

53 YEARS
IASC **Illinois**
SNOWMOBILER



53rd Annual
IASC Convention

▶ Hampshire White Riders Snowmobile Club Update

▶ 2025 IASC Convention
Award Winners

▶ My Snowmobiling Mishap

December 2025

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

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PRESIDENT'S DESK



Kai Steward

I want to start this month off by thanking our volunteers again. We had a great convention in Galena and enjoyed the first snowfall in Illinois. The snow really excited our volunteers and hopefully you all had a great turn out marking trails and preparing for this upcoming winter. Our association and the Illinois trails would not be what we are today without all of you.

Speaking of convention, one of the take aways from our seminar on both land owner relations and insurance is to be prepared and plan ahead. If there is anything we can assist your club with, or if you need help with an issue or direction, please let us know.

The month of December also brings a few classes for our Safety Education Program. Our Facebook page and our website will have a list of in-person classes. Thank you to Polaris for supporting our program and donating 3 complete suits to students of our in-person safety education classes.

The last few years our hopes for a plentiful snow season have been dashed, but this first snowfall and the weather has given me hope that we will have a great season.

I hope you and your families have a Merry Christmas and Holiday Season and as always we will be praying Mother Nature takes her wrath out in the form of snow for Illinois.

Respectfully Submitted
Kai Steward



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

John Prusak

jprusak@arcticcat.com

arcticcat.com

Arctic Cat Is Accelerating with New Additions

(THIEF RIVER FALLS, MN November 11, 2025) – Boldly charging into the future with renewed energy, Arctic Cat’s shared mission of building a company of riders for riders has the throttle to the bars.

Key areas of focus have been within the sales and customer service teams. With recent additions adding to an already strong core, our veteran sales team now has a combined 300-plus years of professional powersports industry experience.

Recent additions include district sales manager **Brock Fischer** covering Texas and Oklahoma; **Tracy Burkhart** covering Minnesota, North and South Dakota; **Tim Miller** covering Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey and Connecticut; **Kelly Rees** covering Kentucky, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia; and **Mark Mackin** covering New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland/Labrador.

Arctic Cat District Sales Managers are in the field every day—supporting their existing dealers, signing new partners, and providing hands-on support to the network in their local markets. Their work is a direct driver of Arctic Cat’s growth and a reflection of our commitment to strong, long-term dealer relationships. The addition of recent team members only enhances an already impressive team that, combined, has professional experience at more than 20 OEMs, aftermarket companies, distributors, and dealerships. Regional Sales Directors Eric Bondy, Derek Jordahl and Kevin Asselin are nearing the end of their search to cap off this impressive team of dealer partners.

Arctic Cat is actively recruiting and signing high-quality dealerships with a focus and promise to never oversaturate a market, offering dealers the opportunity to grow their businesses. Since the new ownership group received the keys back in April, there has been a rally cry from dealers who are ready to support a brand that believes in their products, employees and their future of offering premium products to their consumers. This support has so far increased new Arctic Cat’s dealer interest two-fold with goals to continue at a measured pace, placing Arctic Cat products and quality dealer service closer to consumers who live to ride.



Commenting on Arctic Cat’s approach for dealer relations, Brad Darling, President and CEO, states, “We are a company of riders who work to understand and anticipate our dealer’s needs, and those of their customers. We are a committed partner that provides the best products and support, ensuring Arctic Cat is a successful addition to their business.”

Based on the feedback and energy coming from the fall snowmobile and offroad shows, current Arctic Cat dealers have overwhelmingly expressed that Arctic Cat riders are raising their flags to let everyone know, “Riders Rule.”

About Arctic Cat Arctic Cat has been a leader in the offroad industry since 1962. Arctic Cat markets its Snowmobile, ATV and SXS products through a network of independent dealers located throughout the United States and Canada and through distributors representing dealers in Europe, South America, the Middle East, Asia and other international markets.

A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

Convention 2025 Celebrating 53 Years of Organized Snowmobiling in Illinois



Carol Bly-Julian

On November 7, 2025, the Illinois Association of Snowmobile Clubs kicked off our annual convention at Chestnut Mountain, in Galena, Illinois. Over the years the format for the convention has changed, but the desire for time to get together and visit with snowmobilers from all over the state remains unchanged. Friday night the Convention committee scheduled a mixer which gave the attendees an opportunity to sit down and swap stories with people you sometimes only see once a year. The mixer lasts late into the night, but it is worth losing sleep to reconnect with old friends.

On Saturday, the formal schedule began with an 8am seminar. Sam Landes was the speaker and his presentation topic centered on resolving access issues with landowners. Sam was inducted into the International Snowmobile Hall of Fame in 2025 and based on his background I can see why. In his presentation he provided many insights on things that worked and did not work with landowners. I had many takeaways from the presentation, but two simple things stuck with me. First, determine what you want and why you want it. Second, consider what the response will be. I cannot say that this is the first time I have considered these two ideas in my life, but I never considered them when trying to resolve a conflict. If you start with these two things you can build a strategy from there. After Sam's presentation, we had an insurance seminar with Kelly O'Donnell, the owner of V&V Insurance, as the speaker. V&V Insurance has been the insurance agency that has covered many Illinois snowmobile clubs for decades. Kelly presented a wealth of information about the different types of insurance coverage clubs have, and the importance of each type. Kelly's presentation also coincided with Sam's presentation, as Kelly discussed the insurance coverage landowners get when snowmobile trails cross their property. Armed with the information from both these presenters, we are ready to go out and get permission to use private and public land for trails.

Once our minds were filled with knowledge, it was time for lunch! Our lunch speaker this year was Hank Armbricht. His presentation was a travelog style account of an annual trip he hosts called the brew tour. Hank is no stranger to Illinois snowmobiling, as he and his wife Kim were longtime members of clubs in Illinois before they moved to upper Michigan. It was great to have an old friend of many of the people in the room talk about the fun he has had

snowmobiling. He invited us all to participate in his annual ride too!

