

53 YEARS  
IASC **Illinois**  
SNOWMOBILER

2025 Earl &  
Nayola Nelson  
**Scholarship  
Program  
Winners**



▶ Polaris Challenge Winners

▶ Supporting VOICES

▶ Hampshire White Riders  
Club Trip

**February 2026**

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

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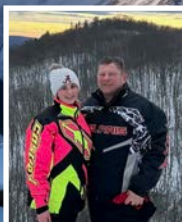




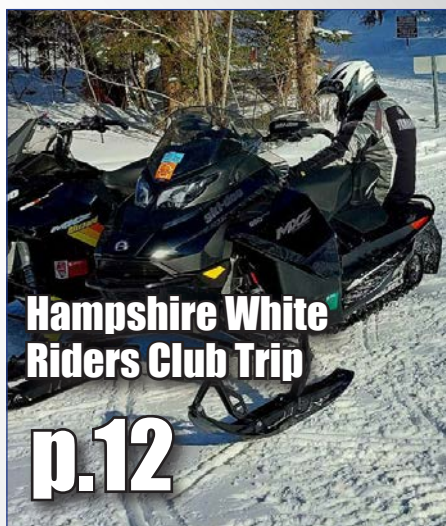
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## PRESIDENT'S DESK



Kai Steward

As the season unfolds and colder weather settles in, I want to remind everyone to slow down and ride right. Recent reports of fatalities and serious accidents in Wisconsin and Michigan are both frightening and heartbreaking. We all hope for more snow so we can continue to enjoy the trails

here at home, but if conditions send you north, please remember to take in the beautiful scenery, respect the trails, and ease off the throttle. No ride is worth the risk.

In previous articles, I've expressed my appreciation for our clubs, members, and safety educators. This month, I would like to shine a well-deserved spotlight on our trail advisors and region directors. These individuals put in countless hours of work that often go unnoticed, yet their dedication is essential to keeping organized snowmobiling alive and thriving in the state of Illinois.

Their efforts span the entire year and include coordinating trail construction materials, signage, grooming equipment, grant applications, and reimbursement processes. While not every plan or process works perfectly, these individuals serve as invaluable resources—problem solvers who keep us moving forward when challenges arise.

We may not always receive the snowfall we hope for, but when it does arrive, the results of their hard work are clear. That's when everything comes together, the trails open, and Illinois snowmobilers truly reap the rewards. To our trail advisors and region directors: thank you for your commitment, perseverance, and passion for the sport.

Keep them shiny side up.

Kai Steward





# 2025 Polaris Challenge Winners

By Patrick Pendergast

Convention '25 is in the books and it was another great event held once again at Chestnut Mountain Resort in Galena. The ski resort is a great location and the convention committee went all out and put on an excellent convention. Part of the day-long event is the awarding of Polaris gear to our top three participants in the Polaris Challenge. I'll provide a brief description of the Challenge for those of you who are not familiar with it. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources requires any youth operator between the ages of 12 and 15 to be certified in snowmobile safety. They can be certified through an online course or by taking an actual class taught by experienced snowmobilers. To be eligible for the Polaris Challenge, the student must take the course in the instructor-taught format; online certification does not qualify them. The student must pass the course and miss no more than 2 questions on the 50 question test. Then they are separated into 3 groups by score: 100%, 98% and 96 %. There is another opportunity for any student who misses more than 2 questions. An instructor may nominate a student who they feel worked hard, contributed to the class and obviously tried their hardest. The "Instructor's Choice" student will be entered into the 96% category. There is a drawing for each of the 3 categories with each winner receiving various amounts of gear provided by Polaris. The winners will also receive a helmet donated by member clubs or regions of the Illinois Association of Snowmobile Clubs.

This year's first place winner was Steven Simmons from Davis. Steven took his class at the Lena Community Center in Lena with Metcalf Instructor of the Year Kaitlyn Polhill teaching the class. Steven received a full Polaris suit and gloves along with a helmet donated by Triple E Sales of Orion. The 2nd place winner this year was Leila Maura of Johnsburg. Leila took her class at the McHenry County Government Center in Woodstock with instructors Suzy Geise and Officer Tomasheski, Officer Novak, and Officer Riddle. Leila received her Polaris clothing along with a helmet provided by Triple E Sales. The 3rd place winner in this year's Challenge was Dirks McGlaughloin of New Windsor. Dirks took his class at the Oneida Fire Station with Bob Hennenfent and Pat Pendergast as instructors. Triple E Sales sponsored this helmet as well.

