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IASC **Illinois**
SNOWMOBILER

2024 Earl &
Nayola Nelson

Scholarship Program Winners



ARCTIC CAT

What We Know & Don't Know About Arctic Cat

IDNR

A Lifelong Rider Looking
to Purchase His First Sled

February 2025

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

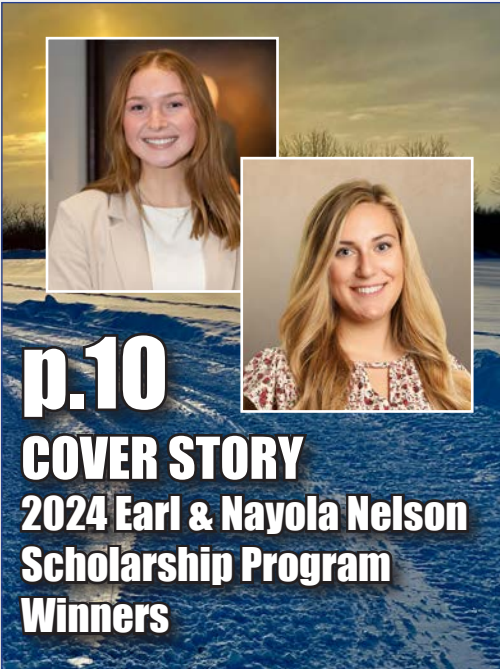


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PRESIDENT'S DESK



Kai Steward

I had high hopes when I wrote the January article that we would be riding right now. Unfortunately, 12 inches of snow fell in southern Illinois where there aren't any trails. I'm disappointed that we aren't riding, but I am glad that we have good frozen ground for when it does finally come.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our clubs and members for their dedication to the sport. Year in and out, we put in the time and effort that it takes to mark trails, talk to landowners with no guarantees we will actually be able to ride our trail system. Thank you for your dedication.

I would like to ask all the club members to spread the word to those you know that ride, but may not be members. Even in the low snow years, we really need those with snowmobiles to register their sleds. The registration dollars help fund the grants that buy the signs and help to maintain our system. If folks don't register, those funds will run out.

I'm hoping by the time I write the March article, I'll have lots to talk about because Mother Nature will finally decide to take her wrath out on us and dump a few feet of snow at our doorsteps. I heard a rumor that if we get a few feet of snow, the trail advisors are going to do their own bikini run? (Hopefully you all have that picture in your head now.)

When we get that snow, please make sure you set a good example. Stay on the trail, leave the can at home, ride right and invite everyone to join a club.

Happy Trails,
Kai Steward



WHAT? Illinois Has Groomed Trails!?!

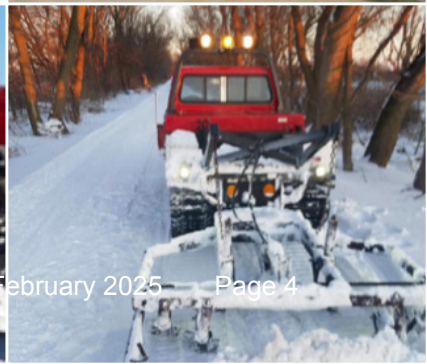
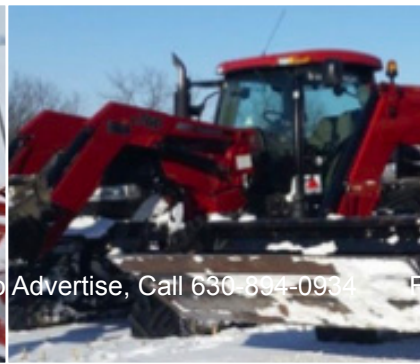
By Mark Hazzard

There was a recent Facebook post that shows many people across the state do not know that Illinois has groomed trails.

When we get the goods (snow), many clubs across the state get out and start grooming their trails. Clubs have had groomers since the 1980's. It wasn't until the early 2000's and the ability to use the federally-funded Recreational Trails Program (RTP) that Illinois was able to add more grooming equipment. The RTP fund estimates how much fuel is used by off-road vehicles in each state, and then allots those funds to the DNR for use on building or maintaining trails. There's much more to know about the RTP program, perhaps another article in the future.