Next, we had the IASC annual meeting. If you do not have the time to attend the entire convention, you should try to get a club representative to this meeting. During the annual meeting we vote on the budget and hold the election for the executive board members. Often, things are brought up during these meetings that affect all clubs throughout the state. If you can find no other reason to attend the convention, this meeting is the time that you can voice your club's concerns. This year's executive board remained the same as last year. Kia Stewart as President, Kaite Polhill as Vice President, Jessica Dicker as Secretary, Don Schaefer as Member at Large, and yours truly as Treasurer. Well enough about business, let us get back to fun!

Since the convention has been reduced to one packed day, the next thing on the agenda was the banquet. During the banquet awards are given out. This year's award recipients are all very deserving dedicated snowmobilers. The Harry Kroll/Mel Blaurock award went to Scott Helmer, Snowmobiler of the year is Mason Long, the Sam Madonia award went to Mark Hazzard, the Family of the year went to the Diddens family, the snowmobile club of the year was German Valley, the Glue award went to Brad Pfile, and Dealer of the year was Full Throttle. The SEP instructor of the year is Kaite Polhill, with Steve Simmons taking first place, Layla Mora taking second place, and Dirks McLaughlin taking third place in the Polaris challenge. The Scholarships were awarded, first place went to Abigail Fellows, and second place went to Maren Davis. Congratulations to all the winners! We were even blessed by snowfall during the banquet, and some children that will remain nameless had a great time bringing snow in from outside. I hope this is a sign that the upcoming season will be filled with rideable snow!

No convention would be complete without the Scholarship auction. Every year the auction takes place at the end of the night on Saturday. Speaking from my experience, this auction can get a little crazy with people getting into bidding wars on donated items, but it is all harmless fun to raise money for the Scholarships we award. I am always amazed at the generosity of the attendees. It is truly a good cause, and people recognize that.

As the evening came to a close, we said goodbye to friends and wished everyone safe travels home. Next year, the convention will be held again at Chestnut Mountain on November 6th and 7th. I hope to see you all there!



August Hampshire White Riders Snowmobile Club Update

By Dwain "Duey" Stadie

Coon Creek Country Days took place in Hampshire this past August. The event featured a range of events including a carnival, craft and vendor booths, beer garden, live musical performances, food vendors, fireworks, raffles, a corn boil, 5K and 10K runs, as well as a parade. Speaking of the parade, the Hampshire White Riders Snowmobile Club once again had our groomer in the parade, and we gave out 3,000 suckers. Two things about this year's parade; it took longer to powerwash the groomer and drag than to decorate it. I cannot believe how dusty it got sitting in the barn over the summer. Second, in the past 30+ years, I have never seen it rain during the parade. Dan and I stayed nice and dry in the groomer's cab. We even had to turn a wiper on for a minute, but the back of the groomer was filled with grandkids who got soaked. Great fun and good PR. Thanks to everyone who helped Dan Eiklor, Becky Haseman, Scott Haseman, Matt Stadie, Alaina Stadie, Clayton Stadie, Luke Stadie, Dean Stadie and Dwain Stadie.

Second, the Hampshire White Riders Again helped the Early Times Street Rods Car Club with the Suds and Fun Car Show this past August. We helped fence in the park on Saturday and take down the fence on Sunday. We ran one entrance gate, had a food tent, and sold raffle tickets. A nice



fundraiser for us and we had fun. Thanks to everyone who helped Becky Haseman, Scott Haseman, Randi Haseman, Austin Haseman, Cameron Haseman, Jeff Meindl, Kathy Meindl, Ed Hagendorn, Hallie Hagendorn, Dave Wright, Jerry Hirsell, Pat, Mike Navigato, Sherry Navigato, Chris Moore, Steve Gustafson, Linda Gustafson, Pete Fields, Jodi Fields, Ed Brettschneider, Genice Brettschneider, Kent Nussbaum, John Carmack, Kim Cermack, Keith Lima, Alaina Stadie, Clayton Stadie, Matt Stadie and Dwain Stadie.

Every club needs volunteers, and we had a great turnout. Thanks again to everyone.

Region Meeting Schedule:

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

Region 1

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

Region 2

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

Region 3

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

Region 4

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

Region 5

Director: **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: **Bob Steele**
217-691-4701 bsteele300@yahoo.com
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EVENTS

DECEMBER

December 6th:

Midwest Trailblazers
3rd Annual Christmas Party
5:30pm – 10:00pm
Fundraiser for Ronald
McDonald House, Springfield,
IL and Food Drive for Local
Food Pantry
Food provided, Hipbone Sam
Band, Cash Bar, Gift Basket
Raffles - Open to the public
Sherman Athletic Club
300 1st St., Sherman, IL 62684

JANUARY

January 24th:

Music Trivia Night
Registration opens at 5:30pm,
Trivia Starts at 7pm
Cedar Creek Hall
571 E. North St.
Galesburg, IL 61401

January 28th-February 1st:

ACSA Meet & Ride: Trail Region
Watersmeet, Michigan
Meet: Saturday January 31
Ride: Thursday-Friday,
January 29-30
Stay: Northern Waters
Casino Resort
Reservations: 906-358-4226
\$129 per night
For more info, contact Mark
Hazzard: 815-985-5952

FEBRUARY

February 1st:

Radar Run
Registration opens at 9:30 am,
Speed runs start at 10 am
On Lake Storey
Just off Hwy. 150
Galesburg, IL 61401

February 18th-22nd:

ACSA Meet & Ride:
Mountain Region
West Yellowstone, MT
Meet: Friday February 20, 2026
Ride: Wednesday-Thursday,
February 18-19 and Saturday,
February 21.
Stay: Holiday Inn,
West Yellowstone
Reservations: 406-646-7365
\$149 per night
For more info, contact Bert
Miller: 307-899-3419

JUNE

June 3rd-6th:

58th Annual International
Snowmobile Congress
Embassy Suites Hotel and
Conference Center
12520 Westport Pkwy
La Vista, NE 68128
Call 402-331-7400 and
mention ISC2026

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2025 IASC Winners

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



Dealer of the Year

Full Throttle



Snowmobiler of the Year

Mason Long



Club of the Year

German Valley
Sno-Riders



Harry Kroll &
Mel Blaurock Award

Scott Helmer



Sam Madonia Award

Mark Hazzard



Family of the Year

The Diddens Family



Charles Mettala Award

Kaite Polhill



Glue Award

Brad Pfile

Snow Sighted at the 53rd

By Don Schaefer

This year's IASC convention had something that we as snowmobilers have been missing for the last couple of years—SNOW. Yes, although it was only November 8, 2025, it snowed several inches Saturday night during the annual Banquet and Awards Dinner. The kids were starting snowball fights while selling snow cones for a dollar. It was beautiful and provided the hope and excitement we needed as we celebrated the past year and looked forward to the coming season. The convention is full of activities that are entertaining and fun as well as informative. Chestnut Mountain in Gelena, IL was the location for the 53rd Annual IASC Convention. Coming in on Friday night was a challenge as you were on the back roads and wondering if your GPS was giving you the correct directions. But then, in the pitch of darkness, through the trees you see light and then a beautiful resort. Just like coming home from a day of snowmobile riding.



Once unloaded and checked in, the Friday night hospitality room was open. It was great greeting friends and snowmobilers from around the state. A night of catching up with old friends and making some new friends. Yes, I have gone to many conventions over the past 40 years, but I still met a new friend on Friday night. Stories were shared and future plans were discussed as people enjoyed the refreshments and the excitement of the coming season.

Friday night was also the chance to allow the executive board to meet to discuss the IASC business for the coming year. In addition, there was a meeting on Friday night between the executive board and the Trail Adviser committee, which was very productive as we discussed how we can improve the IASC and Illinois snowmobile trails.

Saturday, the big day, started out with coffee of course, and then sitting in on two great seminars, Protecting Access and Understanding Your Insurance. Sam Landes, Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs - Legislative Committee Chair was first up and discussed preserving land access and steps to help you deal with problems. A very informative presentation that reminded us about conflict resolution ideas to help

us understand ways to work with landowners and other trail partners to preserve our snowmobile trails. Sam has a great deal of experience of working with Wisconsin legislation, landowners, land management organizations and county/ local government as the AWSC legislative Committee Chair. Hopefully the attendees walked out with ideas of how to deal with possible landowners' issues to resolve them in our best interest.



Next up was Kelly O'Conner, owner of V & V Insurance Agency. The IASC has used the V & V agency for our club insurance for many years as they specialize in snowmobile organizations and are very aware of snowmobilers' needs. They have developed a great relationship with many other states throughout the snowbelt to help with insurance needs. Kelly provided background of what our coverage includes, how to help foresee issues and decrease problems, or at least be prepared for insurance issues facing our sport. Many questions were asked and answered as well as the stress of working with the landowners to develop a relationship to allow snowmobile trails on their property. Insurance is constantly changing as liability factors always are out there to be aware of and we need to be prepared for. Kelly said his staff are always available to help your club with its questions.

After soaking in on the information provided by the 2 seminars, the attendees gathered for lunch. After the welcome by our President, Kia Steward, and acknowledgment of visitors and many important people, and lunch, we had a presentation by Hank Armbricht. Hank is a former member/officer of several IASC snowmobile clubs that met his wife at an IASC Convention many years ago. Hank and Kim are now currently

Annual IASC Convention

living the dream in the UP. Hank organizes a yearly backpacking trip each year that he calls "The Brew Tour," visiting different breweries in the UP at night while riding between them on sleds during the day. We were treated to many beautiful pictures of winter landscapes with snowmobiles and pictures shown while we listened to Hank highlighting his experiences while on his trips. It was great looking at the pictures and praying that you will have the experience this winter to be in some of your own pictures.

Saturday afternoon was set aside to have the annual IASC business meeting. It was great to see an increase in the number of clubs attending the meeting compared to prior years. At this meeting, we reviewed the 2025/2026 budget and received updates from the many committees. Attendees were able to ask questions, and much discussion was held as to running the IASC to improve snowmobiling in Illinois. Members are welcome to attend, and it is encouraged that each club should send a representative to take part in the meeting. A presentation by Len Neliser, ACSA Secretary, was given as to the importance of what the ACSA is doing to improve snowmobiling on the national level. Clubs are encouraged to join the ACSA to keep up with news that affects us all over the USA. Discussion took place at the meeting about the possible need to increase registration fees which should be discussed at your region and club meetings in the near future. The annual elections of officers for the IASC were also held and all the current officers were reelected, Kai Steward - President; Katie Polhill - Vice President; Don Schaefer - Member at large Director; Carol Bly-Julain - Treasurer; and Jessica Dicker - Secretary. These are just some highlights so refer to the minutes for the details of the annual meeting.

Well, after the long meeting, it was time for the annual IASC Banquet and Awards Dinner. Of course, after the Happy Hour. There were tables of basket raffles donated by many of the clubs of the IASC and some silent auction items that were also donated by clubs, members or businesses. Thank you to all the clubs, members and businesses that donated to the IASC as well as to participate in the Annual Convention booklet. The funds receive help with the cost of the convention to keep the cost down and give members a chance to attend. Our president was the emcee and prior to eating a great meal, introduced guests and the VIP's that attended this year's convention. After dinner, we were privy to the awarding of the many IASC awards to well deserving people and businesses for their contributions to snowmobiling as well as our Safety Education Program and recognizing our 2 scholarship winners.

