

51 YEARS IASC **Illinois** SNOWMOBILER



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

January 2024

50TH IASC CONVENTION

REMEMBERING JOHN DEE

YAMAHA CHALLENGE WINNERS



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IASC illinois SNOWMOBILER

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PRESIDENT'S DESK



Kai Steward

December brought lots of changes to the IASC with Jane's retirement along with the new board members. The IASC board has been discussing how to replace Jane and keep things moving forward in the interim. At this time, I feel we have developed a good plan to conduct the IASC without a paid office manager. We identified and assigned responsibilities across board members, directors, and committees.

As we transition, we are using a new email address that is shared by all the board members. We will be moving all correspondence for the IASC to this email. Incoming emails will then be directed/answered by the committee/board member that is overseeing that portion of the IASC business. Please use this email address going forward: iasc.illinois@gmail.com.

We will continue to have an office cell phone number of 815-210-0587. We will use this phone as a messaging service and return calls as availability allows.

The board feels confident in this plan, but at the same time are aware that there will be pains as we transition and likely will be further changes in how we operate and structure ourselves in the future.

Lastly, this fall our magazine has transitioned online exclusively. We have been working to update our member emails, so everyone is still getting the magazine. While our list has improved, we are still getting a lot of returned/not delivered emails. Please make sure your email address and those of your fellow club members are kept updated.

I hope the New Year brings you all snow-covered trails, memorable trips and days filled with good friends, family and snowmobiling.

Happy New Year,

Kai Steward

EVENTS

JUNE

JANUARY

January 7th:

Prairie Drifters Radar Run
No ice dates -January 21 and
February 4
Lake Story, Galesburg, IL
Signup 9am and racing at 10am
Call Mike Dennis for more
information 1-309-337-6494

January 9th

IASC Meeting
General Meeting
7:30pm – Double-O-Saloon
5555 Clark St., Monroe, IL

June 13th-15th

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production
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By Dan Dampitz

There are 3000 snowmobile clubs
worldwide, involved in trail grooming,
charity fund raising, & family activities,
of which 51 reside in Illinois and form
the Illinois Association of Snowmobile Clubs (IASC).

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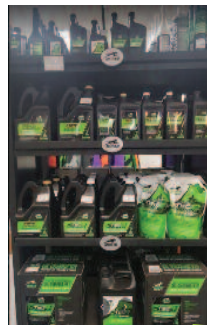
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Region 1

Director: **Don Schaefer**
847-917-4202 dssschaefer@msn.com
Call or Email for Information & Location

Region 2

Director: **Craig Adams**
815-687-2844 craigmadams@yahoo.com
First Wednesday of the Month - 7:30pm
August - April
Rusty Nail Bar & Grill, Ringwood, IL

Region 3

Director: **Dan Dampitz**
815-985-6071 dandampitz@gmail.com
Second Monday of the Month - 7:00pm
July - April
Uptown Lanes / Back Alley Bar, Byron, IL

Region 4

Director: **Pat Pendergast**
309-335-4095 ppendergast@knox.edu
September, November & March - 7:00pm
Third Monday of the Month
Call or Email for Information & Location

Region 5

Director: **Rodney Kampfranz**
815-236-4028 rkampfranz@yahoo.com
Second Wednesday of the Month - 7:00pm
August - May
Red Ox Bar and Grill, Hampshire, IL

Region 6

Director: **Kirk Polhill**
815-275-3371 kdpwire@yahoo.com
Second Thursday of the Month - 7:30pm
September - April
Bottle Shed, Stockton, IL

Region 7

Director: **Dale Fritz**
815-791-6375 dalefritz2@comcast.net
Call or Email for Information & Location

Region 8

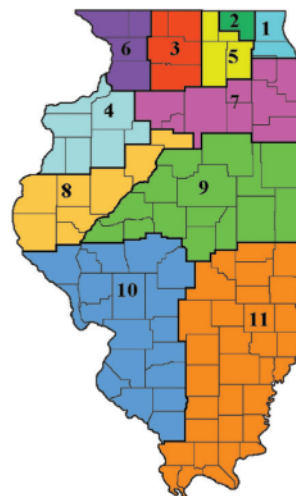
Director: **Position Vacant**
815-210-0587 iasc.illinois@gmail.com
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Region 9

