

52 YEARS
IASC **Illinois**
SNOWMOBILER



52nd IASC
Convention

IDNR

Safely Transporting
Your Snowmobile

2024

Yamaha Challenge
Winners

January 2025

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

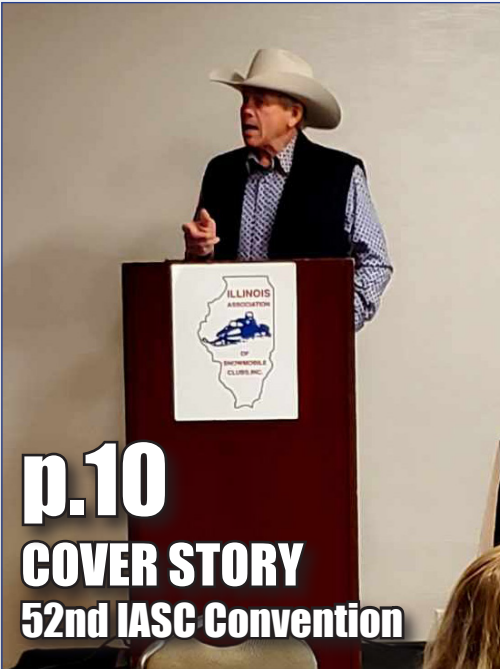


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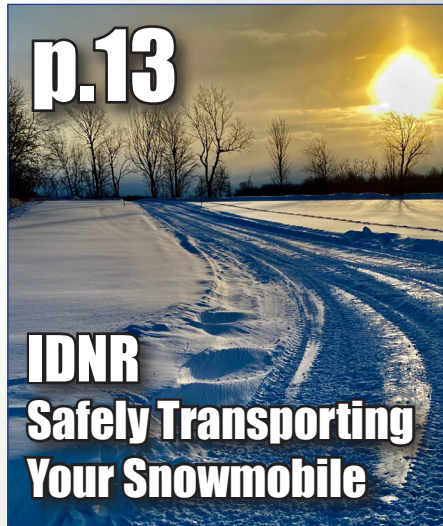
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IASC illinois SNOWMOBILER

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The Official Publication of the Illinois Association of Snowmobile Clubs

Illinois Snowmobiler is published six times per year - October, November, December, January, February, and March - by KDR Productions, 1700 East Golf Rd., Suite 550 D, Schaumburg, Illinois 60173. It is the official publication of the Illinois Association of Snowmobile Clubs.

Subscriptions: Yearly subscriptions are a benefit of IASC membership - Individual Associate \$25; Business Associate \$35; Clubs \$35, plus \$11 per family club member. To join, contact the IASC office at 815-210-0587 or send check to:

IASC Office
PO Box 8171
Elburn, IL 60119

Illinois Snowmobiler is published by:



1700 East Golf Rd., Suite 550 D
Schaumburg, Illinois 60173

Send Copy To production@ilsnowmobiler.com
Sales Dino Thanos 630-894-0934 ext. 229
dino@ilsnowmobiler.com

- Publisher** Dino Thanos
- Managing Editor** Danielle Christoffel
- Art Directors** Danielle Christoffel & Ray Toppel
- Advertising Sales** Dino Thanos & Meghan Naylor

Contributions: We welcome unsolicited materials and letters for possible publication. Letters, manuscripts, stories, materials, and photographs cannot be returned unless sender provides a self-addressed stamped envelope. Illinois Snowmobiler and KDR Productions accept no responsibility for returns, losses, or damage of unsolicited materials. Letters to the editor must be signed with address and telephone number of the sender. Submission of articles and letters implies the right to edit and publish in all or part.

Illinois Snowmobiler Magazine is the official publication of the Illinois Association of Snowmobiler Clubs (IASC). The opinions and attitudes expressed by the publisher do not necessarily reflect the opinions and attitudes of the IASC and are not intended as a statement from IASC, but rather as a statement from the publisher.

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PRESIDENT'S DESK



Kai Steward

This cold snap has the Steward household excited for snowmobiling. On December 15th, I had a great experience taking the Snowmobile Safety Course with my son and nieces in Lena taught by Kaite Polhill and hosted by Region 6. Kaite did a great job with this class. I was impressed by how she kept

the kids engaged and made the material come alive. Lena Blackhawk Trailblazers brought out the tractor and drag for the students. Full Throttle Powersports had a new Polaris that the students could sit on. We talked about maintenance with a machine right in front of them. Skinner's Auto Body sponsored the food and beverages. Twenty-eight people took the class with Kaite and are ready for this season. I can't say enough how great the in-person classes are. What I saw really cemented my belief that in-person classes should be mandatory for anyone under the age of eighteen. After about 35 years of snowmobiling, I still learned a few things and was reminded of more.

I want to thank all of our volunteers that teach our safety courses. It's a long day and not an easy task to keep a room full of 11-year-olds to adults engaged. Thanks to all the clubs and regions that step up and host these classes. By the end of the season, our instructors will have taught twelve in-person classes. I appreciate you all trying to help mold the next generation of snowmobilers into responsible riders and club members.