It was enjoyable to hear the presentations of the awards and the thank you speeches. Please check out the Awards page elsewhere in this magazine and congratulate the winners if you see them.



After the awards, we were serenaded by "Sofie Coyote" as attendees mingled with each other and checked out the basket raffles and silent auction items. Sofie Coyote was great, providing some great music for the attendee's enjoyment. The IASC is a great place to sit and talk with other members from other clubs to discuss why snowmobiling is such a fun sport! It was great seeing several tables of members from

the same club mingling with others sharing stories, ideas and just general chatting. Once the music stopped and the winners of the basket raffles and silent auction were announced, it was time for the annual live auction. This year's auction benefited the Scholarship Fund. Dave Mayer did a great job as the auctioneer and pushed the limit for the attendees to keep bidding on a lot of great stuff donated by members, businesses and clubs. The proceeds helped a great cause. Well, after the auction and people paid their "tabs," the 2025 IASC annual convention is over. Well, some of us may have sat up longer enjoying our favorite beverage but another IASC convention in the books.

The IASC Annual Convention is organized by an IASC committee and this year's chairs, Stephen Steward and Katie Polhill, did a great job of keeping the committee in line. Each region has an assigned member on the committee and there are others that volunteer to help. A thank you goes out to all these people as well as the people that helped with chores during the Convention. This convention was not possible without your help. In addition, a thank you goes out to all the regions and their clubs that participated as this is an event brought to you by the IASC and for the IASC members! Thank you.

If you attended, please take the survey to provide your input for consideration for future conventions. I look forward to seeing you at the 54th Annual Convention in Galena in 2026.

My Snowmobiling Mishap



By Dwain "Duey" Stadie

On Friday, January 17th, I headed north to Mercer, Wisconsin with my new Arctic Cat Catalyst ZR 600. I joined other snowmobile club members for a weekend ride to check out my new sled. I wanted to evaluate my sled in its original stock condition and see how it performed before making any changes.

On Friday afternoon, I put on 50 miles with an uneventful, but good day. We took off from the motel after breakfast on Saturday morning and around 11am, the disaster struck. I was the last one in a group of three on Trail 9, south of Upson and northwest of Island Lake. I hit an icy area on the trail and the sled started to fishtail. This was the first mistake as, remember, it was the maiden voyage with no studs yet. I tried to counter steer, but the left ski caught the edge of the trail and sucked the sled into the woods, stopping moments later 12 feet down in a ravine.

I was ejected from the sled, collided with a tree, and subsequently struck by the sled. I was now 12 feet down from the trail, stuck between a very solid tree and my snowmobile. It took me a second to gather my senses. I took off my helmet and set it down next to me, which was my second mistake. The helmet then slid a couple of feet away, just out of my reach. The helmet I had today did not have a helmet communicator set up, but if it did, I just lost my opportunity to communicate with others in my group.

I tried to crawl from between the tree and sled but the pain in my leg was unbearable every time I tried to move. I was now certain I had broken my leg. I was going to have to wait for my group to return to help me. I was only wearing one glove and noticed my other glove sitting next to my helmet, which I could not reach. I always have a pair of glove liners in my coat pocket and put one on so both hands would be covered and warm. I saw my two friends and other groups pass by several times, but being in the ravine, no one could see me; I only saw their helmets as they passed.

I looked at the tree I had run into and decided I could break off a branch and try waving it, hoping to get the attention of riders going by. It was at this time; I realized my chest and upper back hurt. This was my third mistake. It was supposed to be extremely cold, so I left

my TEK-Vest at home and put on extra layers to stay warm.

I did not know why at the time, but I had to suck up the pain in my right side to hold up the branch with both hands and wave it as hard as I could every time sleds went by. Now, I could hear my phone ringing... My fourth mistake. I usually have my cell phone in my coat's breast pocket, but today it was in my glove/goggle box on the dash of my sled. The sled which I could not reach, and every time I tried to pull myself up again the pain in my leg was just too much to bear. I knew my friends were trying to call me, but I could not get to the phone. My Polaris Ride command app was on, and our group used it to track each other's location all day, so I expected them to arrive any minute. Interesting idea, but although I had a phone signal, everyone in the group said I did not show up on the app. That part was just bad luck, not my mistake.

I was getting cold and started to shiver. I knew this was not good, but I kept waving my stick every time I heard sleds, though I just could not get anyone's attention. My phone rang a couple more times and by now, I had started shaking. Shortly thereafter, I was no longer cold anymore, I actually felt perfectly comfortable. I still had enough sense to realize this was bad, hypothermia or shock I guessed. I had been in this ravine for an hour and a half so there comes a point in time when you realize this might be it. No one can see me, and I cannot get anyone's attention. I eventually came to the conclusion there was a very good chance I was going to die. So, I said my prayers, made my peace with God, and ended my prayer with the comment, "If I can get one more favor, I could sure use one right now."

Just moments after I finished my prayer, I heard a semi-truck. Well, an empty logging truck, I realized as it went past me, but the passenger side was what I saw. Darn it, I thought, if it had been on the driver's side, the driver may have seen me. A brief time later, I heard a semi-truck again. I looked up as I was waving my stick, and I saw a fully loaded logging truck going by with the driver's side facing me now. A moment later, I heard air brakes. I then heard several crunching noises, which were the sounds of the logger's

boots walking in the snow. I will never forget that sound, a relief, and the favor I asked for. A second later, I saw the logger standing there, looking down at me, and he asked, "Are you ok?" to which I replied, "Absolutely not!" He asked if he should call 911, to which I quickly replied, "Please". The good Lord sent me an angel dressed as a logger. Not what I imagined, but thank you, Lord!

