

October 2019
Volume 41
Issue 2

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IOWA SNOWMOBILER

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COVER: Iowa State University student Payton Stadlander pilots his team's Arctic Cat through the obstacle course at the 2019 Clean Snowmobile Challenge in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan last March. The team finished eighth in its fifth consecutive year of competition.

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SCOTT NAUMAN

ISSA VICE PRESIDENT



Greetings again to all snowmobilers. With the approaching fall season, the time is here again to begin trail work and for trail marking to take place across the state. We all hope that this upcoming winter will be a long white season to benefit from the work that we put into preparing for this sport that we all enjoy.

With these tasks in mind, please remember “safety first” and use these opportunities to get more club members or even non-club member riders involved in the sometimes lengthy trail preparation that we hope will soon pay off.

Also, I would like to mention the upcoming annual ISSA Convention and invite all of you to attend the event in November. This year’s convention will be held in Burlington at the PZAZZ Entertainment Complex Nov. 22-24. I hope to see all of you there for the information sharing and to talk about the events coming this winter.

Central Iowa Grass Drags Move to Grundy Center Oct. 26

The Central Iowa Snowmobilers of Region 8 will be hosting its annual grass drags on Saturday, Oct. 26, at a new location at the Grundy County Fairgrounds in Grundy Center. The club previously held its drags at the fairgrounds in Marshalltown.

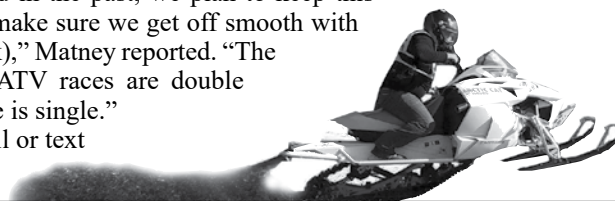
Club president Blake Matney reported on the club’s Facebook page in late August that the “new facility is coming along nicely. The track surface is very flat, and it already has a lot of grass growing on it. The track will be the same length as what we had in Marshalltown but much smoother.”

Registration begins at 8 a.m. on race day and lasts for two hours. No late entries will be accepted, and racing begins promptly at 11 a.m. Radar runs will begin at 9 a.m. Classes include Trail Stock, Trail Stock Unstudded, Trail Performance, Improved Stock and Pro Stock.

Specialty classes include Vintage Liquid, Vintage Air, Improved Stock Shootout, King of the Track, King of the Trail, ATVs and Side-by-Sides. The club also plans youth racing in the 120 Class and for 13-17-year-olds. A free snowmobile and ATV swap meet will also be held on the grounds.

“Like we have mentioned in the past, we plan to keep this event somewhat simple to make sure we get off smooth with the transition (to a new track),” Matney reported. “The standard trail classes and ATV races are double elimination. Everything else is single.”

For more information, call or text Matney at (641) 485-3161.



Snocross to Remain in Iowa this Season with New Date, New Location in Dubuque

The International Series of Champions recently released its 2019-20 schedule for the Amsoil Championship Snocross series, confirming a national event will be held in Iowa for the fourth straight season.

Theisen’s is back on as title sponsor, but the venue has been moved from Sundown Mountain Resort in Dubuque to the Dubuque County Fairgrounds in Dubuque. The date for the race has been moved up a month from early March to Jan. 31-Feb. 1.

In August, Mark Gordon, general manager at Sundown, announced the downhill ski resort would not be renewing as host for the upcoming snocross season.

For a complete list of dates and locations for the professional snocross circuit, visit snocross.com

Arctic Cat Breaks Silence, Quells Rumors at Hay Days Presser

by Pat Bourgeois

MSPN

To say it has been a tumultuous and uncertain time since Textron purchased Arctic Cat in March of 2017 for the Thief River Falls manufacturer would be an understatement.

Over the past six months, the brand has undergone significant changes, including the announcement of 2020 models being available as spring order only; rumors of significant cutbacks in racing; and the closing of nearly 300 dealerships across North America.

With so much change happening, rumors of another sale—or worse yet, the shuttering of the Arctic Cat snowmobile brand—had enthusiasts and dealers alike questioning the brand's future. To make matters worse, communication from Arctic Cat or Textron was near radio silence.

However, at Hay Days this year, core members of the snowmobile media huddled inside the Arctic Cat race trailer as Craig Kennedy, vice president of Arctic Cat, looked to “clear the air” and open up new lines of communication not only with the media, but with dealers and customers alike.

“I want to try to put many of these rumors to bed,” Kennedy said after admitting the company had done a poor job of communicating to this point. “We’ve made a lot of changes with how we’re doing business, and that creates a lot of questions. Honestly, we are just trying to concentrate on running a great business and trying to get back to a profitable busi-

ness.”

Kennedy also specifically addressed changes to the dealer network, and while he couldn’t speak to those dealers who the company decided not to continue a business relationship with, he felt strongly about the network that remains.



Kennedy

“I can tell you the dealer network we are standing with now is super strong...and they are super capable. We needed to make some changes in how we as a company operate. Our spring Snowmageddon sales

event is an example of that change. It was the most preseason sales we’ve ever done...three times bigger than any other spring program we’ve done.”

Kennedy also wanted to assure everyone, Arctic Cat is going to stay on the gas when it comes to product development.

“What I will tell you is we are not going to win by following the same business model that we’ve always done,” Kennedy said. “We’re going to change the way we go about things. Snowmageddon was just the star.

“This winter, we’re going earlier (with new 2021 product) than we ever have. We’re not stepping down. We’re putting our foot on the gas and creating new products that will lead the industry.”

2020 Convention Host Sought by ISSA Board

Bids to host the 2020 ISSA Annual Convention are due to the ISSA Board of Directors this month. With no regular board meeting planned for October, clubs should submit bids to their respective region directors.

Ideally, the winning bid will be announced at the conclusion of the 2019 ISSA Convention, held next month, Nov. 22-24, at the Pzazz Convention and Event Center in Burlington. See pages 8-11 for more on this year’s event.