These prizes would not be possible without the support of Polaris Inc. and the assistance of Josh Oldenberg. I'd like to thank Josh for his support of our Safety Education Program as Yamaha was no longer able to sponsor and for going the extra mile and giving all three participants full Polaris suits! I would also like to thank the helmet donor, Triple E Sales of Orion, for providing 3 awesome helmets for our winners. Another group I want to thank are the parents of all of our SEP students. They saw the value of having their son or daughter take a class in an instructor-taught format vs. sitting them in front of a computer and we thank them all for that. The final group I want to thank is the IDNR certified snowmobile safety instructors who donate their time, talents, and passion for this sport to help our snowmobiling youth to become safety conscious riders.







*Cedarville Snow Travelers, Brad Pfile, President, and J Ryan, Vice President, gave a donation of \$500 to Julie Hilliger, Assistant Administrator of VOICES of Stephenson County.*

# Supporting VOICES

*By Georgia Herman*

VOICES assists survivors of domestic and sexual violence, teen dating violence, stalking and human trafficking. These are so prevalent in our society, so our members wanted to donate to a program to help these victims. VOICES offer medical, legal and general advocacy, and all their services are free. Clients can receive trauma-informed counseling on an individual and group basis.

Temporary housing is available in their Survivors Shelter for those fleeing immediate danger. VOICES offer a Rapid Re-Housing Program that supports survivors seeking long-term independence. This program is open to domestic violence and sexual assault survivors.

The VOICES Book Nook, a used bookstore, is staffed by volunteers and its profits help to provide funding for

this program. They also receive donations and some grants to help with expenses.

Julie said our donation will go to provide gift cards for groceries and gas for clients. These two items remain a big need for their organization.

We are able to fund donations because our club raises money in conjunction with Tri-County Snowmobile Alliance by selling their calendars, IASC by selling their raffle tickets, and our club's annual Fundraiser where we have meat raffles, basket raffles, 50/50, \$5 for \$100 wheel and a live auction. This year it will be held on April 11 from noon to 3 at Route 20 Bar & Grill, 2051 N AYP Rd, Freeport. We invite you to come join us and enjoy the fun!





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## Region Meeting Schedule:

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

### Region 1

Director: **Don Schaefer**

847-917-4202 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

## 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

## APRIL

### April 11th:

Cedarville Snow Travelers  
Annual Fundraiser  
From 12pm to 3 pm  
Meat bundles, Baskets,  
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## JUNE

### June 3rd-6th:

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## A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

# Convention 2025 Celebrating 53 Years of Organized Snowmobiling in Illinois



Carol Bly-Julian

I thought I would take a moment to talk about the structural side of organized snowmobiling. We all know about the first level, our local club. The next level is the region. Each club in Illinois is part of a geographic region that has a regional snowmobile organization that your local club is a part of. Next, we have the

state organization, which encompasses all the member clubs and regions in the state. Finally, there is a national organization that the Illinois Association of Snowmobile Clubs is a member of, namely the American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA). ACSA also offers individual and club membership and does an excellent job of communicating things that impact the sport of snowmobiling all over the country. Each of these structural levels has a role in promoting the sport of snowmobiling.

Each level has its own primary function:

- **Local Clubs** serve the most hands-on role. Clubs are the ones who mark, maintain, and groom the trails in their area. They work directly with landowners to secure permission to use private property for those trails, organize rides and events, and foster community among local snowmobilers.

- **Regions** act as a bridge. They support and communicate

with the clubs within their boundaries, help share information coming down from the state, and relay club feedback upward. Because many state-level issues cross regional borders—such as trail systems, legislative matters, or safety programs—the region plays a key liaison role.

- **The State Organization** (in this case, the Illinois Association of Snowmobile Clubs) provides statewide coordination, advocacy, and representation. The state level tracks legislation, insurance, safety standards, and trail systems that affect multiple regions. It also sets policies, organizes statewide events, and represents Illinois snowmobiling interests to the national level.

- **The National Organization (ACSA)** focuses on national communication, legislative advocacy, and promotion of snowmobiling across the country. It works to protect access, monitor federal issues, coordinate with manufacturers and tourism partners, and ensure that the voice of organized snowmobilers is heard on a larger stage.

These layers are separate but interdependent. Clubs rely on regions and the state for support, information, and broader advocacy. The state relies on clubs for local insights and manpower. The national level relies on the states for unified representation. Together, they form a structure that allows snowmobiling to thrive—from individual trails all the way up to national policy.