Starting in Region 2, there are six groomers, those being Tuckers (3), tractors (2) and UTVs (1). Region 3 has seven groomers, (4) tractors and (3) Track Trucks. Region 5 has a total of three groomers, (2) UTVs and (1) Track Truck. Region 6 has six groomers, those being Tuckers (2) and tractors (4). Region 7 has four groomers for the I&M Canal, (2) UTVs and (2) Track Trucks.

That's a total of (26) groomers throughout the state. Hopefully you ride in the areas that have groomers available.





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A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER



Carol Bly-Julian

Here's hoping that you have been able to get out and ride some snow! It's what we all wait for, and it's why we devote so much time getting our trails ready.

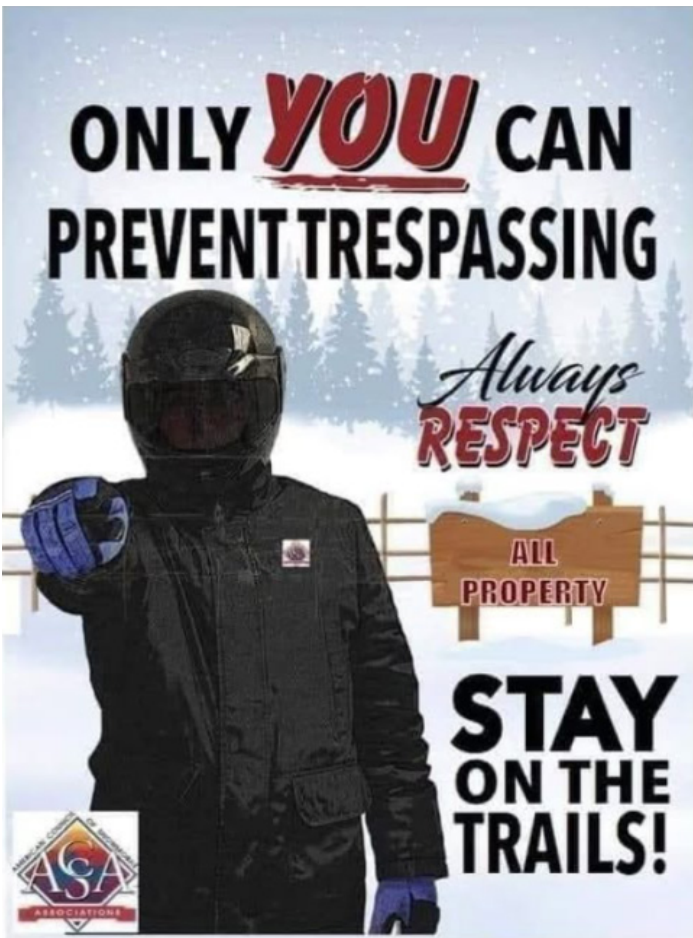
Based on estimates, the current national average value of volunteer time is \$33.49 per hour. As a volunteer, you are detrimental to the survival of all the organizations you volunteer for.

I know that you already know how important you are, but I don't think many non-members are aware that the trails in Illinois are maintained by volunteers. It might be a good idea to print that on our maps, and other materials. Maybe include it on your club's website and Facebook pages.

We put a lot of information out that non-members see and utilize. Of course, educating the public is part of our mission, but we should let them know that we provide these services to them at no cost. If they had to pay someone to provide the services, the cost of registration would be a lot higher than \$45. That is \$15 per year! I think that is one of the best values that we have for the money given the current economic climate.

So, when you are communicating your message make sure you include a subtle reminder of the privilege of riding the trails for about the cost of a fast-food meal.

Thank you for all you do!



Hampshire White Riders Christmas Party

By Dwain "Duey" Stadie

The Hampshire White Riders meet on the first Wednesday of the month at The Red Ox Restaurant & Bar on Rt. 72 in Hampshire, except in December. The Red Ox is always closed on Mondays but was kind enough to open for us on Monday, December 2nd, to host our Christmas party.

The club gave the members 3 choices for dinner this evening. The first choice was charbroiled chicken breast marinated in olive oil and fine herbs with mashed garlic potatoes and green beans. The second choice was broiled grouper with lemon butter mashed garlic potatoes and green beans. Lastly, spaghetti with meatballs. Beverages included coffee, hot tea, iced tea, pop, and beer. The club covers meals and drinks.

Members brought donations for the local food pantry. Members also went to the local businesses and received donations of gifts, which the club raffled off and the proceeds from the raffle also went to the food pantry. We were able to fill up the back of the food pantry's van with donations and hand them a check.