The ISSA began rotating convention sites after its 40th Anniversary celebration in 2013 in Altoona. The logic behind the move was to bring conventions closer to members and snowmobilers in each region of Iowa. Board members hoped the reduced travel time would increase attendance locally.

The rotation moves from west to east. This year’s convention should have been located in central Iowa, but when no bids were submitted by the deadline last fall, the ISSA board accepted the Southeast Iowa Ridge-Blasters’ offer to host, and the site leapfrogged to Burlington.

Here are the convention host sites since the rotation began: Altoona (2013), Dubuque (2014), Storm Lake (2015), Waterloo (2016), Cedar Rapids (2017), Spirit Lake (2018) and Burlington (2019).

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Representing the ISSA at the 51st Annual International Snowmobile Congress in Grand Rapids, Mich., in June were, from left, Brian Carmichael, Judy King, Cindy Johnson, Dick Melick (seated), Jim Willey, Becky Willey, Bob King, Bob Ruetter (seated) Scott Nauman, Sharon Laughlin, Chris Willey and Andrea Willey.

Talking Policy, Developing Strategy at Off-Season Gathering in Michigan

by Jim Willey

Chair, ISSA Communications Committee

A strong delegation of Iowa snowmobilers represented the ISSA at the 51st Annual International Snowmobile Congress in Grand Rapids, Mich., June 5-8. The 2019 event was hosted by the Michigan Snowmobile Association at the Amway Grand Hotel and Conference Center.

Congress is an event dedicated to the development of strategies on international snowmobilers' common role with respect to the environment, conservation, access, education and accountability. It is also a perfect opportunity for networking in the snowmobile community and to establish relationships with key snowmobile leaders.

The annual gathering also allows representatives from national snowmobile organizations and representatives from the state and provincial snowmobile organizations to meet jointly as the International Snowmobile Council. This assembly is dedicated to promoting safe and responsible snowmobiling and provides a communication forum on a global scale.

Many reports and updates relevant to snowmobiling are given at the series of meetings, and the International Snowmobile Manufacturers were pleased to report that snowmobile sales in North America continued to show a positive growth pattern in the past year and that snowmobile sales outperformed the U.S. and Canadian

economies.

Snowmobiling is a significant recreation of choice and a major economic contributor throughout the U.S., Canada, Scandinavia and Russia. It's estimated that snowmobiling contributes more than \$30 billion of economic activity in North America alone.

Snowmobiling is not without its challenges, however, and many of these challenges were discussed at the four days of meetings and social activities. All of this was accomplished in a setting that offers fun, entertainment, good food, exceptional lodging and a unique "off-site" experience while taking care of the business of snowmobiling.

Chapter meetings with the American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA) included updates on snowmobile access and grooming, lawsuits, workshops on increasing membership and connecting with local media. Yours truly was elected to the executive council of ACSA.

Also taking advantage of the meeting rooms were members of the Canadian Council of Snowmobile Organizations (CCSO), the International Snowmobile Media Council (ISMC), the Department of Natural Resources representatives and



snowmobile program administrators.

A new organization in the snowmobile community was also in attendance. The United Snowmobile Alliance, Inc, states its purpose to be the preservation and promotion of environmentally-responsible organized snowmobiling and the creation of safe and sustainable snowmobiling in the U.S.

The 52nd Annual International Snowmobile Congress will take place June 10-13, 2020, in Regina, Saskatchewan. Omaha is next in 2021, and the ISSA has applied to host in 2022. The inaugural ISC was held in 1969 in Albany, N.Y., and 25 other states have hosted the annual event since then. Iowa has twice hosted the event: 2010 at Coralville and 1995 at Cedar Rapids.

New Location for Spina Bifida Walk-N-Roll Oct. 12

The Spina Bifida Association of Iowa, the ISSA's official charity since 1982, will be holding its annual Walk-N-Roll fundraiser at Terra Park in Johnston on Saturday, Oct. 12. Registration opens at 1 p.m., and the walk starts at 2:30 p.m.

Past ISSA President Bruno Andreini of Dallas Center serves as the ISSA's liaison on the SBAIA board and is encouraging ISSA-member clubs to enter a team to participate in this year's event.

"We seem to have the same three or four people represent the ISSA at this function, so it would be nice to have others from around the state come down and help raise money for our favorite charity," Andreini said.

The Walk-N-Roll is one of SBAIA's premier fundraising events.

Families and sponsors form teams to collect pledges and donations and then report their totals after the walk. Prizes and awards are expected to be announced at around 3 p.m.

"The name 'Walk-N-Roll' was selected because it embodies a sense of inclusiveness and invokes the sense of empowerment which the spina bifida community embraces in all that it does," according to a post on the SBAIA's website. "A belief in a better tomorrow is our vision and the steps taken in this walk represent steps on a path to realizing that dream."

Please note the location change for the Walk-N-Roll from previous years. Also new this year is the inclusion of the 2019 Adaptive Sports Fair at the event. Adaptive Sports Iowa, Courage League Sports and Sportability of Iowa are all expected to host activities at the park.

"All of these organizations are planning opportunities for participants to practice a variety of adaptive sports," the SBAIA explained.

The address for the walk is 6300 Pioneer Parkway in Johnston. Participants will have two routes from which to choose. It's not a race but more of a social affair for families to network with other families and to get acquainted with their organization's sponsors.

To learn more, visit sbaia.org/event/walk-n-roll-2019 or Like them on Facebook. Interested snowmobile clubs can contact Andreini at (515) 240-3858.





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2019 ISSA CONVENTION NOVEMBER 22-24 2019

PZAZZ - BURLINGTON, IA

TENTATIVE AGENDA

Friday

Snowshow/Club set up
Hospitality Hour/Entertainment

Saturday

Snow Show open all day
ISSA General meeting
Region Meeting / Elections
Groomer Class
Seminars
Womens Class
Youth Class
Social Hour
Banquet
Raffles / Silent Auction
Awards
Entertainment

Sunday

ISSA Board Meeting
Snow Show tear down



Friday night's entertainment performing last May.

