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The Official Publication of Illinois Association of Snowmobile Clubs, Inc.



# **COVER STORY** 2022 Earl & Nayola Nelson Scholarship Program Winners



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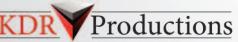


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# FEATURES

2022 Yamaha Challenge Winners Pat Pendergast showcases this vear's winners.

# 10 2022 Earl & Nayola **Nelson Scholarship Program Winners**

You're invited to read the winning essays from this year's recipients.

2022 IASC Winners

Many awards were given at this year's IASC Convention for their valuable contributions to organized snowmobiling.

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Ken Conti shares more stories from his vast collection of snowmobiling reportage.

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FORCE





# PRESIDENT'S DESK



George Thompson

# Hey Everybody,

Are we ready to go? Sled maintenance done and everything up and running? Trips planned and reservations booked? On the club side of things, from what I hear, they are ready! Trails are marked and groomers are ready to go! We are missing only one thing and what do you think that is? Yes you guessed it, SNOW! You all will be reading this in our January Magazine.

As you all know I am writing this, "From the Desk" in December, actually the Thursday before Christmas! The weather forecast earlier in the week was predicting a big dumping of snow for the area a lot of us live in! Well, it's Thursday and the forecast is backing way out of the totals they were predicting! My question is, why? Could it be that we all were so busy preparing our trails and getting ready for Christmas that we might have forgot to do our snow dances? Hmmm? We better get dancing!

On the business side of things, I think we finally have a better connection now with the DNR. They are taking better care on getting grants through processing. If you read my last article, I had stated that we were able to establish a new connection with the DNR grant processors. With their hard work along with the IASC members putting in all the volunteered time in writing the grants, it is finally paying off. The combined effort is working and we are finally receiving the much needed grant funds. Again, I would like to thank everybody involved in the process! I would also like to thank the director of the DNR for taking time out of her busy schedule to help correct our grant problem!

Like last year, my wife and I celebrated Christmas with our family the weekend before Christmas. This year, we didn't need any Christmas magic to get Aunty Jess home from Colorado. We were so blessed this year to have two new additions to the family, two more grandchildren. I also had a little help from Mother Nature. She had given us just enough snow in the yard that grandpa could get that old Kitty Cat fired up for the older grandchildren to ride! The look on our five and three year old grandkids riding that thing around was very gratifying for this old guy! Let me close with this, please reach out and wish everybody a wonderful day. Remember, you just might make that person's day. I promise if you do, he will always remember you!

George P.S. Start doing your snow dances!





# 2022 Yamaha Challenge Winners

# By Patrick Pendergast

This year's IASC Convention in Joliet provided members with a little change of pace. While some of the event's format had changed, the one thing that didn't change was the awarding of Yamaha Challenge prizes. Not familiar with the Yamaha Challenge, you say? I'll provide some background for you. Any youth between the ages of 12 and 15 is required to be certified by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources in snowmobile safety. Students can participate in an online course or take one taught by an IDNR certified Snowmobile Safety Instructor.

To be eligible for the Yamaha Challenge, the student first must have taken the instructor-taught course; online does not qualify them. Once a student has completed and passed the course, they are put into 3 categories; those who received a score of 100%, those missing only one question (98%) and students who missed two (96%). So a student can only miss, at the most, two questions on the 50 question test to be in the running for Yamaha gear. There is another opportunity for those who miss more than two questions to be eligible for a prize. An instructor may nominate one student per class who they feel is truly working hard, participating in class and being an all around good student. This student will be placed in the 96% winners group, giving them a chance for some Yamaha gear and a helmet. There are three drawings held, one for each group of 100%, 98% and 96% gradings. First through third place winners receive various amounts of clothing provided by Yamaha Motors and a helmet provided by the Illinois Association of Snowmobile Clubs' Safety Education Program.