A couple of snowmobilers stopped to see what was going on, and they tried to figure out how to drag me up to the trail, but my angel logger said, "Leave it to the professionals, they are on the way. The guy says he can move his feet and toes, you could hurt him really bad if you move him." Again, thank God for this angel. The ambulance arrived. The paramedics and the snowmobilers all crawled down into the ravine. The snowmobilers moved my sled, the paramedics slid a backboard under me, put on a head and neck brace, and secured me to the board. I could not see anything but the sky above, but as I moved my eyes from side to side, I could see the pants of the paramedics and the bibs of snowmobilers. Everyone was carrying me, and I heard lots of huffing and puffing. I again prayed that they did not drop me, imagining I would take off like a toboggan down the hill, but thankfully they got me out of the ravine and into the ambulance. My friends arrived soon after I was taken to the ambulance, but the police barred their entry. I do not know the name of the logger or any of the snowmobilers who helped but cannot express how thankful I am to them. The paramedic wrapped me up in blankets and said the thermostat in the ambulance went up to 79 degrees and that is where he set it. I could warm up a little on the way to the hospital.

I arrived at a hospital in Ironwood, Michigan. The nurse in the ER told me I was now up to 88 degrees, but who knows what my temperature was when they found me? A trauma doctor checked me out. I heard him ask to see my helmet and then say, "We are going to do a CAT scan and x-rays, but by the looks of that helmet, his neck and back should be ok." I was diagnosed with a fractured right femur, a broken clavicle, and four rib fractures. The facility I was in was not equipped for the repairs I needed and due to the severe winds today, I could not be air lifted. So I got a two-and-a-half-hour ambulance ride to Aspirus hospital in Wausau, Wisconsin.

I would spend the next month in the hospital. I had surgery to fix my broken femur with a rod and a couple of screws. After a few days in the hospital, I was transferred to rehab for further recovery. The entire staff in the rehab unit were amazing. The directors, the doctor, physical therapy staff, occupational therapy staff, nurses, and CNAs were impressive to say the least. There are too many names to mention here, but I will mention one, Charity, my physical therapist. I was in a wheelchair and could not even stand without a machine to help me upon arrival. In just over two weeks, she had me walking a thousand feet a day. Although it was challenging, painful, and extremely exhausting, I would not have been able to walk without her assistance and dedication. I may have called her Sarge and Hitler's sister on more than one occasion, but she knew how to push me to my limits. As I was being discharged, I teared up, hugged her, and thanked her for helping me to walk again. I thank Charity again for her expertise. I hope none of you ever go through rehab, but if you must, this place is top notch. It was a wonderful facility with the most caring staff you could ever ask for.

Ultimately, I know I made a couple of mistakes, but the reason I drafted this story is to ask you what have we all learned from my

mishap? We need a way to contact the outside world in case of an accident. Whether we are in the mountains out west, the woods up north or in the middle of a corn field, how do we get help if something happens?

In the mountains out west, everyone rides with the GPS locators due to the possibility of an avalanche, but why wouldn't this be a great tool in the Midwest too? Mountain riders also use the shoulder mount two-way radios, which is another great tool. I am familiar with Oxbow's Bluetooth brand, but there are many models available. At minimal, remember a cell phone belongs in your coat pocket, not the glove box. Additionally, smart watches can make calls and send text messages, and they are on your wrist, but we must remember we are away from civilization. In the thick tree-covered woods, the cell signal can be very weak. Satellite phones are reasonably priced, offer global coverage, and are dependable for emergencies. However, some have high monthly costs. The big plus is satellite phones can connect to someone anywhere on earth, even in areas without cell service. Helmet communicators work great too, my Chatterbox system has a range of five miles, and the battery will last 8-10 hours, which should get you through the day and keep you in communication with your group. Devices like Garmin inReach or SPOT allow communication with 911 via satellite, including calls and texts. You can make phone calls and send text messages through onX, but it does not have cellular capabilities, so you need a Wi-Fi connection as it lacks SIM card capabilities. But onX is a great tool for determining if you are on public or private land. The manufacturers have ways to communicate with other riders of the same models (sled to sled) if you have your group's set-ups are done ahead of time, and your sled is still able to work. There also are many apps out there like Google and Rapid SOS for your phone that let you contact 911. Currently, only 55% of 911 call centers can receive text messages, though efforts are ongoing to improve this. Polaris Ride Command is a nice tool for tracking people in your group, not able to contact 911 or anyone else, but an excellent location tool. Many of the latest smartphones are equipped with an emergency feature that enables users to send an SOS signal, including GPS coordinates, to a pre-programmed contact number or directly to emergency services (911).

I want you all to think about the group you ride with and determine which one, or better, which two means of communication we discussed work best for you. We all need a way to communicate with each other in case of an emergency in our own group, but also in case we come upon another sledder or group with troubles. These devices can also help prevent emergencies by being a way to contact someone if a tree has fallen on the trail, or a bridge needs some kind of emergency repair.

While the communication options are abundant these days, I probably missed something. If you are thinking of any other devices, I encourage you to let me know so I can provide updates to keep everyone informed. I feel fortunate to still be here today, and I feel my experience is an opportunity to let others learn from my mistakes. I have told the story hundreds of times, talked at an SEP class and now written a magazine story about it. Hoping to set everyone up for a safer experience this next season. At the end of it all I am so grateful to still say... see you on the trail.