Family-Friendly Weekend Planned for November

by Cameron Hanson

Live music from The Boys, a modern country band from south-east Iowa, will kick off opening festivities at the 2019 ISSA Annual Convention at the Pzazz Convention and Event Center in Burlington the fourth weekend in November.

Their appearance is part of the Friday night hospitality package and kicks off three days of snowmobile-related activities in the eastern end of Region 10. The Southeast Iowa Ridge-Blasters are hosting this year's convention, slated for Nov. 22-24.



The main event of the weekend will be the free ISSA Snow Show on Saturday, as well as meetings and seminars for the benefit of ISSA members. Region 10 Director Aaron Dorothy is chairing this year's convention planning committee and promises interesting activities for all generations and genders.

As advertised on the flyer on page 10 of this month's issue, the snow show as well as a groomer certification course and operator appreciation event will keep the guys busy Saturday afternoon, while a wreath-making class and wine-tasting event will likely entertain their wives.

"I guess I want everyone to know this is a family event. It's not just for the guys," Dorothy said. "With Christmas right around the corner, we are going to have an awesome lady come in and bring everything to make cute holiday wreaths.

"This will be at the same time as the groomer class," he continued. "So while the guys are off doing their thing, the ladies will be able to go sit, relax, make a wreath and enjoy some wine. Call it a wreath, wine and unwind if you will, but this will be a fun event for them to do!"

For the kids on Saturday, Dorothy said he is planning a Youth

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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. 23

Where: Pzazz Resort Hotel, Burlington, IA

Trail Readiness Clinic as well as a Youth Social Hour complete with go-cart racing. Dorothy oversees the ISSA's youth program, Kids Intentionally Supporting Snowmobiling (KISS), and is looking for the younger generation to take the lead on these activities at convention.

"This is for the youth by the youth," he said. "The class is just going to be some simple things to look for, ideas that they might like and some pointers. And the fun part about it is, it will be taught by their peers. We are also hoping to have some virtual reality goggles available for the kids to try out with a couple of 360-degree snowmobile views."

Dorothy said he is looking for sponsors to help offset the expenses from the youth activities as well as a little extra money to buy the kids special take-home gifts. General convention sponsors are also still needed to cover costs above and beyond what registration fees cover. See page 11 for sponsorship opportunities.

"If any individual or club is willing to help out, it would be greatly appreciated," Dorothy said.

Updated convention information is also available on page 11. In addition to the groomer operator class, Saturday afternoon seminars will include information on trail mapping through the Polaris RideCommand app plus a financial health update on the ISSA's Snowmobile Trail Grant Program.

Another seminar expected at convention is a planning session for Snowmobile Iowa, a trail ride spin-off from the club booths at convention by the same name. Here, local clubs volunteer to host rides and invite snowmobilers from across Iowa to tour their trail systems.

Six weekends in January and February are typically selected for the rides, and clubs sign up to host on a first-come, first-served basis. If enough interest exists, this season will be the fourth consecutive year the ISSA has attempted to organize trail rides.

Due to poor snow and trail conditions, more events have been cancelled than held in the three-year history of Snowmobile Iowa, but ride coordinator and Past ISSA President Bruno Andreini isn't discouraged enough to not make another attempt at it this year.

"We haven't had the greatest success at these rides in the past, but I'm still willing to get together and see if can make something happen again this winter," he said.

Beginning with a statewide map this month, four trail maps will be printed in the center spread of this magazine over the next four issues. Be sure to hang onto each in case a Snowmobile Iowa ride is planned for that particular area.

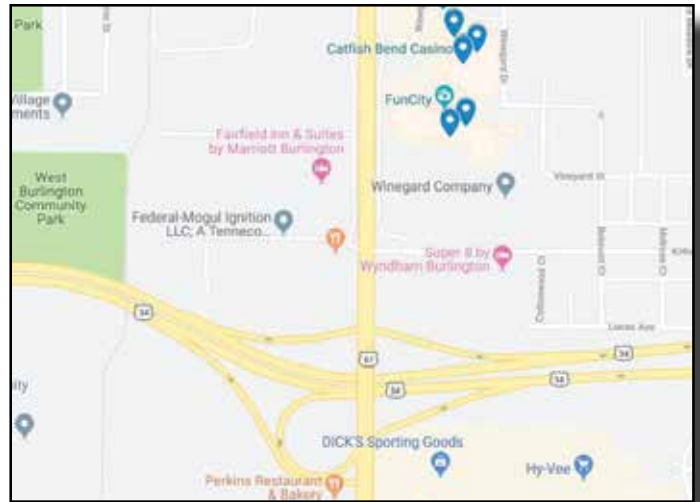
2019 ISSA CONVENTION NOVEMBER 22-24 2019

PZAZZ - BURLINGTON, IA
SNOWMOBILE IOWA CLUB SHOWCASE

Club Name: _____
Contact Person: _____
Address: _____
Phone#: _____ Region: _____
Email: _____

Mail completed form to:
Aaron Dorothy
502 E. Cedar Ln.
Mt. Pleasant, Ia 52641

For more information, contact
Aaron at (319)217-6361 or aarond65@hotmail.com



This year's convention site is just north of the Highway 61/34 interchange in Burlington.

With 2019 an odd-numbered year, director elections will be held in the odd-numbered regions and will be held during the ISSA General Assembly Saturday morning at convention. A brunch buffet follows the meetings, and a social hour and awards banquet is planned for Saturday evening.

The convention concludes Sunday morning with an ISSA Board of Directors meeting. Full convention registration covers all meals and activities for the weekend but does not include lodging. See the registration form on page 11 for group rates and hotel information. Commemorative T-shirts are also available for purchase.

For questions or for more information on convention, contact Dorothy at (319) 217-6361 or email him at aarond65@hotmail.com.