The 3rd place winner for '21-'22 was David Eckerman from South Wayne, WI. David took his safety course at the Lena Community Center with Suzy Giese and myself teaching. I'm sure David and his parents are glad they made the effort to drive to Illinois to get him in on an instructor-taught class! This year's 2nd place winner was Liam Vizanko of Wonder Lake. Liam's class took place at the McHenry County Government Center with Alan Sabol, Cody Smith and Suzy Giese instructing. Our first place winner for the '21-'22 season was Daniella Hopp. Daniella hails from Spring Grove and also received her safety training at the McHenry County Government Center from instructors Alan Sabol, Cody Smith and Suzy Geise. Along with the incredible clothing Yamaha provides, this year Yamaha pitched in three top of the line gear bags for each of our winners, wow! Congratulations to all of our participants. We appreciate you putting forth the time and effort to take an instructor-taught class. I also want to thank the parents who realize the importance of getting their kids to an instructor-taught safety class. I would like to thank Yamaha Motors for their continued support of the Yamaha Challenge. Our Snowmobile Safety Program could never provide the quality of prizes that we award without their support. Another big thank you goes out to this year's helmet sponsors; the Dekane Sno-Trackers Snowmobile Club, the McHenry County Snowmobile Association and the snowmobile clubs of Region 6. These organizations' generous donations make our awards complete and help further our mission of snowmobile safety. I feel students get much more of an education on snowmobiling from a real, live experienced snowmobiler than they do from sitting in front of a computer. You just can't replace experience when it comes to snowmobile safety. And last, but most certainly not least, thank you to all of our snowmobile safety instructors for sharing your time, talents and experience with our snowmobiling youth. Your efforts will pay big dividends as these students mature and expand their horizons in the snowmobiling community.



**Daniella** Hopp

# **OFFICE NOTES**



As I sit here looking out the window writing this article, the ground is covered with snow! It does look pretty. Are you ready for the season to officially start? Are your snowmobiles and trailers ready for travel? Have you done all the pre-checkups that need to be done? Nothing is worse than getting out on the trail and having a breakdown that could have been easily prevented if you had only

checked your sled out before you

went out snowmobiling.

The official IASC Office was closed on November 30, after being in the same location since 1986 with just one move from the bottom floor to the second floor when Hicksgas purchased the property and said if we wanted to move upstairs, we could. It has been a great run with Hicksgas, and they have treated us very well.Thank you Hicksgas for all you have done for the IASC.

The IASC office is now home-based and we will continue to provide the same care as we have in the past. The IASC has a new cell number as the landline has been disconnected. You may reach us at 815-210-0587. USPS Mailing address will stay the same, IASC, PO Box 265, Marseilles, IL 61341. If you need to send by UPS / FedEx, call the IASC for that address. Everything has been disposed of in various ways.

The 2022 IASC 50th Anniversary Convention was hosted by the IASC this year with all regions taking part in the different aspects, which seemed to work out well as long as moving to a one-day event. At this time, we are looking to see where 2023 will be held. More on that as plans are made.

The 50/50 Cash Fundraiser is underway and will be drawn at the January IASC Meeting. Contact the IASC for more information.

A reminder that the annual IASC Fundraiser is in full swing. The drawing will be March 14, 2022 at the March IASC monthly meeting in Rochelle. Winners need not be present. You may obtain tickets by contacting the IASC office. Remember, this is a great opportunity for your club to earn money without any expense to your club. Get out there and sell, sell.

ISC 2023 is coming to Illinois we will be looking for volunteers. Please consider signing up to help. Contact the IASC office and Jane Austin or Sue Giese will be happy to assist you.

Safe riding to everyone. Until next time, think snow...