I hope this new year brings all of us patient midwestern snowmobilers lots of snow at home and wherever we travel to, smooth trails and good friends to enjoy our time with.

Be safe out there.

2024 IASC Winners

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



Dealer of the Year

Hammer Time Sports



Snowmobiler of the Year

Skip Schaefer



Harry Kroll & Mel Blaurock Award

John Saigh



Sam Madonia Award

Ron Julian



Family of the Year

Earl, Georgia & Chad Herman



Youth of the Year

Dylan Dominowski
(Accepted by Skip Schaefer)



Glue Award

Georgia Herman



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A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER



Carol Bly-Julian

For this month's note, I thought I would suggest a couple of things to think about as IASC member clubs and regions. I suggest if you haven't already done so, put in place processes that allow for the smooth transition when new board members are elected and replace outgoing board members.

There are a few things that can easily be implemented to make transitions seamless. First, if you don't already have a club email address, this would be a good start. Since many communications take place electronically, having a central email address that all the club or region board members have access to is a good start. This would allow the IASC, as well as others, to have one place to send electronic communications. Next, obtain a club or region post office box. The Illinois Secretary of State and the IRS both send communications through the mail. If those communications go unanswered, your organization risks losing its not-for-profit status.

These are simple things to do and could save you a lot of problems down the road. As always, I am here to help where I can.

I would like to thank everyone for all of the work you do to keep snowmobiling alive in Illinois!



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More details to come!



Central Illinois Ditch Riders Snowmobile Club to Celebrate 30 Years on the Snow

By Janet Steele, CIDRS Member

Central Illinois Ditch Riders (CIDRS) Snowmobile Club is celebrating its 30th anniversary with snowmobile season 2024-2025. Whether members have been in the club for 30 years or just joined this year, all thirty anniversaries represent a long-lasting strong bond of its members with a continued interest in the ultimate winter adventure of snowmobiling.

The club was established in 1995 with just a handful of guys with a common interest. It has since grown in membership and evolved to include wives, girlfriends, and family. Snowmobiling includes winter ditch riding, and twenty-one annual club trips to the Great Escape at Cedar Lodge in Mercer, WI, an annual club backpack trip touring the western UP including cities of Watersmeet, MI, Houghton MI, Baraga MI, and Copper Harbor, MI. There were also many individual club member trips to various parts of Illinois, Wyoming, Colorado, Wisconsin, Michigan, etc. The club also has an annual Christmas party, and an annual summer picnic at the Lil' Lake in Niantic, IL, of which our club president, Drew Bartolozzi, has ownership in.

During the season, the non-for-profit club holds monthly meetings led by board members, at Bunkers Bar in Illiopolis, IL. CIDRS' snowmobilers look forward to many more years of navigating snow-covered trails, twisting through winding curves, listening to the sound of snow underneath the moving sleds, feeling frozen winds and brisk air against one's face, the roaring of engines, the quiet in the woods, feeling the rush of adrenaline on the snowy tracks, and creating unforgettable moments and everlasting memories. Go CIDRS!



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Region Meeting Schedule:

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Region 1

Director: **Don Schaefer**
847-917-4202 dssschaef@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 Dampz**
815-985-6071 dandampz@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: **Jennifer Baumgartner**
815-509-9373 snowdiva18@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
Buckhorn Saloon, Stockton, IL

Region 7

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

Region 8

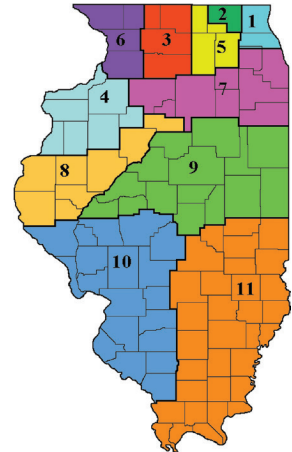
Director: **Chad Wissen**
815-674-5072 cwissen82@hotmail.com
Call or Email for Information

Region 9

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

Director: **Carson Hanner**
217-948-5579 channerfarms@yahoo.com
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EVENTS

JANUARY

January 5th:

Prairie Drifters Radar Run
No Ice Dates - January 19, 2025
and February 2, 2025
Lake Story, Galesburg, IL
Signup 9am and racing at 10am
Call Mike Dennis for more
information 1-309-337-6494

January 11th-19th:

International Snowmobile Safety
Week

January 25th:

Prairie Drifters
Music Trivia Night
Cedar Creek Hall, Galesburg, IL
Starts at 7pm
Call Mike Dennis for more
information 1-309-337-6494

FEBRUARY

February 1st:

10th Annual Vintage
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9-11 am Registration
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11-1 - Judging
1:30 - Basket Raffles
2:30 - Awards - 1st & 2nd
2:30 - Show winners
2:50 - Draw Cash raffle winners
3:45 - Historic TeePee Ride
Halder Town Hall
135125 Halder Dr., Halder, WI
Call 715-212-9302 for more
information

February 8th-17th:

Take a Friend Snowmobiling
Week

February 9th:

Wonder Lake Radar Run
Wonder Lake
For more information,
call Bill at 815- 405-6065

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By Dan Dampz

The U.S. Department of Commerce's
Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA)
recently announced outdoor recreation
continues to be a major driver of the
U.S. economy. With snow related activities contributing
\$7.7B in jobs, and local communities.