# 2025 Earl & Nayola Nelson Scholarship Program Winners



By Stephanie Steward

*This year 8 students applied for the 2025 IASC Scholarship. The essay theme was “during a low snow year, what suggestions do you have to keep the membership active in organized snowmobiling?” The volunteer judges selected the 2025 winners. The 1st Place winner for \$2,500.00 is Abigail Fellows from GK Trailblazers part of Region 5 and the 2nd Place winner for \$1,000.00 is Maren Davis from the Winnebago Sno-Gliders part of Region 3.*

*As always, I would like to thank all the clubs and regions for so generously donating to the scholarship program. We once again were able to raise enough money to cover the Scholarships at the IASC Annual Convention. I appreciate the generosity of everyone.*

*I was very happy to see the 8 applications this year, but I know we can do better. I would like to challenge the clubs and regions, to have at least 1 member apply each year. Keep reminding your student snowmobilers to participate and if there are any ideas to attract even more participation, please let me know.*

*I hope you all enjoy the following essays from our winners.*



1st Place  
Abigail Fellows

It is a cold, snowy evening, and you are huddled in the living room in silent hope for a miracle. The telephone rings. Your parents pick up, and you listen to those wonderful words reverberating in the halls of your home — “It’s a

snow day!” To most children, this equaled sleeping in late and spending the day staring at their gaming consoles. But to snowmobilers, this equaled racing down to the garage — filling their sleds with oil and taking to their local snowmobiling friends to tear up the trails. Unfortunately, this all too familiar winter pastime is becoming less frequent as snowfall levels dwindle every single year, causing days such as these to become nothing more than a fading memory. Which in turn causes numbers struggles for organized snowmobilers throughout Illinois; simply put, there is no snow to ride upon. But don’t fret if snow doesn’t come to you, you can always seek out snow and other activities.

Maintaining snowmobiling memberships in Illinois when snow fails to materialize is all about being creative, being part of a community, and being active all year long. Absolutely, the essence of snowmobiling is riding a fresh trail through fresh powder, but snowmobiling is more about a group of people, their tales, and how much they care about winter adventure.

One of the simplest methods of keeping things interesting during snow-less seasons is to embrace the social aspect of the club. Organizing off-season gatherings such as bonfires, camp outs, swap meets, or trail cleanups in the summer keeps members engaged even when sleds are in hibernation. The events promote camaraderie and reinforce that the club is not only about riding but about riding with friends. Another excellent strategy is to plan excursions to snow-heavy parts. Collaboration with snow-rich communities in Wisconsin, Michigan, or even more north will provide members with the opportunity to still have seat



time, along with developing relationships with other communities. Charter bus weekends or caravans to trailer rideable snow can become annual traditions -- something members will always look forward to regardless of whether Illinois does get snow.

And don't forget education and advocacy. Clubs can offer safety lessons, maintenance seminars, or trail stewardship workshops. Such initiatives keep members involved, too, but also demonstrate to newcomer or prospective members that there is worth in belonging—even in those years with minimal snow.

Being visible counts. Maintaining an active social media presence allows clubs to have their news, promote events, share throwback snow ride photos, and engage with youth who may not have enjoyed such snow day enchantment growing up. The weather is uncontrollable, but you can dictate your visibility.

In the end, snowmobile clubs are founded upon more than snow. They are founded in tradition, in community, in the rush of riding

shows you are staying engaged in club activities and staying apprised of current events in and around the club. For example, keeping up to date with trails and with current or upcoming events. Another way is to continue to support your local establishments or go to your dealer. When visiting with your dealer make sure to continue to let them know that you're still active by speaking with them or buying little things here and there. Weather permitting, the club can work on brushing trails, repairing bridges, or checking to make sure trail signage is up to standards.

Most importantly to remain positive in tough snow years especially if you can travel. If you have the time and money you could chase the snow to more northern places giving you more opportunities to see and explore places you have never been to before. Members can also continue to support by attending fundraisers, basket raffles, and live auctions. These are all fun ways to go out and continue being a part of your club and community. Not always having good snow can make you appreciate it more when there is a big year of snow. Continue to stay positive and continue to reach out to support your community in the tough years and in the great snow years.



2nd Place  
Maren Davis

My name is Maren Davis, a member of the Winnebago Sno-Gliders Snowmobile Club in Winnebago, IL. I consistently maintain a 4.0 GPA and was named an Illinois State Scholar in 2024. I participate in Key Club volunteering, Student Council, and the National Honors Society. I participate in High School

Volleyball, Club Volleyball, High School Softball, and Club Softball. I love staying active, volunteering, and interacting in my community and school.