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# **EVENTS**

# JANUARY

# January 8th:

Prairie Drifters Radar Run No Ice Dates -- January 22 and February 5 Lake Story, Galesburg, IL Signup 9am and racing at 10am for information call Mike Dennis 1-309-337-6494

# January 19th:

5th Annual 100 Mile Vintage Snowmobile Challenge Ride Hosted by: Northwest Relic Riders Vintage Snowmobile Club Cost \$50 per sled Flat Creek Lodge - Hwy 27 S, Hayward, WI 54843 Call 763-258-4038 for more information

# January 21st:

Poker Run Cedarville Snow Travelers 15 possible stops check-in between 4 & 6pm Rt. 20 Bar and Grill, Freeport \$10 Donation. Visit www.cedarvillesnowtravelers.com to print the route map and view the list of stops Call Georgia for more information at 815-238-7826

# APRIL

# April 1st:

Meat and Basket Raffle Noon to 3pm Rt. 20 Bar and Grill, 2051 N AYP Rd, Freeport Chance to win meat bundles, baskets, 50/50, \$5 for \$100 Call Georgia for more information at 815-238-7826

# JULIE

# June 7th-10th:

55th International Snowmobile Congress Full Congress Registration Includes: Wednesday welcome reception, lunches Thursday, Friday and Saturday, all Afternoon breaks, Thursday off-site event, Friday groomer reception, Saturday evening awards banquet, all educational breakout sessions. Wyndham Hotel on John Deere Commons/TaxSlayer Center 1415 River Drive Moline, IL 61265 For more information, email isc2023ja@mtco.com

Please Email Us Your IASC Club Events to production @ilsnowmobiler.com

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# By Dwain "Duey" Stadie

On Saturday, November 26th and Saturday, December 3rd, the Hampshire White Riders completed the trail marking for the club's 25 miles of trails. We were slightly down in volunteers but with members ATV's, UTV's and 4-wheel drive trucks along with the new groomer, things went well.

The new groomer's winch came in handy for moving a bridge back to its original location after spring rains caused the creek to rise and reposition the bridge. Everything is ready, let it snow.

Thanks to all who helped, including Ton Baldner, Dan Eikler, Ed Hagendorn, Mike Bensssko, M3, Matt Stadie, Clayton Stadie, Luke Stadie and Dwain Stadie. Let the snow dancing begin.



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# 2022 Earl & Nayola Nelson Scholarship Program Winners

# By Danielle Christoffel

Each year, IASC members and their families are invited to participate in the Earl & Nayola Nelson Scholarship. The requirements are as follows: all applicants must be full or part time students, carrying at least 9 credit hours and earning the equivalent of a "C" average or better at an accredited college, university or technical college. Lastly, applicants must reside in the state of Illinois. If these requirements are met, they're eligible to submit an original written essay on a topic picked by the IASC. Two scholarships are awarded in the amounts of \$1,000.00 and \$2,500.00. For more information about elegibility and the application, visit www.ilsnowmobile.com/scholarship.

The theme of this year's essay was "Tell us about a contribution you've made to the snowmobiling community, your club, region or the IASC." Essays are judged by a panel chosen by the IASC. As is evident by their essays, the winners are not only very passionate about the sport, but understand what snowmobiling can mean to all involved in the sport.

Please enjoy the winning essays from these ambitious, talented students.



l st Place Lauren Montavon Our first place winner of the \$2,500.00 prize was awarded to Lauren Montavon. Lauren hails from Oregon, IL, and is a member of the Blackhawk Snowblazers Snowmobile Club. She is currently attending Illinois State University double majoring in Finance and Risk Management/Insurance with a minor in Organizational Leadership. She has accepted an offer from Acuity as a Commercial Lines Underwriter and is moving to Sheboygan, Wisconsin post-graduation. Please enjoy her essay below.