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2019 ISSA CONVENTION

Pzazz Convention and Event Center

Burlington, Ia



November 22nd-24th 2019

Friday Night Hospitality Featuring:

Food, Refreshments, Friends

And live entertainment by: **The BOYS**



Saturday Featuring:

Opening Ceremonies

ISSA general membership meeting

Brunch Buffet

SnowShow open all Day

Groomer Certification Class

Ladies' Wreath-Making Class

Youth Trail readiness class

Seminars: RideCommand and more

Groomer operator appreciation

Youth and open social hour

Evening Banquet with awards, door prizes, and entertainment

Sunday :

ISSA Board meeting



For the Guys:

Groomer Class

SnowShow

Meetings and more

For The Kids and Youth:

Youth Trail Readiness Class

(for the youth by the youth)

Youth Social Hour—Gocarts and more



Convention T-Shirts will be available for Pre-Order and at SnowShow



2019 ISSA CONVENTION

NOVEMBER 22-24 2019

PZAZZ - BURLINGTON, IA

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone # _____

Email: _____

Club or Organization _____

Youth Names: _____

Check or enter number per that apply:

☐ Early Registration \$60 (BEFORE OCT 15th)

☐ Full Registration \$70

☐ Friday ONLY Registration

☐ Saturday ONLY Registration

☐ Youth Registration \$30 (5-14)

☐ Under 5 FREE

☐ Ladies Wreath Making Class \$35

☐ Pre-Order Convention T-Shirt \$15

☐ Youth size ☐ Adult S ☐ Adult M

☐ Adult L ☐ Adult XL ☐ Adult 2XL

Please Note: Registration fees do NOT include hotel rooms. There are three options for hotels, all connected to event center:

PZAZZ: \$79/night before Oct. 15 (kid friendly)

Hampton: \$101/night

Catfish Bend Inn: \$139/night (no one under 21)

To receive reduced hotel rates, reservations need to be made by Oct. 15 and are good for PZAZZ only.

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Make Checks payable to ISSA.

Mail Payment and completed form to:

Aaron Dorothy

502 E Cedar Ln.

Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641

For more information, contact

Aaron at (319)217-6361 or aarond65@hotmail.com



2019 ISSA CONVENTION

NOVEMBER 22-24 2019

PZAZZ - BURLINGTON, IA

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Convention

Friday Night Entertainment	\$300
Friday Night Hospitality	\$300
Saturday Afternoon Seminar	\$200
Saturday Evening Social Hour	\$300
Youth Social Hour	\$200
Saturday Evening Entertainment	\$500
Program Printing	\$200
Name Badges	\$200
General Donations	\$100

Awards Banquet

Family Award	\$200
Young Adult Award	\$200
Snowmobiler Award	\$200
Groomer Award	\$200
Dealer Award	\$200
Club Award	\$200

Name/Club _____

Address _____

Phone# _____

Email _____

Sponsorship type: ☐ Donor ☐ Convention ☐ Award

Sponsorship Item: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

To secure your sponsorship, please send your sponsorship check made out to the ISSA and this form to:

Aaron Dorothy

502 E. Cedar Ln.

Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641

For more information, contact

Aaron at (319)217-6361 or aarond65@hotmail.com

Join the ISSA Today!

If you enjoy the sport of snowmobiling in Iowa, you are not alone. In 2019, more than 21,000 sleds registered with the Iowa State Snowmobile Trail Grant Program, and 60 clubs around the state maintained a 8,800-mile trail system.

The glue that bonds us together is the Iowa State Snowmobile Association and its network of 2,224 dedicated family members and associates. Since 1973, our organization has helped to maintain an expansive fleet of groomers and lobbied on behalf of snowmobile-friendly legislation.

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

there would not have been any night riding, ditch riding nor access to state parks.

We continue to work to increase funding for trail maintenance and development, and in 2017, our organization assumed control of the state snowmobile trail grant program and of the entire groomer fleet. Our efforts continue, and your support would be greatly appreciated.

Fill out the form below and join the ISSA today.

With your paid annual membership, you will receive a free subscription to the *Iowa Snowmobiler* magazine, our official publication.

Iowa State Snowmobile Association 2020 Family/Single Membership Application

Please remit with payment.

I hereby apply for membership in the Iowa State Snowmobile Association. Check all that apply:

Single/Family (\$15) _____ Scholarship Donation \$ _____ Spina Bifida Association of Iowa Donation \$ _____ Legislative Action Fund Donation \$ _____

Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Children: _____ Snowmobile Club: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ County of Residence _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____ # registered snowmobiles _____

Your email address is very important as this will be how we can get information to you in a timely manner.

Included with your membership
is a subscription to this magazine.

____ Check here if you only want

digital version of magazine.

Membership year runs from

Jan. 1 thru Dec. 31.

Send your membership form and
dues today to Brittany Paulus at:

ISSA Membership
1924 270th Street
Marble Rock, IA 50653
bepaulus@outlook.com



Iowa State Snowmobile Association 2020 Associate Membership Application

Please remit with payment.

I hereby apply for membership in the Iowa State Snowmobile Association. Check all that apply:

____ Associate Membership (\$25)

Scholarship Donation \$ _____ Spina Bifida Association of Iowa Donation \$ _____ Legislative Action Fund Donation \$ _____

Name of Business or Dealership: _____ Contact Person: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____ Website: _____

Snowmobile Club/Region _____ Snowmobile Brand(s) (if applicable) _____

Anything you'd like to add to your listing in the magazine? _____

Included with membership is a
subscription to this magazine.

____ Check here if you only want

digital version of magazine.

Membership year runs from

Jan. 1 thru Dec. 31.

Send your membership form and
dues today to Brittany Paulus at:

ISSA Membership
1924 270th Street
Marble Rock, IA 50653
bepaulus@outlook.com



Cy-Clean Racing Through the Years



2015



2016



2017



2018



2019



Knowledge is Horsepower

ISU Team Competes in Fifth Straight Clean Snowmobile Challenge in March

by Cameron Hanson

In his youth, Ryan Greeley said he used to tinker in his parents' basement workshop in their suburban Minneapolis home, but it wasn't until he enrolled at Iowa State University in Ames more than three years ago that he was really able to start getting his hands dirty.

