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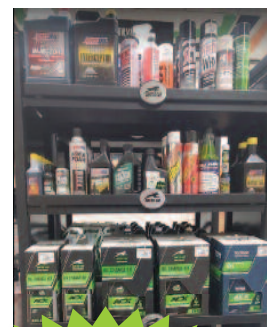
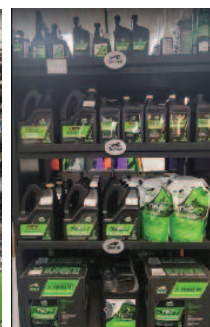
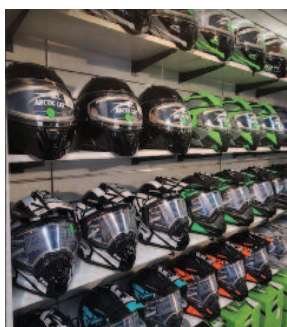
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OUT & ABOUT

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production@ilsnowmobiler.com
with the subject line "Out & About."

Riverbend Benders Painting Event

By Erik Urban, Club President

Who doesn't deserve a fun couples night out? The Riverbend Benders Snowmobile Club recently organized a Sip & Paint Event where club members got together to paint a wintery snowmobile scene (under the guidance of the artist at Studio 1 Painting). It was an evening of fun and laughter, and everyone had an amazing time. All the paintings turned out great and each one was unique! After all the paintings were done, the members stayed for some pizza and took a closer look at all the finished paintings. This was the first year for the event, but everyone had such a good time, don't be surprised if it becomes a yearly club event!



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PRESIDENT'S DESK



George Thompson

Hi Everybody!

It's the Monday before Thanksgiving as I sit down to write my article, my question to you all, are we ready to ride? I wish I could say I was, but I haven't had a chance to look at my sled yet. Maybe over the holiday weekend I can find some time. The main thing is, are the clubs ready to go? By the time you all get the chance to read this, I hope the clubs will be ready with trails marked and groomers all geared up to handle the season challenge of keeping the trails in good shape!

This past weekend, my club started to mark! Got up Sunday morning and it was 9 degrees with a dusting of snow on the ground. The lake by me was completely covered with ice, of course not enough to walk on, but frozen across. I know it's a little nasty to mark trails when it is that cold, but for me, it gets me in the mood to prepare for the season. We had a good turnout of club members for the first weekend of marking! It is so much easier when you have a lot of helping hands. It turns into fun and not a chore.

As most of you know, we had our annual convention the first weekend of November. It was well-attended and everybody seemed to have a good time. During one of our morning sessions, the grant session to be exact, my cell phone rang and it was the DNR director herself calling to see how our convention was going! I don't believe this has ever happened before and was good to hear from her. I let everybody know she called and thanked her for calling! Maybe the persistence has paid off and now we are on the right track when it comes to grant reimbursement. Let's keep our fingers crossed!

During convention weekend is when we hold our annual state meeting. What's different about this meeting compared to our monthly meetings is that we hold officer elections. The clubs and regions vote on to retain or elect new candidates to the board. This year, we have two new people that I am excited to be working with. I believe they will help us make a good organization into an even better one!

There's been a lot of changes during my tenure so far. Changing our insurance carriers, closing the office and modernizing our website are the biggest ones that come to mind. I would like to thank everybody that helped to make these changes happen. I know change is tough and a lot of us don't like it, especially me! However, in the long run, I believe this will be best for the association to continue to be the great organization that it is!

In closing, I hope you have a good blessed Holiday Season with your friends and families. Please spread the good cheer! It will make your day along with somebody else. If we remember the reason for the season, he will never forget us!

God Bless you all!
George

P.S. Do your snow dances!



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Belvidere Prairie Riders Grass Drags & Powers Sports Swap Meet

By Dwain "Duey" Stadie

When fall arrives, a lot of things make you start thinking about the snowmobiling season ahead. You get shorter, cooler days with even colder nights, leaves start to fall, a crisp wind, and the annual Belvidere Prairie Riders Grass Drags & Swap Meet, presented by Hammertime Sports at the Boone County Fair Grounds in Belvidere. It's the biggest snowmobile show in Illinois, and this year they celebrated their 27th anniversary.



Region 5 members feeding hungry Grass Drag/Swap Meet attendees.

The always awesome snowmobile racing event got even bigger this year with the addition of Side X Side racing. This is a top-notch racing track with starting line Christmas tree lights and a state-of-the-art timing system. It's a 500-foot track with 1,100 feet of shut down. There was lots of racing again this year, with 44 snowmobile heat races and 19 Side X Side heat races. Plus, they have the famous and ever-so-fun to watch kids mini class races.

New or old, you can find any kind of snowmobile thing you need here, and all kinds of motorsports stuff. From dealers showing the latest and greatest stuff to swappers selling that special part you need for an older sled, there's a little bit of everything, including those old, hard-to-find missing pieces you're looking for. From roto tillers to lawn chairs, who knows what you'll need, or not need and get anyway! There are no reservations needed for swap or retail dealers and no size limits. You can pack up your stuff and head over first thing in the morning, set up shop, and see what you can sell.

The Prairie Riders are also nice enough to let the snowmobile clubs that make up Region 5 set up a food tent. This food tent is the major fundraiser for the region. Members (volunteers) from all the clubs help shop, transport, set up, cook, work, clean up and put everything back in storage, which is a major undertaking. The morning started with Region 5 volunteers serving biscuits and gravy, doughnuts, coffee, and hot chocolate. The lunch menu consisted of hot dogs, chili dogs, hamburgers, cheeseburgers, brats, pulled pork sandwiches, chili, nachos, chips pop, water, and Monster Energy drinks. They had something for everyone, I'd hope.

The weather was perfect; mostly sunny, 70s with a slight wind. Lots of people (over 2,200 was the last number I heard) came out and had a great day at the show. It takes a lot of volunteers to do an event like this. A big THANK YOU to all the Prairie Rider members who worked hard to make the Grass Drags/Swap Meet possible. Another big THANK YOU to all the Region 5 members who worked hard to make the food tent possible. Also, THANK YOU to the Prairie Riders for letting Region 5 have a food tent at this event. I'd love to list everyone who worked so hard to make this possible, but I don't know all the names and I really don't want to leave someone out. You know who you are, so thank you everyone!



Top notch master chefs, Ed and Ron, preparing food for the masses.

Mark the first Sunday down in October on your calendar so you don't miss next year's event. Go to www.prairieriders.com for more information and pictures. See you at the next snowmobile event.

OFFICE NOTES



Jane Austin

The 50th Anniversary Celebration is in the books! This year's convention was trial and error as the membership asked for a one-day convention and lower costs. We tried; we made it happen. In general, the attendee's like the one day and no complaints regarding costs. A few comments we heard were there was a lot going on and not leaving enough down time between the events. Yes, it was a busy day, that's what happen when you combine the events of the weekend into one day. On to next year and see how we can make it better.