Snowmobiling has been a part of my family's life ever since I can remember. Snowmobiling has allowed my family and I to make countless memories and create friendships with other families who are also a part of the snowmobiling community. Family trips up to Wisconsin to ride trails, being pulled behind the snowmobile on sleds, or just a day trip around the local trails are just some of the great memories that snowmobiling has brought me. When I was younger, I couldn't wait to take the safety course that would allow me to receive my snowmobile license. At age 12, I finally got my license and that is easily one of the best days of my life. As a member of the Blackhawk Snowblazers Snowmobile Club, I have had an even more involved experience in the snowmobiling community. Being a member has allowed me to go to fun events like club member dinners, raffles, and holiday parties. Along with all of the benefits that come with being a snowmobile club member, there are also opportunities to volunteer and give back to the snowmobiling community. Giving back to the community has been something that I have taken part of my whole life, so there are many great memories

I can choose from.

One of the most memorable snowmobile related volunteer experiences I have taken part of is marking and unmarking the snowmobile trails. I decided to choose this volunteer experience because the marking of the snowmobile trails marks the beginning of a great snowmobile season to come. It was so exciting because as we marked the trails I couldn't help but think of all the great times and memories that were going to be made in the upcoming snowmobiling season. I was able to volunteer for this because of my dad and his role in the snowmobile club. Marking the trails was an all day event, so we had to head out right after dawn. Leaving on the four wheelers with my dad on a cold morning right with a trailer full of signs is how this memory began. Since it was morning, the ground was still wet so it was easy to put the signs in. As the day went on, it got warmer and it became harder to put the signs in the ground, but we kept on going. We would always pack water and snacks so we wouldn't have to trek back home because we would get up to a half hour away from home. When the sun began to set we took that as our sign to head back home. Most years of marking the trails would be a two day event because we couldn't get all of the signs in in one day. Marking the trails is also memorable to me because it allowed me to become more familiar with the trails. Lastly, I felt good knowing that marking these trails made it able for other snowmobilers to enjoy the trials.

Fast forward to the end of the snowmobile season. The snow is beginning to melt and many memories have been made with friends and family that all came from the trails. As we headed out to unmark the trails, I had a different feeling compared to how I felt when we went out to mark them in the beginning of the season. Instead of being filled with excitement and anticipation, I was feeling a little sad because I knew that we wouldn't snowmobile again for 9 months. However, despite being sad, I was grateful for yet again another great season with my family and friends.

Marking and unmarking the trails is my favorite snowmobile related volunteer experience due to all of the mini memories that come along with it. Through marking and unmarking the trials, I was able do something for our snowmobile club and the snowmobiling community all while making memories with my dad.

I would like to conclude this essay by saying how much this scholarship would mean to me. I have a goal of getting my degree at Illinois State University and this scholarship would allow me to be one step closer to my goal. Lastly, I am thankful for all of the memories and opportunities snowmobiling has brought me.



Gus Lackner

Our second place winner, who was awarded the \$1,000.00 prize, is Gus Lackner. Gus lives in St. Charles, IL, and is member of the Elgin Cold Ducks. Gus is attending the University of Illinois Urbana-Champagne. Please see his essay below.

Life is heavy, all demanded requirement and defeated repetition. So we find reprieve in withdrawal. We find a peace under our own power. To control my own power, to sail through unbroken snow, to gallop across the land, to wrestle the machine for great

distances across great land. This is the freedom of snowmobiling.

The act of snowmobiling is solitude. The engine roars outside the helmet, the warmth is for you alone, and you drift across the trail in silence. But the feeling is more. Around the next turn is excitement, and just along the trail are your friends, drawn in together by the thrill and escape.

The camaraderie of snowmobiling is the important part. I am a member of two snowmobiling clubs, the Forest Riders in the Northwoods and the Elgin Cold Ducks in Illinois. Since our family began snowmobiling when I was young, these clubs have been there for us as we have grown, allowing us to travel our increasingly ambitious routes. As we have become better engaged with the snowmobiling community, we have found friends with passions for the sport both outside and inside the clubs. As a family, we realized the importance of giving back. I think this is when I realized that snowmobiling is about friendship just as much as it is about thrilling freedom. In fact, we never would have gone snowmobiling if we had not been introduced by family friends.