Besides the great food, drink, and the camaraderie of being with friends, something else rather special happened. Santa Claus paid us a visit. Santa brought presents for everyone, both children and adults. Santa also got his picture taken with everyone there.

We had a wonderful evening with friends. We helped the food pantry and we all got to see Santa Claus. I hope all of you also had a wonderful Christmas, a Happy New Year and, by the time you read this, I hope you have put plenty of miles on the sled by now.



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Region Meeting Schedule:

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

Region 1

Director: **Don Schaefer**
847-917-4202 dsschaef@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 ppendergast@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

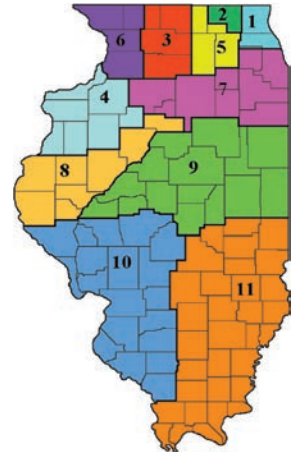
Director: **Chad Wissen**
815-674-5072 cwissen82@hotmail.com
Call or Email for Information

Region 9

Director: **Bob Atkins**
309-397-6922 atkinscrew@gmail.com
Call or Email for Information & Location

Region 10 & 11

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

FEBRUARY

February 1st:

10th Annual Vintage Snowmobile Show
 Come join the festivities and view some of the nicest vintage snowmobiles in the area.
 Food, Refreshments, and Basket Raffles
 9-11 am Registration
 \$5 per sled
 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:

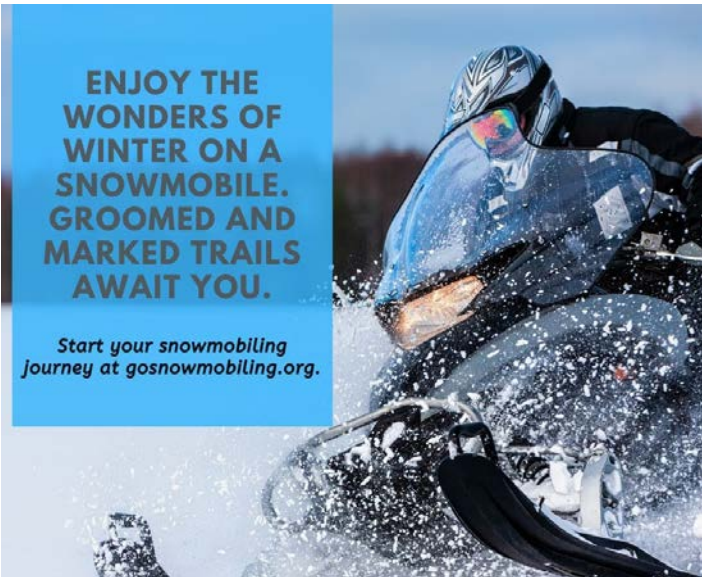
Lakers / Sno-Bugs Annual Radar Run
 10am-2pm
 Wonder Lake Beach Center
 Contact Bill – 815-405-6065 or George – 815-739-8094

JUNE

June 11th-14th:

57th Annual International Snowmobile Congress
 Snowmobile enthusiasts, manufacturers, suppliers, and representatives from state, provincial and national snowmobile organizations from around the world meet to celebrate the sport and to do the business of snowmobiling at the International Snowmobile Congress. Delta Hotel and Convention Center
 18 Queen Street, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island C1A 4A1
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A Lifelong Rider Looking to Purchase His First Sled... Help Wanted!

By Cody Gray, Snowmobile Safety Education Administrator, Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Snowmobiling has been part of my life for as long as I can remember. Some of my best memories are of carving through snow-covered trails with my dad, taking in the beauty of winter, and feeling the thrill of the ride. But here's the thing—I've always borrowed or rented sleds. Now, for the first time, I'm ready to take the plunge and buy my own snowmobile... this January snow in West Central Illinois has only ramped up my desire! And, honestly, I could really use some advice!

Choosing your first sled is a big decision, and I'll admit, I'm feeling a little lost. It's not just about finding the sleekest model or the fastest engine... both of which I would be lying if I said I didn't want! But, I've quickly learned there are countless factors to consider, from riding style and terrain to budget and maintenance... each as individual as the rider themselves. While I've done some research and talked to a few experienced riders, I'd love to hear from you, my fellow snowmobiling enthusiasts and owners.