Shortly after arriving on campus, the Mechanical Engineering major from Minnetonka joined the Engineering Department's Clean Snowmobile Challenge team, and by his junior year, he had risen to the position of project director. His fingernails have never looked the same since.

"Working on this project has given me a ton of hands-on experience," the Cyclone senior said. "Coming into college, I hadn't had any exposure to automobiles or mechanics. I took care of some little projects growing up but never had any experience working on cars or snowmobiles.

"Working with this team has really helped me understand engines and exhaust systems and has given me a chance to work with different power tools that I have never used before," he added.

For the 2018-19 campaign, Greeley led a team of 14 engineering students who volunteered to build a snowmobile for the Clean Snowmobile Challenge (CSC) at Michigan Tech University (MTU) in the Upper Peninsula (UP). Last March was the fifth consecutive year ISU had fielded a team for the SAE competition.

Each season, the team—known as Cyclone Snowmobile Engineering—has entered into the Internal Combustion category and has achieved varying degrees of success. In 2015, their first year, the group finished eighth and earned Rookie of the Year honors. They followed up that notable performance with a sixth-place finish in 2016.

But the team was dealt a huge blow in 2017, when their sled caught fire during competition, and they were unable to finish. Deflated but not defeated, the team recovered for an 11th-place finish in 2018 and, earlier this year, rebounded to an eighth-place finish among 21 teams.

"We'd all love to win," Greeley admitted. "Everyone's goal is to finish first, but this is a very rigorous competition so if you are able to show up and compete in every single event and get a score in every event, you're doing pretty well."

Inspiring Students for 20 Years

The Clean Snowmobile Challenge was created in 1999 in response to snowmobile access issues in Yellowstone National Park. After an initial start at West Yellowstone, the competition relocated to the UP's Keweenaw Peninsula 17 years ago.

The contest is designed to promote ingenuity, improve snowmobile technology and reduce the sport's environmental footprint. Besides internal combustion engines, students representing colleges from across the Snow Belt also compete with diesel utility and electric engines.

The rules are strict, and during the week-long marathon, snowmobiles are judged on—among other measures—emissions, fuel economy, acceleration, cold-starting, endurance and horsepower. Teams are expected to arrive to the competition ready for testing and riding.

Jay Meldrum, director of the Keweenaw Research Center (KRC) at Michigan Tech, coordinates the event each year, and while scoring is necessary, the spirit of the competition is for students to learn leadership skills and to contribute to the future of the



sport of snowmobiling.

"It is the educational journey that they take, not their final placement, that is important to me," Meldrum said. "They learn a ton each year."

Greeley agreed. Besides acquiring mechanical skills he never knew he had, he said the CSC experience has been invaluable for his professional growth and career goals.

"Understanding the team dynamic and working with different individuals, that's really helped me with my plans after college," he said.

Before heading up the team last season, Greeley said he hadn't had too many opportunities to learn such skills as time management, fundraising and organizational leadership.

"I had never led an organization, had never reached out to sponsors and never put presentations together on a weekly basis," he said. "But with this team, I always had to look at the big picture. It wasn't just about what are we going to accomplish this week, but what are we going to accomplish this week and four weeks after to be ready in two months."

Always Looking for Sponsors

Greeley said fundraising is critical to the success of the program. He said the team's annual budget fluctuates between \$10,000 and \$13,500. Buying parts eats up a lot of the money as the team tries new technology to improve their performance. Travel and lodging expenses at the competition also consume a chunk of their funding.

Team members raise money when and where they can. At the Iowa-Iowa State football game Sept. 14, they staffed a concession stand inside Jack Trice Stadium for nearly 12 hours during the



Endurance testing

weather-lengthened event.

In the past, the ISSA and a number of snowmobile clubs in Iowa have donated time and money to the team, and at the competition in Michigan each year, Past ISSA President Merv Hoermann volunteers at the week-long event.

By far, though, the Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club has been the team's largest benefactor, contributing financially as well as lending technical support to the students. As a test-n-tune session for the CSC competition, the team has participated in the club's annual fall grass drags in Ankeny.

New this year, the Saylorville club has issued a challenge to other clubs in the state to help raise money for the ISU team. As detailed in the adjacent story, the Region 7 club will match up to \$500 in donations to bankroll the students. Club president Barry Starmer said it's important to support the young engineers.

"This team is working hard to make snowmobiling more environmentally-friendly, and through their testing, they are helping to make engines more efficient," he said.

Greeley said he appreciates any support they can get.

"We are an all student-ran and funded organization," he said. "It's crucial for us to have a healthy budget because of our expenses, so fundraising is everything. Without it, we wouldn't be able to compete."

For more information on the team, contact Greeley at rgreeley@iastate.edu or follow them on Facebook. For more on the fundraising challenge, contact Starmer at (515) 240-5444.



Emissions testing

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October

- Iowa Snowdrifters Membership Drive and Tailgate Party Oct. 5 at 11 a.m.
- Spina Bifida Association of Iowa Walk-N-Roll Oct. 12 at Johnston.
- Central Iowa Snowmobilers Grass Drags Saturday, Oct. 26, at the Grundy County Fairgrounds in Grundy Center. Registration from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Racing starts at 11 a.m. Radar runs and swap meet also planned. Contact (641) 485-3161 for more information.

November

- Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club Grass Drags Nov. 2 at Todd's Airfield, Ankeny.
- ISSA Annual Convention and Snow Show Nov. 22-24 at Pzazz Resort Hotel, Burlington.
- ISSA Board of Directors Meeting Nov. 24 at 8:30 a.m. at Burlington.
- Iowa River Riders Youth Safety Class Nov. 24 at The Garage Tavern in Coulter with instructors Chad and Stephanie Mulford. For more info, email iowariverriders@yahoo.com.