CLUBS 2025-2026

ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF SNOWMOBILE CLUBS

PO Box 8171
Elburn, IL 60119
815-210-0587
iasc.illinois@gmail.com
ilsnowmobile.com
facebook.com/iasc.inc

PRESIDENT

Kai Steward
815-509-0472
kastew91@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Kaite Polhill
815-990-2652
polhill11@gmail.com

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630-546-8059
bly.carol@gmail.com

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847-848-6576
jmdicker99@gmail.com

MEMBER AT LARGE

Don Schaefer
847-917-4202
dssschaefer@msn.com

TRAIL ADVISORS

• REGIONS 1 2 5

Bill Rieke
815-405-6065
rieke7603@frontier.com

• REGIONS 3 6

Mark Hazzard
815-985-5952
mrhazzman@gmail.com

• REGIONS 4 7 8 9 10 11

Bill Brown
815-993-4002
littlebenny78@sbcglobal.net

COMMITTEES

• CHARITY

Helen Cline
309-534-8322
ninr63@hotmail.com

• SEP

Pat Pendergast
309-335-4095
ppenderg@knox.edu

• SCHOLARSHIP

Stephanie Steward
262-745-6002
iascscholarshipfund@gmail.com

Region 1 Director
DON SCHAEFER
847-917-4202
dssschaefer@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 Snowmobile Club

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
snokommanders@gmail.com
2nd Monday @ 7:00 PM
EL Puerto Mexican 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
3rd Wednesday @ 7:00 PM
Heritage House Restaurant
21225 Route 14, Harvard, IL

Lakers / Sno-Bugs Snowmobile Club

Bill Rieke
815-405-6065
rieke7603@frontier.com
1st Tuesday @ 7:30 PM
Sideouts Sports Tavern
4018 Roberts Rd., Island Lake, IL

Marengo Snow Goers

Gary Zickuhr
815-970-1732
gzickr@gmail.com
3rd Tuesday @ 7:00 PM
Joe's Place
19716 E Grant Hwy., Marengo, IL

McHenry Cnty Snowmobile Assoc

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

Polar Bares of Northern IL
Mike Flaherty
847-848-1204
flaherty3107@comcast.net
2nd Tuesday @ 7:00 PM
Sideouts Sports Tavern
4018 Roberts Rd., Island Lake, IL

Richmond Trailblazers

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

Spring Grove Sno-Groovers

Dave Rudolph
815-560-1656
dave.rudolph@hotmail.com
2nd & 4th Thursday @ 7:30 PM
Rusty Nail Saloon
4520 Ringwood Rd., Ringwood, IL

Woodstock Snowmobile Club

Jim Ponstein
815-382-418
jponstein@sbcglobal.net
2nd Wednesday @ 7:00 PM
Napoli Pizza
135 Washington St., Woodstock, IL

Region 3 Director
DAN DAMPTZ
815-985-6071
dandampzt@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
1st Thursday @ 7:30 PM
Uptown Lanes / Back Alley Bar
106 W 2nd St., Byron, IL

Durand Ditch Riders

Mark Wilson
815-713-9626
mowilson1974@gmail.com
1st Tuesday @ 7:00 PM
Best Dam Bar
13965 Best Rd., Davis, IL

German Valley Sno-Riders

Jeff Becker
815-238-8441
farmer01@hotmail.com
1st Tuesday @ 7:30 PM
The Loose Screw
45 Church St., German Valley, IL

Midway Sno-Busters

Alex Turman
815-541-9872
alex@jdturman.com
2nd Wednesday @ 7:00 PM
PJ's Corner
504 N. Stanton St., Davis, IL
Cimino's
119 E. 4th St., Pecatonica, IL

Neboshone Trail Riders

Mike Johnson
815-985-5589
mdj_55@yahoo.com
1st Monday @ 7:00 PM
Fritz's Wooden Nickel
208 Walnut St., Stillman Valley, IL

Oaks Ridge Riders

Shane Hatfield
815-985-8834
shane@ame.com
3rd Tuesday @ 7:00 PM
Roscoe VFW Post 2955
11385 2nd St., Roscoe, IL

Polo Snow Rangers

Ashley Nelson
815-590-2595
ashleynhouck@yahoo.com
2nd Tuesday @ 7:00 PM
The Polo Room
712 N. Division Ave., Polo, IL

Rochelle Rail Riders

Stuart White
815-716-0843
slwhite61068@gmail.com
3rd Tuesday @ 7:00 PM
Moose Knuckle Bar & Grill
341 E. IL 38, Creston, IL

Rockford Moonriders

Royal Taylor
815-874-4502
rltsnow@comcast.net
2nd Thursday @ 7:00 PM
Rock A Baggo
4303 W. State St., Rockford, IL

Tri-County Alliance

Jeremy Garas
815-209-7019
jeepster0817@gmail.com
2nd Monday @ 7:00 PM
Uptown Lanes / Back Alley Bar
106 W 2nd St., Byron, IL

Winnebago Sno-Gliders

Dave DeRosso
815-985-4807
detailingbydavid@gmail.com
3rd Tuesday @ 7:00 PM
Bago Lounge
817 N. Elida St., Winnebago, IL

CLUBS 2025-2026

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

Corn Belt Driftbusters
Grant Barnard
 563-343-8150
 gbarnard2012@gmail.com
 1st Tuesday @ 7:00 PM
 The O Kitchen & Tap
 306 10th Ave., Orion, IL

Prairie Drifters
Kevin Schwartzkopf
 309-299-4347
 clayhillfarm@divcominc.net
 1st Monday @ 7:00 PM
 Genisio's
 249 N. Division St., Woodhull, IL

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

DeKane Sno-Trackers
Matt Linden
 815-739-4225
 dekanesnotrakersclub@gmail.com
 1st Wednesday @ 7:00 PM
 H D Rockers
 203 Main St., Maple Park, IL

Elgin Cold Ducks
Karl Schmidt
 847-370-4169
 3rd Tuesday @ 7:30 PM
 The Dutch Inn West
 2288 Foothill Rd., Elgin, IL

G.K. Trailblazers
Jay Schaack
 224-339-4266
 jschaack@yahoo.com
 2nd Thursday @ 7:00 PM
 5 Points Pub
 105 Main St., Kingston, IL

