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SNOWMOBILER

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The Official
Publication of
the Illinois
Association of
Snowmobile
Clubs

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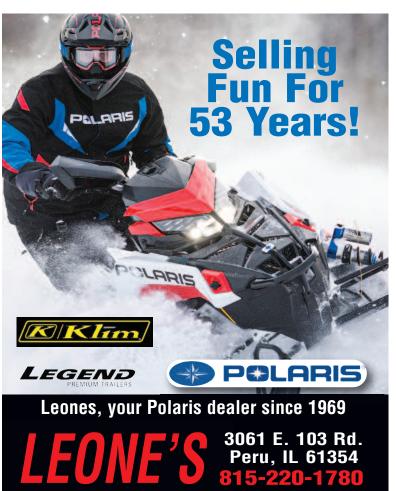
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Important updates from the IASC's 2nd Vice President, including what the "30 by 30" plan could mean for organized snowmobiling.







PRESIDENT'S DESK



It's hard to sit down and write an article after such a sad month for snowmobilers. I know we still have about a month left of our season, but with no snow forecasted, our season here in Illinois is likely done.

Kai Steward

I would like to thank all of our volunteers for being so

dedicated to the sport. Illinois snowmobilers are special. We spend hours upon hours putting in trails that we may or may not be able to ride. I hope you all were able to get together with your club and remember seasons past where we did ride through the months of February and March.

State raffle tickets are available through your club or please let the IASC office know if you need tickets. The raffle will be held March 12th, at the IASC meeting in Rochelle.

Scholarship applications are due April 1st.

Kai Steward



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November 9th, 2024



52nd Annual IASC Convention

Hilton Garden Inn Rockford 7675 Walton St. Rockford, IL 61108 815-229-3322

Rooms are \$129 a night plus tax A room block will be held until 10/9/24 For more details, visit www.ilsnowmobile.com/convention











By Dwain "Duey" Stadie

December 4th was the Christmas Party for the Hampshire White Riders Snowmobile Club. It was held this year on a Monday evening at The Red Ox Restaurant and Bar instead of our normal Wednesday night meeting date. The Red Ox is closed on Mondays and opened just to host our private party, Thank you very much! Members brought items for the Hampshire Burlington Food Pantry. Members also collected items from local businesses that we raffled off and then gave the proceeds to the food pantry so they could purchase items still needed.

First, we started the evening with a short meeting followed by dinner. The club paid for dinner and drinks, and the Red Ox gave us three menu dinner options to choose from. The first option was baked tilapia with lemon butter, garlic mashed potatoes, green beans, and salad. Another option was baked chicken, with garlic mashed potatoes, green beans, and salad. Lastly was spaghetti with meatballs and salad. Dinners came with your choice of pop, coffee, tea, or draft beer. After dinner, we had our raffles. We finished up the night with people horse trading some of the prizes they received, you know the Polaris people who won the Arctic Cat stuff, and so on.

I'd like to thank Jodi Fields and The Red Ox for putting together a great evening. I'd like to thank all the businesses who donated prizes to the party that turned into additional funds for the food pantry, Allen's Corner Diner, Arlington Fire & Safety, AHW John Deer, Copper Barrel Restaurant,

Coon Creek Country Days, Cruisin Bar & Grill, Fredrick Funeral Home, Goebert's Pumpkin Farm, Hampshire Social, Hart's Garage, Hampshire Car Wash, Heartland Bank & Trust, Klein's Farm & Garden Market, KB Crane, The Kave, Lafarge Decorative Stone, Luxor Nails, Lazar's BP Station, Maple & Hash Dinner, Moore Than Clean, Napa Auto Parts, Niko's Tavern, Neuman's Bar, Outpost Tavern, Petersen's Fuels, Red Ox Restaurant & Bar, Sammy's Mexican Grill, and Tuscan Wine & Spirits.



Also thank you to everyone who collected these raffle items, and helped with the party; Mike Bensko, Dan Eikler, Keith Lima, Becky Haseman, Scott Haseman, Lisa Seyller, Chris Moore, Ed Brettschneider, Genice Brettschneider, Steve Gustafson, Jeff Meindl, Kathy Meindl, Jerry Heresil, Kent Nussbaum, Bruce Hanley, Nicole Stadie, and Dwain Stadie.

A fun evening with dinner and friends is one of many reasons to join a snowmobile club. Thanks again to everyone. Hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year.