A bill was introduced by Senators Amy Klobuchar (D-
MN) and Jim Risch (R-ID) entitled "The Rail to Trails
(RTP) Full Funding Act of 2024" as the first step in the
Reauthorization of RTP. The RTP was first authorized
in 1991 and is an important funding source for the
snowmobile trail system.

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2024 Yamaha Challenge Winners

By Patrick Pendergast

Convention 2024 is in the books and it was another great event held once again at the Hilton Garden Inn of Rockford. Part of the day-long event is the awarding of the Yamaha gear to our top three participants in the Yamaha Challenge. I'll provide a brief description of the Yamaha Challenge for those of you who are not familiar with it. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources requires any youth operator between the ages of 12 and 15 to be certified in snowmobile safety. They can be certified through an online course or by taking an actual class taught by experienced snowmobilers. To be eligible for the Yamaha Challenge the student must take the course in the instructor-taught format. Online certification does not qualify them. The student must pass the course and miss no more than 2 questions on the 50 question test. Then they are separated into 3 groups by score: 100%, 98%, and 96 %. There is another opportunity for any student who misses more than 2 questions. An instructor may nominate a student who they feel worked hard, contributed to the class, and tried their hardest. The "Instructor's choice" student will be entered into the 96% category. There is a drawing for each of the 3 categories with each winner receiving various amounts of gear provided by Yamaha Motors. The winners will also receive a helmet donated by member clubs or regions of the Illinois Association of Snowmobile Clubs.

This year's first place winner is Jarrett Forde from Rockford. Jarrett took his class at the Lena Community Center in Lena with his instructors being Kaite Polhill and Pat Pendergast. Jarrett receives a full Yamaha suit, gloves and a helmet donated by Region 6. The 2nd place winner this year was Edward Hartmann from Plainfield. Edward took his class at the McHenry County Government Center in Woodstock with instructors Suzy Geise and Brad Tomasheski. Edward received his Yamaha clothing along with a helmet provided by the Prairie Drifters Snowmobile Club. And the 3rd place winner in this year's Challenge was Clay Zimmerman of Earlville. Clay took his class at Leone's with Bill Brown, Rick Vann, Ashley Barnes and Kevin Boggs as instructors. Cornbelt Driftbusters Snowmobile Club sponsored the helmet for this prize winner.

These prizes would not be possible without the support of Yamaha Motors and Paul Ellenbaum. I'd like to thank Paul for his continued support of our Safety Education Program over the years. With Yamaha discontinuing snowmobile production after this season, we have secured another sponsor, so the program will continue. I would like to once again thank the helmet donors: Region 6, Prairie Drifters and Cornbelt Driftbusters. Another group I want to thank are the parents of all of our SEP students. They saw the value of having their son or daughter take a class in an instructor-taught format vs. sitting them in front of a computer and we thank them all for that. The final group I want to thank is the IDNR certified snowmobile safety instructors who donate their time, talents, and passion for this sport to help our snowmobiling youth to become safety conscious riders.



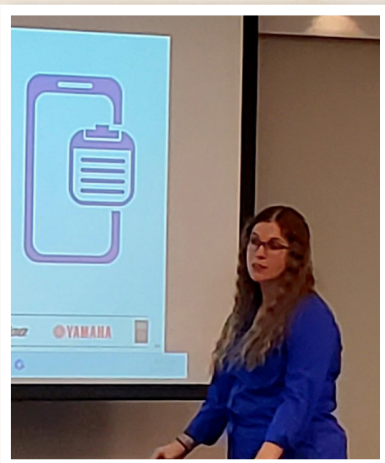
52nd IASC Convention

By Don Schaefer, IASC Member at Large

The Illinois Association of Snowmobile Clubs 52nd Annual Convention is over and the planning for the 2025 Convention on November 7th-8th, 2025, at Chestnut Mountain, Galena, IL has started. However, let us recap the 2024 Convention and stress or convince those that were not in attendance that it is a good idea to plan to attend next year's 53rd Annual Convention. Bottom line, it is a fun time that mixes IASC business, education and fundraising over a couple of days.

Friday night starts the weekend with set up and a social time. The social time allows attendees to meet up with their friends as well as allowing a chance to meet new friends. Remember, we are all snowmobilers, and this is a wonderful time to talk about the upcoming season, the trail work facing us and/or other stuff that makes life as a snowmobiler enjoyable. During this time, there are several meetings for the behind-the-scenes groups of the IASC like the Executive Board, Trail Advisors and Committees. But, overall, the social time allows the attendees to be social!!

