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DEALER OF THE YEAR

Midwest Trailblazers Celebrate the Season with Charity and Community

Ride Smart
So We Can Keep Riding

Smart Trails or Lazy?

January 2026

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

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COVER STORY

Dealer of the Year

Full Throttle Power Sports

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SNOWMOBILER

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the Illinois
Association of
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Clubs**

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PRESIDENT'S DESK



Kai Steward

Happy New Year, I'm hoping as the calendar pages turn, our weather will as well. We could use more cold and snow. I was so excited for the start of the season which Mother Nature was quick to change up.

It was great to see the groomers out trying to pack down what snow we had. I hope you all were able to get out for some early season riding. With the start of the season comes the inevitable accidents. This year in my house, we have a new rider and the advice I give to him is repeated often. No matter where you are riding this year, please ride within your ability, slow down and stay to the right.

A couple of reminders, your club should have turned in their membership information to the IASC by December 31st. If your club hasn't turned in their forms, please make sure this is completed ASAP.

Year after year, I get the question about the differences in registrations and trail passes. If you have an Illinois driver's license, you cannot purchase a trail pass. You must register your snowmobiles in Illinois. Ah, but you are already registered in Wisconsin. That's okay, you can dual register your sleds in both states. You can only purchase a trail pass if you have an out-of-state driver's license. If you have more questions, please let us know.

This month, I want to take a few minutes to thank those that teach our Safety Education Program. They have already run several classes with more scheduled in the coming month. Thank you for your time and the energy spent making the classes fun and educational.

I hope you all have a great January riding wherever you are and hopefully Mother Nature takes her wrath out on Illinois so we can ride again here at home.

Praying for Snow.
Kai Steward, President

Midwest Trailblazers Celebrate the Season with Charity and Community



By Robin Wall Sherman, IL – December 6, 2025

The Midwest Trailblazers hosted their 3rd Annual Christmas Party at the Sherman Athletic Club, bringing together members for an evening of fun, food, and giving back to the community. This year's charitable focus was the Ronald McDonald House in Springfield, IL, and attendees also contributed non-perishable items for the local food pantry as part of the entry tradition.

The festivities kicked off at 5:30 PM with a delicious spread featuring Italian beef, fresh salads, desserts, and drinks. At 6:00 PM, the crowd was entertained by Hipbone and the Joints, a fan-favorite band returning for the third year in a row. Their high-energy performance kept everyone dancing and engaged until 9:00 PM.

A highlight of the evening was the raffle baskets, expertly created by Treasurer Robyn Harms. Prizes included a Pit Boss Smoker, Ninja 65 Qt Frost Vault Cooler, Yeti Hopper Cooler, Ninja 13-in-1 Toaster Oven, Photo Printer, Milwaukee tools, and more. Thanks to Robyn's efforts and the generosity of attendees, the raffle raised \$1,066 for the Ronald McDonald House.

The club also held its annual gun raffle, awarding:

- First Prize: Mossberg Patriot .308 Win
- Second Prize: Springfield XD 9mm
- Third Prize: Byrna SD Launcher

Congratulations to all the winners!

Special thanks go to Lance Harms and Conner Claussen, who represented the next generation of snowmobilers by selling 50/50 raffle tickets with enthusiasm and skill.

We extend our gratitude to all members who contributed food, prizes, and their time to make this event a success.

A big thank-you to the MTB Board for organizing another memorable celebration that combines fellowship with meaningful community impact.

Here's to another great year on the trails and in our community!

President – Robin Wall

Vice – President – Fiona Gillman

Secretary – Rachel Thomas

Treasurer – Robyn Harms



Ride Smart

So We Can Keep Riding



By Hunter Nikolai, Illinois Department of Natural Resources

If you snowmobile long enough, you start to notice a pattern. Most accidents don't happen because someone is new or inexperienced. They happen because someone got comfortable, rushed a ride, or thought, "I've done this a hundred times." I've been there. Most of us have.

Snowmobiling is supposed to be fun. It's freedom in the middle of winter. If we want to keep riding and keep access open, we have to look out for ourselves and each other.