During the Annual meeting election of officers were held, your IASC E-Board for 2022-2023 is;

President George Thompson, 1st VP Kai Steward, 2nd VP Kaite Polhill, 3rd VP new to the board, Chris Palmer, Treasurer Carol Bly-Julian, Secretary New to the board, Maggie Fullick. Congratulations everyone. Stepping down from the E-Board was 1st VP Mike Dicker and Secretary Jane Austin. Thanks to their commitment to our organization and the sport.

Insurance invoices went out early November, everything should have been processed and completed for club for another year.

Club renewals were sent out mid-November If for some reason you didn't receive or lost yours, contact the IASC and I will resend the forms to you. Speaking of forms, please follow the instructions included. Some of the cells are locked, this will automatically fill out information on these forms. One important step is to use the forms included, PLEASE do not send your club roster; make the changes requested on the original membership form provided and add new members to the new member form, do not combine original members and new members on that form. Deadline to return the club renewal is December 31st. This deadline is not only for you to meet, I must meet that deadline also.

ISC 2023 June 7th-10th, 2023 at the Wyndham on John Deere Commons, Moline IL will be here before you know it! Want to help??? Contact Co-Chairs Jane Austin at 815-228-4762 or Sue Giese 815-276-3250 or email: isc2023ja@mtco.com for more information. Come and meet all the movers and shakers in the snowmobile industry.

Until later, think snow!



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Racing in Norway, Illinois



By Dwain "Duey" Stadie

So, what does a snowmobiler do when it's been months since you felt the thrill of squeezing the throttle on a sled, and enjoying the exhilarating cruise down the trail? Well, the Hampshire White Riders decided to have a club trip to a go kart track for a Sunday afternoon of racing and fun.

The place was Concept Haulers Motor Speedway in Norway, Illinois, and these karts aren't the average Wisconsin Dells amusement park karts, not at all. These Italian karts are capable of speeds up to 50mph and are evenly matched! This emphasizes the skill of the driver creating a truly fun experience. We were racing on a half-mile, nationally recognized road course with fellow members and friends. Well, friends at the start, that all seems to end once the green flag is dropped!

Our turn out wasn't as big as I thought for our first outing, but that could change for next year once everyone realizes how much fun we had. The track is open to the public, so we'll send out information next season and maybe we'll have snowmobilers from all over Illinois at the event. We had a half hour video to watch and then they spent time thoroughly going through everything with us. I mean, if they say there's a blind right curve right after you cross the bridge, there sure is! No kidding!

Of course, everyone loves it when you can come up behind and tap someone's bumper to let them know you're there, and you'd like to pass. I wish I had more racing pictures to share but we were all racing together, so there was hardly room for photography. With eleven of us in our group, we ran three 15 minute races plus gear (coat, gloves, hoodie helmet, neck protector, and insurance) for just over \$100.00 a person, which seemed super reasonable.

With a little time in between races, real race car drivers went out on the track for a little test and tune time. We could catch our breath, compare notes with each other, and walk over and check someone else's steering to see if it was tight also. That was the tricky part, the steering was very tight, and heaven forbid if you over-steered that kart the rear end would break loose, and a spin would occur. Many of us had this problem... Well, Mack more than anyone, but who's counting?

Afterwards, we stopped at a local watering hole for lunch and storytelling. There's a rumor that I was difficult to pass (I'm pretty sure you're supposed to drive that way), and that Becky tried to take me on the high side coming out of a left curve. During this move, I ran her completely off the course and into the grass. I'm here to say there are no known pictures of this maneuver, so it is nothing more than a vicious rumor at that. Remember what I said about the green flag? Joking aside, it was a fun way for us to hangout outside of the snowy season, and we'll keep you posted as to when we'll do this again next year.



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2022 Harry Kroll & Mel Blaurock Memorial Award Winners



By Jay Schaack & Dwain "Duey" Stadie

The Harry Kroll and Mel Blaurock Memorial Trophy is the oldest award presented by the Illinois Association of Snowmobile Clubs (IASC). It was initially named for the second president of the Northeastern Illinois Association of Snowmobile Clubs (Region 1), Harry Kroll. Harry's two main pushes were to organize new clubs and to connect all the club trails into a network. He was a very dedicated snowmobiler who worked during the day and spent his evenings helping friends work on snowmobiles so he could have someone to ride with on the weekends.

Mel Blaurock was Harry's friend and served as his vice president. He continued to be involved in the sport in many levels after Harry passed away. Mel's name was added to the award after Mel passed away in 2020. Mel also believed in organizing snowmobile clubs and an organized snowmobile trail network. He also cared about protecting landowners. Mel worked with others to help the state of Illinois establish favorable snowmobile laws as well as a safety education program (SEP). Mel was a regular attendee at NIASC (Region 1), McHenry County Association (Region 2), and Illinois Association of Snowmobile Clubs (IASC) and always provided a wealth of information from the past. This award is given to a person or persons who is unbelievably dedicated to the sport and has done amazing and outstanding work to promote the sport of snowmobiling.

I feel honored and fortunate to have known Mel and enjoyed talking with him about the old days when you hit the trails with a pocket full of spark plugs hoping you had enough to get through the day. Before Mel's passing, I believe he was at every IASC meeting I ever attended. The 2022 winners of the Harry Kroll & Mel Blaurock Memorial Trophy were Wayne and Shirley Hinz. Unfortunately, it is with a very heavy heart that I must say both Wayne and Shirley passed away in 2022. Wayne on January 10th due to complications from Covid, and just recently Shirley on October 12th from heart failure. God asked Shirley to come join Wayne in his kingdom where they are reunited again, probably trail riding right now on perfectly groomed trails. I know they will be smiling down upon us this snowmobile season.

Wayne and Shirley were members of the Marengo SnoGoers and Huntley Penguins in Illinois, the Boulder Junction, Presque Isle Sno-Bunnies, and Lac Du Flambeau Northern Hornshoe Clubs in Wisconsin, and associate members of the Michigan Snowmobile and Off Vehicle Association (MISORVA). Wayne and Shirley had a true

passion for snowmobiling, and it showed in every aspect of their lives. Over the years, Wayne and Shirley held multiple board positions with the Marengo SnoGoers Snowmobile Club, Region 5 of the IASC, and The Illinois Association of Snowmobile Clubs. Shirley was the IASC Secretary in 1990, 1994 and 1995 and Secretary of the SnoGoers for the last 10 years. The Hinz family were recipients of the "Snowmobile Family of the Year" at the 2016 IASC Convention and Wayne and Shirley were also past convention "King and Queen." Another fun fact about Wayne and Shirley is that as a couple, they had logged over 130,000 miles riding together. All those miles on the trails were in Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, Colorado, Montana, Utah, as well as in Canada. If you think about it and do the math, that's over 3,000 miles a year for forty years; unbelievable! Wayne and Shirley also partook in the MS run from 1985 to 1990.