With pen in hand, Past ISSA President Merv Hoermann helps keep score at the March 4-9 competition.

Des Moines Club Looks to Raise Money for ISU Team

by Zac Parry

Vice President, Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club

For the last few years, the Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club (SDSC) of Region 7 has had the pleasure of starting and growing a relationship with the ISU Engineering Department's Clean Snowmobile Challenge team.

This group of ISU students started as a small group scratching together a used Polaris 800 and innovating to squeeze as much as possible out of this machine, improving fuel mileage, reducing emissions, not exceeding the maximum HP requirements, etc. That first year they met great success, earning 'Rookie Team of the Year' honors.



As the years clicked on, Polaris donated another sled to the team, a 600 this time, giving them another chance to come up with creative ways to improve on efficiency and performance with a smaller power-plant. Unfortunately, that sled suffered a fire during competition and they were unable to finish.

That setback didn't slow down this group of ambitious students. Instead, they went back to their previous sled and went way outside the box with an engine swap, switching out the 800 for a turbocharged 750 4-stroke.

This engine swap was just the beginning of the innovations which included Custom Stainless Steel Exhaust, Standalone ECU, Dual Cooling System, 3-D Printed Instrument Panel, 3-D Printed Down-pipe, 3-D Printed Quarter Turns, Graphite Hyfax, LED headlights, and a Custom Sled Wrap (which we all know makes more HP and better fuel economy automatically).

They then were able to get their hands on an Arctic Cat 4-stroke sled and continued to work on innovations in the areas of ECU,



Spencer Parry, son of Saylorville club vice president Zac Parry, hands a donation check to the ISU Clean Snowmobile Challenge team during a tour of their shop in Ames last December.

exhaust and, of course, performance, topping out at 123 hp (just 7 hp shy of the maximum limit).

Throughout this process, the SDSC has been fortunate to be the local club to help support these students as they work to further develop the sport of snowmobiling, both on the technical development side and the outreach side—displaying their snowmobiles at the Science center of Iowa, participating in the ISU car show and making a showing at the SDSC's annual grass drags.

The SDSC's support for the ISU Clean Snowmobile team has come in the form of an open door to come to our meetings and update us on the current state of the project, a policy they graciously returned, inviting us to tour their shop last December. The SDSC also had been fortunate to be able to offer some technical advice through discussions with a few of our members who are involved with snowmobile racing. The last pillar of support for the ISU team, of course, has come on the financial side, with the SDSC sponsoring the team for the last several years.

The SDSC would like to increase the financial support of this wonderful group of students by starting an ISSA-wide challenge. In addition to our normal sponsorship of the ISU team, the SDSC would like to present the ISSA clubs with the challenge of raising money to support the ISU team.

To encourage this fundraising, and help them better compete against teams with much deeper pockets, the SDSC will match up to \$500 total for donations made to the team. That means that if five clubs each donate \$100 to the ISU team, or if the ISSA is able to raise \$1000 as a whole, SDSC will also donate an additional \$500. Either way, the ISU team will be better off as will the sport of snowmobiling as we encourage younger participants to enter snowmobiling.



Saylorville club president Barry Starmer greets Casen Otremba of the ISU Clean Snowmobile Challenge Team in December.





Dickinson Groomer Stopped Dead in its Tracks

Okoboji Club Grateful for Help from Near and Far Last Season

by Jantina Carney

Dickinson County Snowhawks

As we look ahead to our upcoming snow season here in the Iowa Great Lakes, the Dickinson County Snowhawks would like to take a moment and reflect on some events that happened back in February of this year.

For those of you who are familiar with the Iowa Great Lakes, we have around 100 miles of trails that we groom, primarily made up of ditches along county roads. The biggest winter event in our area--the University of Okoboji Winter Games--is held the last weekend of January, and it was a huge success!

Great snow made for some great riding and record numbers of snowmobilers in the area! The weather conditions continued to be ideal heading into the middle of February, and an organized club ride was scheduled for Feb. 17 at 11 a.m.!

Friday evening, Feb. 15 around 8:45 p.m., our trails director and groomer, Randy Magg, was along Highway 9 heading to Lake Park when mechanical issues left him stranded in the ditch with our Prinoth Groomer missing a track on the bottom side of two hills in deep snow.

Randy quickly made a call to our club president, Kevin Winters, for help to see if we could get the track back on where it sat. As soon as Kevin arrived and after assessing the situation, they knew that this repair could not be made where the machine is sitting.

Calls were made to the proper authorities and warning signs were put out to warn anyone on snowmobiles coming up on the breakdown. So the race was on to try and find a new set of tracks for the groomer so that we could have our club ride on freshly groomed trails.

The next morning, Randy made a few more phone calls and a set of tracks was located near Decorah. I figured it would be long shot, but I made a post on our club's Facebook page asking if anyone in the Decorah area was heading to the Lakes Area!

Within minutes, I received a message from (now assistant Region 4 director) Jeremy and Kayla Wolf of Nashua asking for me to call them ASAP. The Wolfs had planned to ride snowmobiles in the Decorah area that weekend, but out of the goodness of their hearts, changed their plans just to help us out and deliver us the tracks.

At this point, we decided we had to save the club group ride, as it was the best snow we have had all year. By 8:30 a.m., a call had been made to our friends to the south, the Clay County Sno Broncs, and club president, Doug Alger, asking if we could use their groomer so we could get the route done for Sunday's ride.

At 9 a.m. Saturday morning, we had a plan of action, and if everything holds together, we are going to accomplish this club ride. I picked up Kevin Winters and brought him down to Spencer to pick up the Sno Broncs groomer. By 11:30 a.m., as I was making

plans with the Wolfs, many club members--along with the assistance of Jennings Tow and Repair in Spirit Lake--were working vigorously to get the groomer removed from the trail and towed back into town so the damage could be assessed and repairs could get started.

Rob Tvedte, member of the Dickinson County Snowhawks, offered up a heated building for the club to use to get the groomer fixed and back on the trails!