Out with the old, in with the new trail signs. The signage project will be directing riders to fuel and food stops on the Lena Blackhawk Trailblazers' trail system in Region 6. The current signs were in desperate need of replacement. Old age and vandalism had taken their toll. I heard about Ski-Doo's PASS grant program for snowmobile clubs at this year's International Snowmobile Congress hosted by the IASC in Moline this past June. I suggested that the Trailblazers apply for a PASS grant to help with the cost of new trail signage. The club agreed to the much-needed trail sign project, and I applied for the PASS grant to help fund our project.

The Trailblazers were notified late fall that SkiDoo had selected them to receive a PASS grant to help fund their project. Then the race was on to get signs made and on the trails. There was discussion on what we wanted the new town signs to look like, how many we needed, size, where to order from, and much more at club meetings. Once, we received the mock up from the business making the signs, all club members who mark trails reviewed their town signs for their trail to make sure they were correct. After revisions, the town signs were ordered. The town signs showed up and it was crunch time to get the signs in place for this snowmobile season. Club members came together to assemble the new signs to lumber and get them in place on the trails.

The signs will be a great addition to our trail system this year and for many years to come. I would like to personally thank Kory Polhill for all the time and effort he put forth towards the new town signs from the start to end of the process. Thank you to the Ski-Doo Snow PASS program for selecting our club. SkiDoo sponsored many projects this year throughout different states and countries. To see the other projects they supported go to Facebook and search #SkiDooPASS.

Region Meeting Schedule:

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

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 Damptz

815-985-6071 dandamptz@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 ppenderg@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

Contact IASC

Call or Email for Information

Region 9

Director: Bob Atkins

309-397-6922 atkinscrew@gmail.com Call or Email for Information & Location

Region 10 & 11

Director: Carson Hanner

217-948-5579 channerfarms@yahoo.com Call or Email for Information & Location







EVENTS

FEBRUARY

February 3rd:

9th annual Holyland Snowflyers Vintage Piston Burners Winter Show & Ride the Bol 120 track free, tubing, groomer rides, food and beverage, vintage show, meat & bucket raffles, girl scouts selling desserts and ride the bol with your vintage snowmobile.: Kiekhaefer Park, Fond du Lac, WI Visit Holylandsnowflyers.com

February 4rd:

Meat Raffle
Starting @ 1pm
Proceeds benefit the Lena
Blackhawk Trailblazers
Snowmobile Club
Mulligan's Sports Bar and Grill
106 E Railroad St
Lena, IL 61048

MARCH

March 3rd:

Meat Raffle – Hosted by the Sno-Pearls at2pm-5pm Little John's – Pearl City, IL Call Tom at 815-977-0542 for more information

March 9th:

Fundraiser with Hypnotist Steve Falcon – Hosted by the Winter Warriors Starting at 7pm Apple River Event Center Apple River, IL

APRIL

April 27th:

Celebrating 50 Years –
Blackhawk Snow Blazers
Snowmobile Club of Oregon
Starting at 5pm
Entertainment by
Magic of Brian Holt at 7pm
VFW Club
1310 West Washington St.
Oregon, IL
For more information email
blackhawksnowblazers@gmail.com

JUNE

June 13th-15th

56th International
Snowmobile Congress
Snowmobile enthusiasts,
manufacturers, suppliers, and
snowmobile organizations
from around the world meet to
celebrate the sport.
Radisson Hotel and Conference
Center Green Bay
2040 Airport Dr.
Green Bay, WI 54313
www.snowmobilers.org/isc/

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



By Dan Damptz

Funds for the Snowmobile Trail Establishment Fund (STEF) grant program come from a portion of snowmobile registration fees collected by the state. The grants provide financial aid to eligible private snowmobile

clubs and organizations in Illinois to develop and maintain additional public trails and facilities in the state, including groomer operating and maintenance costs.

Blackhawk Snow Blazers Snowmobile Club of Oregon

By Stan Bergstrom

Blackhawk Snow Blazers Snowmobile Club of Oregon, IL will be celebrating their 50th year in 2024. The first meeting to establish a club was January 21, 1974. The club was named the Blackhawk Trail Blazers and was changed to Blackhawk Snow Blazers on

March 28, 1974, due to another club being called the Trail Blazers.

A celebration will be held at the Oregon VFW Club located at 1310 West Washington St., Oregon, IL on April 27th, 2024. Social hour begins at 5pm, food at 6pm and Magic of Brian Holt around 7pm. Please join us in celebrating this milestone.



Any inquiries may be sent to blackhawksnowblazers@gmail.com



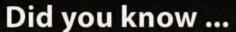
Sunday Riding with Friends

By Dwain "Duey" Stadie

It was a sunny Sunday with over a foot of snow on the ground. What a great day to go riding with friends. But sometimes, staying home and playing with the grandkids can be even more fun. I hope everyone found a way to have some fun in the snow this season.