Hampshire White Riders
Dwain Stadie
 847-683-0140
 duey683@msn.com
 1st Wednesday @ 7:30 PM
 Red Ox Restaurant & Bar
 129 Oak Knoll Dr., Hampshire, IL

Huntley Penguins
Henry Regard
 847-910-0142
 hank56@comcast.net
 1st Tuesday @ 7:30 PM
 Huntley American Legion
 11712 Coral St., Huntley, IL

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

R5 Association of Snowmobile Clubs
Jennifer Baumgartner
 815-509-9373
 snowdiva18@yahoo.com
 2nd Wednesday @ 7:00 PM
 Red Ox Restaurant & Bar
 129 E Oak Knoll Dr., Hampshire, IL

Region 6 Director
KIRK POLHILL
815-275-3371
kdpwire@yahoo.com

Cedarville Snow Travelers
Brad Pfile
 815-541-8778
 bpfile@gmail.com
 3rd Wednesday @ 7:30 PM
 Route 20 Bar & Grill
 2051 AYP Rd., Freeport, IL

Elkhorn Creek Runners
Tom Plog
 815-631-6270
 kingcub@jcwifi.com
 3rd Tuesday @ 7:00 PM
 The Other Bar
 436 N Main St., Milledgeville, IL

Lena Blackhawk Trailblazers
Kory Polhill
 815-275-1299
 korypolhill@gmail.com
 3rd Thursday @ 7:00 PM
 Coach's Sport Bar & Grill
 621 W. Lena St., Lena, IL

NW IL SNOWMOBILE ALLIANCE
Alan Bracken
 815-631-6270
 108puller53@gmail.com
 2nd Thursday @ 7:30 PM
 JJ & Freddie's
 211 W. North Ave., Stockton, IL

Pearl City Sno-Pearls
Jered Nesemeyer
 815-291-7050
 nesemeyerfarms@gmail.com
 1st Thursday @ 7:30 PM
 Sandy's Slurp n Burp
 4319 S. Loran Road, Pearl City, IL

Thomson F.A.S.T. Trax
Marvin Green
 815-821-5341
 mc_green4@hotmail.com
 3rd Thursday @ 6:30 PM
 The Riverview Lodge
 5403 Riverview Rd., Thomson, IL

Whiteside County Snowbirds
Tim Geiger
 815-499-3720
 chevymudder@hotmail.com
 3rd Wednesday @ 7:00 PM
 Tampico Men's Club
 203 S. Benton St., Tampico, IL

Warren Winter Warriors
Brian Saunders
 815-541-1031
 bjsaunders61@gmail.com
 2nd Monday @ 7:30 PM
 Call for Location

Region 7 Director
DALE FRITZ
815-791-6375
dalefritz2@comcast.net

Evergreen Snowmobile Club
Rick Lesniak
 815-791-6016
 sledhead521@gmail.com
 1st Tuesday @ 7:00 PM
 Beggers Pizza
 15600 S. Cicero Ave., Oak Forest, IL

I&M Trailblazers
Dale Fritz
 815-467-2836
 dalefritz2@comcast.net
 2nd Thursday @ 7:00 PM
 Channahon Lanes
 25306 W. Eames St., Channahon, IL

IL Valley Winter Sports Club
Anthony Caselli
 815-712-1552
 8snowmobile@gmail.com
 1st Thursday @ 7:30 PM
 American Legion Post 235
 571 Rutland St., Marseilles, IL

R7 Assoc of Snowmobile Clubs
Dale Fritz
 815-791-6375
 dalefritz2@comcast.net
 2nd Thursday @ 7:00 PM
 Call for Location

Rusty Runners
Paul Killa
 630-391-3645
 paulki@sbcglobal.net
 3rd Wednesday @ 6:30 PM
 Beggers Pizza
 300 Veterans Pkwy., Bolingbrook, IL

Region 8 Director
Chad Wissen
815-674-5072
cwissen82@hotmail.com

Winona Yellow Streakers
Kevin Connell
 815-257-6772
 kjctrucking@gmail.com
 2nd Tuesday @ 7:00 PM
 Steve's Boardwalk Tap
 124 N. Chestnut St., Wenona, IL

Region 9 Director
BOB ATKINS
309-397-6922
atkinscrew@gmail.com

Woodford County Snowmobile Club
Larry Griffith
 309-360-8582
 ogriff42@yahoo.com
 1st Monday @ 7:30 PM
 Resident
 1102 S. Main St., Washington, IL

Region 10 & 11 Director
BOB STEELE
217-691-4701
bsteale300@yahoo.com

Central IL Ditch Riders
Drew Bartolozzi
 217-306-4751
 bartolozzi5@aol.com
 3rd Wednesday @ 7:00 PM
 Bunkers Bar
 715 Old Route 36, Illiopolis, IL

Heartland Polar Riders
Kyle Timmermann
 618-973-4331
 tmann1987@gmail.com
 3rd Wednesday @ 7:00 PM
 Call for Location

Midwest Trail Blazers
Robin Wall
 217-433-4503
 rbarw@live.com
 2nd Thursday @ 6:30 PM
 Gusto's Family Pizzeria
 10230 Old Route 36, Dawson, IL

BUSINESS MEMBERSHIPS 2025-2026

REGION 1

EL Puerto Mexican Restaurant
200 N Forest Ave
Fox Lake, IL 60020
(847) 973-1370
facebook.com/100063647347466
elpuertorestaurant.net
mayo.saul@yahoo.com

Nielsen Enterprises, Inc
130 S Milwaukee Ave
Lake Villa, IL 60046
(847) 356-3000
facebook.com/NielsenEnterprises
nielsens.com
info@nielsens.com