That starts before you ever leave the driveway or parking lot. Taking a few minutes to look over your sled matters. Make sure the lights work, the brakes feel solid, and the skis, suspension, and track all look right. It's easy to skip when the group is ready to go, but a quick check can prevent a breakdown or a bad situation miles from the truck.

Gear matters more than we sometimes admit. A helmet and eye protection shouldn't be optional, even on short rides. Cold, wind, and blowing snow wear you down faster than you realize, and once you're uncomfortable, your reaction time drops. Good gloves, boots, and layers don't just keep you warm. They help you stay alert and ride better.

Every ride should have at least a basic plan. You don't need anything complicated, but someone should know where you're headed and when you expect to be back. Riding with others makes a difference, too. If a sled breaks down or someone goes down, having another rider there can turn a bad day into a manageable one.

Trail conditions can change fast. Snow hides more than just branches and rocks. Fence posts, culverts, gas line markers, drainage structures, and even fire hydrants can

vanish under snow until you're right on top of them. Flat light and low visibility make it even harder to spot trouble before it's too late. Ride at a speed that matches what you can see and what the trail is giving you.

Ice deserves extra caution. In fact, there really is no such thing as safe ice. Snow-covered ice can look solid, but thickness can change in a matter of feet. Currents, culverts, springs, inlets, and changing water levels all weaken ice from below, even when temperatures stay cold. When it comes to ice, good judgment matters more than confidence. If you can't clearly see the shoreline, know the water body, and confirm conditions, the safest decision is to stay off. No ride is worth guessing.

That same judgment matters everywhere else on the trail. Alcohol slows reaction time and clouds decision-making, which is why it shows up in serious snowmobile accidents year after year. If you're riding, save the drinks for after the sleds are parked.

Respecting the trail and the people around you matters just as much. Stay on marked routes, follow signage, slow down around others, and respect private land. How we ride today affects whether we're welcome back tomorrow.

Snowmobile safety isn't about killing the fun. It's about making sure we all get back to the truck, the cabin, or the trailer with stories to tell and plans to ride again next weekend. Take care of your sled, take care of yourself, and look out for each other.

See you on the trail.



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Region 1

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

Region 2

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

Region 3

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

Region 4

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

Region 5

Director: **Jennifer Baumgartner**
815-509-9373 snowdiva18@yahoo.com
Second Wednesday of the Month - 7:00pm
August - May
Red Ox Bar and Grill, Hampshire, IL

Region 6

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

Region 7

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

Region 8

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

Region 9

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

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

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
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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
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Miller: 307-899-3419

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Cold Wave? What Cold Wave?

By Gary Shoppenhurst, Originally Published in Wisconsin Snowmobile News

Do you remember what you were doing during the record-setting cold wave at the end of January and the first week of February 1996? Eight snowmobilers from Wisconsin won't soon forget that week and hope they won't have to endure temperatures like that again.

We left Portage, Wis., on Super Bowl Sunday, January 28 heading north to International Falls Minnesota where we stayed at the Falls Motel. The Falls Motel offers excellent accommodations, a courtesy van to shuttle you wherever you want to go and hosts second to none. We had decided to trailer the snowmobiles to Fort Frances, Ontario, on Monday morning so we left them on the trailer and took advantage of the courtesy van to go downtown and watch the Super Bowl. The temperature was dropping like a stone so we called it a night after the game to get an early start in the morning.

Monday morning after breakfast we trailered the machines to the Rendezvous Motel in Fort Frances, unloaded and took the vehicles back to the Falls Motel. Rod Milender, owner of the Falls Motel, gave us a ride back to the Rendezvous Motel where we joined the other six guys and took off. This would turn out to be the warmest day of our trip. As we left Fort Frances the temperature was minus 7 and falling.

Day one turned out to be pretty rough riding because of a large storm that had just gone through and the trails hadn't been groomed yet. We stayed in Kenora, Ontario, Monday night after putting on about 175 miles.



Tuesday morning we headed into Manitoba from Kenora, riding to Falcon Lake. Because of the extreme cold, the biggest problem we had was the face masks on our helmets frosting up. We had to stop more often than we normally do to unfrost. Two of the guys, Bill and Mike B, had real problems with their glasses frosting up. From Tuesday through Saturday morning the temperatures

never got above minus 30. After the first day, we couldn't keep accurate temperature records because the thermometer Mike wears on the zipper of his coat froze.