Director: **Bob Atkins**
309-397-6922 atkinscrew@gmail.com
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Region 10 & 11

Director: **Carson Hanner**
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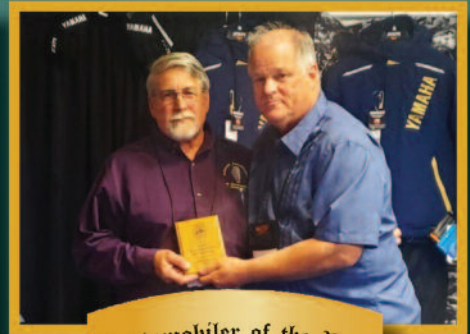
2023 IASC Winners

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



Dealer of the Year

Dockside Marine



Snowmobiler of the Year

Jeff Lehman



Harry Kroll &
Mel Blaurock Award

Dick Aresenau



Sam Madonna Award

Jane Austin



Family of the Year

Tom & Judy Kruse



Instructor of the Year

Sue Giese



Blue Award

Jane Austin

Dream Destinations

Intrepid snowmobiler and travel writer Mike Carr will be expanding his horizons, and hopefully yours, with his Dream Destinations series describing outstanding snowmobile venues for your consideration. Last year he listed the essentials on 15 Midwest locations (3 per issue) and this year is continuing that coverage, with the addition of other legendary locales outside the Midwest. So hook up your trailer and get ready to hit the road for some great riding!



Trail Towns: Kewaskum, Dundee, Greenbush, Glenbeulah

Highlights: Long Lake, Henry S. Reuss Ice Age Visitor Center at Dundee

Info: Northern Kettle Moraine Snowmobile Assoc. www.nkmsnow.com Maps: (920) 459-3060 Trail conditions: (920) 892-7455

KETTLE MORAIN STATE FOREST (N.), WI

When the glaciers crept across Wisconsin some 12,000 years ago, two giant lobes pushed up an 80-mile long ridge of sand and gravel between them. Today that iconic ridge runs northeast-southwest roughly from Elkhart Lake to Whitewater, with the Northern and Southern Units of the Kettle Moraine State Forest on each end. Riding through the Northern Unit is a treat, with the gently rolling landscape offering plenty of enjoyable dips and doodles. State Corridor Trail #5 runs the 25-mile length of the forest from Kewaskum to Glenbeulah and there are alternate routes nearby for the return trip.



Trail Towns: Naubinway, Engadine, Curtis

Highlights: Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum at Naubinway

Info: Eastern Upper Peninsula Snowmobile Council www.upsnowmobiling.org Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum snowmobilemuseum.com

TOP OF THE LAKE, MICHIGAN

For avid snowmobilers, there are many wonderful places to discover all across the North American snowbelt, as this series of Dream Destinations proves. One of those is at the very top of Lake Michigan, where the town of Naubinway – halfway between Manistique and Saint Ignace on U.S. Highway 2 – welcomes sledders from around the world. The big attraction is the Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum, where the 25th Annual Show & Trail Ride will draw a crowd of vintage fans on the weekend of February 17-18, 2017. Whether you're aboard some old iron or the latest model of sled, the local area offers good riding, as well as access to all the top destinations in the eastern Upper Peninsula.



Trail Towns: Ontonagon, White Pine, Silver City, Greenland, Mass City

Highlights: Firesteel Bridges (pictured)

Info: Western U.P. Tourism (800) 522-5657, www.explorewesternup.com

ONTONAGON, MICHIGAN

Life is good for sledders who live in or visit the area along the south coast of Lake Superior, where prodigious "lake effect" snow falls early and often. Ontonagon is one of those lucky places, offering good riding in several directions – southeast to Greenland, southwest to Lake Gogebic or west to White Pine and Silver City, which is the gateway to Porcupine Mountains State Park. Near Mass City are the Firesteel River bridges, high trestles on the former rail line where snowmobilers can look down upon the treetops below! The city of Ontonagon also features a curving highway bridge over the Ontonagon River that includes a special lane for snowmobiles.