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

REGION 2

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

REGION 3

Legacy Bar & Gaming
116 E Main St.
Stillman Valley, IL 61084
815-645-7018
legacybarsv2020@gmail.com

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

Skinners Auto Body
320 Reed St.
Pecatonica, IL 61063
815-239-1853
skinnersautobody@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
spencer@hammertimesports.net

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

Full Throttle Powersports
11003 US Route 20 W
Lena, IL 61048
815-369-2153
fullthrottlepowersports@frontier.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
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

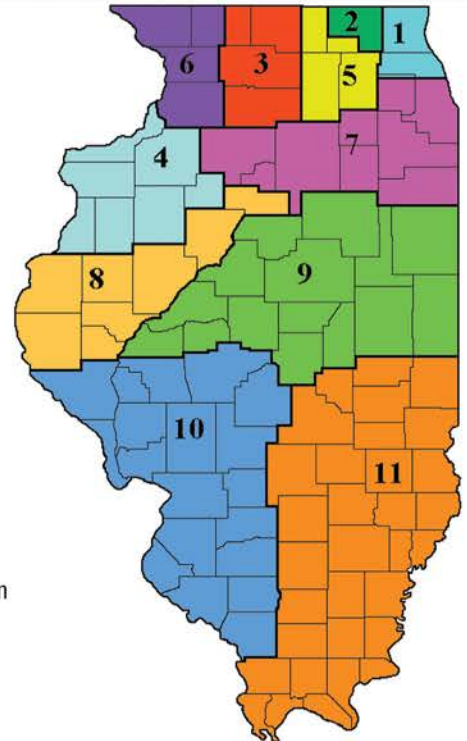
To List Your BUSINESS
Contact the IASC Office
815-210-0587
iasc.illinois@gmail.com

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



Did you know ...

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McHenry County Sheriff's Office | Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources
SNOWMOBILE SAFETY COURSE


DECEMBER 20
JANUARY 17

Classes are 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
at McHenry County Sheriff's Office



Includes instruction in safe operation, rules of the road, snowmobile law, first aid, proper riding techniques and related topics that will help the snowmobiler operate his/her vehicle safely. Required for all Illinois residents aged 12-16, or those without a valid driver's license, who wish to drive a snowmobile.

Register at www.mchenrysheriff.org/snowmobileclass/



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Safety Class Schedule



Class Date	Location	Address	Time	Registration
12/13/25	Oneida/Wataga Fire Station	316 S. Willard St., Wataga	8:00am-4:30pm	Bob 309-368-0620 Pat 309-335-4095
12/13/25	Lena Community Center	497 Lions Dr., Lena	8:00am-4:30pm	815-990-2652
12/20/25	McHenry County Sheriff's Office	2200 N. Seminary Road, Woodstock	8:00am-4:00pm	Register at www.mchenrysheriff.org/snowmobileclass/
1/3/26	H.Q. Kane Cnty Forest Preserve	1996 Kirk Rd., Geneva	8:00am-4:30pm	Ron 630-546-8058 rgjulian@comcast.net
1/17/26	McHenry County Sheriff's Office	2200 N. Seminary Road, Woodstock	8:00am-4:00pm	Register at www.mchenrysheriff.org/snowmobileclass/

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).

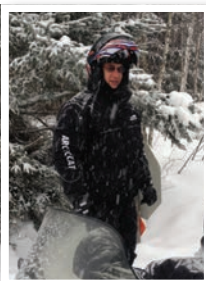
Test Your Snowmobiling Knowledge

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



Safety & Education



Pat Pendergast

Greetings all, I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and maybe had a chance to see some white gold? By this time of year, most folks (other than me, that is) have their sleds prepped, trailer checked out and are ready to head out at a moment's notice. With all of the hustle and bustle that tends to go along with the holiday season, make sure you stay focused when you are taking care of the snowmobile season preparations. If you have multiple sleds, keep records of what has been done to which sled. Even if someone else works on your sleds, keep track of everything. It

makes it easy to see what maintenance will be coming due on what sled, just flip through a file or folder on your computer and there you have it. It's also impressive when it comes time to sell or trade. Your sled registration is up to date, correct? Remember that sled registration dollars are the backbone of our state's grant program. These monies are what help local clubs mark and maintain trails, so don't sell us all short by not registering your sled in the state that you live in. If you're an Illinois snowmobiler you most likely have a snowmobile trailer. Make sure the plates are up to date, tires are road-worthy and all of the lights are functional. Even if you have an aluminum trailer, the axles are most likely steel. And we all know what kinds of conditions our trailers are operating in, see if road salt has taken its toll on anything underneath the trailer deck. Wheel bearings are another biggie that should be on your list. A lot of trailers have smaller wheels on them and those bearings are spinning at high rates of speeds when you're cruising along at 70 mph. There have been plenty of trailers parked along the side of the road with bearing failure as the reason. Don't forget the spare tire(s)

either, an easy one to overlook. Make sure it holds air, isn't dry-rotted and the rim is in good condition. While you are checking the wheel bearings, tires, etc., try loosening the lug nuts. If they haven't been removed for a long time they could be very hard to get out. Finding this out now vs on the shoulder along some highway on a frigid day with cars whizzing by makes for a much better repair scenario. It is much easier to deal with in your garage or shop where it's warm and dry and you have all of the tools you need. Trailer safety is just as important as snowmobile safety, in my opinion. Trailer trouble can put both you and other drivers at risk, so don't overlook simple things that could turn into bigger things and ruin a travel trip or get someone hurt before you even get to your destination. Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas, a Merry, white Christmas, that is! Ride safe, stay to the right.



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

You will take all of the following steps when you start your snowmobile. Which is the first step?

- a) Cold engines should be choked and primed.
- b) Place the key in the ignition
- c) Set the parking brake.
- d) Point your machine in a safe direction.

Answer: d) Point your machine in a safe direction.



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