Around 2 p.m. Saturday afternoon, Jeremy and Kayla arrived with the new set of tracks! We appreciated this offer so much, we decided to put them up in a local hotel, so they could get to see our lovely area--and ride with us the next day!

With the groomer needing to be thawed out, no repairs could be made until this happened. All was going well for Kevin as he made good time getting across Clay County so he could start on our trails. By 7 p.m., more than 65 miles were done, and the planned club ride route was complete.

Everyone was up bright and early for breakfast and the club ride on Sunday. It was a great day. There was a great turnout by club members and family members. It was a huge day for all the businesses in the area, as every place we stopped to support our sponsor was very busy with snowmobiles. We even got a chance to ride with our new friends, Jeremy and Kayla, who brought us the tracks.

Repairs to the groomer started Monday morning, and by early afternoon, our machine was back on the job making trails. Special thanks to Brady Parks, Jason Carney, Randy Magg and Kevin Winters for making the repairs and to Rob Tvedte for the warm shop to make the repairs.



Region 4

Floyd County Groomers

by Amy Hunt, Reporter

Our meeting was held at Whitetails in Marble Rock on Aug. 26 with 13 people attending. We discussed 2020 trail maps. We also reviewed the volunteer list that is submitted to the sheriff's office in case they need people to go out on snowmobiles to rescue stranded motorists during storms. We have 26 volunteers who are on the list. The November issue of the Iowa Snowmobiler will have our trail map as the center fold.



We have 197 miles of trails in Floyd County to maintain, mark and groom and have 311 miles due to double grooming of some trails, which takes 32-40 hours to groom. These things are all done by the help of volunteers. For the 2018-19 season, seven volunteers operated the groomer. Big thanks to these people.

If you have any questions about our club, you can go to the Facebook page Floyd County Groomers Association, or visit our website at <http://www.floydcountygroomers.webs.com>. We can always use more volunteers to help with our trail system.

Our next meeting is Oct. 14 at Hot Shots in Charles City at 7 p.m.

Region 5

Driftrunners Inc.

by Bob Martinek, Treasurer

Hello from Cresco. At our annual meeting and steak fry on Sept. 15, we held elections to fill three board member spots: Cody B., Dalton M. and Matt M. Also Janice O. has decided to step back from the secretary position. I would personally like to say "Thank You" to all four for sharing their talents and their dedication to the club! Sorry I can't say who the new board members are yet as this is written before Sept. 15.

Also we have set our dates for the 2019-20 season. Kickoff Dance/Toys for Tots is Saturday, Nov. 30. Location TBD. Our 49th Annual Snow Fest is Jan. 23-26. And Charlie's Chili Feed is Saturday, Feb. 8. Not much else going on otherwise yet. However, if you know of any trail changes or repairs that need to be made, please contact a board member so that we can plan accordingly. Thank you.

Region 7

Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club

by Barry Starmer, President

Wow, where has the summer gone? We had our first meeting of the 2019-20 season. It was a very good turnout for the first meeting.

We are scheduling groomer maintenance and have also scheduled brushing and marking at Big Creek State Park. This is a 14-mile trail. We have approximately 120 miles of trails to maintain so this is a start. Like many clubs, September and October are busy times to prepare for winter.

Our guests at our meeting were Carlyn Crowe, executive director Spina Bifida Association of Iowa, and Mary Helen Biller. Mary Helen suffers from spina bifida but was able to walk down the Grand Canyon last spring. She talked about her training and her amazing accomplishing journey.

Until next month, Think Snow and GET INVOLVED!

Region 9

Iowa Snowdrifters

by Ron Roe

Hi, snowmobilers. Hope everyone is finishing up on their summer projects that they had to do since the beginning of summer and never got to. I did get all the things done that I had wanted and planning to do.

We had our monthly meeting Sept. 12. We found out that we had

a very successful tractor pull. We had a good showing of tractors and a very good turnout of people coming to watch. So we as the Snowdrifters felt good with the whole tractor pull.

Now we are getting serious about who is working on trails and when. We had a new group of guys at the meeting who are interested in taking over one of our larger and harder trails to get all marked. Thanks guys for stepping up to do this; it will be appreciated by all members.

Our next project is replacing a few bridges and start cleaning and marking the trails. We need to make new maps this year because we have lost a couple trails and changed some of the old ones. We will be posting on the website when we will be having trail work days.

The club held a golf tournament last month. We are also going to try and have a membership-tailgate party for one of the away Iowa games either in October or November. Keep an eye on our website or Facebook for more details of when and where it is.

Not much more for now. See you next month.

Club Challenge Donations

Snowdrifters	\$500
Howard County Stump Jumpers	\$500
Tri-County Snowmobile Association	\$401
Central Iowa Snowmobilers	\$350
Snow Pioneers	\$350
Sac County Snow Lovers	\$303
Floyd County Groomers Association	\$300
Bremer County Sno-Knights	\$250
Cedar Falls Snow Hawks	\$250
Eastern Iowa Sledheads	\$250
Team Iowa Snowmobilers	\$200
Dickinson County Snowhawks	\$150
Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club	\$150
Iowa River Riders	\$100

Spina Bifida Donations

Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club	\$2,200
Hancock County Snowmobile Association	\$1,800
Driftrunners	\$505
Cedar Falls Snow Hawks	\$500
Central Iowa Snowmobilers	\$500
Scott County Sno-Seekers	\$500
Eastern Iowa Sledheads	\$500
Tri-County Snowmobile Association	\$401
Lyon County Sno-Lyons	\$390
Floyd County Groomers Association	\$300
Bremer County Sno-Knights	\$250
Snowdrifters	\$250
Team Iowa Snowmobilers	\$200
Trail Blaz-zers, Inc.,	\$200
Butler County Snow Snoops	\$100
Iowa River Riders	\$100

ACSA Donations

Snowdrifters	\$250
Eastern Iowa Sledheads	\$250
Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club	\$250
Team Iowa Snowmobilers	\$200
Floyd County Groomers Association	\$200
Central Iowa Snowmobilers	\$200
Iowa River Riders	\$100
Sac County Snow Lovers	\$100

Scholarship Donations

Floyd County Groomers	\$200
Dickinson County Snowhawks	\$150
Snow Pioneers	\$100





REGION ONE

Buena Vista Blizzards Busters

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

Clay County Sno Broncos

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

Dickinson County SnowHawks

www.dickinsoncountysnowhawks.com
P.O. Box 504, Spirit Lake, IA 51360
President: Kevin Winters
P.O. Box 305, Lake Park, IA 51347
(712) 320-9530
kwinters9530@gmail.com

Lyon County Sno-Lyons

P.O. Box 576, Rock Rapids, IA 51246
President: Walt Dibbern
902 1st Ave, Rock Rapids, IA 51246
(712) 472-3804
walt.dibbern@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
jeremywoll10@gmail.com

Powder Players Inc.