Wayne and Shirley enjoyed spending the winter months at their cabin in Boulder Junction. They were a genuine and kind couple that would open their doors to anybody at any anytime. Wayne and Shirley have been hosting the Region 5 ride out of their home in Boulder for the past 15+ years. Many Region 5 club members would get together for a few days and ride area trails and enjoy the trail rides that were usually guided by Wayne with Shirley right behind. At the end of the ride, on Saturday evening, everyone would gather at Wayne and Shirley's place to enjoy the annual "Chili Dump." It was a dinner with snacks and desserts where all would relax, overeat, indulge in some adult beverages, and always laugh at the days events and share snowmobile stories for hours on end.

Wayne and Shirley were true pioneers to the sport who constantly promoted clubs, trails, safety, and continually kept things going, even when times were tough. When you look at the list of people who have received this award over the years, it is truly the "who's who" of snowmobiling. Therefore, I thought it was wonderful to see them win this award. They are a couple I felt should be in this group of elite snowmobilers.

Wayne and Shirley's daughter, son in law, granddaughters, son, and daughter in law were able to attend the banquet and accept the award on Wayne and Shirley's behalf. It was very emotional for those who knew them and there were not many dry eyes in house that evening. Wayne and Shirley may be gone, but their snowmobiling legacy will live on forever through those who knew them.

EVENTS

JANUARY

January 8th:

Prairie Drifters Radar Run
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847-917-4202 dsschaefer@msn.com
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Region 2

Jeff Lehman, Director - 815-388-5380
First Wednesday of the Month
Aug.-Apr. - Rusty Nail Bar & Grill
Ringwood, IL - 7:30pm

Region 3

Dan Dampitz, Director - 815-985-6071
Second Monday of the Month
July.-Apr. - Location Rotates
Call for Location

Region 4

Pat Pendergast, Director - 309-335-4095
September, Nov. & Mar.
Third Monday of the Month
Call for Location - 7pm

Region 5

Rodney Kampfranz, Director - 815-236-4028
Second Wednesday of the Month
Red Ox Bar and Grill
Rt. 72, Hampshire, IL - 7pm

Region 6

Kirk Polhill - Director 815-275-3371
2nd Thursday of the month
Bottle Shed, Stockton IL
Sept - April

Region 7

Dale Fritz, Director - 815-791-6375
Dalefritz2@Comcast.net
Call for information

Region 8

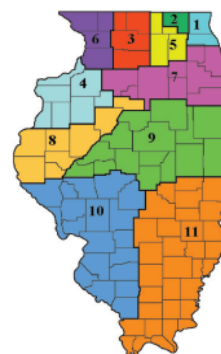
Director Position Vacant
Contact IASC Office
815-795-2021 for Information

Region 9

Bob Atkins, Director - 309-397-6922
Call for Location

Region 10 & 11

Carson Hanner Director - 217-948-5579
Call for Information



Interesting Facts About Snowmobiling in Illinois

By Suzy Giese

Governor Dan Walker proclaimed January 13, 1975 as "Think of Snow Day" for the state of Illinois due to the Segers Snow Seekers club.

The I&M canal was developed to connect the Great Lakes to the Mississippi River, and while instrumental in the settlement in Northern Illinois and was a major transportation corridor during the 1800s, the purpose of the canal changed with the times. Recreation is now the main use and the IASC worked side by side with the Friends of the I&M for a national recognition with President Reagan signing the Illinois and Michigan National Heritage Corridor Act in 1984. Because of the IASC, the I&M Canal has home to 61 miles of groomed trails throughout the years. Region 7 (located in the eastern half of north central Illinois) uses the I&M Canal as their major trail system. Running parallel to the Illinois River, its picturesque trail is a multi-use trail, as well. It also has bragging rights to be the first region to use the STEF grant to purchase a groomer in 1984.

In Region 6, 12.85 miles of trails between Freeport, IL and the Wisconsin state line is due to the Galena & Chicago Union Railroad having a line routed through Freeport, thanks in part to John Addams. This branch of trail is the Jane Addams Trail. It is part of the Grand Illinois Trail system. In 2013, the Jane Addams Trail was awarded the Coalition of Recreational Trails Award for construction and design. Former Trail Advisor, Greg Hodges, accepted the award in Washington DC.

In Region 4, the Hennepin Canal (constructed between 1871 – 1892 with first boat going through in 1907) was to reduce the distance from Chicago to Rock Island by 419 miles. The problem was the locks on both the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers were widened and the canal became obsolete before its opening. By the 1930s, it was used primarily for recreational traffic. It is a 104.5 mile linear park which spans 5 counties. The entire canal is listed on the National Register of Historic

Places. The Hennepin boasts the 91 miles on the tow path as the longest snowmobile trail in the state.

In 1975, the IASC introduced a bill that would establish a Safety Education Program in Illinois that would be managed by the Illinois Department of Conservation (now called the IDNR), but that bill failed. But an almost identical bill introduced by the IDOC passed paving the way for our current program. We have continued to have a working relationship with the IDNR for our grant programs and safety programs throughout the state. Our safety program is made up of volunteer instructors that take the IDNR Safety Program and tests. Once passed, the instructors can schedule classes to give the rider that best education of the rules of snowmobiling to ensure the best and safest ride possible. Our program is open to anyone 12 years and older interested in taking the 8 hour class to receive the safety certificate card needed to drive a sled on the public trails if there is a responsible adult over the age of 18 riding along with them. This card has reciprocity to the other snow states and needed in many, up to the age of 26, to be able to ride their trails.

The Illinois Snowmobiler Magazine has had changes throughout the years. It was originally published through the summer of 1997 and edited by Earl and Nayola Nielson. It was then published and edited by Paul Hertzberg from September 1997 – Spring of 1982. Leisure Features Publications published the magazine from September of 1982 – March of 1984 with Tom Anderson was the editor. Waupaca Publishing Co. from September 1984 – March of 1998, PrintComm to over from September 1998 – March of 2009. Cathy Hanson was the editor. MSPN from Sept. 2009 – 2011 and Cathy Hanson was also the editor. From September of 2011 through today, the Illinois Snowmobiler Magazine has been published by KDR Publications with managing editor is Danielle Christoffel. The magazine will be online going and after this season. It will no longer be a printed copy.



Looking Back on 50 Years of the IASC

By Suzy Giese

With this being our 50th anniversary of organized snowmobiling in Illinois, I thought I would bring you some information about how it all got started.