One of my favorite volunteering memories was during this springtime last year. The markers have to come down. Each marker must be found, pulled, and piled. It is a melancholy experience to remember the wonderful season as you take things down, but mostly it's just work. The Cold Ducks club is responsible for the maintenance of thirty-odd miles of trail; running, more or less, in a huge loop through forest preserves, along roads, and across fields. With such bare vistas, it is easy to miss the trail; so, to ensure the respect which all landowners are due, it is necessary to pepper the trail with blazers.

Our blazers stand just above waist height. H-channel fiberglass capped with reflective signs. In the winter, they form a carrot nose for the rolling snow-covered hills; but, in the mud and mush of the melt, they stick out like pop-up timers in a wonderful roast; it is time for them to go.With the return of mush brown, the club called us to the farm where we bring the markers to wait for the return of the beautifully brutal winter grays.

There weren't many of us there, but we divided the trails as best we could. My family was set to get some roads while some other members were sent to cross the field in an ATV to capture the rest of the markers. The process usually takes four or five days, so I was looking forward to getting started. I wanted to make a dent that could save us a day or two of work (I have school after all). The trails loop from road to road through passages in fields. I realized we could save a great deal of time if we just followed the trails linearly, traversing these connections on foot. This would mean carrying a number of markers at once, which, unfortunately, start to get heavy after about twenty-five.

The first jog was fine, with only twenty or so markers, I could carry them like a bundle of sticks under my arm. We fell into a system, I would carry a few markers across the field while the rest of my family would grab the next section of the road in our pickup truck. When our paths crossed, I was finally able to leave my load and stretch my arms. Repetition can be fun, and when you find a good method, you can start to speed up. I got somewhat lost in the movements. The next thing I knew, I was carrying nearly fifty markers on my shoulder.

I guess the next intersection with the road isn't that far, just past this field, so I continued on. I was wrong, and I was soon carrying seventy or so markers without a road in sight. Down the trail a little ways I found myself listing to the side, balancing an enormous quiver of markers on my back, searching, hoping, praying, for a nearby road. Then I fell over-dropping the neatly ordered markers like a game of pick-up-sticks.

It took me minute or two to wrestle the markers back onto my shoulder, but I was able to get them back up with a bit of a flip-twistsquat. Reordered, I made my way onward. I made it to the road like the stick-laden Led Zeppelin cover of 'Fool in the Rain.' My family had been engaged in similar labor, and, combined with my four miles of cleared trail, we had filled the bed of the truck completely with markers.

Meanwhile, back at the farm, some other club members were fretting. A bunch of the markers, you see, had mysteriously disappeared. They thought a farmer might have pulled them. All the markers have to be removed before tilling begins. Did we need to take them out earlier? We pulled up into this discussion in our pickup truck, piled high with markers. It soon became clear where all the markers had gone.

"How did you get through the mud without an ATV?" "I walked through of course."

After the confusion was cleared up, something else became known; we had finished everything today. Together, we unloaded all the club members cars, and the trails were shut down for the season. Everything was packed in, and all that was left was some summerizing and a great deal of waiting for the next season, when we can again race across the fields a-screaming in the wonderful machine that is the snowmobile.

If you or someone you know is interested in participating in this year's upcoming essay contest, visit www.ilsnowmobile.com/scholarship. A little hint beforehand, this year's essay theme is: "Please tell me your ideas on how, as an association/region or club we can educate other snowmobilers about trespassing issues, loud pipes and respect for the trail system, our landowners, and other snowmobilers." The deadline is April 1, 2023.

Congratulations to this year's winners for their contributions to organized snowmobiling in Illinois!