Warm again, we left Falcon Lake and rode northwest to Seven Sister Falls stopping for another defrosting. After refueling and eating we headed back to Rennie where we stayed the night. Every morning the temperatures were between minus 50 and minus 60. It is amazing how stiff the engines are in the morning and yet still start relatively easily. Other than a couple of fouled plugs here and there, we had no problems at all.

Wednesday morning we left Rennie and headed back to Falcon Lake for breakfast and a warmup. I can still picture Dennis jumping up and down on the seat of his VMax-4 to try to soften it up, no luck! From Falcon Lake, I called Randy Wiebe of the Border Valley Snowgoers Club. Prior to our trip, I had contacted Fay McEachern, a director with the Central Snowmobile Association of Manitoba. She recommended Randy who had volunteered to guide us from Woodridge Manitoba through south central Manitoba. Wednesday night, we stayed in Woodridge at the Trail Head. (excellent accommodations) and had great food and hospitality at

the Woodridge Inn. Wherever we went in Canada the people were very friendly and helpful and the trails were usually great.



Thursday morning we were told it was 57 below zero. All temperatures mentioned are actual temperatures. I calculated the wind chills between minus 100 and minus 150 on the three coldest days. After a good breakfast, Randy and his friend Glen guided us west through south central Manitoba. Manitoba has excellent trails, but they are not fully developed on a provincial scale. This

leaves gaps from one club to another in areas of the province with no connecting trails. Without Randy and Glen we would have had a very hard time making it across this area. Randy had let the groomer crew know we were coming and his club's trails were excellent. Just a few miles from Randy's house near Altona, he burned a piston when cracks in his carb boots leaned out the fuel too much. Randy has a snowmobile shop, so he picked up a second sled and we were on our way. We wanted to spend one night in North Dakota, but as the saying goes, there was no room in the inn so we stayed in Emerson, Manitoba. After having a good visit with Randy and Glen, they headed home. All of us can't speak highly enough of the people we met and rode with in Manitoba and just wish to say thanks again.

Friday morning, with Grygla as our destination, we headed into Minnesota via Thief River Falls. Since wind chills ranged from minus 100 to minus 150, we didn't stop and shoot the bull very often on the trail. Norm fell in love with his handlebar gauntlets, so much so that he would never get off his machine when I would stop to make sure everyone was alright or when we had to stop because we couldn't see through the frost anymore. The Thief River Falls groomer had broken down and the trails weren't in good shape. We were very happy to get off the wide open prairie and into the woods once we got through Thief River Falls.

On Saturday, we thought we were in heaven, the trails were excellent from Grygla to International Falls and the temperature rose to a high of minus 16. Saturday evening when we arrived at the Falls Motel, my Chevrolet Suburban started, but Norm's Ford pickup wouldn't. With Rod's help we got Norm's pickup going. We were given a ride downtown for a good supper and one of our guys, Steve, won the local dance contest doing his "Snowmobiling Boot Scootin' Boogie"! We called for the courtesy van back to the motel and got a good night's sleep for our long drive back to Portage.

Those making the deep freeze trip of '96 were: Steve Pate, Bill Mootz, Phil Schultz, Mike Bartnick, Norm Bartnick, Mike Mueller, Dennis Koss and me. We ended up putting on just under 1000 miles in six days, much less than normal for us, though we're not sure what normal should be for 50-60 below zero. Next year we plan to circle Lake Superior! Thanks for the memories and our northern neighbors (friends) are always welcome in Wisconsin.



2025 Dealer of The Year

By Dwain "Duey" Stadie

Every November, the Illinois Association of Snowmobile Clubs (IASC) holds their annual convention, and at the banquet Saturday night there is the awards ceremony. Each year, these awards recognize the most exceptional individuals who dedicate countless hours and make remarkable contributions to the sport of snowmobiling. One of the most distinguished awards is the Dealer of The Year award.



Receiving this award is a tremendous honor and a significant achievement. It shows your commitment and enthusiasm to the sport, to your customers, to your local clubs, to your

region and to the Illinois Association of Snowmobile Clubs (IASC).