In the winter of 1971/1972, there were approximately 1 ½ miles of snowmobile trails that were shared by 9 Illinois clubs. These clubs included: Polar Pairs, Harmony, Top-o-State, Wauconda, Oak Park, Hotel Snow Bugs, Chicagoland Snowmobile Association, Woodstock and Evergreen Park. Membership at one time reached as high as 102 clubs, 3,200 family members, 58 associate members and 54 business members. Illinois was considered the 3rd largest snowmobile state association with 63,000 sleds registered in the state. Today, the total number of clubs has combined or cease to exist, bringing totals to 50 clubs, 1,600 members, 51 business associates and 17 individual members. The registration of sled has also dwindled and of the original nine clubs, there is only one remaining charter member, Woodstock Snowmobile Club.

The original snowmobile association in 1972 was the Chicagoland Snowmobile Association. Their efforts provided the first snowmobile law in Illinois. The cost of passing the law was over \$10,000 and forced the association to go bankrupt. The IASC was formed to take over where the CSA left off and gave us what we have today. Today, there are approximately 2,500 miles of trails maintained by the IASC clubs and members, all volunteered and organized.

The state was divided into 9 regions around 1974. The regions were developed by dividing the state up according to the number of registered sleds, so each region has an equal number of snowmobilers. By doing this, it made communication between snowmobile clubs easier and more available throughout the state. It also helped to share the workload of the association. The boundaries have changed several times to make it easier for clubs to attend meetings.

There have been presidents in the IASC. The first president for Earl Nelson in 1972. He was involved with getting the IASC up and running along with Ron Hambly, Mel Blaurock, Roy Redman and Red Seger. The list of IASC Presidents is as follows: Roy Redman (1973), Red Seger (1974), Jim Sleep (1975-76), Ron Hambly (1977-78), Tom Gardner (1979-80), Chuck Ronchetti (1981), Elwin (Tiny) Sanders (1982-83), George Gore (1984-85), Eric Menssen (1986-87), James (7) Bond (1988-89), Marv Taylor (1990-91), Bill Schumann (1992-97), John Lyon (1998-2000), Mark Hazzard (2001-003), Steve Heffel (2004 – 06), Dan Long (2007-09), Sue Giese (2010 -12), Kirk Polhill (2013-

15), Brian Fradkin (2016–17), Mason Long (2018-2020), and George Thompson (2021 – current).

The first four to six IASC meeting were held in Spring Grove at the Polar Pairs Clubhouse at the Rudolph Breezy Lawn Farm. After that, each month was a traveling meeting to different parts of the state. Most of the meetings during that time were held at the Golden Steer Restaurant in Aurora. Meetings are currently held in Rochelle. This location was determined to be centrally located in the state according to the membership.

The first convention was held January 26, 27, and 28 in 1973 at Hunters Country Club in Richmond, IL. Members from thirteen clubs were in attendance. The convention consisted of an annual meeting, election of officers, seminars, meals, a dance, a shopping tour for the ladies and a trail ride. The format has been nearly the same, except for the trail ride which is next to impossible in November. It has been the tradition of late that each of the regions take turns in hosting the convention. The convention also stretched into Friday night meet and greet and games. Saturday the seminars were held in the morning, lunch had a guest speaker at times. The annual meeting is held in the afternoon and then dinner had a guest speaker and the awards for various subjects, including Dealer of the Year, Snowmobile Family of the Year, Snowmobiler of the Year, Harry Kroll Award, Charles Metcalf Award, Sam Mandonia Award. The last couple years, an award has been presented to someone who has been instrumental of making sure things don't fall through the cracks and kept the IASC together. This award is called the Glue Award. The past also held a brunch on Sunday morning dedicated to the youth of the sport. Winners of the Yamaha Challenge were recognized as well as the winners of the scholarship essay contest.

This year, things are different. The IASC is now trying a pilot program of hosting the event in one day. Trying to keep the costs down and trying to meet the needs and requests of the membership as much as possible. Each region was assigned a particular part of the convention so that no one region beared the burden of the work that it requires to host the convention and to help collect the funds necessary to pay the entertainment and other costs incurred.

While the jury is still out on the new workings, I will say that all clubs stepped up and made the convention informative, social and fun.

OUT & ABOUT

Please send club stories to
production@ilsnowmobiler.com
with the subject line "Out & About."

Hampshire White Riders 2022 Fundraiser

By Dwain "Duey" Stadie

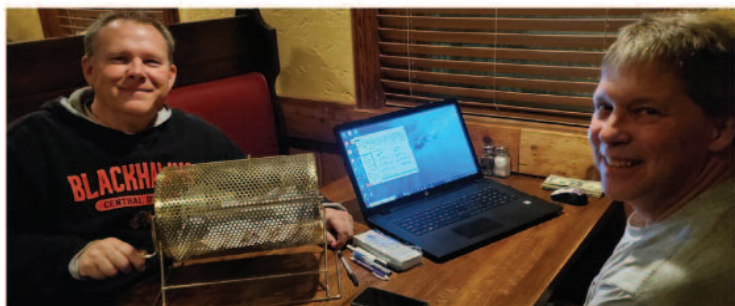
Saturday, November 19th was the annual Hampshire White Riders Snowmobile Club's meat/cash fundraiser. We had 40 meat prizes, consisting of steak packages, pork chop packages, bacon slabs, hams, and turkeys, along with a couple of 50/50 raffles. We ended the evening with our big cash raffle with \$2,300.00 in prizes.



A really big thank you to all the club members, residents, family members, friends, and members of neighboring Region 5 clubs (the Marengo SnoGoers and the Belvidere Prairie Riders) for attending and making our club's fundraiser a big success.

A big thank you to everyone who worked at the event, Scott Haseman, Becky Haseman, Steve "Bullitt" Gustafson, Kent Nussbaum, Pete Dall, Jerry Hresil, Jeff Meindl, Pete Fields, Matt Lindborg, Ed Brettschneider, Ed Hagendorn and Dwain Stadie. Thanks to the Red Ox Restaurant & Bar for hosting the event again, for the Red Ox staff who worked so hard that evening, and thanks to Block Bros Market for the fine meat prizes.

A good time was had by all and thanks again to everyone for a successful evening. For more information on the Hampshire White Riders Snowmobile Club, go to www.hampshirewhiteriders.com or look us up on Facebook.



WHY JOIN THE ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF SNOWMOBILE CLUBS?



FOR THE FUN OF IT!

- Family Recreation
- Trail Rides & Club Trips
- Discover New Trails & Destinations
- Events, Picnics and Parties
- Create New Friendships and Camaraderie
- Share Your Passion With Us

FOR THE GOOD OF IT!