Where Do I Start?

Here's what I've figured out so far:

Riding Style: I'm a Midwest trail rider through and through. Groomed paths and scenic adventures are my bread and butter, so I'm leaning toward a reliable, trail-specific sled. But is there a model I should consider that balances performance with comfort?

New vs. Used: While a new sled with all the modern features and technology is more than tempting, the budget for a dad of three daughters in elementary and junior high school is NOT! I'm seriously considering a gently used model, but who isn't afraid of buying someone's good deal... a common phrase for headaches?

Size and Power: I've ridden plenty of sleds, but I'm no racer. Should I stick with a mid-size engine to match my needs, or is there a reason to go bigger like a 2-up to add my wife or kids? Or do I go with something smaller, think speed, after all I am no racer.

Share Your Expertise!

This is where you come in. As members of the Illinois Association of Snowmobile Clubs, many of you are seasoned sled owners with years of experience. I'd love to hear your thoughts:

- What was your first snowmobile, and what made it a great (or not-so-great) choice?
- Are there specific brands or models you'd recommend for a first-time buyer?
- What tips do you have for evaluating used sleds, or must-have accessories to consider?

Let's Learn Together

I know I'm not the only one who's faced this decision. Whether you're buying your first sled or upgrading after years of riding, it's a journey we can all relate to. Your insights could help anyone reading this and considering taking the leap into snowmobile ownership.

So, let's start a conversation! Send in your advice to SafetyEducationPCG@Gmail.com, stories, recommendations, and even sleds that you might call someone's "good deal." I'm looking forward to learning from this incredible community as I take this exciting next step.

Here's to snowy trails and sledding adventures!

2024 Earl & Nayola Nelson Scholarship Program Winners



By Stephanie Steward

Congratulations to the 2024 Scholarship Winners. Bailey Thede is from Region 6, Pearl City Sno-Pearls and she won our 1st place scholarship of \$2,500. Bailey attends the University of Iowa. Claire Davis Scheiblhofer from Region 2, Richmond Trailblazers, was our 2nd place scholarship winner of \$1,000.00, she attends Oklahoma State University.

After a few years of minimal participation, this year 10 students applied for the scholarship. This really made my day and I would like to thank the clubs and membership for getting word out about the Scholarship Program. I'd also like to ask the clubs and regions to keep reminding your student snowmobilers to participate and if you all have any ideas to attract even more participation, please let me know.

Here are the essays written by this year's winners: "How has organized snowmobiling impacted you as a person?"

and embark on trips "up north" to explore snowmobiling destinations in Wisconsin and Michigan. These excursions, though less frequent due to school commitments, offered a chance to broaden my horizons and experience different sides of the snowmobiling community. Whether riding through the scenic trails of northern Wisconsin or attending annual gatherings hosted by local snowmobile clubs, these trips left a lasting impression of camaraderie and shared passion for the sport.

Beyond the thrill of riding through snow-covered landscapes, snowmobiling has taught me valuable lessons about the importance of community involvement and collective action. It has shown me that meaningful experiences are often the result of dedicated efforts and shared contributions from individuals who are committed to a common cause. Whether volunteering to mark trails or watching my dad participate in club events, I have witnessed firsthand the transformative power of coming together as a community to support and sustain cherished activities. As I reflect on my experiences with organized snowmobiling, I am reminded of the countless hours spent volunteering alongside my family and fellow club members, as well as the friendships forged through shared adventures on the trails. These experiences have not only enriched my life but have also instilled in me a profound appreciation for the value of hard work, teamwork, and community engagement.

Looking ahead, I am eager to continue my involvement in organized snowmobiling and to contribute to the vibrant community that has played a role in shaping my identity. Whether marking trails, attending club events, or simply enjoying the camaraderie of fellow riders, I am grateful for the lessons learned and memories created through my involvement in my favorite winter pastime.