50th IASC Convention:

By Dwain "Duey" Stadie

The Illinois Association of Snowmobile Clubs held their annual convention on November 4th, 2023, at the lovely Hilton Garden Inn in Rockford, Illinois. The first weekend in November is the IASC convention where all the clubs, regions, board members, committees, and snowmobilers in the state of Illinois gather for a day of seminars, meetings, and an awards banquet. The Hilton Garden Inn is an easy to access spot, located right off the interstate. It has a restaurant and bar on site, indoor pool, fitness center, and plenty of meeting rooms. It worked out quite well, which is good news since it will also host the 2024 convention!

Many IASC members arrived in the late afternoon and early evening on Friday the 3rd and enjoyed a nice meet and greet with old friends and the opportunity to meet new ones. Hors d'oeuvres and refreshments were served. These meet and greets are a wonderful way to chat with people with no meeting agendas or any kind of organized events happening, just casual friendship and camaraderie.

Saturday morning arrived and after a nice breakfast, the morning seminars began. The first one up was a Grooming Round Table, which was very informative. This was a great space for open discussion on grooming facilitated by Mark Hazzard. He gave us an update on the different types of groomers in Illinois, the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grants, the Snowmobile Trail Establishment Fund (STEF) grants, and how grants procedures are changing. It opened a discussion between all current clubs with groomers so we could hear what is and is not working and how things can change.

The second seminar of the day was the Unified Trail Signage Roundtable. As the name implies, this was a discussion on how to get Illinois to a place where all trails are marked with a unified marking system. Ron Julian did a wonderful job with this seminar. Everyone got to discuss the different ways of trail marking they do, and we had great input from everyone on what is right and what is not. Ron is on the committee that is working on a unified trail marking in Illinois and we all got to provide input for how this book should be done. When Ron is all done with this, we should have an excellent guide to hand out to all the clubs in the state and have a great marking program in our state.

The third seminar of the day was on Volunteerism & Retaining

Volunteers. This is a topic that we all want to learn more about for obvious reasons. We all could use more help, and any discussion lead by Kaite Polhill and Jessica Dicker is going to be a fun time. It was a wonderful seminar to finish up the morning.



Lunch was accompanied by a couple of excellent guest speakers. First up were three outstanding people from the Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile clubs: the president of the Wisconsin Association, Lori Heideman, Kids and Adults Snowmobiling (KAOS) member, Ethan Degner, and KAOS member and former Miss Snowflake, Rachyl Burzinski. They spoke to us about Wisconsin snowmobiling and explained the youth program. Lori's heart is so into snowmobiling and her dedication to the sport made her so enjoyable to listen to. Ethan and Rachyl, and truly the whole youth program in Wisconsin, are amazing. I've had the pleasure of seeing this group of young adults at two International Snowmobile Congresses, an Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs winter meeting, and now at our IASC Convention. They are incredibly hard working, fun loving, kind, and always ready to roll up their sleeves and help with anything you're doing. I think the future of the sport is in good hands. Also, Rachyl I believe attended 113 events to promote snowmobiling in her year as Miss Snowflake. To do some math for you, that's an event every three days - no small accomplishment! Hats off to Wisconsin for such a wonderful youth program.

Our next luncheon guest speaker was Cody Gray, Public Service Administrator for The Safety Education Programs Office of Law

Celebrating 51 Years

Enforcement of the Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources (IDNR). It was great listening to Cody as he brought us to speed on everything going on at the IDNR, answered questions and explained things thoroughly. It was great to have someone from the IDNR at the convention, but it wasn't just Cody that was on site this day. He also had three other IDNR officers accompanying him. We were so fortunate to have four people from the IDNR available for our questions as we moved through topics.