The Illinois Association Of Snowmobile Clubs is:

- Protecting your right to ride at the Capitol and government agencies
- Paying a full time lobbyist to protect your sport
- Providing full time office staff that only works on snowmobiling related issues locally, state and nation wide
- Supporting dedicated local clubs who volunteer their time and effort to maintain and groom over 21,000 miles of trails
- Providing adult and youth safety training
- Ensuring the growth and future of Illinois snowmobiling

FOR MORE BENEFITS!

- Exclusive invites to events and rides
- Discounts on lodging and at snowmobile retailers
- Free insurance benefits including \$3,500 accidental death/dismemberment insurance for your entire family
- Informative web site
- Official membership card and decals



Safety Class Schedule



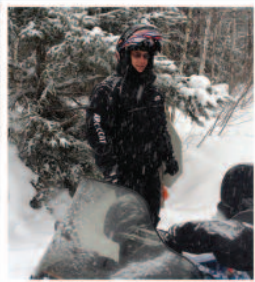
Class Date	Location	Address	Time	Registration
12/10/22	Aviston Fire House	498 West Railroad St., Aviston	8:30am-4:30pm	618-228-7021 or 618-910-2553
12/10/22	Watage Fire Station	316 W. Willard St., Wataga	8:00am-4:30pm	309-368-0620 or 309-335-4095
12/17/22	McHenry County Sheriffs Office	2200 N Seminary Ave., Woodstock	8:00am-4:00pm	mchenrysheriff.org/ snowmobileclass
12/18/22	Lena Community Center	497 Lions Dr., Lena	8:00am-4:30pm	815-275-2528
1/7/23	Kane County Forest Preserve Headquarters	1996 Kirk Rd., Geneva	8:00am-4:30pm	Ron Julian 630-546-8058
1/21/23	McHenry County Sheriffs Office	2200 N Seminary Ave., Woodstock	8:00am-4:00pm	mchenrysheriff.org/ snowmobileclass



Pre-registration is required. Call the number listed by the date and location of the class you wish to attend. Please note that most class sizes are limited. Instructors are volunteers and are not paid. Please remember to cancel your reservation if you find you cannot attend the class so that your spot can be filled by another student. For additional classes scheduled after the magazine deadline, please visit the IASC website or call the IDNR office at 800-832-2599 or 216-557-9206, the IASC office at 815-210-0587, Pat Pendergast at 309-344-2554. If you have lost your Snowmobile Safety Certificate verifying that you have passed the required safety class, visit the IDNR website at www.dnr.state.il.us/safety/safety.htm.



Safety & Education



Pat Pendergast

Time for the December article already. I can't believe how this month sneaks up on me. I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and was able to spend time with friends and family. Once Thanksgiving has passed, it is just a matter of time before the snowflakes start to fall. This reminds me of a few years back when we had the Thanksgiving weekend snowstorm. With our Sheriff's Dept. Search and Rescue team being called out all through the night, I was amazed at the amount of people who were traveling unprepared. Some were by themselves, but almost all of them ill-prepared for any kind of emergency; clothing, tank of fuel, etc. Many of them were college students heading back to college from their Thanksgiving break, blindly following their phone's mapping on which route to take to avoid snow-blocked roads. Many times this sent them down a two-lane country road in much worse shape than the major thoroughfare they were on.

Where am I going with this, you ask? That's a

darn good question. I guess I'd have to say the message is very similar to what we teach in our safety classes; be prepared. Know what is going on weather-wise, know your surroundings, your intended route, and possible options. Keep your tank full, have clothing and supplies just in case. This storm was being talked about for a couple of days beforehand, yet folks waited until that night to head home or back to school. All of this ties in perfectly with snowmobiling and safety, whether you are an instructor, parent, or just some slob like me heading out on the trail. Especially early in the season, it is easy to get excited and head out without taking all of the necessary precautions. If you prep your own sled, did you get the track tightened and aligned properly? How about your ski alignment and toe out, all good? Is it greased and all fluids checked or changed? Are all of the suspension parts in tack, bolts tight and everything moving as it should or not moving? Even if you have someone else prep your sled, it doesn't hurt to give it a look over to make sure all is well.

Are you fortunate enough to be heading up north for that Christmas/New Year's trip? Check with the local clubs to make sure the trails are indeed open, lakes are frozen, etc. Sometimes early, wet snows can wreak havoc on trail systems, especially with the pine trees. Limbs get weighed down and break and destroy a stretch of your favorite trail. Also, back again to the weather forecast. Is there

a winter storm coming in that can affect your travel plans? Maybe you need to leave earlier than planned or delay your departure to give the road crews time to make sure the roads are safe. It is easy to get all excited about hitting the trails and lose sight of driving slowly and safely to reach your destination all in one piece. I think we have all experienced bad roads and weather on the way to our destination and it isn't a good feeling. In these days of \$50,000 tow vehicles, \$15,000 sleds all hauling ourselves and our families, we need to stay alert and be prepared. Plan for the worst, expect the best. Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and safe New Year. Ride safe.

QUESTION

Which of the following is the least important to list in your travel plans?

- a) Where you're going
- b) Who's going with you
- c) When you'll be back
- d) What snacks you taking with you

(Answer: d) What snacks you're taking with you (Though I do think the snack thing has some merit)

CLUBS & DIRECTORS

ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF SNOWMOBILE CLUBS

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Marseilles, IL 61341-0265
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Web Site: www.ilsnowmobile.com
E-Mail: iasc@mtco.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/iasc

OFFICE HOURS:

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President

George F. Thompson
815-739-8094
gthompson@thompsoninsurance.com

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Kai Steward
815-509-0472
Kastew91@gmail.com

2nd Vice President

Kaite Polhill
815-990-2652
Polhill11@gmail.com

3rd Vice President

Chris Palmer
847-612-8830
chrisspalmer513@gmail.com

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Carol Bly-Julian
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bly.carol@gmail.com

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Maggie Fullick
815-814-1043
magdalena.fullick@gmail.com

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815-405-6065
rieke7603@frontier.com

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815-985-5952
mrhazzman@gmail.com

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815-993-4002
littlebenny78@sbcglobal.net

SEP Chair

Pat Pendergast 309-335-4095
ppenderg@knox.edu

Scholarship Chair

Stephanie Steward 262-745-6002
iascscholarshipfund@gmail.com

Region 1 Director

Don Schaefer
847-917-4202
dssschaefer@msn.com
Call or email for more information

Gages Lake Snowmobile Club

Mike Foye
847-902-6510
mikefoye@hotmail.com
Meets 7pm 2nd Tuesday
Timothy O'Toole Pup
10 W Grand Ave., Lake Villa

Riverbend Benders

Eric Urban
847-894-3812
EGUKSU@HOTMAIL.COM
Meets 7:30pm 3rd Thursday
Sides Out Eatery
4018 Roberts Rd, Island Lake

Sno-Kommanders of Lake County

Skip Schaefer
224-627-1406
skipschaefer5804@gmail.com
Meets 7pm 2nd Monday
El Puerto Restaurant
200 N Forest Ave, Fox Lake

Windy City Sledheads

Paul Gris
Email or call for information
773-545-7222
sledhead@comcast.net

Region 2 Director

Jeff Lehman
815-388-5380
doonut20@yahoo.com

Harvard Snow Gophers

Adam Kirkpatrick
226-215-0531
Adam_kp33@yahoo.com
Meets 7:00pm 2nd Thursday
Heritage House Restaurant
21225 Route 14, Harvard

Lakers/Sno-Bugs

Bill Rieke
815-405-6065
rieke7603@frontier.com
Meets 7:30pm 1st Tuesday
Rusty Nail Saloon
4520 Ringwood Rd, Ringwood

McHenry Co. Snowmobile Assoc.