Saturday morning came early to some, as they were the ones that stayed up late Friday night socializing. The education part was on Saturday morning and there were two great seminars, Social Media Presence and Leadership 101. Two great young adults, Jessica Dicker and Katie Polhill, presented the Social Media Presence. These two ladies provided a great presentation about improving your club's social media presence. Many great suggestions were provided as well as stuff to avoid. Two of many important items that were presented: 1) Make sure you actively post items regularly, and 2) remember, the posts can be seen by all, so they should be positive, informative, and not place snowmobiling in a negative picture.



The other seminar was presented by Terry Quam from Lodi, WI. Mr. Quam runs a cattle ranch and is a member of the Wisconsin and National Beef Cattlemen's Associations, Past Chairman of the Lodi County Fair and Chairman of the Discovery Farms (research and education project). He discussed leadership and the importance of listening, evaluating, and supporting the other members of your organization. Besides enriching

the attendees with thought-provoking ideas, he provided many entertaining examples from his experiences that supported his ideas of how to be a good leader to improve your organization. The IASC is working to try to present seminars that will assist you as a person as well as help the clubs to succeed and to become successful. If you have ideas for future seminars, please contact Stephine Steward.



Well, after the seminars, the stomachs were noisy, so lunch was served. After the opening remarks, introduction of special guests, a thank you to our sponsors and lunch, a special group of young adults from Wisconsin provided a great presentation about Wisconsin's newest venture for getting youth involved, Next-Gen. Rachyl, Erica, Lynsey and the AWSC President, Lori, provided the background of how Next-Gen started and the vision they see for the future. They also discussed their experiences of participating in AWSC and KAOS (Kids and Adults on Snowmobiles) and how they hope Next-Gen will continue their involvement with organized snowmobiling as well as the development/education for them personally. It is so great to see the younger generation involved and a reminder to all of us to make sure your clubs and associations make them comfortable. Please include the young adults of your club in activities, planning, work and making them part of your club. Do not forget to listen to their ideas! After the Next-Gen group, we had Cody Gray, Public Service Administrator of the IDNR speak. Cody provided a "few" words of support and thank you to the IASC for supporting a volunteer network of in person Snowmobile Safety Education Classes. Along with Cody were several IDNR officers and Hunter Nikolia from the IDNR Region 2 office. Cody and Hunter are both snowmobilers, so it was great that the IDNR sent representatives to the IASC Convention and the fact that they understand our passion.

After lunch, it was back to business, the Annual IASC meeting. This is a great opportunity to attend an IASC meeting in person as it is on the weekend making the travel a bit easier. By attending, you will be part of the planning process of the IASC with the ability to listen to many reports and have your voice heard by participating in the discussions of issues facing the IASC. Looking at the minutes, I noticed that only 19 clubs out of 50 were represented this year. We need to do better and the IASC E-board will be happy to hear ideas about how we can improve attendance.

At the meeting, all the regions, trail advisors and sub-committees provided their reports and recapped some other items. There was a

presentation by Mark about the IDNR Grants and RTP program for the past year. ACSA representative and a IASC member, Len Neisler, provided a recap of the ACSA activities, in addition to reminding us about the BOIR filings required. There was a discussion about the Unified Trail Signage Report and a vote on the 24/25 IASC Budget. There is an annual election which happens at the meeting. Due to the recent Bi-Law changes, there was a change of titles and one less officer. Instead of a President, three Vice Presidents, Treasurer, and Secretary, we now have a President, 1st Vice President, Member at Large, Secretary and Treasurer. The results were: President – Kai Steward, 1st Vice President – Katie Polhill, Member at Large – Don Schaefer, Treasurer – Carol Bly-Julian, and Secretary – Jessica Dicker. Good luck to the officers and please thank Jennifer Baumgarter for the time and commitment of being the Secretary for the past couple of years.

By late afternoon, the attendees were looking forward to a fun-filled night for the awards banquet and scholarship auction. What is a banquet without starting out with a social hour, a chance to discuss the day's events and catch up with friends. After the opening remarks by the emcee, President Kai Steward, induction of guests and dinner, the IASC and other clubs/regions presented a host of awards acknowledging many individuals' accomplishments with the IASC and its member's clubs as well as the safety education students that were the SEP Challenge winners and the Scholarship Contest winners. There is a separate sidebar article in this issue with all the award winners. After the awards, we were entertained by the duet band, "Redwood Band" while the attendees continued to socialize and play a few games.



As I mentioned before, there is also fundraising at the IASC convention. There were raffles for many unique and great baskets. Plus there was a silent auction of several nice-looking items donated by several businesses as well as part of the IASC Region's contribution to their part in supporting the Convention. After the band played their encores, the drawing for the baskets was conducted with several happy people winning. The Silent auction was closed, and the winners were announced. Thank you to all who donated and participated in the raffle and silent auction.