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www.snowmobilers.org





Meet Matt Linn (Mr. King Cat or Mr. Arctic Cat)

By Dwain "Duey" Stadie

Dino Thanos, publisher of the Illinois Snowmobiler, called me one day and asked if I knew who Matt Linn was and if I was interested in seeing his Arctic Cat collection. I, of course, said "yes" and "yes" to these two questions. Being a die-hard Arctic Cat fan, I was ready to view this amazing collection I had first heard about six or seven years ago.



Dino, a couple of his friends, my son Matt, and I all arrived at Matt Linn's home within minutes of each other. Matt Linn was in the driveway to meet us, and was arguably one of the most welcome, kind guys you will ever meet. Looking at all the garage doors, the first thing a guy thinks is "do you know the amount of stuff you can put in a garage like this?"

We walked in the door, and I was immediately amazed. The first thing I saw was shelving all the way around and Arctic Cat Snowmobiles from floor to ceiling, three high. Sitting on the floor right in the center is the four-cylinder King Cat. This is the most sought-after sled for any collector, and for good reason. It is powered by the Kawasaki 800 4 cylinder; a beast of a motor and I believe only 123 or 124 were made. It is a beautiful sled with an impressive dashboard featuring a speedo, four-cylinder head temperature gauges and two kill switches, each one for two cylinders, which I found very interesting.

What sits next to this, is the other baddest muscle sled of the era, the 800 Hirth three-cylinder King Cat. I have heard several numbers over the years, but I believe 150 to 170 were built. It is another beautiful sled

and on this one there were three kill switches, one for each cylinder. Again, remarkably interesting.

There were impressive sleds everywhere, but the next thing I noticed were several Arctic Cat factory oval racer sleds on the shelves. If you are familiar with the Eagle River Derby, these are the type of sleds raced on the oval track in Eagle River. They are even more limited in numbers than the King Cats with roughly twelve produced per year for the racing season. There were also a couple of beautiful ZR's, one with only two tenths of a mile on it.

Most collectors have the classic Kitty Cat in their collection, and Matt had one I was looking at. I told him this is an early model, estimating it must be from the first year or two of production. Matt explained to me that the Kitty Cat ran from 1972 to 1999 and the one in front of me is a 1971 prototype. We all know about prototypes of snowmobiles, cars, and every other motor vehicle, but who ever thought of prototypes of Kitty Cats?

In my small collection of Arctic Cat stuff compared to Matt's, I have a few autographs I have gotten over the years from famous people in the world of Arctic Cat. Matt has lots and lots of autographed stuff everywhere you look, including, impressively, a Tucker Hibbard race sled that he autographed. Let me say that again, he has a Tucker Hibbard full sized autographed race snowmobile.

After looking at all the snowmobiles, including a new Catalyst, all the boxes of parts, and inventory he bought from a couple of dealers that went out of business, he asked if we wanted to see all the accessories in the basement. And, of course, we certainly did. Well, when you walk down the stairs, and the Arctic Cat man cave comes into view, it is quite the sight. That is when I heard one the guys say, "wow it's obvious you're not married" to which Matt replied, "yeah I am"! She must be the greatest, most understanding woman ever. My wife never said anything when I had three snowmobiles in the garage, but Matt has ninety-five... God bless his wife.



The mancave had it all: clothing, helmets, signs, posters, toy snowmobiles, a case full of perfect gauges, classic old patches, and cool accessory kits. I saw a box that said Kitty Cat Light kit. Matt opened it and showed me it had a light to mount on the hood, a couple of wires and a little chrome box that the lantern battery went in that powered the light. Everything you would think would be in an Arctic Cat cave and so, so much more. I then saw a gum ball type candy machine and, as I approached, noticed it had Arctic Cat candy in it, that looked like M&M's. I had never seen this before, but I would guess it was in the dealer showroom for the kids, and some adults too, of course.



Arctic Cat truly has been a diverse company over the years, making all kinds of stuff, and Matt had it all. From minibikes, boats, outboard motors, lawn mowers (both push and riding), personal watercraft, to ATV's and UTV's. While Arctic Cat did not make it, he had an outboard motor that the lower shaft folded up and it fit into a handy little travel case. I had never seen one before, but he happened to have three. He also had an impressive collection of 1950's Johnson outboard motors.