Moreover, snowmobiling has provided me with unique opportunities for personal growth and self-discovery. Through my involvement, I have developed valuable leadership skills, learned to navigate complex logistical challenges, and honed my ability to work effectively as part of a team. These experiences have not only prepared me for the rigors of adulthood but have also instilled in me a sense of confidence and resilience that will serve me well in all aspects of my life. Furthermore, snowmobiling has served as a bridge between generations, allowing me to connect with family members and community elders who share a passion for the sport. Whether swapping stories about past adventures or passing down valuable skills and knowledge, these intergenerational interactions have deepened my appreciation for the rich history and tradition of snowmobiling in our community. As I look to the future, I am committed to preserving and passing on this legacy to future



1st Place
Bailey Thede

Organized snowmobiling has been an integral part of my life, shaping not only my recreational activities but also my sense of community and work ethic. Growing up in rural northwest Illinois, where winters are often unpredictable, my family's involvement in the local snowmobile club provided a sense of belonging and camaraderie that extended beyond the trails.

One of my earliest memories of organized snowmobiling involves the annual tradition of marking our local trails before the winter season. I remember joining my father, brother, and other dedicated volunteers as we set out to ensure that our trails were ready for the upcoming snowmobile season. Despite the logistical challenges and unpredictable weather, the collective effort of these volunteers demonstrated the power of collaboration and dedication in achieving common goals for the benefit of the community.

The significance of organized snowmobiling became even more apparent during winters when snowfall was abundant. On these occasions, my family and I would eagerly gear up for snowmobile rides between neighboring towns, stopping at local restaurants and bars that welcomed snowmobilers with open arms. These outings not only provided opportunities for adventure but also fostered a sense of community as we bonded with fellow riders over shared experiences and mutual appreciation for the winter landscape.

When local conditions didn't cooperate, we would pack up our trailer

generations, ensuring that organized snowmobiling remains a vibrant and cherished part of our local culture for years to come.

In addition to its social and recreational benefits, organized snowmobiling has also had a significant economic impact on our community. The influx of snowmobilers during the winter season provides a much-needed boost to local businesses, including restaurants, hotels, and gas stations, many of which rely on tourism revenue to survive during the colder months. Moreover, the presence of well-maintained snowmobile trails attracts visitors from across the region, contributing to the overall vitality and sustainability of our rural economy. Beyond its immediate economic benefits, organized snowmobiling also plays a crucial role in promoting outdoor recreation and environmental stewardship. By providing safe and accessible trails for snowmobilers of all ages and skill levels, local snowmobile clubs help to encourage healthy, active lifestyles and foster a deeper appreciation for the natural beauty of our surroundings. Furthermore, these clubs often collaborate with environmental organizations and government agencies to implement sustainable trail management practices and minimize the impact of snowmobiling on sensitive ecosystems.

In conclusion, organized snowmobiling has had a profound and multifaceted impact on my life, shaping my sense of community, work ethic, and personal growth. From the annual ritual of marking trails to the camaraderie of shared adventures, this beloved winter pastime has provided me with countless memories and lessons that will stay with me for a lifetime. As I continue to navigate the trails of life, I am grateful for the enduring friendships, cherished experiences, and valuable skills that organized snowmobiling has bestowed upon me.



2nd Place
Claire Scheiblhofter

Snowmobiling is both a sport and a leisurely activity. Little kids and adults alike find joy from riding. Casual sledding, specifically, is enjoyed by many every year and uses trail systems maintained by snowmobile clubs to ensure a safe and pleasurable environment for riders.

The first time I rode on a snowmobile, I was on a father-daughter trip. I was bundled up in gear entirely borrowed from family and friends, excited to spend time with my dad. Since that first weekend trip, I have been on many more

both with just my dad and my whole family. Snowmobiling has become a tradition, a getaway, and a way for my family to bond.

When I got old enough to start driving my own sled, I had a lot of anxiety about it; I was only thirteen and had not been around snowmobiling for very long. I did not know what any of the hand signs meant or when I was supposed to use them. I was extremely grateful to be able to attend a club sponsored snowmobile safety class. Going to the safety class to get my license made me feel a lot better about my ability to drive a snowmobile and be on the trails safely and responsibly because I learned so much. Being with my family on the trails all day is so much fun. I have so many fond memories of pit stops for hot chocolate

and making goofy videos before getting back on the sleds. Without the safety course to encourage me, the trails would not be the source of joy and relaxation that they have become.

The view on the trails is often overwhelmingly beautiful. The perfect pearly white snow thickly falling on the forest floor and layering the trees is a scene straight out of a storybook. Everything looks and smells clean and fresh. There are often trees on either side of the trail as far as the eye can see. Occasionally, a deer can be seen a little way into the wood. Without snowmobiling, I would not have been able to experience this side of nature; and without extra care being taken to ensure that there was nothing dangerous lying under the snow on the trail, I would not be able to appreciate the scenery as much. I know that we would not have trails prepped, marked, groomed, and generally kept safe if it weren't for the hard work and long hours that the snowmobile club members dedicate to this.