To close out the day's events and the IASC Convention, there was the Live Scholarship Auction. This supports the scholarship fund that allows the IASC to present two scholarships each year to help our young adults with their college/trade school education. This year, there seemed to be some extra special items that drew attendees' attention and there was no disappointment. Dave Mayer did an excellent job of being the auctioneer and encouraging and entertaining us as the bidding took place. There were a wide range of snowmobile related items, craft items, and general household/food/drink items that were put up to bid and resulted in raising over \$5,600!!! Great job. Of course, there were

a few of us that continued to socialize long after the activities ended. At least we were allowed to sleep in on Sunday before heading home. Well, if you attended the IASC convention this year, thank you and I hope you had a great time. A survey was sent out. The committee would like your feedback to help with the planning for next year. If you did not attend, please make plans for next year to attend and participate in your state association. Believe me, you will have lots of fun and make some great friends that share your passion!!!



Thank you to our sponsors!

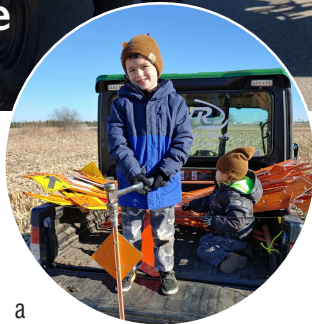
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- Tri County Snowmobile Alliance



Fall Snowmobile Trail Marking

By Dwain "Duey" Stadie

Every snowmobile club member knows what season comes after summer and before winter... trail marking season of course! I am a member of the Hampshire White Riders Snowmobile Club and our club marked trails on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, November 30th. We had 9 volunteers mark 25 miles of trails that day. That is really quite an accomplishment and a lot of ground to cover in a day. Thanks to everyone who came out.



The real astonishing thing about this is we were not alone that day or this season. There were clubs all over our region, our state, the Midwest, and North America marking trails. According to AGSA, there are 230,000 miles of snowmobile trails in North America. Think about that for a minute. First, who thought there were that many trails in North America? Secondly all those trails were marked by volunteers, people who took time out of their busy day to volunteer on the local trail and make the sport that we all love possible. Third, there are a lot of trails out there I have not ridden on yet.

Let's think about what the Hampshire club did for a minute. If 9 people marked 25 miles of trails that day, that comes out to 2.7 miles marked by each volunteer. Now at 230,000 miles of trails in North America with each volunteer marking 2.7 miles of trail, we need just over 85,000 volunteers. Did we have 85,000 volunteers marking trails this year? Who knows, some volunteers mark way more than that and some less. My math is not perfect, but it gives you an idea of the number of volunteers needed and what our sport's volunteers do, and how amazing snowmobile clubs and their members really are. The sport we all love would not be possible without the local club, and the club volunteers.

I have always told the same story when a non-snowmobiler or a landowner asks, "How far can you go on your trail?" I tell them, "You can get on the trail in Hampshire and ride all the way to Canada if you have the time and money, and all those trails are marked by volunteers. No government agency is doing any of the marking." They are always shocked when I say that. When you see how many miles of trails exist and do my silly little math, it opens your eyes as to what us snowmobilers have accomplished.

Thank you to the over 85,000 club members (if my math is even close) who volunteered their time to mark the trails in their area of North America so we could all get out this winter and ride. I hope to see you on the trail soon.

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Safely Transporting Your Snowmobile

By Hunter Nikolai, Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Not many of us in Illinois have the luxury of starting up the sled in the garage and heading directly to the trail to ride. In most cases, you'll be trailering or bed-loading your sled(s) and equipment to meet with friends and family to ride, often hours away from home. In my experiences heading up to Northern Wisconsin, this is when the anticipation and excitement builds—wishing you were already out enjoying those nicely groomed trails, camaraderie with other riders at the local diner and the beautiful landscapes that not many folks get to see. This is also when I find myself in a hurry and trying to get on the road as quickly as possible.

While much of the Illinois DNR's snowmobile safety class curriculum covers snowmobile operation, riding positions, regulations and riding safely and responsibly, another component of the class is preparing to ride. When it comes to snowmobiling, preparation is many things. Making sure you are properly maintaining and storing your sled, making sure you have registration, insurance, and a trail pass, having adequate clothing and helmets, having trail maps and/or an operating GPS system. A big component of preparation, that in my opinion is often overlooked, is transporting your snowmobile. Here are a few things to consider this winter before and during your snowmobile trip:

Well Before Departure

- Re-grease your wheel bearings.
- Check that the trailer tires are properly inflated and in operable condition (spare tire, too).
- Ensure your trailer lights are all in working order (carry back-ups, just in case).
- Have the proper tools to change a flat trailer tire (jack, tire iron, etc.).

- Look at the springs and axle to make sure they are in good condition.
- Repair any old decking and snowmobile tracks/guides, along with any other general repair.