2022 IASC Binners



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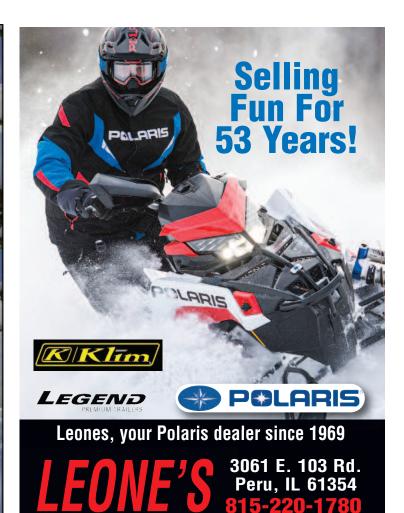
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# **Region Meeting Schedule:**

Be a Part of the Process - Attend Your Local IASC Region Meeting!

# **Region 1**

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

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 Damptz, 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 -

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



# OUT & ABOUT

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

# 2022 Hampshire White Riders SEP Class

# By Dwain "Duey" Stadie

The Hampshire White Riders Student Education Program (SEP) class was held on Saturday, November 12th, at the Hampshire township building in beautiful downtown Hampshire. The class again was smaller than we'd like to see, but teaching the future of our sport is all that matters.



Thank you to our club's two SEP instructors, Genice Brettschneider and Linda Gustafson. They both work very hard every year to make the class a success. Thanks to the IDNR for having an officer stop by for a while and talk to the students, Thanks to Ed Brettschneider and Steve Gustafson for helping with set up, take down and lunch. Thanks to Keith Lima for the use of his sleds for the class.

I'm always talking about the importance of snowmobile clubs, and the importance of club membership, and the importance of attending club fundraisers. All three, without a doubt, are important. But I've got to say the SEP program is the future of the sport. A big thanks to all the SEP instructors out there, past and present. Thank you very much!



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# 🔶 Safety Class Schedule 🔶

Class Date	e Location	Address	Time	Registration
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
CTELET .	ů l	Call the number listed by the date and locati Instructors are volunteers and are not paid.		

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.

The Safe Riders! Snowmobile Safety Awareness Program provides basic essentials about snowmobile safety and includes short guizzes to help test your knowledge about safe snowmobiling practices. It is meant to supplement information provided by the state or province in which you register or ride your snowmobile, so be sure to check local rules and requirements before venturing out on the snow.

This Program has been produced through a partnership between the American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA), the International Association of Program administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation — Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).



Happy New Year,

fellow snowmobilers!

I hope everyone

safe New Year. The

holidays come and go

so fast, it is hard to

believe I am writing

an article for the

January issue already.

Were you fortunate

wonderful

and

had a

Christmas

# Test Your Snowmobiling Knowledge

snowmobiling practices. If you're an experienced snowmobiler, you may try a quiz first to see how much you think you know — and then take the quiz again after you've reviewed a section's materials to see how much you've learned. If you're new to snowmobiling, work through each section first before taking the quiz to enhance your learning experience

Snowmobile Safety Awareness Program



Pat Pendergast

enough to get to do the Christmas/New Year's sled trip? I hope if that's an annual thing for you, conditions were favorable. I know this is a repeat, but I am going to go over some of my early season cautions for riders as I feel it is worth repeating yearly, especially since many of our favorite riding areas have trails that cross bodies of water. Before you even head north, check with the locals to see if the temps have been low enough to allow good ice formation. Sometimes there is not an option for a re-route in the event the ice is not thick enough to support traffic yet, so make sure to get good information on conditions. If you are riding lakes, especially larger ones with marked trails across them, make sure to stick close to the trail markers. Those stakes/barrels not only mark the route to the next set of land-based trails, they also let you know that the ice along that trail has been checked and deemed safe for sled traffic. While the snow farther away from the marked trail looks so much nicer and

smoother, you just never know if there may be a spring, hidden log or other hazard hidden in the snow.