We had a short break after lunch before it was time to get to business, The IASC Annual Meeting. We had a complete meeting agenda to go through, several reports given, discussions on many items, and an election of officers was held. The new IASC board is President, Kia Stewart, 1st Vice President, Kaite Polhill, 2nd Vice President, Don Schaefer, 3rd Vice President, Jessica Dicker, Secretary, Jennifer Baumgartner, and Treasurer, Carol Bly Julian.

We had another short break before happy hour followed by our dinner banquet and awards presentation. Let me start by saying this meal and all the meals prepared and served by the Hilton Garden Inn were excellent. The IASC awards were given out, and while I won't list all their names here, you can check the winners page in this magazine for a complete list. It's worth the read to acknowledge some of the most dedicated snowmobilers in Illinois. When you listen to the speech given about each award winner, it's very emotional. These people put in so many volunteer hours, their dedication to snowmobiling is outstanding, and each deserves a huge thanks for their accomplishments.

The awards ceremony ended with a couple of major achievement awards going to Jane Austin for her 37 years of service to the

IASC. Jane was also presented with a book filled with letters from IASC members thanking her for all she had done over the years, followed by a big surprise; her children and grandchildren were present! We thank you, Jane, for your many years of service.

We moved on to the entertainment for the evening, Burn and Bush, a unique two-man acoustic band I enjoyed a lot. They seemed to be an overall crowd pleaser. We followed up the entertainment by announcing our silent auction winners, who won some great baskets. Finishing off the evening was the scholarship auction, with arguably even cooler items. A big thank you is warranted for Stephanie Steward for all the time she puts into this program. Auctioneer Dave Mayer also did a great job with the auction and all the money raised here goes to funding next year's scholarship program.



It was a busy weekend for sure, but also a fun filled one. And really, how could it not be when you're hanging out with a couple hundred snowmobilers? I extend a big thank you to the convention committee for a job well done. On a closing note of optimism, Mark Hazzard pointed out to me that when you looked around at the banquet crowd Saturday night, there was a lot less gray hair than we'd seen in the past. While I may have gray hair myself, this made me smile. We are thankful for our seasoned, dedicated people, but we also feel hopeful that the future of snowmobiling looks bright with many younger people joining in. See you at next year's convention!

Love to Ride

By Cody Gray, Safety Education Administrator

Greetings Illinois Snowmobilers from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Safety Education section. It was nice to see and meet you at the 51st IASC Convention in Rockford last month. I love to ride. Love to Ride is what I want to share with you. I reside in Morgan County, Region 10, where the snow often melts faster than it falls. Central Illinois Ditch Riders, I neglected finding you before attending the convention but know that I am excited to join you at future meetings.

Coming from “the south” and loving to ride, is like a guardsman; traveling as far as the mission demands, one time a month, for a weekend, to get your work in. Even writing that, sounds incredible... we (Dad and I, the man that forced his snowmobile passion onto me and my sister) ride in northeast Wisconsin for a long weekend every winter. Married with three daughters, I have a faraway dream of a time when I can spend more weekends on a sled and less at dance competitions.

As a child, my father spent summers working at HoneyRock Camp, hundreds of wooded acres in the beautiful North Woods of Three Lakes, Wisconsin. He has returned to Oneida County since that time, traveling to ride for as long as I can remember. I have been included for thirty-eight of those years. This area of the country and this hobby became part of our family. If I were telling the truth, I would tell you that as a kid, I did not appreciate the 500-mile trek from our home to Northern Wisconsin. If you have kids or grandkids that get car sick, you will sympathize with me, “Here is a bag, we will be there in just over 7 hours if we don’t stop.” Without Dad’s love for snowmobiling and his commitment to share this with our



family, I would not Love to Ride. Now I sit at my desk impatiently waiting for him to send the dates, share the times, ask me to open my calendar and get a weekend “locked.” I understand why Dad took time to head north in the spring, summer, and fall for workdays. The time must be spent preparing the sleds so we can trek north when our time comes, and we can

ride on the fresh snow and the beautifully groomed trails.