After about two hours, everybody calmed down a bit, and I was able to ask Matt some questions about himself. It all started long ago, when his dad, uncles and grandpa were all Arctic Cat enthusiasts. He grew up in Illinois and worked as an outboard motor mechanic. He has been married for thirty plus years to a very understanding women and now works in sales, selling equipment for the tree industry like chippers, log splitters, log grinders and so on. He also talked fondly of all the famous

people in the Arctic Cat world he has met over the years. These included Roger Skeme, the Hibberts, Blair Morgen, and Edgar Hetteen, who is considered by most to be the inventor of the modern-day snowmobile and founder of Arctic Cat.

Matt told an exceptional story about meeting Edgar Hetteen for lunch and hanging out with him for the afternoon. He asked Edgar dozens of questions and told him about his collection. Edgar autographed three of Matt's Arctic Cat legends books for him and he said Edgar paused and said I bet you never heard of a House Cat. Matt replied, "I have two of them", and Edgar smiled and laughed. I had never heard of a House Cat myself, but Matt had one in the box in the Arctic Man Cave and showed me. It was a blow-up sled that resembles a late 1960's Arctic Cat Panther that was for sledding down a hill. Matt said he purchased another House Cat shortly after that, he autographed it himself, and sent it to Edgar.

Matt's collection is divided between his Illinois home and a place he has in northern Wisconsin. Matt invited us to see the other half of the collection in Wisconsin, and if we do it in the winter and bring our sleds, we will all go for a ride together too. I had to say "yes", and the adventure will continue, what a fun day that's going to be, so stay tuned for part two of this story and collection. Thank You sooooo very much Matt for inviting us into your home and sharing this awesome collection with us.





By Patrick Pendergast

This year's "Excellent Adventure" found us going back to a familiar and favorite area; the NE quadrant of Minnesota. I don't know why I call it familiar because I always get lost! The trail system and snow conditions are some of the most enjoyable our group has experienced, and it keeps us coming back for more.



Moose Lake was once again our launch point as it isn't a terribly far drive and offers easy access to some of the major trail systems in the area. This was my first attempt using Ride Command vs. paper maps. Being a techno idiot, it was a big adjustment for me, but for the most part, it worked well. I still have a lot to learn, but I had a good group for support and assistance. Speaking of groups, this year's crew consisted of myself, Bob Hennenfent, and Josh Curry, along with Dennis DeCrane who decided to take his life in his own hands and join us. It was Dennis' first higher-mileage travel trip, and he was excited to go.

My note taking wasn't as good this year as in years' past, but maybe that is to the reader's benefit. We headed northeast on 47, skirted Duluth

and then caught the North Shore State Trail and headed towards Two Harbors. After some food and fuel at Two Harbors, we pushed on. Snow had begun and got increasingly heavier throughout the afternoon. We made a quick stop at Temperance River State Park for a few pics then on to the Americann in Tofte just as darkness was setting in. It was cold and windy as we got in with 200 miles for the day. They serve a pretty decent frozen pizza there, and that really hit the spot after riding all day.

On Tuesday, we kept on northeastward and then caught the Gunflint Trail headed back into the Boundary Waters area for lunch at the Gunflint Lodge. Trail conditions weren't the greatest as that trail is one way in and one way out and apparently doesn't get groomed regularly. But we had a good lunch there before heading back east with Grand Marais as our final destination for the day. We made it to the Aspen Lodge after 146 miles of riding on mostly great trails.

On Wednesday, we decided to backtrack southwest for a few miles on the North Shore before catching the Tomahawk Tail heading northwest towards Ely. The Tomahawk is an awesome trail full of twists and turns in the trees, some cool bridges and great scenery. We stayed at the Grand Ely Lodge that evening. It's not the cheapest place you will ever stay, but a really nice hotel with a great restaurant attached. And Bob got us a discount on the rate, so there's that! Excellent stop, regardless. It had clean, nice rooms and a great restaurant in the facility.

Thursday brought really cold temperatures and high winds making for a chilly beginning to the day. Obviously I screwed up my tracking as I don't show many miles for the day. But we got to start the day on the Taconite, one really fun stretch of trail, especially from Ely to Tower. Lots of hills, turns, and whoopties to make your stomach feel funny.