Once, my group was riding and our leader suddenly stopped. I started looking around to make sure everyone was still with us. They were so I was very confused until I saw three deer leaping through the trees and across the path. I have never seen a wild animal as close as I did that day. Without snowmobiling and the well-kept trails, I would not have had that opportunity.

I have met many interesting people that have turned into friends because of sledding. Snowmobiling clubs specifically are a great way to bring people with common interests together. This builds up the community and makes me love snowmobiling even more. Snowmobile clubs also help members stay up to date about news within the hobby and keep people interested and involved.

A lot of work goes into preparing snowmobiling trails every year. From educating young and new riders, to signs, to clearing, to grooming... all of this goes into creating the safest, most fun experiences. Many families with inexperienced riders and children go snowmobiling. This means that people must be able to trust that conditions are safe and that other drivers are responsible. Thanks to snowmobiling clubs, this can be achieved. If they did not do everything they do, I would not have these wonderful family memories, outdoor fun, and wildlife experiences. I look forward to someday introducing my children to snowmobiling and making many more wonderful memories. Thank you to all the snowmobile clubs for all you do!

For the 2025 Scholarship, applications need to be submitted by April 1st, 2025. Our application is on the IASC website. I was hoping we had so much snow, this year's topic would be hard to write about, but I fear low snow years are becoming the new normal and our students will find this topic easy to write about. I hope we hear lots of new ideas to help our clubs and regions. Our 2025 essay topic is: "During a low snow year, what suggestions do you have to keep the membership active in organized snowmobiling?"



Photo Credit: Mike Lester

BREAKING NEWS

What We Know and Don't Know About Arctic Cat

By Motorhead Mark Lester, Supertrax Magazine and SnowTrax TV

You'd have to be dead from the ears up to have missed the surplus of opinions, questions and wild observations involving Arctic Cat's current state of affairs – all being served up by social media. Today we have news sure to tantalize a legion of Greenies while being of interest to the industry.

First, Why Have We Been Quiet?

The past two months we've been clearing rumors and speculative op-eds from our hard drives while waiting to bring you real info and not just opinion. Our viewers and readers have come to trust us for the straight goods on important topics. This particular situation revolving around the future of Arctic Cat has been the most talked about issue in the sno-mo-media in the last ten years. I will attempt to bring some clarity by identifying what is likely happening and what is actually happening. We've waited until now to name names due to the sensitive nature of this important issue.

What's With Textron?

Textron is a multi-billion-dollar US Corporation with huge ties to the US military and – believe it or not – a formidable foot print in both the private aviation and golf cart/electric vehicle market. What Textron does not do is market or sell its products to the retail marketplace. It is a self-admitted Business to Business (B2B) focused entity.

This means Textron knows little about selling snowmobiles and offroad motorized recreational products. If there ever is a reconciliation of how this situation ended up as it is today, this one reality – Textron's lack of experience with retail marketing – will be the best answer.

You don't need to be Kreskin to realize Textron isn't committed to the recreational powersports manufacturing business. Its communication with dealers and the enthusiast marketplace the past two months has been nothing short of dismal and all of it

underlines the problem I just spoke of.

The powersports industry requires deep understanding of the target consumer and his/her expectations. We're a complicated demographic but are loyal, dedicated and committed to our brands. When I say committed I mean way beyond common sense or practicality. Simply put, many snowmobilers are rabidly brand loyal.

So here's what we think might be going on as the industry reels from the news Arctic Cat will be shut down for at least three months with no indication or most certainly no promise it will be back. For sure we shouldn't assume the faithful devoted employees of Arctic Cat in Thief River Falls are not battle hardened. They are and this situation right now is impacting a lot of good people who know how to build great snowmobiles.

The Straight Goods

There are numerous rumors floating around the Powersports Industry right now. For sure there is no lack of speculation about what will happen to Arctic Cat moving out three months, six months and one year from now. John Deere – the agriculture giant that's been in and out of the sno-mo biz more than once was spotted in TRF last summer. Immediately they were thought to be looking at Arctic Cat. In the ensuing time Bobcat was painted with the same rumor. When CFMOTO signed on as an ISOC Sno-X masthead sponsor the grass caught on fire under the telephone lines. In some ways this move seemed the most believable amongst some pretty wild speculation. We're prepared to say none of the aforementioned candidates hold much water.