Safety & Education

Are you taking a newer rider with you this season? Since I am sure they have already had their safety training, there are a few other things to keep in mind. Make sure to keep that newer rider in between two or more experienced riders. Your more experienced riders should be the leader and the one in the back running sweep. If you are the leader, this allows you to set the pace to where the newer rider feels comfortable and keeps them riding within their skill level. If you're riding sweep, keep an eye on the inexperienced rider to see if they are struggling to keep up, handling turns, keeping the sled under control, etc. If you see problems, discuss with the leader at the next stopping point so adjustments can be made. Make frequent stops to see if the new rider is comfortable, warm, not indeed of a bathroom break or having equipment issues that need addressed. These are all common sense items that we as experienced riders can easily take for granted at times, so make the effort to make this a good experience for a new rider.

Don't forget to keep an eye out for the occasional groomer you may meet on the trail. Aside from the fact they groomers outweigh sleds by a whole lot, they do have the right of way. So when you meet one, make sure to find a way to pull off to the side to allow them to continue on. If you ride up behind a groomer, make sure they are aware you are behind them. When they get to an area of the trail where it

is safe to pass or they can pull over, they will allow you to pass. Don't rush the process, you'll get to go around them when it is safe. Let's remember, groomer operators are volunteers who deserve our respect and appreciation for their efforts. They are snowmobilers who enjoy riding smooth trails just like we do. When you stop at your favorite spot to refill, make sure to drop a donation in the local club's trail map box to assist in covering grooming expenses. In these days of \$200,000 groomers and \$6 diesel fuel, clubs can use all the help they can get. Put these things together and you and possibly a new rider can have a fun filled, safe trip to your favorite snowmobiling destination. And, you won't tick off a groomer operator in the process! Happy trails folks, ride safe.



An important step in planning a group ride is arranging riders in a safe order. Of the four characteristics below, which is most important in determining riding order?

a) Experience level

- b) Physical size
- c) Intelligence and common sense
- d) Snowmobile performance

# CHUES & DIFFETORS

# ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF SNOWMOBILE CLUBS

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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

# CUIES 2022-2028

Polar Bares Mike Flaherty 847-268-8020 flaherty3107@sbcgloabl.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 Damptz 815-985-6071 dandamptz@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 rltsnow@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 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 Genisio's 249 N Division St. Woodhull

Region 5 Director Rod Kampfranz 815-236-4028 rkampfranz@yahoo.com Meets 7pm 2nd Wednesday Red 0x Restaurant 129 E 0ak 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

# HUES 2022-2028

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 0x 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 Beggers 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

# **REGION 1**

#### El Puerto Mexican Restaurant Genisio's

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

#### 11012

**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 208 N Walnut Stillman Valley, IL 61084 815-645-9828

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

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Long's Carpet & Interiors Dan Long, 4200 11th Street Rock Island, IL 61201 309-786-3656

# **Tempo Marine & Sport**

1235 14th Ave East Moline, IL 61244 309-752-0868 sales@tempomarine.com

#### **REGION 5**

#### **Action Auto Clinic**

1312 E. Main St. St. Charles, IL 60174 630-584-2277 www.actionautostcharles.com ArielleActionAuto@gmail.com

#### **Hammertime Sports** Polaris, Yamaha 2252 Anderson Dr. Belvidere, IL 61008 815-544-5800 www.hammertimesports.com

Pleasant Street Tavern 6828 Pleasant St. Garden Prairie, IL 61038 815-597-3002

# **Red Ox Restaurant & Bar**

129 E. Oak Knoll Dr. Hampshire, IL 60140 847-683-2300 www.redoxhampshire.com

#### Woodstock Polaris

2055 S Eastwood Dr. Woodstock II 60098 815-308-5705 woodstockpowersports.com admin@woodstockpowersports.net

# **REGION G**

Eastland Motor Sports 110 E IL Route 64 Lanark, IL 61046

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

# REGION 7

American Legion Post 235 571 Rutland St. Marseilles, IL 61341 815-795-4404

BUSINESS & ASSOCIATION MEMBERS 2072-2072

# **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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**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.richsvamaha.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

## NDIANA

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## V&V Insurance Agency

**Dale Vagts** PO Box 159 Cresco, IA 52136 563-547-2161 www.vandvins.com insurance@vandvins.com

#### MICHIGAN

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#### MINNESOTA

Contact the IASC office to list your business iasc@mtco.com.