You know when at the top of a hill, there is a caution sign pointing straight down that the bottom is going to fall out of the trail! A great ride where we stopped at Tower for a hot chocolate warm up, then on west and north where we caught the Arrowhead Trail for a stretch, but decided it was a bit cold for a long ride on a grade. Heading west and south, we stopped for lunch at the Montana Cafe in Cook. That was a good lunch and great place to thaw out as temps were not much above zero. The hot meal was a real treat. We made our way back to the Taconite for a short stretch, then caught 59 heading south with Eveleth as our afternoon's final destination. Riding on the Laurentian Trail, we came upon the Loren Filter Memorial Shelter. It is a very nice set up with stacks of firewood, a wind break, and a fire ring, so how could we not stop and sit around a fire for a bit? It was a couple of degrees above zero which made the fire feel that much better. A couple of fellow sledders stopped by and enjoyed the fire with us for a while. After the fire, we headed towards Eveleth, our spot chosen to end the day. We crossed the Rouchleau Mine pit on the Hwy. 53 bridge in between Virginia and Eveleth, aka the Thomas Rukavina Memorial Bridge. That bridge is over 200 feet above the mine, more than 1000 feet long and has a path on it separated from the main highway for snowmobiles to cross. It is a pretty awesome place to stop for a few pics. Arriving at the Super 8 in Eveleth before dark ended an awesome, but cold day of riding. The hot tub felt good that night for sure.

Friday was our final day of riding to get us back to Moose Lake and the rig. We traveled south on 59, then west on 51 around Brookston on some awesome trails. The marked trail dropped us down onto what was obviously a river that I hadn't planned on riding, EVER! 'OI Lucky here went first and I don't mind admitting, I pinned that throttle until I saw a trail marker on the opposite bank, which was probably a mile

down river. It seemed much further at the time. It was beautiful and smooth riding, but the wind and snow had covered up any sled tracks, so I just wasn't really confident jumping on a river and hoping to find a trail on the other side. I got to the other side and looked behind me and here comes the rest of my group. What trusting souls they are! After what has become my normal struggle to get back to the hotel at Moose Lake, and it was a dandy right through town this time, we got the sleds loaded and gear inside before dark. We celebrated the trip with an excellent meal at the Route 61 Lounge and Bowling Alley. That place can really crank out the food, even when it's super busy. It is good food, too. From steaks to seafood to burgers, I can see why it is so busy whenever we go there. And you can go bowling if you want. How can you top that? We had a great trip, lots of smooth trails, plenty of laughs and more good memories. And Dennis lived to tell about it! I always feel fortunate to have a good group to travel with. It really makes for a fun week of riding. Like I always say, if you haven't been on a Minnesota snowmobile trip, you should definitely give it a try.



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Sno-Kommanders of Lake County Skip Schaefer

224-627-1406 snokommanders@gmail.com 2nd Monday @ 7:00 PM EL Puerto Restaurant 200 N Forest Ave., Fox Lake, IL

Windy City Sledheads Paul Gris

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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

CHUTES 2023-2024

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-Grovers Dave Rudolph

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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 ppenderg@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 Genisio'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 stangslayerss@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 bpfile@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 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 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

Midwest Trail Blazers Robin Wall

217-433-4503 rbarw@live.com Meets 6:00pm 2nd Thursday Gusto's Family Pizzeria 10230 Old Rte. 36, Dawson, IL

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

Fast Trac Traction

1001 Old Rand Rd., Suite 103 Wauconda, IL 60084 800-497-3485 info@fasttraction.com

Neilsen Enterprises

130 S Milwaukee Ave. Lake Villa, IL 60046 847-356-3000 info@neilsens.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

Rockford Tech Systems, Inc.

3549 Merchandise Dr. Rockford, IL 61109 815-874-7786

Skinners Auto Body

320 Reed St. Pecatonica, IL 61063 815-239-1853 skinnersautobody@yahoo.com

Specialty Floors

P0 Box 8098 Rockford, IL 61126 779-368-0333 dirtygyms@comcast.net

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

Huntley American Legion Post 673

11712 Coral St. Huntley, IL 60142 847-669-8485 www.huntleylegion.org

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

Winners Circle Bar & Grill

50w226 Old State Rd. Maple Park, IL 60151 815-895-2676

REGION 6

Eastland Motor Sports

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

Full Throttle Power Sports

11003 US Route 20 W Lena, IL 61048 815-369-2153 full-throttle-powersports.com

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

Leone's

3061 E 103rd Road Peru, IL 61364 815-220-1780 leonespolaris@hotmail.com

Little Bennys Garage

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

Rich's Yamaha

14354 S Archer Ave. Lockport, IL 60441 815-838-8130 richsyamaha@gmail.com

Talty Polaris

2498 N 15th Rd. Streator, IL 61364 815-586-4895 taltypolaris@fairpoint.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

V&V Insurance Agency

PO Box 159 Creston, IA 52136 563-547-2161 insurance@vandvins.com

MICHIGAL

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.