Except....

Argo, the maker of Argo XTVs, ATVs and SXS vehicles have been making moves which go back more than 2 years. It is no secret things at Arctic Cat have been in turmoil for at least that long. For the past three years Textron has been showing the door to some immensely talented, even iconic, dedicated staff. In almost lock step with these moves by Textron, Argo opened a full-on, fully staffed engineering and design facility in TRF. Guess who works for Argo now? You got it – fifty of the best minds in the recreational powersport industry.

There's More

One of the most aggressive and talented CEOs in this business - Brad Darling – has led Argo to huge success – increasing sales of the company 4-fold in less than seven years. Who is Brad Darling? He is the former Vice President of Arctic Cat and served as such until the end of the Chris Metz era. Over the years I've interviewed Brad Darling. He is savvy and possesses infinite knowledge of what it takes to be successful in the powersports biz. Oh yeah. He bleeds green.

Draw A Line Through This

While we do not have boiler plate confirmation Argo is positioning itself to take over Arctic Cat, it is undeniable something is going on - with Brad Darling at the controls. For sure he knows the timelines necessary to make this a reality are pretty short. If our thoughts here are correct things may happen quickly.

There's no doubt Arctic Cat is a 100% viable business proposition – when run by the right people. Clearly, the company needs to implement a substantial reversal of policy and procedures, moving forward. What does “moving forward mean?”.

Is there, or was there ever a lineup of companies ready to buy Arctic Cat? From what we've picked up using our top secret, Artificial Intelligence, there is and/or was interest - and we've verified it is serious. Know this – Arctic Cat remains much loved by a legion of green under-wearing enthusiasts. In my opinion? Arctic Cat is not done.

Here's a twist perfectly suited for Read/Valve. The SnowTrax crew is planning to capture some Arctic Cat content with a best-before date of Spring 2025. Ask yourself why Arctic Cat would do this if it wasn't going to sell new snowmobiles?

Here's more. Arctic Cat's brand-new and engine – the 858 in the CATALYST platform is ready for prime time offering truly competitive performance in a very competitive market. Something this desirable is too good to waste.

Finally, one more thing. Have you heard the fat lady sing?

We haven't.

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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
skipschaefer5804@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
rieke7603@frontier.com
Meets 7:30pm 1st Tuesday
Rusty Nail Saloon
4520 Ringwood Rd, Ringwood

McHenry Co. Snowmobile Assoc.

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

Polar Bares

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

Richmond Trailblazers

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

Spring Grove Sno-Grover'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

Skinner's Auto Body
320 Reed St.
Pecatonica, IL 61063
815-239-1853
skinnerautobody@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

**Pilot Construction Co., Inc.
Concrete, Construction and
Excavating**
PO Box 707
Herscher, IL 60941
815-674-2046
pilotccinc@gmail.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/

Little Benny's Garage
415 Johnson St.
Utica, IL 61373
815-993-4002
littlebenny78@sbcglobal.net

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

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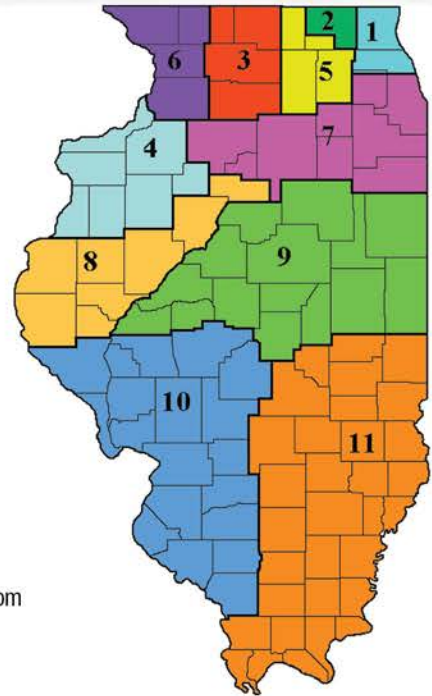
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iasc.illinois@gmail.com

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insurance@vandvins.com
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Hampshire White Riders Fundraiser



By Dwain "Duey" Stadie

Saturday, November 23rd was the Hampshire White Riders Fundraiser held at the Red Ox Restaurant & Bar in Hampshire. The wheel was spinning all night with 22 meat raffles, followed by 3-50/50 raffles, and finishing the evening with the big cash raffle with \$2,300.00 in prizes.