To win this award once is outstanding, but this year's winner Full Throttle Power Sports of Lena has done it twice, 2015 and 2025. That shows the dedication that Ron Vanderheyden and his staff of 13 have for their customers. Ron got an early start in the organizational part of snowmobiling; he was on the board of directors at his local snowmobile club at age sixteen, as the membership director. After years at Honeywell, Ron fulfilled his dream of entering the powersports industry by opening a Stockton dealership in April 2002 while only in his mid-30s. Ron moved the business to its present location 11003 US Rt #20 in Lena in 2009. They were a Yamaha dealer from 2007 to 2015. Then they became a Polaris dealer in 2009. Currently, they have a full line of Polaris products, snowmobiles, ATVs, UTVs, and accessories for you.

I have talked with Ron, he is a genuinely nice guy. He was a pleasure to have a conversation with for sure. But besides his dedication to his customers, he is an extremely big supporter of the two local snowmobile clubs in Region 6, the Lena Blackhawk Trail Blazers and the Warren Winter Warriors.



Full Throttle Power Sports

Ron also supports the two clubs up north located near his Wisconsin cabin, the Forest Riders Snowmobile Club, and the Northern Lights Snowmobile Club. This business consistently gets top ratings and reviews online, and it is easy to see why.

#20 and Rt #73 in Lena. You can visit them online at www.full-throttle-powersports.com and be sure to follow their Facebook page to learn more about their new products or special sales events. Congratulations to Ron Vanderheyden and his whole staff for the impressive job they do for their customers. Thanks for a job very well done and for all the contributions to the organized snowmobiling community.



Full Throttle Powersports, named the Illinois Association of Snowmobile Clubs Dealer of the Year, will be nominated to the American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA) for consideration as Dealer of the Year at the International Snowmobile Congress (ISC), which takes place in June 2026 in Omaha, Nebraska. Let us all hope

and keep our fingers crossed that Full Throttle wins this prestigious National award.

When thinking of getting a new toy, or maintaining your old one give Full Throttle Powersports a call at 815-369-2153 or check out this amazing dealership at the corner of Rt



Smart Trails, or Lazy?

By Dale Marting

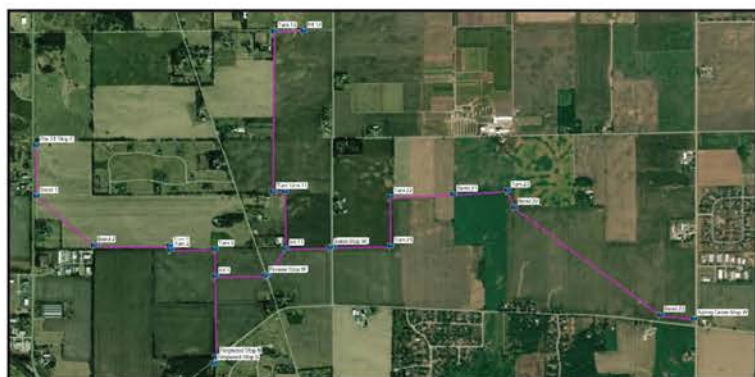
A few years ago, I bought a Garmin Tread GPS for my Cat. At first, I found it anything but user-friendly — downright cumbersome compared to other GPS units. Over time, though, as I became more familiar with it and Garmin (along with Cat) rolled out improvements, the Tread grew easier to use. What once felt like a clunky gadget slowly became a tool I could trust.

Like with any technology, I enjoy pushing my skills with new gadgets. So when trail-marking season arrived, I asked myself: Could I use the Tread to mark trails? That question kicked off a round of learning, experimenting, and research.

Discovering Waypoints

The first step was figuring out which features of the Tread could help with sign placement. My research pointed me to waypoints. A waypoint can be created anywhere, and it can represent anything — perfect for marking trail signs.

To calibrate the GPS to my trail system, I set out on the ATV and stopped at every turn, junction, and trail stop, creating waypoints at each. It was a slow process, but it gave me a digital skeleton of the trail system. Still, I needed a way to add intermittent waypoints for signs between those major points. More research was required.