Dave Rudolph
815-560-1656
dave.rudolph@hotmail.com
Meets 7:30pm 1st Wednesday
Rusty Nail Saloon
4520 Ringwood Rd, Ringwood

CLUBS 2022-2023

Polar Bares

Mike Flaherty
847-268-8020
flaherty3107@sbcglobal.net
Meets 7pm
Tuesday Sides Out Eatery,
4018 Roberts Rd, Island Lake

Richmond Trailblazers

Dick Arseneau
815-675-1234
funnyfarmer@comcast.net
Meets 7:30pm 1st Thursday
Rusty Nail Saloon
4520 Ringwood Rd, Ringwood

Spring Grove Sno-Grovers

Dave Rudolph
815-560-1656
dave.rudolph@hotmail.com
Meets 7:30 2nd & 4th Thursday
Rusty Nail Saloon
4520 Ringwood Rd, Ringwood

Woodstock Snowmobile Club

Jim Ponstein
815-382-4818
jponstein@sbcglobal.net
Meets 7 pm 2nd Wednesday
Napoli Pizza
135 Washington St., Woodstock

Region 3 Director

Dan Dampitz
815-985-6071
dandampitz@gmail.com

Blackhawk Snowblazers of Oregon

Dianne Frye
815-976-0599
Diannefrye59@yahoo.com
Meets 7:15pm 2nd Tuesday VFW,
13010 Washington St, Oregon IL

Byron Sno-Blasters

Chris Criddle
815-289-9885
ccrid4@yahoo.com
Meets 7:30 1st Thursday
Uptown Lanes /Back Alley Bar & Grill
106 W 2nd St., Byron

Durand Ditch Riders

Mark Wilson
815-713-9626
Mowilson1974@gmail.com
Meets 1st Tuesday 7pm
Best Dam Bar
13965 Best Rd., Davis

German Valley Sno-Riders

Kevin Baumann
815-541-9940
baumann.deb@gmail.com
Meets 7:30pm 1st Tuesday
Loose Screw
45 Church St, German Valley

Midway Sno-Busters

Kevin Kerchner
815-291-4087
kerch06@gmail.com
Meets 7pm 2nd Wednesday
Call for location

Neboshone Trail Riders

Carl Trimble
815-978-3296
cttdoorman@gmail.com
Meets 7pm 1st Monday
Fritz's Wooden Nickel
208 Walnut St Stillman Valley, IL

Oaks Ridge Riders

Brandon Jack
815-636-7636
bj@lovesparkmotorsports.com
Meets 7pm 3rd Tuesday
Roscoe VFW
11385 2nd St, Roscoe IL

Polo Snow Rangers

Contact Ashley Nelson
815-590-2595
ashleyhouck@yahoo.com
Meets 7pm, 2nd Tuesday
Chesty-Ps Bar, Polo

Rochelle Rail Riders

Stuart White
815-718-0843
swhite61068@gmail.com
Meets 7pm 2nd Wednesday
Moose Knuckle Bar & Grill
341 E IL 38, Creston

Rockford Moonriders

Royal Taylor
815-874-4502
rllsnow@comcast.net
Meets 7pm 2nd Thursday
The Image
5524 Auburn, Rockford

Tri-County Alliance

Steve Hill
815-790-6663
Hillsp1@gmail.com
Meets 7pm 2nd Monday 7pm
SM & SF Park
7526 Kishwaukee Rd .
Stillman Valley

Winnebago Sno-Gliders

Alex Hazzard
815-985-0661
bagosnopro440@hotmail.com
Meets 7pm 3rd Tuesday
Bago Lounge
817 N Elida St., Winnebago

CLUBS 2022-2023

Region 4 Director
Pat Pendergast
309-335-4095
ppenderg@knox.edu
Meetings Call for information

Corn Belt Driftbusters
Craig Shehorn
 309-781-4557
 craigshehorn@gmail.com
 Meets 7pm 1st Tuesday Side Tracked
 Saloon
 809 3rd St, Orion

Prairie Drifters
Kevin Schwarzkopf
 309-299-4347
 clayhillfarm@divcominc.net
 Meets 7pm 1st Monday Genio's
 249 N Division St. Woodhull

Region 5 Director
Rod Kampfranz
815-236-4028
rkampfranz@yahoo.com
Meets 7pm 2nd Wednesday
Red Ox Restaurant
129 E Oak Knoll Dr, Hampshire

DeKane Sno-Trackers
Ron Julian
 630-546-8058
 RGJulian@comcast.net
 Meets 7:30pm 1st Tuesday
 Bootleggers, Maple Park

Elgin Cold Ducks
Mark Gibb
 847-347-0038
 markgibb9@gmail.com
 Meets 7:30pm 3rd Tuesday
 Village Squire
 480 S Randell Rd., South Elgin

G.K. Trailblazers
Jay Schaack
 224-339-4266 jschaack@yahoo.com
 Meets 7pm 2nd Thursday
 Genoa VFW
 311 S Washington St, Genoa

Hampshire White Riders
Dwain Stadie
 847-683-0140
 duey683@msn.com
 Meets 7:30pm 1st Wednesday
 Red Ox Restaurant
 129 Oak Knoll Dr., Hampshire

Huntley Penguins
Henry Regard
 847-910-0142
 Hank56@comcast.net
 Meets 7:30pm 1st Tuesday
 Huntley American Legion
 11712 Coral St, Huntley

Marengo Snow Goers, Gary Zickuhr
 815-970-1732, gzickr@gmail.com
 7:00pm 1st Thursday
 Joes Place
 19716 E Grant Hwy., Marengo

Prairie Riders Snowmobile Club
Jeremy Baumgartner
 815-509-1180
 stangslayerss@aol.com
 Meets 6:30pm 1st Thursday
 Coach's Corner Bar & Grill
 622 S State St., Belvidere

Region 5 Association of Snowmobile Clubs
Rodney Kampfranz
 815-236-4026
 rkampfranz@yahoo.com
 Meets 7PM, 2nd Wednesday
 Red Ox Restaurant
 129 E Oak Knoll Dr., Hampshire