Loading and Unloading

- Make sure the trailer coupler is seated on the correct ball and secured with a pin.
- Criss-cross your safety chains and connect them to the vehicle tow brackets.
- Always wear a helmet when loading or unloading snowmobile(s) on/into your trailer/truck.
- Use a ski tie down bar to secure the front end of your snowmobile (if possible).
- Use a chain or ratchet strap to secure the rear of your snowmobile to the trailer.
- Make sure roughly 60% of the snowmobiles load weight is in front of the trailer's axle.
- Double check that your lights are in working order and that all trailer doors and ramps are secure.
- If you are using a truck loading bed ramp, make sure the ramp is secured with straps to the vehicle tow brackets (or per manufacturer guidelines).

On your trip, make occasional stops to ensure that your straps are secure, tires are inflated, and lights are still operating. Equally as important, travel at safe trailering speeds while considering conditions. Someone will likely flag you down on the road if something is off, but there's no worse way to the start of your snowmobile trip than not getting there at all. Taking some extra time prior and during your trip will save you headaches and time later. Wishing you all a winter full of snow and nicely groomed trails. Safe riding!

CLUBS 2024-2025

ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF SNOWMOBILE CLUBS

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815-210-0587
iasc.illinois@gmail.com
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facebook.com/iasc.inc

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Region 1 Director

DON SCHAEFER

847-917-4202
dssschaefers@msn.com

Gages Lake Snowmobile Club

Mike Foye

847-902-6510
mikefoye@hotmail.com
2nd Tuesday @ 7:00 PM
Timothy O'Toole's Pub
10 W Grand Ave., Lake Villa, IL

Riverbend Benders

Erik Urban

847-894-3812
riverbendbenders@gmail.com
1st & 3rd Monday @ 7:30 PM
Sideouts Sports Tavern
4018 Roberts Rd., Island Lake, IL

Sno-Kommanders of Lake County

Skip Schaefer

224-627-1406
skipschaefers5804@gmail.com
2nd Monday @ 7:00 PM
EL Puerto Restaurant
200 N Forest Ave., Fox Lake, IL

Region 2 Director

CRAIG ADAMS

815-687-2844
craigmadams@yahoo.com

Harvard Snow Gophers

Brian Camp

815-790-4237
brian.camprevolution@gmail.com
Meets 7:00pm 3rd Wednesday
Heritage House Restaurant
21225 Route 14, Harvard

Lakers/Sno-Bugs

Bill Rieke

815-405-6065
riek7603@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's

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

Keith Stranberg

815-508-9129
kstranberg@gmail.com
2nd Tuesday @ 7:15 PM
Oregon VFW, Post 8739
1310 W 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
slwhite61068@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

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

CLUBS 2024-2025

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

Region 5 Director
Jennifer Baumgartner
815-509-9373
snowdiva18@yahoo.com

DeKane Sno-Trackers
Matt Linden
815-739-4225
dekanesnotrackersclub@gmail.com
Meets 7:00pm 1st Wednesday
HD Rockers, Maple Park

Elgin Cold Ducks
Karl Schmidt
847-370-4169
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
Five Points Pub
105 Main Street, Kingston

Hampshire White Riders
Dwain Stadie
847-683-0140
dwey683@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
Jennifer Baumgartner
815-509-9373
snowdiva18@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

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
8snowmobile@gmail.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

Region 8 Director
Chad Wissen
815-674-5072
cwissen82@hotmail.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
Sean 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 2024-2025

REGION 1

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

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

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

REGION 2

To List Your BUSINESS
Contact the IASC Office
815-210-0587
iasc.illinois@gmail.com

REGION 3

MC Tap Bar & Grill
303 Pacific St.
Monroe Center, IL 61052
815-393-3503
mctap303@gmail.com

Rockford Tech Systems, Inc.
3549 Merchandise Dr.
Rockford, IL 61109
815-874-7786
rts@rockfordts.com

Skidders Auto Body
320 Reed St.
Pecatonica, IL 61063
815-239-1853
skiddersautobody@yahoo.com

REGION 4

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
tripleesales.com

REGION 5

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

REGION 6

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

Full Throttle Powersports
11003 US Route 20 W
Lena, IL 61048
815-369-2153
fullthrottlepowersports2@gmail.com
full-throttle-powersports.com

REGION 7

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

Leone's Polaris
3061 E 103rd Rd.
Peru, IL 61364
815-220-1780
leonespolaris@hotmail.com
http://leonespolaris.com/

REGION 8

To List Your BUSINESS
Contact the IASC Office
815-210-0587
iasc.illinois@gmail.com

REGION 9

Hendren's Sport Center
304 Gridley Rd.
Gridley, IL 61744
309-747-2596
hendren@gridcom.net
hendrensportcenter.com