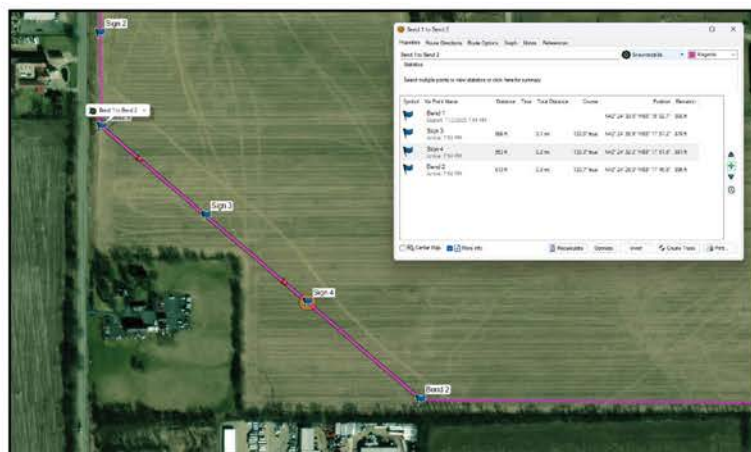


Enter BaseCamp

That's when I discovered Garmin's BaseCamp software. BaseCamp lets you manipulate GPS data in almost any way you want. To use it, I first had to install Garmin Express, which allowed BaseCamp to read the waypoints stored on my Tread.

Once the waypoints were imported, I began adding intermittent ones for each sign along the trail. My goal was to space signs between 250 and 500 feet apart. Since BaseCamp didn't offer an automatic "divide evenly" feature, I manually placed the number of waypoints I thought I needed between two controlling points, then adjusted them until the spacing was roughly equal and aligned in a straight line — or at least on the same bearing.

It was a bit like digital carpentry: measure, adjust, and re-measure until everything looked right. When I was satisfied, I saved the updated waypoints back to the Tread.



Trail Marking in Action

With the planning complete, it was time to mark the trails. I loaded the ATV with markers, tools, supplies, and the Tread, then headed to my starting point.



After placing the first set of markers, I selected the next waypoint. The Tread guided me with a magenta line, pointing me toward the next sign location.

I knew I had arrived when the yellow arrow lined up with the finish flag and the magenta line disappeared. At each location, I pulled out the signs and, using ropes attached to the ATV cage, placed them about 20 feet apart. Then I repeated the process — waypoint by waypoint — until the trail was fully marked.



The rhythm of the work became almost meditative: ride, stop, check the GPS, unload signs, tie them up, move on. Instead of constantly second-guessing distances or eyeballing spacing, I could simply trust the Tread to guide me.

Lessons Learned

Was this method faster? Honestly, probably not, especially since it was my first time using the Tread for trail marking. But it required far less mental effort. The signs ended up evenly spaced in both directions, which gave the trails a cleaner, more professional look.

More importantly, the process gave me confidence. I wasn't just guessing or relying on memory — I had a repeatable system. Next year, I'll be able to load the same waypoints and follow the same magenta lines, ensuring consistency across seasons.

I've also started inventorying the signs at each location and numbering them. That way, I'll have an accurate count of how many signs I'll need before heading out. It's a small step, but one that turns trail marking from a chore into a documented, organized project.



Smart or Lazy?

So, was I being smart or lazy? Maybe a little of both. Smart, because I used technology to reduce the guesswork and create a repeatable system. Lazy, because I let the GPS do most of the thinking for me.

But in the end, the trails were marked cleanly, evenly, and with less stress. And isn't that the point of technology — to make hard jobs easier, and maybe even a little more enjoyable?

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• SEP

Pat Pendergast
309-335-4095
ppendergast@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
Beggars 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
Beggars 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

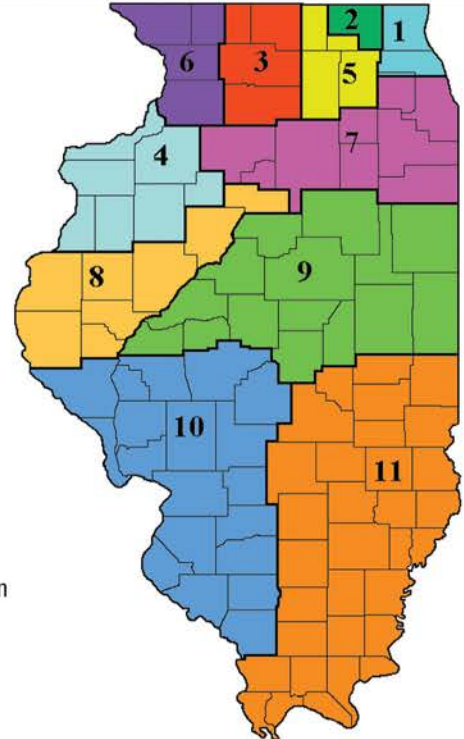
To List Your BUSINESS
Contact the IASC Office
815-210-0587
iasc.illinois@gmail.com