Region 6 Director
Kirk Polhill
815-275-3371
kdpwire@yahoo.com

Cedarville Snow Travelers
Brad Pfile
 815-541-8778
 bpfile95@gmail.com
 Meets 7:30pm 3rd Wednesday
 Route 20 Bar & Grill
 2051 AYP Rd., Freeport

Elkhorn Creek Runners
Tom Plog
 815-631-6270
 kingcub@jcwifi.com (Alan)
 Meets 7pm 3rd Thursday
 The Other Bar
 436 N Main St, Milledgeville

Lena Blackhawk Trailblazers
Kory Polhill
 815-275-1299
 korypolhill@gmail.com
 Meets 7pm 3rd Thursday
 Coach's Sport Bar & Grill
 621 W Lena St, Lena

NWISA
Alan Bracken
 815-631-6270
 kingcub@jcwifi.com
 Meets 7:30pm 2nd Thursday 7:30
 The Bottle Shed
 IL Route 20, Stockton

Sno-Pearls
Ryan Gruhn
 815-541-9521
 0978firecat@gmail.com
 Meets 7pm 1st Thursday
 Slurp n Burp,
 4319 S Loran Rd, Pearl City

Thomson F.A.S.T. Trax
Marvin Green
 815-821-5341
 mc_green4@hotmail.com
 Meets 6:30pm 3rd Thursday
 The Riverview Lodge
 5403 Riverview Rd., Thomson

Whiteside County Snowbirds
Tim Geiger
 815-499-3720
 chevymudder@hotmail.com
 Meets 7pm 3rd Wednesday
 Kickback Saloon
 102 N Main St, Tampico

Warren Winter Warriors
Brian Saunders
 815-541-1031
 saunders@aeroinc.net
 Meets 7:30pm 2nd Monday call for
 location

Region 7 Director
Dale Fritz
815-791-6375
Dalefritz2@Comcast.net

Evergreen Snowmobile Club
Ron Planis
 815-240-5343
 thumpr161@aol.com
 Call or email for information

I&M Trailblazers
Dale Fritz
 815-467-2836 D
 alefritz2@comcast.net
 Meets 7pm 2nd Tuesday
 Twin Rail Pub
 502 Twin Rail Dr, Minooka

IL Valley Winter Sports Club
Larry Michaels
 815-252-6292 lasfm@mtco.com
 Meets 7:30pm 1st Thursday
 VFW, 571 Rutland St, Marseilles

Region 7 Association of Snowmobile Clubs, Inc
Dale Fritz
 815-791-6375
 Dalefritz2@comcast.net
 Meeting, call for date and location

Rusty Runners
Paul Killa
 630-391-3645
 paulki@sbcglobal.com
 Meets 7pm 3rd Wednesday
 Beggars Pizza
 300 Veterans Parkway, Bolingbrook

Will County Driftbusters
Char Spiess
 815-485-3023
 c_spiess@msn.com
 7pm 2nd Monday call for location

Region 8 Director
IASC Office
815-795-2021
iasc@mtco.com

Yellow Streakers
Kevin Connell
 815-257-6772
 traciekjbc@gmail.com
 Meets 7pm 2nd Tuesday
 Boardwalk Tap
 124 N Chestnut St, Wenona

Region 9 Director
Bob Atkins
309-397-6922
atkinbscrew@gmail.com

Woodford County Snowmobile Club
Larry Griffith
 309-360-8582
 marygr@mtco.com
 Meets 7:30pm 1st Monday
 Kouri's Grill
 Route 116, Germantown Hills

Region 10 & 11 Director
Carson Hanner
217-948-5579

Heartland Polar Riders
Kyle Timmerman
 618-228-5013
 Meets 7pm 3rd Wednesday
 Call for location

Central IL Ditch Riders
Drew Bartolozzi
 217-306-4751
 Bartolozzi5@aol.com
 Meets 7:30pm 3rd Wednesday
 Bunkers
 220 Old Route 36, Illiopolis

BUSINESS & ASSOCIATION MEMBERS 2022-2023

REGION 1

El Puerto Mexican Restaurant
200 N Forest Ave
Fox Lake, IL 60020
847-973-1370
elpuertorestaurant.net
MAYO.SAUL@yahoo.com

Nielsen Enterprises
130 S Milwaukee Ave.
Lake Villa, IL 60046
847-356-3000
info@nielsens.com
nielsens.com

Route 12 Arctic Cat
1306 East Rand Road
Arlington Heights, IL 60004
847-818-8859
www.route12arcticcat.com
info@route12arcticcat.com

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Rusty Nail Bar & Grill
4520 Ringwood Rd
Ringwood, IL 60097
815-728-3017
www.rustynailringwood.com
mikesiudak@yahoo.com

REGION 3

Fritz's Wooden Nickel
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Stillman Valley, IL 61084
815-645-9828

Loves Park Motor Sports
11951 Mail St.
Roscoe, IL 61073
815-636-7636
lovesparkmotorsports.com

Meirtran Inc
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Rockford Tech – Supplies
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Rockford IL 61109
815-874-7786

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Pecatonica, IL 61063
815-239-1853
skinnerautobody@yahoo.com

Specialty Floors, Inc
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779-368-0333
dirtygyms@comcast.net

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Rock Island, IL 61201
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East Moline, IL 61244
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sales@tempomarine.com

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ArielleActionAuto@gmail.com

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Garden Prairie, IL 61038
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Red Ox Restaurant & Bar
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847-683-2300
www.redoxhampshire.com

Woodstock Polaris
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Woodstock IL 60098
815-308-5705
woodstockpowersports.com
admin@woodstockpower-
sports.net

REGION 6

Eastland Motor Sports
110 E IL Route 64
Lanark, IL 61046
815-493-6835

Full Throttle Power Sports
Yamaha Polaris
11003 U.S. Rt. 20 W
Lena IL 61048
815-369-2153
full-throttle-powersports.com

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Marseilles, IL 61341
815-795-4404

Dockside Marine
Ski Doo
23210 W Strip Mine Rd
Wilmington, IL 60481
815-476-7802
www.docksidemarine.com
tthomas@docksidemarine.net

Independence Physical Therapy
Dan Gerk
1397 Main St., Crete, IL 60417
708-367-8050
www.iptcrete@att.net
independencept.com

Leone's
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Peru, IL 61354
815-220-1780
www.leonopolaris.com
leonespolaris@hotmail.com

Little Bennys Garage
Bill Brown, 415 Johnson St.
Utica, IL 61373
815-667-4000
littlebenny78@sbcglobal.net

Rich's Yamaha
Yamaha
14354 S. Archer Ave.
Lockport, IL 60441
815-838-8130
www.richsyamaha.com
richayamaha@gmail.com