WISCONSIN

Arrowhead Groomers/ Hamblen Equipment 6351 State Hwy 70 E

St. Germain, WI 54558 715-479-4200 www.arrowheadgroomers.com info@arrowheadgroomers.com

Hayward Visitors Convention Bureau

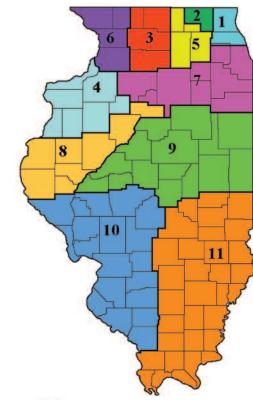
PO Box 1055 Hayward, WI 54843 800-724-2992 www.haywardlakes.com info@haywardlakes.com

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 Damptz

If you're driving over 45 MPH at night, you're over riding your headlights.
Slow down at night. Your

headlights only shine 200 feet.

According to the DNR Snowmobile Safety Training Manual, snowmobilers have a 10-step code of ethics. Number 10: I will stay on marked trails or marked roads open to snowmobiles. I will not snowmobile where prohibited.



By John Pepin, Deputy public information officer Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Supporters and partners joined the Michigan Department of Natural Resources today in Houghton County to celebrate the reopening of a roughly 8-mile segment of snowmobile and off-road vehicle trail devastated by a historic storm in 2018.

In what is likely the Michigan DNR's largest trail repair project, \$10.5 million was spent for work that took contributions of time, money and expertise from numerous sources and years to complete.

"The bottom line of why we do this stuff and why we spend the money and the resources and that's to provide people with an enrichment and in the end it's lifelong memories," said Ron Olson, chief of the DNR's Parks and Recreation Division. "Cause when you ride down a trail like this, what you remember is what's important and the experience that you have."

Olson said the trail also provides opportunities beyond economic benefits and tourism for improved health and well-being. He said a trail outing can help reduce stress.

"You can ease yourself and you can enjoy yourself and forget about some of the problems of the day," Olson said.

The Father's Day flood in June 2018 dumped 7 inches of rain over the Houghton-Hancock area in the span of only a few hours.

Coupled with the steep terrain of the surrounding hills, the rain rushing downhill washed out or plugged numerous culverts and damaged or destroyed roads, homes, streets, trails and other places where the water sought its level.

Among these features was the Dollar Bay to Lake Linden segment of Trail No. 3, which was constructed from a decommissioned railroad line.

In the wake of the historic storm, repair work was needed at 171 sites along the 7.8 miles of recreation trail. Just over 100 culverts needed to be replaced and 34 major washouts needed repair.

"Some of the washouts were 80-feet deep and 240-feet across," said Ron Yesney, Upper Peninsula trails coordinator for the DNR's Parks and Recreation Division.

The damage to this part of the trail was so great that many feared the trail segment might never be rebuilt. But with the help and considerable efforts of several state agencies, lawmakers and other partners, the nearly \$11 million project to reopen the trail has now been realized.

"Getting this project engineered and constructed was a monumental task," Yesney said. "I'm real proud of the effort to restore this trail and I am thankful to all those who participated in the reconstruction."

Speakers at today's ribbon-cutting commemoration, along the trail in Dollar Bay, included Olson, Yesney and DNR U.P. Field Deputy Stacy Welling-Haughey and state 110th District Rep. Greg Markkanen, Daryl St. John of the Keweenaw ATV Club and Ryan LaPorte of the Keweenaw Snowmobile Club.

"This trail is just incredible," Markkanen said. "I want to commend the DNR for their commitment to this project, and they finally get it done, everyone's here today, it's just a very emotional moment."

Markkanen also praised the "phenomenal" work done by construction crews on the trail restoration project.

He applauded restored access to recreation opportunities going north from Dollar Bay to Lake Linden.

"It's so important to our economy, to our local businesses, to our groups and to our communities as a whole," Markkanen said.

Those gathered for the ceremony stood on the trail behind a red ribbon drawn tautly to be cut by St. John in celebration of the trail work's completion.

"Everyone here had something to do with this, please come and stand here with us," Haughey said.

About 60 people attended the event.

Funding for the \$10.5 million project was derived from numerous sources, including \$4 million in a state general fund appropriation allocated through the Michigan Economic Development Corp., \$2 million from the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, \$2.1 million from state ORV funds compiled from fiscal years beginning in 2018, \$1.5 million in federal Land and Water Conservation Fund granting and \$.5 million in snowmobile program money.

DNR partners on the project included the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, the Michigan Department of Transportation, Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget, B&B Contracting, DP Construction, Bacco Construction Co., MD Contracting, Blue Line Sit Solutions and OHM Advisors.