Like my father, you also put in the time and work throughout the year, working the trails, communicating with the public, securing grants, waiting for that magical moment when the stars align... the snow hits the ground and you find your sled, because I think you would agree, we all just love to ride.

I can be reached by email cody.gray@illinois.gov or by phone (217)843-1530. Thank you.



2023 Yamaha Challenge Winners

By Patrick Pendergast

This year's IASC Convention was held at the Hilton Garden Inn, located in Rockford. With the convention taking a new turn last year to a one-day event, it was a busy, event-filled day. One of the events that helps fill the day is the awarding of Yamaha Challenge prizes to deserving students who took an instructor-taught snowmobile safety class. 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. An online course does not qualify the student. Once a student has completed and passed the course, they are placed in one of three 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 '22-'23 was Charlie Wick from LaSalle. Charlie took his safety course at Leone's in LaSalle with instructors Bill Brown, Rick Vann, and Kevin Boggs teaching. This year's 2nd place winner was Emma Knudtson from Geneseo. Emma's class took place in Lena at the Lena Community Center with Suzy Giese instructing. Our first-place winner for the '22-'23 season was Taylor Brandt. Taylor is from Marseilles and also received his safety training at Leone's as well with Bill Brown, Rick Vann, and Kevin Boggs as instructors. 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. A big thank you goes out to Yamaha Motors for their continued support of the Yamaha Challenge. Our Snowmobile Safety Education Program could never provide the quality of prizes that we award without their support. I would also like to thank this year's helmet sponsors, Region 6, HennHouse BBQ and Region 2. These generous sponsors make clothing 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. These students are the future of this sport that we all hold so dear to our hearts. Thanks again to everyone who takes time out of their busy schedules to make snowmobile safety an important part of our snowmobiling community.

1st

Taylor Brandt

2nd

Emma Knudtson

3rd

Charlie Wick

CLUBS 2023-2024

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Paul Gris
773-545-7222
sledhead1584@comcast.net
1st Wednesday @ 8:00 PM
Call or Email for Information
N Nashville Ave., Chicago, IL

Region 2 Director

CRAIG ADAMS
815-687-2844
craigmadams@yahoo.com

Harvard Snow Gophers

Doug Frenk
847-899-5463
dcfrenk@outlook.com
Meets 7:00pm 3rd Wednesday
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

Polar Bares

Mike Flaherty
847-848-1204
flaherty3107@comcast.net
Meets 7pm 2nd Tuesday
Sides Out Eatery,
4018 Roberts Rd, Island Lake

Richmond Trailblazers

Chris Stevens
815-216-5669
richmond.trailblazers@gmail.com
Meets 7:30pm 1st & 3rd Thursday
Rusty Nail Saloon
4520 Ringwood Rd, Ringwood

Spring Grove Sno-Grover

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
dandampzt@gmail.com

Blackhawk Snowblazers of Oregon

Keith Stranberg
815-508-9129
kstranberg@gmail.com
Meets 7:15pm 2nd Tuesday VFW,
13010 Washington St, Oregon IL

Byron Sno-Blasters

Andy Politsch
815-712-5619
andypol911@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
Meeting location rotates,
call for location
45 Church St, German Valley

Midway Sno-Busters

Nick Kuhlmeier
815-703-3830
nkuhl22@hotmail.com
Meets 7pm 2nd Wednesday
Call for location

Neboshone Trail Riders

Mike Johnson
815-985-5589
mdj_55@yahoo.com
Meets 7pm 1st Monday
Fritz's Wooden Nickel
208 Walnut St., Stillman Valley, IL

Oaks Ridge Riders

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

Polo Snow Rangers

Ashley Nelson
815-590-2595
ashleynhouck@yahoo.com
Meets 7pm, 2nd Tuesday
Chesty P's Bar
104 E Mason St, Polo

Rochelle Rail Riders

Stuart White
815-716-0843
swhite61068@gmail.com
Meets 7pm 3rd Tuesday
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
Uptown Lanes /
Back Alley Bar & Grill
106 W. 2nd St., Byron