When in a low snow year there are lots of things members can still do. First, a member can still attend the monthly meetings. Attending these meetings

*For the 2026 Scholarship, applications need to be submitted by April 1st, 2026. Our application is on the IASC website. Please visit [www.ilsnowmobile.com/scholarship](http://www.ilsnowmobile.com/scholarship) for more information. Our 2026 essay topic is: "Tell me 1 thing you would change about organized snowmobiling in Illinois and why."*





# Hampshire Club Trip January 2026

*By Dwain "Duey" Stadie*

The Hampshire White Riders have had their annual club trip every January for the last 15+ years to Mercer, Wisconsin. Every year, we stay at the Great Northern Motel. Our trip this year was January 23-26, the coldest weekend in Illinois in years, but Northern Wisconsin, it's especially bitter. Initially, 15 members signed up, but just a few days before the event, the weather forecaster predicted extremely cold weather and all but 5 people cancelled. The brave souls that went were Jeff and Kathy Meindl, Skip Holschbach, Steve Leffler, and Dan Eiklor.

Upon arriving on Friday, the temperature was a mild -16 degrees. By Saturday morning, it had dropped to -35 degrees, with a wind chill reaching -55. No one went riding early on Saturday. The day began a bit later than usual. Sunday morning was a slight improvement, it was only -32 today, but by the afternoon a heat wave had arrived, it was -1. I investigated how this stacked up against other instances of chilly weather in Wisconsin. The official coldest day ever recorded was in 1996 in Couderary at -55. Unofficially, it was in 1977 in Rice Lake -60 with a big gap next up was in 2021 at Lost Land Lake it was -38. The club trip this year

was probably a third or fourth I would guess at -35. The snow was deep; the trails were well-groomed and quiet, with deer often spotted on the trail—perfect for photos and a bit of excitement. We managed to cover 328 miles over the weekend—impressive given the conditions. Cold, but always fun.







## Northpoint Commercial Finance to Provide Financing for Arctic Cat Dealers

(THIEF RIVER FALLS, MN January 20, 2026) – Northpoint Commercial Finance (Northpoint), a diversified finance company that provides flexible inventory lending and floorplan financing solutions, has partnered with Arctic Cat to be the exclusive financier of their dealer network across the United States and Canada. Arctic Cat's partnership with Northpoint will include flexible, manageable, and customized terms with a dedicated customer support team.

"Partnering with Northpoint is a key step in helping fulfill Arctic Cat's commitment to powersports dealers to be the right business partner for their dealership," commented Brad Darling, President and CEO of Arctic Cat. "As we continue to define our path forward, we must provide attractive financing opportunities to our customers and dealers. Our new partnership with Northpoint is a significant opportunity to increase sales and ensure the success and profitability of Arctic Cat dealers across North America."

"We're thrilled to launch this program with Arctic Cat and their dealer network," said Dan Radley, President and CEO of Northpoint. "Many of us at Northpoint have had the privilege of working with Brad during his time at Arctic Cat, and it's an honor to come full circle and collaborate with him and his team alongside our ongoing relationship with ARGO. Arctic Cat is a strong and respected brand, and we're excited to support their continued growth and success."

Since the acquisition of Arctic Cat back in April of 2025, Arctic Cat's leadership has put a primary focus on dealer partnerships with an explicit focus to deliver value like no other OEM, including exceptional customer service and support. Erik Nelson, VP of Sales, stated, "As we continue to build and grow our existing dealer network and look for strong new dealers in open areas, Northpoint is the perfect partner to help us not only deliver on our promises, but to do so in a way that satisfies our dealers in an exceptional manner."

Partnering with Northpoint and releasing a strong MY27 snowmobile lineup scheduled for later this winter is sure to attract powersports dealers looking to make confident decisions about brands that are ready to help strengthen their dealership's business.

**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 the Nordic Countries, Europe, South America, Asia and other international markets.

**About Northpoint Commercial Finance** Northpoint Commercial Finance, with offices throughout North America, is a diversified financial solutions provider offering inventory lending, floorplan finance, and asset-based financing. An experienced lender, they offer a wide array of program structures to meet the needs of original equipment manufacturers, distributors, resellers and dealers in a variety of consumer and commercial products industries. Their team offers a creative, flexible and personal approach combined with innovative technologies, and streamlined processes. For more information about Northpoint's product offerings, visit [www.northpointcf.com](http://www.northpointcf.com).