FROM THE DESK OF DON SCHAEFER IASC 2ND VICE PRESIDENT AND REGION 1 DIRECTOR

I have been involved with snowmobile clubs since the early eighties and am currently a member of the Sno-Kommanders of Lake County. Yeah, I'm an old timer and retired. I have been snowmobiling since the winter of 1974, when my dad brought home two 1973 Polaris Colts. Early on, he saw the importance of snowmobile clubs which he passed on to me. He joined a club, became involved, became president of the club, and then became the region trail coordinator. After I graduated college, got married to my wonderful friend/wife, Donna, I too became involved. First with the club, then the region and then with the IASC. I have been to and participated in a lot of meetings, conventions, a couple of congresses and many snowmobile- related events. I even worked on the groomer that was stored in my dad's garage. I have been all over the Northwoods, UP, Yellowstone, Colorado, as well as several times in Canada. It was a family affair back then with my parents and, subsequently, my wife and 2 kids. As I have said many times, snowmobilers are great friends and I have met many during the years.

I'm happy to step up again as the IASC is currently adjusting to many changes. First off, the retirement of Jane Austin. There has been much said and written about Jane and it is a great honor that I have had the privilege to work with her for the past 38 years! Good luck in retirement, Jane. Second, the "retirement" of George Thompson, the IASC president for the last 3 years. George, you may think you retired, but I'm sure we will continue to see you and hope you will not hesitate to provide your wisdom to us. Third, a new president and several new board members, including me. President Kai Steward is no stranger to the IASC and has been involved for many years. I look forward to his leadership and the IASC moving forward. Besides myself, we have Jessica Dicker stepping up as 3rd Vice President. I'm looking forward to your ideas and thoughts, Jessica. Carol, Jennifer, and Katie will continue in their roles as officers. With this group, the IASC is set. Please, as members, if you have problems, ideas or would like to get more involved, please reach out to one of us and we will do our best to help. This transition is a learning experience for all of us.

We snowmobilers have many challenges facing us, maybe not so much in Illinois, but nationwide. The Biden administration has clearly laid out their priorities, from the 30×30 plan to endangered species. There was a story in the last issue about the 30×30 plan. Please educate yourself and be prepared to fight this issue and others, or we will lose some riding areas. Once it starts, it spreads!

Another important issue that just came up is that the New York Stock Exchange requested the Securities and Exchange Commission to propose a rule that would create a new entity called the Natural Asset Company (NAC). The NAC, according to the Proposed Rule, "would hold the rights to ecological performance." These companies would be given license to control lands, both public and private, and would be required not to conduct any "unsustainable activities that lead to the degradation of the ecosystems." In effect, this means that these companies would somehow seek to profit off the lands without using the lands. Whatever they do, it must be "sustainable." Think about that and guess what, they can decide if snowmobiling is sustainable and will be an acceptable use of private, state, or federal land they control.

Consider joining the American Council of Snowmobile Clubs (www.snowmobilers.org) as they fight and represent the interest of snowmobile clubs at the federal Level and work with other groups dealing with issues that affect snowmobiling. Encourage your fellow snowmobilers that are not members of a local club to join a snowmobile club. We need to stick together, fight the fights that affect where we ride!

One last item, I am the fundraising chair as we transition post Jane. Please sell the IASC fundraiser tickets as this helps your club as well as the IASC. The drawing will be at the March 12, 2024, meeting. Please get the sold tickets to me by March 5, 2024, by contacting me at 847-917-4202 or dssschaefer@msn.com. If you need more tickets to sell, they are available and all you need to do is call me. Thank you.





Pat Pendergast

How is it possible that I am writing my last article of the season already? It seems like just yesterday; Danielle was asking me if I was going to submit an October issue... As I sit at home writing this, there is a foot of snow in the fields around my house and we have had some of the best riding west central Illinois has seen in several years. The temps have been bitterly cold, but after a 20-degree day, the snow became pretty nice and safe to ride again. I am also seeing posts that northern Illinois clubs have their groomers out, so hooray for winter's arrival.

I'm guessing you all have experienced riding when the temps and wind chills are crazy cold? You really need to make adjustments to your riding and planned time frame to be outside when the temps dip that low. When I'm on my saddlebag trips, I carry a thermos of hot water or tea with me. That drink of warm liquid really hits the spot and goes right to the core. We also stop a little more often, whether it's trail side or somewhere where we can get inside for a bit. Just moving around promotes a little more blood circulation and really makes a difference in your condition. If one of your stops includes hot chocolate, all the better! Keep an eye on others in your group, as well. As we teach in our safety classes, one of the first signs of hypothermia is shivering. If you see someone in that condition, even just a little, find a place to get inside to take a break and warm up. Sometimes you may come across a warming shelter or a firepit a club has on their trails for this very purpose. If you are not pressed for time or have to be somewhere, I would highly recommend taking the time to enjoy these special places. Remember, it is not the miles, it's the smiles. Some of the best memories of our trips have been when we took the time to start a fire, cook a hot dog and maybe have some hot chocolate by a nice, warm fire. And nine times out of ten, another group of riders will stop and enjoy the fruits of your labor. You are not only protecting yourself from getting too cold, but you're also getting the chance to meet fellow riders, discuss where they've ridden, trail conditions elsewhere in the area you're riding, etc.