Winnebago Sno-Gliders

Dave DeRosso
815-985-4807
detailingbydavid@gmail.com
Meets 7pm 3rd Tuesday
Bago Lounge
817 N Elida St., Winnebago

CLUBS 2023-2024

Region 4 Director
PAT PENDERGAST
309-335-4095
ppendergast@knox.edu

Corn Belt Driftbusters
Bob Herberg
 309-797-1284
 rjherberg@gmail.com
 Meets 7pm 1st Tuesday
 The O Kitchen & Tap
 306 10th Ave, Orion

Prairie Drifters
Phil Hennenfent
 309-299-4247
 phil@hennhousebbq.com
 Meets 7pm 1st Monday Genio's
 249 N Division St. Woodhull

Region 5 Director
RODNEY KAMPFRANZ
815-236-4028
rkampfranz@yahoo.com

DeKane Sno-Trackers
Ron Julian
 630-546-8058
 rgjulian@comcast.net
 Meets 7:00pm 1st Wednesday
 HD Rockers, Maple Park

Elgin Cold Ducks
Dale Marting
 224-209-3777
 dmmail101@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 3rd Tuesday
 Joes Place
 19716 E Grant Hwy., Marengo

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

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
 bpfild@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

Pearl City 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
 815-249-5342
 thumpr161@aol.com
 Meets 1st & 3rd Tuesday, Oct thru
 March at Beggars Pizza
 15600 S. Cicero, Oak Forest, IL
 Call or email with questions.

I&M Trailblazers
Dale Fritz
 815-467-2836
 dalefritz2@comcast.net
 Meets 7pm 2nd Thursday
 Channahon Lanes
 25306 W. Eames St., Channahon

IL Valley Winter Sports Club
Anthony Caselli
 815-712-1552
 antcaselli@yahoo.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.net
 Meets 6:30pm 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
POSITION VACANT
815-210-0587
iasc.illinois@gmail.com

Winona 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
atkinscrew@gmail.com

Woodford County Snowmobile Club
Shawn McGinnis
 309-508-7189
 sbmscm72101@yahoo.com
 Meets 7:30pm 1st Monday
 Kouri's Grill
 Route 116, Germantown Hills

Region 10 & 11 Director
CARSON HANNER
217-948-5579
channerfarms@yahoo.com

Heartland Polar Riders
Kyle Timmermann
 618-973-4331
 tmann1987@gmail.com
 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 MEMBERSHIPS 2023-2024

REGION 1

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

Ray Chevrolet
39 N. US Highway 12
Fox Lake, IL 60020
847-587-3300
info@raychevrolet.com
raychevrolet.com

REGION 2

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

REGION 3

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

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

REGION 4

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

Triple E Sales
1301 Division St.
Orion, IL 61273
309-526-3443
www.tripleesales.com

REGION 5

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

Winners Circle Bar & Grill
50w226 Old State Rd.
Maple Park, IL 60151
815-895-2676

REGION 6

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

REGION 7

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

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

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

REGION 8

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

INDIANA

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

IOWA

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

MICHIGAN

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

MINNESOTA

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

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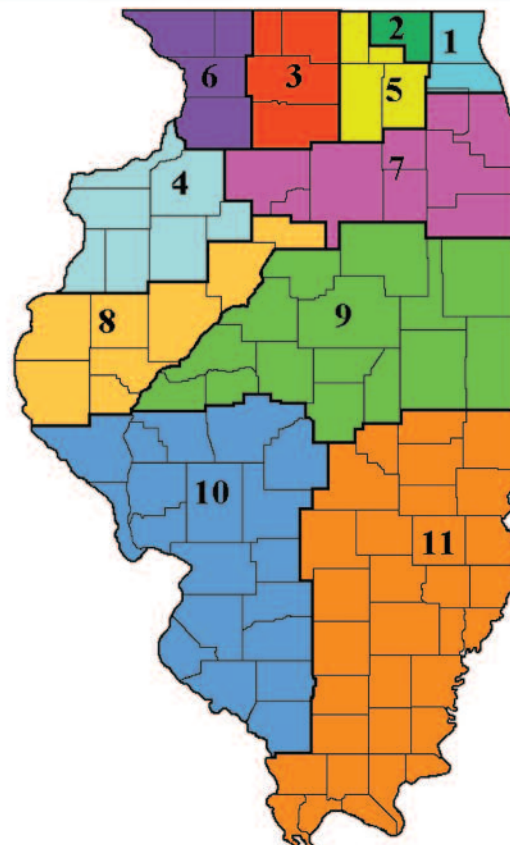
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info@arrowheadgroomers.com