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#### TRAIL ADVISORS

##### • REGIONS 1 2 5

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rieke7603@frontier.com

##### • REGIONS 3 6

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mrhazzman@gmail.com

##### • REGIONS 4 7 8 9 10 11

**Bill Brown**  
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littlebenny78@sbcglobal.net

#### COMMITTEES

##### • CHARITY

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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  
Call for location  
Lake County, 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  
Rusty Nail Saloon  
4520 Ringwood Rd., Ringwood, 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

**Curt Nelson**  
815-238-0665  
curtnelson603@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  
Lynx Golf Course  
3820 Westlake Village Dr.  
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  
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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

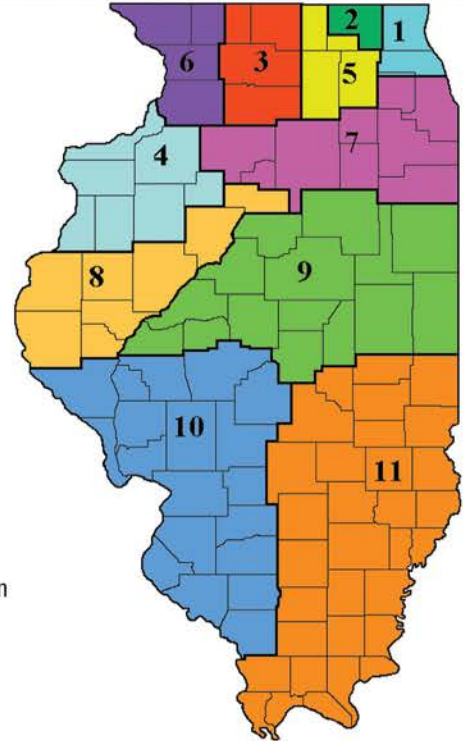
**To List Your BUSINESS**  
Contact the IASC Office  
815-210-0587  
iasc.illinois@gmail.com

## 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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# Team Arctic Leads The Way In Snocross, Cross-Country

*January 13, 2026 Arctic Cat Press Release: John Prusak, jprusak@arcticcat.com*

Team Arctic is on a roll – charging out of the gate and setting the pace in multiple snowmobile racing disciplines. Fueled by the Arctic Cat passion and backed by a fiercely loyal fan base, racers scored several victories and podium finishes.

Most prominent was another early season Team Arctic victory by Daniel Benham at the ISOC Amsoil Championship Snocross series stop at Shakopee, Minnesota. Benham's stirring triple-crown Pro class win on Friday aboard his Frattalone Racing ZR 600 R-SX electrified the crowd.

Benham then weathered some adversity on Saturday after being tossed from his sled due to contact with another rider in an opening round heat race. That led to a challenging second-row starting position in Saturday's Pro final, but Benham was undeterred. With his relentless determination combined with a well-prepared Arctic Cat snowmobile beneath him, Benham charged through the field to a fifth-place finish. That enabled Benham to keep the season championship points lead after four rounds of racing. Fellow Team Arctic Pro racer Jacob Yurk also overcame challenges and earned two impressive sixth place finishes on his Kylo Racing Arctic Cat.

Team Arctic flashed impressive finishes in multiple other classes as well at Canterbury. Benham's Frattalone Racing Arctic Cat teammate Eric Downs finished third on Friday and fourth on Saturday in Pro Lite, locking him into fourth in season points. In Pro Am Plus 30, Tyler Oomen continued his incredible start with two more podium finishes on his Hayes Racing Arctic Cat. The Team Arctic podium parade continued in youth classes, with Isaac Otto earning first- and third-place finishes in Transition 9-13. Sullivan Bergman scored two thirds in Transition 8-10, and Ryder Harnois grabbed one third-place finish on an Arctic Cat in Junior 14-15.

Team Arctic's winning ways didn't stop there. The Cor Powersports season-opening cross-country event in Ottertail, Minnesota, saw Arctic Cat racers once again setting the pace. Superstar Team Arctic racer Zach Herfindahl set several fast-lap times in Pro Open as he and teammate Jesse Hallstrom rifled through traffic. Herfindahl



finished second in the class, and then a strong fourth in Pro Factory the next day.

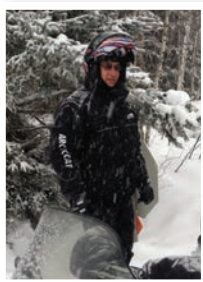
In Sport Stock, Riley Clark led a Team Arctic podium sweep ahead of fellow Arctic Cat racers Kyle Quesenberry and Mitchell Kauk. Kauk and Quesenberry also finished first and second, respectively, in the Sport Improved class. Also at Ottertail, Bryden Diesen won both the Junior 14-17 Boys class and the Expert 600 Limited class on his Arctic Cat, while Bretley Iverson grabbed third in Junior 10-13 Boys.