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



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Arctic Cat Has Deep, Strong Cross-Country Team for 2025-26

December 9, 2025 Arctic Cat Press Release: John Prusak, jprusak@arcticcat.com

(THIEF RIVER FALLS, MN) – Throughout the Snowbelt and across various rider classes, a talented group of Team Arctic racers aboard their Arctic Cat ZR 600 R-XC snowmobiles will be vying for points championships on various cross-country circuits this winter. This group includes past champions, rising stars, returning veterans and more – all aiming for personal glory while also providing invaluable feedback that pushes forward the excellence of Arctic Cat snowmobiles of today and tomorrow.

Cross-country racing has always been vital because it closely mirrors how consumers utilize their own snowmobiles – weaving on twisting trails, pounding in ditches, zooming on laketops, zipping down firelanes and more – except in hyper-competitive situations. Team Arctic's rich history in cross-country racing is reflected in the ultra-capable machines it designs and builds to this day.

A broad and deep group of Team Arctic racers will be chasing trophies on the Arctic Cat Catalyst-based ZRs in all major classes on the Cor PowerSports circuit in the Upper Midwest. Team Arctic Pro class riders include Matt Feil, Jesse Hallstrom, Zach Herfindahl and Ben Langaas, plus Gabby Hallstrom, Rachel Wimpfheimer and Frankie Omang in Pro Women's. Look for them to be particularly competitive when the going gets rough.

In the Semi-Pro division on the Cor circuit, returning riders Kegan Houser, Derek Kloety, Austin Kody and Brady Wadena will be joined by last year's Sport Stock champion Elliot Clark and Sport Stock third-place rider Braden Sillerud. Returning Team Arctic racer Marcus Moldashal will compete in the new Semi-Pro Improved class. Team Arctic Sport class rider Kyle Quesenberry will be joined by former Juniors class riders like Trig Anderson, Rielly Clark, Brady Wimpfheimer and Axle Amsdon. Look for Braden Diesen moving up to Juniors and Expert classes and Kynsie Diesen returning as a force in Jr Boys and Girls classes. Masters class champ Todd Seaverson and multi-class racer Jon Arneson are also back for another season.

In continued support, the factory Arctic Cat race trailer will be available to offer support to all of Team Arctic at every Cor PowerSports race this season.

Cross-country racing isn't exclusive to the Upper Midwest – and neither is Team Arctic. In the Northeast, look up front this winter



to find the Arctic Cat ZR 600 R-XC sleds of Pro class riders TJ Leach, Adam Levi, Ken Murphy, Ian Smith, Brock Young and Michael Young leading the way.

In fact, you'll see supported Team Arctic racers tackling the terrain on circuits from Quebec and eastern Canada all the way to the rugged Alaskan outback, including the team of Wyatt Halek-Hooper and Adam Stafford in the Iron Dog Pro class. Some Team Arctic cross-country stars will also contend in enduro and oval sprint races at the sport's biggest events this season.

"We have a strong group competing in all classes on the Cor PowerSports circuit this season, and a good schedule to chase," said Mike Kloety, the Team Arctic Race Manager. "With this early start to winter and a lot more snow expected this season, we should have more full-terrain races. That is where the lightweight and agile Catalyst chassis ZRs can really showcase their unique advantages.

"Also exciting are the up-and-coming XC race circuits out East, with the Adirondack series taking center stage," Kloety continued. "We have a strong group of racers in place out East as well, and I am hoping we can help continue to grow that circuit."

Get out and cheer on the Team Arctic racers this winter. Their success today helps drive innovation to make you a leader on your machine tomorrow.