Warming spaces don't always have to be a place just built for that purpose. I've noticed up north a lot of fuel stops/convenience stores have snack food, hot chocolate machines, etc., that offer plenty of options for getting your body, as well as your sled, some much needed fuel. Many of them have cool items on display inside, as well. So do not just pay at the pump and blow out of there. One of the colder members in your group will thank you, whether out loud or to themselves. So, when it is bitterly cold out, make some time to take in what an unfamiliar area has to offer, along with the great trails, of course. Nothing can ruin the riding experience for someone other than having them get miserably cold. Why am I sending an article like this in March, you ask? Hey, how often are my articles anything but last minute? As we put the final wraps on this snowmobile season, I hope everyone was able to ride local and possibly get to one of their other favorite areas to ride. With any luck we still have rideable snow as you read this! Safe riding, everyone.



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

You should always find shelter for a hypothermia victim. What step should you take next in treating the person?

- a) Replace wet clothing with dry and give warm liquids.
- c) Give the person a small amount of alcohol.
- b) Get the person up and moving to generate heat.
- d) Rub the victim's hands vigorously.

Answer: a) Replace wet clothing with dry and give warm liquids.



Class Date Location

Address

Time

Registration

No New Classes at this Time



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.

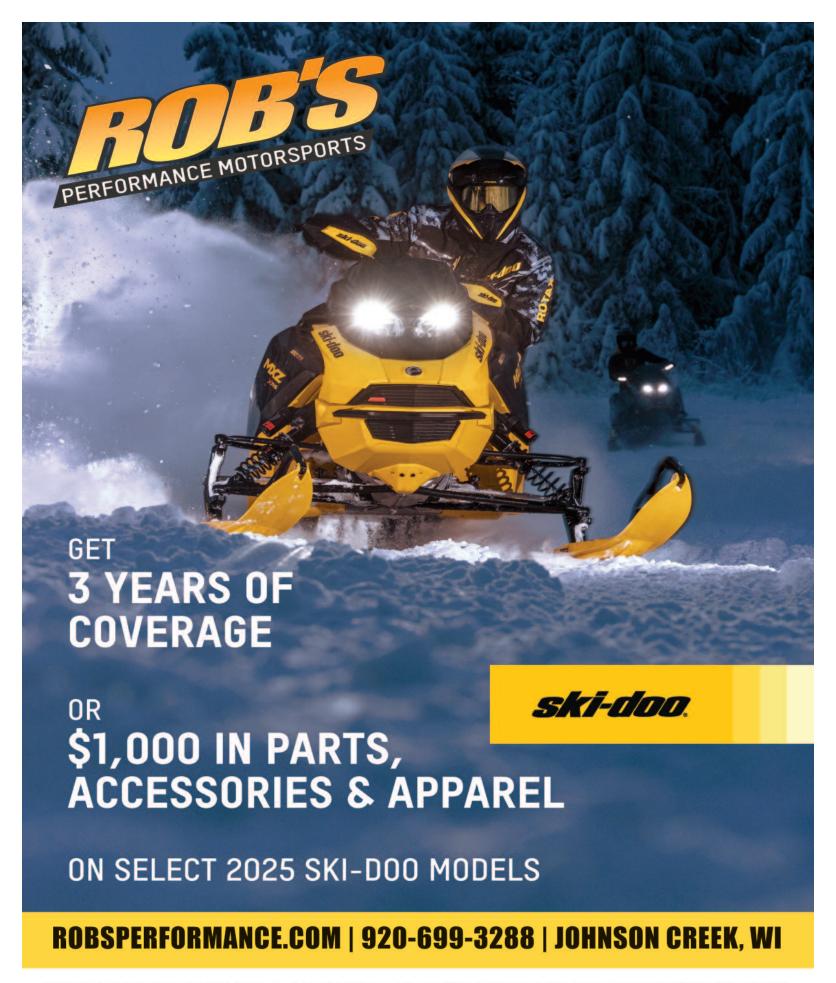
This Program has been produced through a partnership between the American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA), the International Association of Snowmobile Administrators (IASA), and the International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association (ISMA) with financial assistance from the Recreational Trails 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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