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

Monroe Powersports
2820 County Hwy DR.
Monroe, WI 53566
608-325-5056
www.mpspolaris.com
mpssales@tds.net

CANADA

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



By Dan Dampitz

In Illinois off trail snowmobile operation is technically not trespassing. "It is unlawful for any person to drive or operate any snowmobile on private property, without the

written or verbal consent of the owner or lessee thereof. Any person operating a snowmobile upon lands of another shall stop and identify himself upon the request of the landowner or his duly authorized representative, and, if requested to do so by the landowner shall promptly remove the snowmobile from the premises." (625 ILCS 40/5-1H)

The Illinois Snowmobile Grant program (SNOW) provides financial assistance to eligible local units of government (Section 3010.10 of the Illinois Administrative Code) to assist them in the purchase, construction, maintenance and rehabilitation of public snowmobile areas, trails and facilities in Illinois. The program is funded entirely by snowmobilers through their registration fees (625 ILCS 40/8-1 and 9-1).



Remembering John Dee

By Dwain "Duey" Stadie

As you have probably already heard by now, on November 14th John Dee passed away unexpectedly. I read a post that summed it up well saying, "If you snowmobile in the Midwest, you know John Dee." Man, is that the truth. I think every snowmobiler I know, myself included of course, has followed John's weather reports for years.



It started every fall with the seasonal outlook. We all couldn't wait to see John's predictions for snowfall in the Midwest. Then every season, you'd look at John's weather reports just to see if it was going to snow in your neighborhood, or anywhere in the Midwest. If you were going somewhere snowmobiling, you started checking John's weather reports about two weeks before and then daily until the morning you left for the trip. Also looking at the Northwoods trail cam network he had, you'd check that trail pic that was being taken 200 feet from the motel you were going to stay at. You could make sure the trail looked good and that they were grooming it.

Who didn't enjoy "snow church" with Rev. Snowflake? What a fun time watching that. His website was famous for good reason. John had text and graphic weather forecasts that we all loved, the trail cam network, the weekly journal, guest shots, a discussion board, the Northwoods directory, and the historical weather, where you could check out stats from years before.

John Dee grew up in Park Ridge, northwest of Chicago. After graduating from high school, he went off to the University of Wyoming where he took his first meteorology class. Later he transferred to Purdue University where he received his bachelor's degree in meteorology.

John spent a year in Washington DC working for the National

Weather Service. Then for the next 25 years he worked at a company he started called Global Weather Monitoring doing private forecasts for commodity traders. John, as someone early to the lifestyle of "working from home", moved to the Keweenaw Peninsula. After moving to the Keweenaw Peninsula, he started his weather forecasting and journal on his website, johndee.com. He also spent many years doing the weather forecasts for two radio stations, of course adding in his fun commentary.

After the success of his website, John started the "Make-A-Wish John Dee Snowmobile Ride In." During the time he had the ride in, it raised on average over \$100,000 a year for the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

In 2002, John met Nora, the love of his life, and they were married in October of 2004. In August of 2009, John became father to his daughter, Grace, whom he adored. John loved his family, his friends, riding the backcountry on his snowmobile, walking with his dogs, a swim in Lake Superior, and a good snowstorm.