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

Sioux County Snowmobile Club

Find us on Facebook
President: Jesse Wynia
133 W 1st St, Sioux Center, IA 51250
712-441-0934
jesse_wynia@hotmail.com

REGION TWO

Emmet County Driftbusters

President: Carson Glasnapp
1551 560th Ave., Armstrong, IA 50514
(712) 209-2282 glasnapp11@gmail.com

Humboldt Sno-Skimmers

President: Shane Braby
1005 5th Ave. N, Humboldt, IA 50548
(515) 890-1945
snoskimmers@gmail.com

Kossuth County Drift Skippers

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

Palo Alto Rough Riders

President: Adam Kerr
P.O. Box 118, Cyllinder, IA 50528
adamkerr1@outlook.com
(712) 298-0338

Sno-Pak

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

REGION THREE

Hancock County Snowmobile Assn.

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

Iowa River Riders

President: Lenny Watts
2835 Sycamore Ave., Dows, IA 50071

(515) 571-6034
lenny@usa-chemical.com

Lakota Sno-Eagles

President: Michael Smidt
3509 185th Ave., Tiltonka, IA 50480
(515) 320-4052, myiq599@gmail.com

North Iowa Sno-Jammers

P.O. Box 103, Lake Mills, IA 50450
www.northiowasnojammers.com
President: Matt Trunkhill
135 310th St., Woden, IA 50484
(515) 320-0737, mtrunkhill@wgo.net

North Iowa Snow Seekers

President: Chad Brouwer
15 Williamsburg Cir
Mason City, IA 50401
(641) 425-4872
northiowasnowseekers@yahoo.com

Worth County Fence Stretchers

P.O. Box 27, Northwood, IA 50459
President: Mike Peterson
P.O. Box 97, Kensett, IA 50448
(641) 390-1499
petersonex@wctatel.net

REGION FOUR

Bremer County Sno-Knights

President: Jeremy Happel
141 N. Powell St., Denver, IA 50622

Butler County Snow Snoops

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

Cedar Falls Sno Hawks

President: Gary Matthias
2161 Rainbow Dr., Waterloo, IA 50701
(319) 235-7667
gnkmatthias@mchsi.com

Chickasaw Sno-Riders

President: Neil Kaumans
258 S Linn, New Hampton, IA 50659
(319) 939-3969
kaumansn@bodimp.com.

Dewar Snow Chasers

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

Floyd County Groomers Association

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

Howard County Stump Jumpers

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Mitchell County E-Z Riders, Inc.,

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128 State St., Osage, IA 50461
(641) 732-5778
jkconstruction92@yahoo.com

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PO Box 94 Waukon, IA 52172
President: Brandon Fahey
snoblazers@yahoo.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,
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President: Dan Torkelson
302 E Church St.

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(563) 880-2422

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(563) 605-0141
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29465 Dyersville E Rd.
Dyersville, IA 52040, (563) 599-6312

Snow Pioneers

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(563) 920-2141, heimsm@live.com

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(319) 269-8239
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jakeludeking@gmail.com

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

Raccoon Valley Snow Chasers

President: Mike Patten
5204 Neva Pt., Panora, IA 50216
(641) 755-3863, mipat76@aol.com

Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club

Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club
P.O. Box 3133, Des Moines, IA 50316
www.saylorvilledamsnowmobileclub.org
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(515) 240-5444
sastarmer@q.com

Team Iowa Snowmobilers

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

Webster County Ice Breakers

President: Jim Suchan
3374 Garfield Ave., Gowrie, IA 50543
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jsmgr@lvcta.com

REGION EIGHT

Central Iowa Snowmobilers

P.O. Box 1751
Marshalltown, IA 50158
President: Blake Matney
PO Box 171, Liscomb, IA 50148
(641) 485-3161

bmatney05@gmail.com
Tri-County Snowmobile

Association

P.O. Box 231, Traer, IA 50675
President: John McKenna
5164 23rd Ave., Mt. Auburn, IA 52313
319-721-5895, jnmckenna1@gmail.com

REGION NINE

Cedar County Winter Warriors

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

Cascade Snowmobile Club

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

Eastern Iowa 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) 325-1903(c)

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Jones County Snow Chasers

P.O. Box 225, Olin, IA 52320
President: Burgundie McClure
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(563) 945-6217
bassman7333@yahoo.com

Scott County Sno-Seekers

www.snoseekers.org
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Davenport, IA 52809-2332
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(563) 505-4806, eagle3382@aol.com

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(319) 325-5588, bshogan@msn.com

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(563) 599-4935
jcsnowmobile@gmail.com

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Southwest Iowa Snow Scooters

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25817 208th St., Crescent, IA 51526
(712) 309-1516, trentlarsn@gmail.com

Stag Island Skol Patrol

President: Brad Landhuis
3046 210th St., Clarinda, IA 51632
Appanoose County Trails, Inc.
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Southeast Iowa Ridge Blasters

se.iowa.ridge.blasters@gmail.com
President: Aaron Dorothy
502 E. Cedar Ln.,
Mt. Pleasant IA 52641
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aarond65@hotmail.com



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webia.alsa.org

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