The evening was a success. The club raised some money and an enjoyable time was had by all. Thanks to all who helped to make the raffle possible: Becky, Haseman, Scott Haseman, Jeff Meindl, Kim Cermak, Jerry Hresil, Bert Veldhuizen, Mike Navigato, Ed Brettschneider, Ed Hagendorn and Dwain Stadie. Thanks to everyone who came out and bought tickets. Thanks to the Red Ox for letting us host yet another event at their location. Thanks to Cy Herman for the PA system and thanks to the Hampshire Lions Club for the use of the raffle wheel.

Every club raffle is important. It's called a fundraiser for a good reason. It's a way for that club to raise the necessary funds to keep their operations going. Remember, no local clubs, no snowmobile trails. It's just that simple. The local club is where it all begins. So, today's lesson, if you see a club having a fundraiser, make it a point to stop in and show that club some support. The sport we all love so much would not exist without the local club. I hope to see you all at the next fundraiser. You not only help support the club, you may actually win something.

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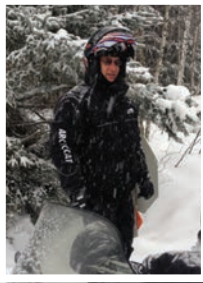
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+ Safety & Education +



Pat Pendergast

Greetings, all. I hope this article finds you well after having survived the holiday season. February means a lot of you have probably been riding somewhere. If you did get a chance to ride, I hope you had good luck with no safety-related problems. As of this writing, I have been following social media with riders discussing the early season riding up north. Let's hope all of the lakes and bogs are finally frozen and it is business as usual. It doesn't always have to be December/January to come upon a bog or swamp that is not frozen solid. Check with snowmobile clubs in the area where you plan to ride and inquire about problem areas. Most clubs are on social media nowadays, are normally pretty accessible and they

are your best source of information for trail conditions. Water can present all kinds of issues when riding, whether in liquid or solid form. The obvious problem is when it's in liquid form can be open water or slush out in the middle of a lake. A less conspicuous spot could be a marshy area or bog, if you are riding in unfamiliar terrain. While the marsh areas aren't nearly as dangerous as open water on a lake, you can get a sled in one heck of a mess. Mud, along with long grass and/or cattails, can make a big job of getting things out and going again. Another example where "know before you go" can make for a much more enjoyable ride for everyone in your group.

Speaking of groups, have we discussed how to ride in a group lately? February, which coincides with Presidents' Day holiday weekend, can mean club trips. Club trips normally involve riders with all kinds of different skill levels. Do you know how to arrange riders of various riding abilities within a group? A good place for one of the most experienced riders in the group is the leader. The leader's job is to set a comfortable pace for the group, especially the least experienced rider. The rider with the least experience should be directly behind the leader. This allows the leader to monitor their progress and make sure they are riding at a speed that matches their comfort level and abilities. Forcing an operator to ride at a pace they

are not comfortable with increases the chance of an accident and can also ruin the riding experience for that individual. Another place in the group for one of the more experienced riders is at the rear, also known as the sweep position. This person monitors the group to see if the leader has set a good pace that everyone is capable of handling. He or she can also keep an eye on and correct anyone not practicing good trail etiquette, such as staying to the right, maintaining safe separation distances, etc.

Are there a lot of people in your group? If your numbers are over 10-12 riders, consider splitting up into two groups. This makes it much easier to keep track of everyone and may allow you to have one group that rides a little more conservatively and a group that wants to ride a little faster and rack up a few more miles than the others. You can still meet at the same location for lunch or supper. Just take different routes to get there. Once you are at the planned meeting place, it offers a couple of different sets of stories and adventures to share. And that's what snowmobile clubs and riding in a group are all about, isn't it? We're a bunch of people who share the same passion for this wonderful sport of snowmobiling. So join a club, make new riding friends, and become a part of a snowmobiling family that will increase your enjoyment of this sport and allow you way more opportunities to experience the great outdoors in the winter than you would on your own. Ride safe, everyone.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

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

a) Experience level
c) Intelligence & common sense

b) Physical size, especially height
d) Snowmobile performance

Answer: a) Experience level



Safety Class Schedule



Class Date	Location	Address	Time	Registration
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NO SAFETY CLASSES SCHEDULED 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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