#### VISCONSIN

#### Ambassadors of Snowmobiling

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#### Hayward Visitors Convention

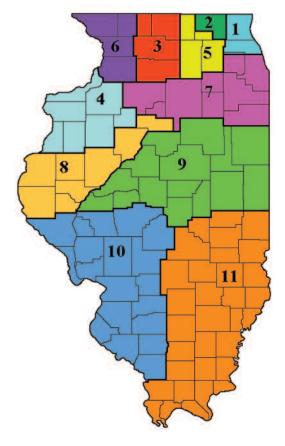
Bureau PO Box 1055 Hayward, WI 54843 800-724-2992 www.haywardlakes.com info@haywardlakes.com

# 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

Back in the 1970"s there were dozens of snowmobile manufacturers and each year over a 100 new models of sleds one could choose from, but even then, a couple handfuls of models became the choice for the majority of riders especially in the Midwest. So it was that back in 1972 a leading snow sports publication company started

what was called an annual owner's report for snowmobilers who had purchased a new sled the previous year. The company requested all the manufacturers to send the names (usually several hundred) of riders who purchased specified models and then randomly selected anywhere from 1/3 to 1/2 of the names. New sled buyers were invited to participate directly through the magazine and their names were compared to the manufacturers list to make certain no one company was stacking the list. The report



listed parts, service, dependability, number of service calls, what features of their sled they liked the best and the least and whether they would buy the sled again. This is the results of the report for the 1975 sleds. Starting out the list that year was a 440 Arctic Cat El Tigre with 88% of owners reporting satisfaction. Most liked features were



speed, performance, riding comfort and styling. Least likes were breaking trails, deep snow, price and fuel economy. Next was a GP433f Yamaha. A whopping 96% of owners reported it met their expectations. Most likes features were styling, speed and performance. Least liked was small cargo capacity, fuel economy and machine

weight. The next sled on the report is a 440 Ski-Doo TNT of which 87% said it met their expectations. Best liked features were riding comfort, styling and suspension. Least liked features were small cargo capacity, fuel economy, clutching, starting and weight. A Polaris 440 Electra is the next sled on the report. The owners gave the Polaris a 82% approval rating. Best liked features were starting, riding comfort, breaking trail and deep snow. Least liked were weight, fuel economy and price. Also back in the day we had the 440 Mercury Trail Twisters which the Merc owners gave a 90% satisfaction rating. Most liked features were speed, stability, performance and starting and least liked was braking, small cargo capacity, trail breaking and deep snow. These next two sleds placed 2nd only to the Yamaha in satisfaction and one wasn't even in production anymore. The Scorpion 440 Whip was given a 94% satisfaction rating



and liked for over- all riding comfort, suspension and stability and least liked for price, small cargo capacity, breaking trail, deep snow and spark plug life. An the sled on the report but no longer in production was the John Deere JDX8 which received a 94% satisfaction score and was liked for its over all dependability, climbing hills and starting. It was least liked for spark plug life and weight. The rest of the sleds that made up the report are a 440 Rupp Nitro with a 92% satisfaction rating, a Massey 444ST Ski-Whiz with a 79% rating, a Moto Ski 440 with a 92% rating and last a Sno-let with a 87% rating. Interestingly the Sno-Jets received the highest rating of all the sled for their suspension. One thing most all the owners disliked the most about their sleds were small cargo capacities, breaking trail, deep snow and price. When you look back over the years many of the features liked and disliked were gradually improved each year when new models were introduced except I guess for the price which just keeps going up but at least we're getting all this new technology for our cost.

Hey riders! It's that time of year to THINK SNOW!



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.





CFAR OUT

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