INDIANA

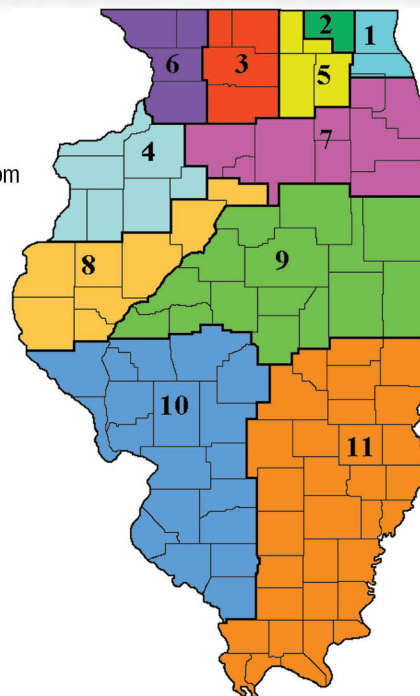
To List Your BUSINESS
Contact the IASC Office
815-210-0587
iasc.illinois@gmail.com

IOWA

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

WISCONSIN

**Arrowhead Groomers/
Hamblen Equipment**
6351 State Hwy. 70 E
St. Germain, WI 54558
715-479-4200
info@arrowheadgroomers.com
arrowheadgroomers.com



DEALER COMMUNICATION

November 13, 2024

Dear Valued Dealers,

Today, we initiated workforce reductions across our powersports business in response to the difficult business conditions facing Arctic Cat and the greater powersports industry.

These actions include the elimination of numerous positions across our business. In addition, we will pause production at our Thief River Falls facility after production of our model-year 2025 snowmobile lineup is completed. We expect to resume production in Q1 2025.

These actions were tough but necessary given the current conditions in our industry. We are offering severance benefits to affected employees, including outplacement assistance to help them find new opportunities.

We remain open for business. Our sales organization, customer service teams, aftermarket distribution centers, and other functions are ready to assist you and your customers.

If you have any questions about this news, please contact your Arctic Cat territory sales representative. We appreciate our relationship with you, and your commitment and loyalty to Arctic Cat.

Sincerely,

Philip Jhant

Vice President & General Manager, Powersports



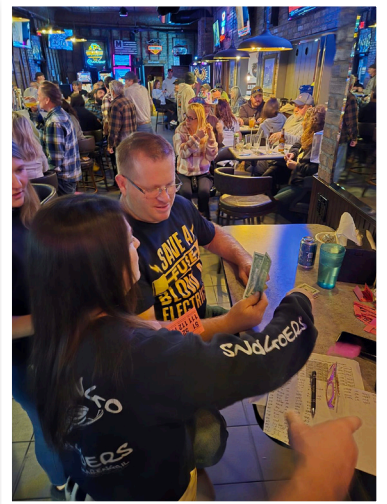
Marengo Snowgoers Brat Fry/Meat Raffle

By Dwain "Duey" Stadie

It was Sunday morning November 10th. I was leaving Rockford after a great Illinois Association of Snowmobile Club's Convention, hit the Machine Shed for breakfast with my friends Jeff and Kathy Meindl and decided to check out the new Hard Rock Casino just down the street before leaving Rockford. Here I met Scott and Becky Haseman who were also checking out the new Hard Rock after leaving the IASC Convention. It is a genuinely cool place, and I did ok after over two hours of slots. I only lost ten dollars. Not bad at all. I checked out a lot of cool rock and roll memorabilia and decided, if I was still in the gaming mode, I would go to a place with better odds. So, I headed to Marengo to stop at our neighboring snowmobile club's raffle.

on right at the club's start. They have been promoting safety and family fun for 50 years now. I do not know their actual miles of trails, but it is a major part of northern Region 5 of the Illinois Association of Snowmobile Clubs.

I spent the afternoon talking to several club members and club president Gary Zickur. I watched football on the big screens and just hung out with my friends. A very enjoyable way to finish the weekend. I remember many, many years ago when I came to my first Marengo fundraiser, they had a Yamaha snowmobile up on a shelf in the front window of Sam's they were raffling off. I asked Gary about it, and he confirmed my memory was right. I would have loved to have seen several guys carrying a snowmobile into the bar and putting it up on a shelf, how cool that would have been to see. Too bad that was before cell phones.



The Marengo Snowgoers had a meat raffle going on that day at Sam's Tavern located at 101 S. State Street in downtown Marengo. There was a spinning wheel for all kinds of meat prizes. They sold tickets for a big cash prize and served brats right off the grill cooked in front of Sam's with chips and baked beans. I met up again with Scott and Becky Haseman and we spent the afternoon buying chances on all the meat prizes and dining on the Snowgoers' well-known brats, with sauerkraut, onions, ketchup, and mustard.

Well, it turns out I did better at the casino than the meat raffle, but I had fun and supported a snowmobile club. Remember, every club has some kind of fundraiser and we need to do our best to support the local clubs. Without the local clubs, the sport we all know and enjoy wouldn't be here. No local clubs, no trails, so do your part and help them out whenever you can.

Hope to see you all at the next club fundraiser or on the trail. One last thing. My wife, Laurie, is encouraging me to stay in my office and continue writing until the musical fruit (baked beans) leaves my system. She just does not understand I was just doing my part in supporting the Marengo club.