I never met John personally. However, we had many email conversations and he posted many of my pictures on his website. Like most of you, I thought of him, Nora, and Grace as personal friends because of his Sunday night journal posts. He invited us into his world with his weekly report and photos, and I looked forward to reading his journal every week.

John was most surely a snowmobile legend that we will all miss. Nora, Grace and all his family are in all our prayers. As John always signed off, Good Night from the Keweenaw – JD.





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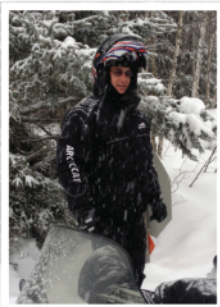


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+ Safety & Education +



Pat Pendergast

As I sit here writing my article for the January edition (yes, I am ahead of the deadline, thank you very much), we have had a 2+ inches of November snow. I got one of our sleds out and rode around the yard like a 5-year-old on his/her 1st Kitty Cat. Even if trails were open, which most were not as of this writing, there was not the minimum 4 inches of snow most public trail systems require for riding.

Speaking of public trails, were you able to assist your local club or others to mark their trail system(s)? Do you understand signage and realize its purpose? Trail signs are not just there for directions on which way to turn. They also alert you to obstacles, hazards, bridges, etc. Club members go to a lot of work to keep total strangers safe and accident free on rides through their trail systems. Signage is also in place to keep people from trespassing into areas close or connected to the property that clubs have been granted permission to maintain a trail through. So please do not take signage for granted. It serves a very important purpose in our trail systems, just as it does on our public roadways when we are driving automobiles.

Did you get your son or daughter to an instructor-taught safety class? I hope you were able to fit one of these all-day classes into your schedule. You will have a tough time convincing me that the onlines offer anything more than convenience when it comes to kids learning to be a safe and courteous snowmobiler. Experienced snowmobilers, with years of riding experience under their belts, can provide so much more insight into all facets of riding than the onlines. There really is no comparison which educational method

offers kids the better value for their time spent learning to snowmobile safely. I realize there are most likely ways we can change/improve what we are doing to make it a more modern and interesting experience for the younger generation of students, but we also need parents on the same page as us. Is it a matter of revised teaching methods? Do we make changes to our scheduling of classes? We also need to remind folks that all of our instructors are volunteers, many who have full time jobs and families as well. Plus, most instructors are riders who enjoy riding, so there is that. We need to come up with a solution that serves the needs of instructors, families, and students without losing sight of our mission. I think the online class has its place in certifying older riders new to the sport, those who need the certification to satisfy some other requirement, etc. But I feel our new, younger riders need the education from experienced snowmobilers. Anyway, enough of Pat on his Safety Ed. soapbox. I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a safe New Years, especially if you were fortunate enough to get to where there was snow for the Christmas/New Years' sled trips that we all know and love. Please keep safe sledding in mind as you prepare for the next ride. Whether you are riding right out of your garage or traveling to another state, keep in mind everything that can and will affect snowmobile safety. Ride safe, everyone.

?

QUESTION

How can you protect the environment when riding your snowmobile?

a) Avoid riding in large groups.

b) Ride only when the ground is covered by at least 4 inches of snow.

c) Ride only in residential areas.

d) Wear a helmet approved by the Department of Transportation

Answer: b) Ride only when the ground is covered by at least 4 inches of snow.

Safety Class Schedule

Class Date	Location	Address	Time	Registration
1/6/24	Kane County Forest Preserve Headquarters	1996 Kirk Rd., Geneva	8:00am-4:00pm	Ron 630-546-8058
1/20/24	McHenry County Sheriffs Office	2200 N Seminary Ave., Woodstock	8:00am-4:00pm	Sue 815-385-1947 Suzygiese8484@att.net

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.

The Safe Riders! Snowmobile Safety Awareness Program provides basic essentials about snowmobile safety and includes short quizzes 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 Snowmobile Administrators (IASA), and the International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association (ISMA) with financial assistance from the Recreational Trails Program administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation — Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

Test Your Snowmobiling Knowledge

Visit www.saferiderssafetyawareness.org to test your knowledge about safe 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

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