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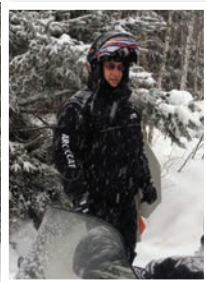
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Pat Pendergast

How can it be time for the January article already? It seems like I just sent in my December article not that long ago. I was probably late submitting it, so maybe it wasn't that long ago. January usually brings winter full on, sometimes here in Illinois, but almost always in the Northwoods. We have been fortunate enough to have a couple of modest snowfalls and some cold temps already this season. It's been a while since Illinois started out winter like this and we're definitely ready for it. Let's hope the cooler temps and precipitation hang around for a while. We certainly must be living right, we had snow at our annual Convention in Galena, snow at the snowmobile safety course I co-taught and the Cornbelt Driftbusters had snow at their annual Christmas Party! Nothing to brighten up any snowmobile related event than a bunch of snowflakes falling, eh?

Instructors, have you hosted/taught a class yet? I was a little disappointed in the students in my class. They were less than enthusiastic about being there. They seemed even less excited about snowmobiling in general, which is hard for me to understand. I guess I'm going to have to work harder and put a little more effort into the presentation. Please feel free to share suggestions on how to keep a class fun and interesting with me and I will include them in a future article.

Do you have a trip planned for January or February? Remember to take pictures and share your story with the magazine for everyone to enjoy. It's always fun to hear about a trip from another snowmobiler. Make sure if you do travel to check trail and lake conditions with some of the clubs in the region you are traveling to. They are your best source for good, solid info and may save you the hassle of a long drive with no good reason to be there. Granted, there is plenty to do in most areas, but if you are driving that far to ride, you certainly don't want to go and not have any snow covered trails to enjoy. Clubs also have good information on lakes. Whether it is about ice thickness, presence of ice heaves, etc., you'll be glad you checked in with them. Ice heaves can be very bad if no one notices them and gets the chance to mark them or put signage up. Bogs are another area to look out for if things haven't frozen hard yet. The UP and Minnesota both have their share of bogs and they can take a while to get enough snow packed down and frozen to make them passable. Here comes my annual reminder about lakes and their marked trails. If the trail is marked across a lake, it has had the ice thickness checked and you know it is safe for travel. So as tempting as the untouched snow off to the right or

left of the marked trail is, you can't be sure that the ice thickness is the same as along the marked trail. There could be a spring or current present that keeps the ice from forming as thick as where the trail is, or an ice heave could be out there that is hard to see. Either scenario could spell disaster for a fun trip.

Speaking of snowmobile safety, (I was, wasn't I?) International Snowmobile Safety Week is January 10-18, 2026. This is promoted by the International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association (ISMA) to raise awareness for safe snowmobiling. Whether they are talking about safety education training (trail or avalanche), proper clothing, the buddy system, etc., all are equally important. If you haven't held a class yet, or if you have a club meeting coming up, try to incorporate something safety-related into your event and get the word out about Snowmobile Safety Week.

Check out ISMA's website, gosnowmobiling.org, lots of good ideas there as well. You can also check out the American Council of Snowmobile Associations' (ACSA) website, snowmobilers.org, for a whole bunch of snowmobile-related ideas and info. You are an ACSA member, right? I'm going to sign off now, I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and wish you all a prosperous New Year. Ride safe and stay to the right!

?

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

When crossing a road, what should you do to ensure you can see and be seen?

- a) Stand up on your snowmobile and cross quickly
- b) Stand up on your snowmobile and cross at a reasonable speed
- c) Cross the road at an angle
- d) Wear a fluorescent vest

Answer: b) Stand up on your snowmobile and cross at a reasonable speed.



Safety Class Schedule



Class Date	Location	Address	Time	Registration
1/3/26	H.Q. Kane Cnty Forest Preserve	1996 Kirk Rd., Geneva	8:00am-4:30pm	Ron 630-546-8058 rgjulian@comcast.net
1/3/26	Public Safety and Operations Building. Training Room	19808 W Grand Ave., Lake Villa	8:00am-5:00pm	Nataly 847-968-3404
1/17/26	McHenry County Sheriff's Office	2200 N. Seminary Road, Woodstock	8:00am-4:00pm www.mchenrysheriff.org/snowmobileclass/	Register at

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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