If you were wondering, the Marengo Snowgoers were formed in the fall of 1974 and were blessed with 36 people who signed

GK Trailblazers Club Fundraiser

By Dwain "Duey" Stadie

Friday, November 22nd was the GK Trailblazers fundraiser, a combination meat raffle and bingo night. The location was Hills Tap, 319 W. Main Street (RT. 72) in downtown Genoa. Since this is a neighboring snowmobile club, and I am always willing to support a club, I made it a point to stop in and help out the fundraiser. They had a couple of spins for a meat prize on the big wheel and then a couple of games of bingo. It was an enjoyable way to break up the evening. I saw a landowner from our club there who said, "I did not know you were also a member of this club." I laughed and said, "No, I'm not a member of the Trailblazers, but currently the way my luck is going, I seem to be a big supporter of this club."

The "GK" in "GK Trailblazers Snowmobile Club" stands for the communities of Genoa and Kingston. The club was formed in the fall of 1972 and has a membership of 28 families. It's located in Region 5 of The Illinois Association of Snowmobile Clubs (IASC). They have 70 miles of trails that they mark and maintain in Dekalb, Boone, McHenry and Kane counties of northern Illinois. The G.K. trails are the connection between Region 5 and Region 3, an especially important link in northern Illinois.



The GK Trailblazers are a family-orientated club that supports snowmobile safety through education and community awareness. I totally agree with their club motto, "Join a club

and never ride alone again." Meetings are on the second Thursday of the month at 7:00pm at the Five Points Pub located at 105 Main Street in beautiful downtown Kingston. Yearly membership is a bargain at \$25 for an individual or \$30 for a family.



The GK Trailblazers have a couple of feather parties a year to fund the club, and several activities including Christmas parties, Christmas parades, summer picnics, club pizza parties, a local food pantry, trail rides and so much more. This outstanding group of really nice people is constantly out promoting safe family fun snowmobiling. They are incredibly involved in their local community and are always planning the next club ride. You can find more information on the club's Facebook page. If you live in the area and are looking to join a club, you can contact club president Jay Schaack at jschaack@yahoo.com.

If you see any club fundraiser, try your best to stop in and support the club. The money you spend at the fundraiser keeps the club going, which means the local trails they maintain will continue, which means the sport we love will continue. Remember, no clubs, no trails!

I look forward to seeing you at the next club fundraiser, or on the trail, I hope.

+ Safety & Education +



Pat Pendergast

Wow, January already!? I hope everyone had a great Christmas and New Year holiday. Let's hope this article finds you already having some riding time under your belt as we should be into the winter weather by now. As I recall, it was late January last year when we got the big snow and frigid weather that many of the northern snow states never received. We were very fortunate to have almost two weeks of rideable snow and actually seeing the groomers out getting to do their thing.

Another thing that January brings is Snowmobile Safety Week. This year it will be January 11-19. Snowmobile Safety Week is promoted by the International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association (ISMA). This is a week-long event where state and/or local clubs, visitor's bureaus or any combination of groups get together to promote safe and responsible snowmobiling. Some of the key points any group can cover:

- Snowmobiling and alcohol don't mix - Don't drink and ride.
- Smart Riders are Safe Riders – Take a snowmobile safety training course.
- When night riding, slow down – Expect the unexpected.
- Know before you go – Always check local ice conditions.
- Cross with Care.
- Know the risks and be prepared – Make every trip a round trip.
- One is the loneliest number – Never ride alone.
- Ride safe, stay on the trail – Respect private property.

Many, if not all, of these points are what we cover already in our snowmobile safety classes. The exception here is that we can share this info with youths and adults and let non-snowmobilers know that we are committed to safe behavior.

We had a lot of classes on the schedule this year. I hope they were all held, and

you had a good turnout. I like to think that if we get some better snow years, we will see our class sizes and the need for classes increase. I have had some good conversations with the Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources this past year and their presence at Convention is proof of their renewed commitment to our program. I think the future holds promise for the SEP and I have faith we can make things happen as we all work together for snowmobile safety.

Ok, I am acknowledging that it is January and time for us to make some time for ourselves and get out there and ride, whether it's locally on the trails, we put so much time in brushing and marking or our favorite areas up north. Let's get out there and enjoy the great outdoors and this sport that we pour so much of our time and hard earned money into. Ride safe, everyone.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

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 Dept of Trans.

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

+ Safety Class Schedule +

Class Date	Location	Address	Time	Registration
1/11/25	McHenry County Sheriffs Office	2200 N Seminary Ave., Woodstock	8:00am-4:00pm	Register at the following link: www.mchenrysheriff.org/snowmobileclass
1/18/25	Lake County Forest Preserve Operations and Public Safety Building	19808 W Grand Avenue, Lindenhurst	8:00am-5:00pm	847-968-3404 ncampos@lcfpd.org
1/25/25	H.Q. Kane Cnty Forest Preserve	1996 Kirk Rd., Geneva	8:00am-4:30pm	Ron 630-546-8058 RgJulian@comcast.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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