"At Canterbury, like all SX races, the holeshot is so important and the Cats – particularly the Frattalone sleds – were getting more than their share all weekend, which was fun to see," said Team Arctic Race Manager Mike Kloety. "The Cor race was another plowed laketop event that can provide a number of different challenges, but our sled's impressive handling allowed our skilled drivers to push them to their limits."

The race season is just getting started. From snocross to cross-country, ovals/enduros, hillclimb, straightline racing and beyond, Team Arctic will continue attacking with speed and confidence, putting Arctic Cat right where it belongs: up front.



# + Safety & Education +



Pat Pendergast

I watched it snow during the Patriots/Texans game, it snowed during the Bears/Rams game, and I look outside here at home and all I see is brown grass and a few flakes. We started out so good. What happened? By the time you are reading this, I at least hope to have experienced some up north riding time at the ACSA Trails Group meeting in Watersmeet, MI. There is no shortage of posts on social media showing folks riding in WI, MI, and MN. I'm happy for the businesses up there that are finally getting the winter they need.

Unfortunately, with the early, rideable snows, there have been some snowmobile related accidents and fatalities. It's pretty easy to get all excited about getting out there when that first snow hits, but you can't just forget everything you've learned about riding safe and making good decisions. As we all know, things can happen pretty fast when you're riding a sled. You have to remain alert to obstacles, ice/water conditions and anything else that you will encounter when snowmobiling. Are all accidents preventable? Of course not, but let's use our heads and ride safely to avoid the accidents that are preventable. As I have mentioned time and again to readers and safety class students, the leading causes of snowmobile accidents are speed and alcohol. The alcohol problem is an easy one to solve; leave the adult beverages alone until you're done riding for the day. This eliminates the possibilities of the slowed reaction times and lapses in good judgement that come into play when operating under the influence. The problem of speed is a tougher one. With the capabilities of today's sleds, it is easy to get moving at a fairly fast speed, maybe faster than you

realize. The horsepower and suspensions on these sleds allows riders to travel at pretty fast speeds, even in rough trail conditions. And let's face it, we have had a lot of new riders jump into the sport since Covid. New riders that may or may not have previous riding experience along with safety training. We often ride in conditions that are what we call perfect, but in reality are conducive to causing accidents. So let's keep our wits about us, make good decisions and find out the conditions of where you're going before you go. We want every ride to end with a safe return trip home.

On another note, don't forget that February 7 - 16th is Take a Friend Snowmobiling Week. Let's hope we all have some rideable snow so we can do just that! Ride safe, everyone.

?

## TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

When you're riding on a frozen surface, how far do you need to stay from ice skaters, ice fisherman, etc?

a) 100 feet, minimum

b) 20 feet, minimum

c) 75 feet, minimum

d) 50 feet, minimum

Answer: A: 100 feet, minimum



## Safety Class Schedule



Class Date	Location	Address	Time	Registration
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**No classes scheduled at this time.**



Pre-registration is required. Call the number listed by the date and location of the class you wish to attend. Please note that most class sizes are limited. Instructors are volunteers and are not paid. Please remember to cancel your reservation if you find you cannot attend the class so that your spot can be filled by another student. For additional classes scheduled after the magazine deadline, please visit the IASC website or call the IDNR office at 800-832-2599 or 216-557-9206, the IASC office at 815-210-0587, Pat Pendergast at 309-344-2554. If you have lost your Snowmobile Safety Certificate verifying that you have passed the required safety class, visit the IDNR website at [www.dnr.state.il.us/safety/safety.htm](http://www.dnr.state.il.us/safety/safety.htm).

The Safe Riders! Snowmobile Safety Awareness Program provides basic essentials about snowmobile safety and includes short quizzes to help test your knowledge about safe snowmobiling practices. It is meant to supplement information provided by the state or province in which you register or ride your snowmobile, so be sure to check local rules and requirements before venturing out on the snow.

This Program has been produced through a partnership between the American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA), the International Association of Snowmobile Administrators (IASA), and the International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association (ISMA) with financial assistance from the Recreational Trails Program administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation — Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).



### Test Your Snowmobiling Knowledge

Visit [www.saferiderssafetyawareness.org](http://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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