, IA 50022
(712) 243-4867, (800) 383-4108
tad@olsensoutdoorpower.com
www.olsensoutdoorpower.com

REGION 12

Iowa City Motorsports

Yamaha
155 Escort Ln, Iowa City, IA 52240
(319) 351-5900
icmotorsports@icm.net
www.iowacitymotorsports.com

OUT OF STATE

Canvasworks, d/b/a SnoCaps

VOSB – Veteran Owned
Small Business
P.O. Box 247, Cokato, MN 55321
(763) 675-2975
www.canvasworksincmn.com
www.encloseyourtrailer.com
www.custommcseats.com

Holiday Inn

2100 East Hwt 12, Willmar, MN 56201,
(320) 235-6060
gm@willmarhotels.com
www.willmarhotels.com

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Weather

Continued from page 12

inches of snow to the northeast half of Iowa on Feb. 25. Bitter cold air followed immediately after this late February storm but quickly dissipated as temperatures rapidly warmed along the southwest fringe of this snow area on March 6.

The only other major snow event of the winter came on March 23 and impacted only far northeast Iowa with 12 inches at McGregor. "However, as is typical of late-winter events, temperatures did not remain low enough, long enough, to preserve this snowcover for very long," Hillaker said.

As for this coming winter, a strong El Nino event is expected to persist. Typically, El Nino patterns bring above normal temperatures to the northern U.S. and southwestern Canada from December into March. In Iowa, fortunately, snow totals in El Nino winters have no pronounced tendency, i.e. below normal snowfall is just as common as above normal.

"However, we do seem to get more snow than usual in the 'fringe' season of October-November and March-April, when typically higher temperatures make it very unlikely that snowcover will stick around for very long," Hillaker said.

Since 1982-83, Iowa has endured 10 El Nino events. Most of them have produced milder weather, but the last one in 2009-10 was unusually cold and snowy. Much to every snowmobiler's delight, that season produced the highest snowfall total in the past 15 years with a statewide average of 49.2 inches.

"Thus, having an El Nino event, even a strong one, doesn't guarantee a mild winter," Hillaker said.

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