Talty Polaris
Polaris
2498 N. 15th Rd.
Streator, IL 61364
815-586-4895
www.taltypolaris.com
taltypolaris@fairpoint.net

REGION 8

McNabb Motorsports
211 S Railroad Street
McNabb IL 61335
815-882-2500
McNabbmotorsports.com

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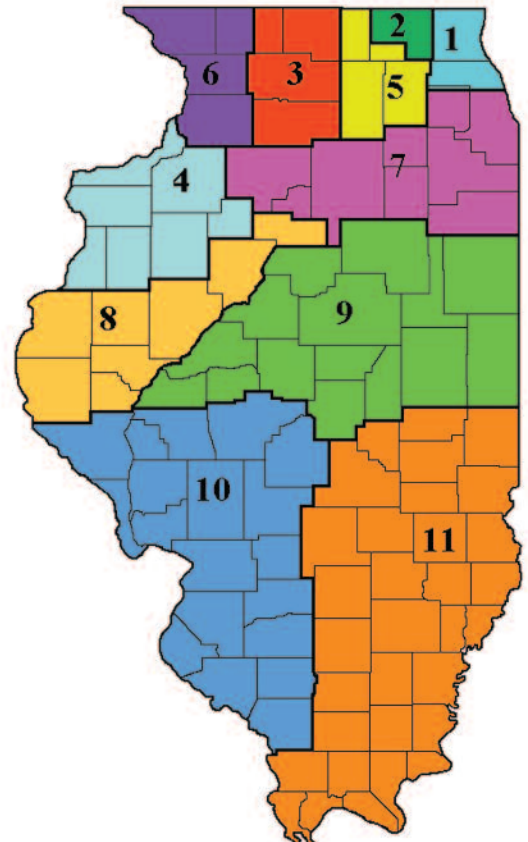
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Pembine WI 54156
715-324-5800
www.TheFourSeasonsWI.com
barb@pinemountainresort.com

Hayward Visitors Convention Bureau
PO Box 1055
Hayward, WI 54843
800-724-2992
www.haywardlakes.com
info@haywardlakes.com

Walker Equipment, Inc./ Arrowhead Groomers
PO Box 305
St Germain, WI 54558
715-479-4200
dave@arrowheadgroomers.com

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Ken's Tales

From the Earlier Years



TALES FROM THE EARLIER DAYS

So many things were going on in the eighties that it was a challenge keeping up with everything. Many of happenings were for the good but some were not. One such story has to do with the John Deere line of snowmobiles. From the year 1971 up to 1982 John Deere snowmobiles were manufactured in Horicon, Wisconsin, a short distance from Madison.

They became very popular and an instant hit in the Midwest. Just about every farmer I knew had a sled sitting in their shed. I believe a lot of deals were made when they were out buying tractors, combines and other farm related machinery. It seems more often than not a new John Deere snowmobile was included in the deal. Mind you now, these weren't cheaply built sleds and the support and service end was the best in the industry, bar none. They had a lot of notable features especially models like the trail fire and liquefier in which the engines were mounted with a low center of gravity making them very good handling along with being extremely durable. In fact they were so good that by 1974 almost 50% of the 377 sleds entered in the Winnipeg to St. Paul 500, the biggest cross country race of its day, were John Deere's. The word spread "get the green" if you want to run with the leaders and sure enough Brian Nelson took 1st place by winning the race in 1976. The company also went on to become the official supplier of snowmobiles for the 1980 winter Olympics in Placid, New York. So what in the world happened to such a great company and its sleds that they are no longer around today? While it just so happens that around 1982 the John Deere management and directors made a crucial decision to put more resources into the ever expanding lawn and landscaping industry. Already a supplier of mowers with their 1st rider the 110 tractor introduced in 1963 they decided to expand the fleet with models that would compete with the cub cadets and other big suppliers of the time. So it was that in 1982 John Deere sold its snowmobile business to Polaris with an agreement for Polaris to supply parts and service support to all the dealers' network and with the rights to continue the manufacturing of the snowmobiles. The last models manufactured by John Deere were the Sprintfire and the Snowfire and were sold in 1983. The intent by Polaris to continue building new models was contingent on sufficient dealer demand. Unfortunately the following year the dealer demand was not strong enough to justify production



and so they announced that manufacturing would come to an end. Under the terms of the sale John Deere was to continue supplying clothing and accessories to the dealers' network through 1984-1985 at which time it would become Polaris's responsibility. With the sleds no longer to be made so it was decided the same with the clothing. The last two models made went out with some notoriety. They both finished high in the economy runs conducted in 1984. Based on four runs totaling 100 miles the Sprintfire finished 3rd with an average mileage of 26.05 and the Snowfire averaged 23.63. The winner was a Polaris star with an average of 29.28, and a Yamaha bravo was second with an average of 27.82. However, both of those sleds were single cylinders of 224 & 246 cc's whereas the John Deere's were 339 cc twin cylinders, so they were still named tops in their class. So, with such a fabulous history where does that leave us now. As you might expect the John Deere snowmobiles are among the favorites by vintage sled collectors and you're sure to come across them at most, if not all vintage events and shows. The clothing is also sought out by collectors as the colorful bibs and jackets make a great match with sleds. I'm hoping there's snow outside by the time you read this.

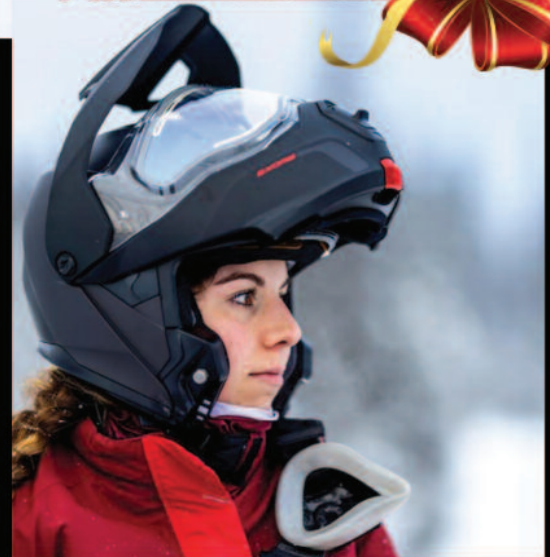


I became involved with snowmobiling way back in the early 70's when it was still in its infancy and rapidly growing. Having joined a club my very first year brought with it all the organizational activities taking place in Illinois as well as the entire Midwest. Various papers and publications about snowmobiling were starting up all over and, partly because of my hoarding ways and later by purpose, I have virtually compiled a documented history of snowmobiling from its earliest years to the present. It's easy to spend hours reading about these past days and how snowmobiling evolved to the sport we enjoy today. I hope you will enjoy my tales of earlier days as much as I do.



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