

54 YEARS
IASC
Illinois
SNOWMOBILER

58th Annual
**International
Snowmobile
Congress**



- Safety Vests
- Coon Creek Country Days
- Bob & Pat's Excellent Adventure

See inside
**Convention
Registration
Details**

October 2026

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

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Please Email Your IASC Club Stories to
production@ilsnowmobiler.com

IASC illinois SNOWMOBILER

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PRESIDENT'S DESK



Kai Steward

Here we are at the beginning of another season, and I'm excited about everything the next few months will bring. Clubs will soon be meeting again, and we'll see a full calendar of events, from fundraisers and swap meets to our annual IASC Convention just around the corner.

If you haven't already done so, please sign up for the convention.

Our convention committee has been hard at work putting together an outstanding event with interesting seminars and engaging speakers. This year's convention will be held on November 7 at Chestnut Mountain Resort in Galena.

As a reminder, our annual award nominations are due in early October. These awards are presented at convention, so please take the time to recognize the outstanding snowmobilers and volunteers in your club or region. Over the last few years, we've seen fewer nominations submitted, and that's unfortunate. Illinois is fortunate to have so many dedicated volunteers who work tirelessly for our sport, and they deserve to be recognized for all they do.

As we head into convention season, I realize I have just one more article to write before passing the torch to our next president. With Don Schaeffer heading north for new adventures, the board is also looking for at least two new members to join our team. If you've ever considered becoming more involved, I encourage you to step forward and help shape the future of snowmobiling in Illinois.

I usually end my articles by thanking an individual or group. This time, I'd like to recognize our dealers for their continued support of our convention and the sport of snowmobiling throughout Illinois. We truly appreciate everything you do for our scholarship recipients, local clubs, regional organizations, and the state association.

As we look ahead to the season, I hope Mother Nature delivers plenty of snow and cold weather for all of us to enjoy.

ROB'S PERFORMANCE MOTORSPORTS

VINTAGE *Snowmobile Show*

SATURDAY OCT 24TH

REGISTRATION: 8-11AM

SHOW: 9AM-2PM



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1971- 1980: Original and Restored
1981-1990: Original and Restored
1991-2005: Original and Restored

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Factory Race - All Years

Mini Sleds- All Years

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Best Dressed

PRE- REGISTRATION

920-699-3288 ext. 102

morgan@robsperformance.com or

sam@robsperformance.com



ROB'S PERFORMANCE MOTORSPORTS

601 Hwy. Y Johnson Creek, WI

Held in conjunction with Rob's Annual Fall Open House



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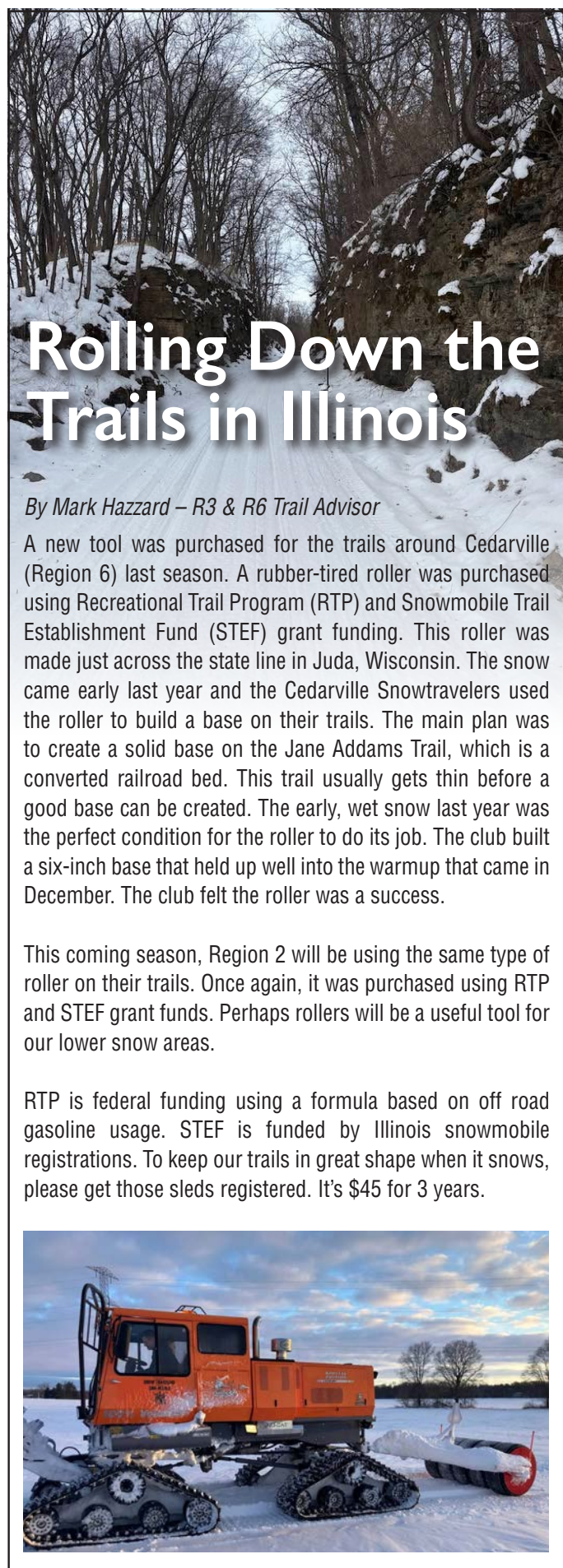
The 2027 Ski-Doo Lineup is more than a light snowfall of epic innovations - it's a flippin' blizzard! Discover the new 2027 Ski-Doo lineup featuring high performance and utility snowmobiles.

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HUGE INVENTORY OF NEW & USED SNOWMOBILES

BRP ski-doo



Rolling Down the Trails in Illinois

By Mark Hazzard – R3 & R6 Trail Advisor

A new tool was purchased for the trails around Cedarville (Region 6) last season. A rubber-tired roller was purchased using Recreational Trail Program (RTP) and Snowmobile Trail Establishment Fund (STEF) grant funding. This roller was made just across the state line in Juda, Wisconsin. The snow came early last year and the Cedarville Snowtravelers used the roller to build a base on their trails. The main plan was to create a solid base on the Jane Addams Trail, which is a converted railroad bed. This trail usually gets thin before a good base can be created. The early, wet snow last year was the perfect condition for the roller to do its job. The club built a six-inch base that held up well into the warmup that came in December. The club felt the roller was a success.

This coming season, Region 2 will be using the same type of roller on their trails. Once again, it was purchased using RTP and STEF grant funds. Perhaps rollers will be a useful tool for our lower snow areas.

RTP is federal funding using a formula based on off road gasoline usage. STEF is funded by Illinois snowmobile registrations. To keep our trails in great shape when it snows, please get those sleds registered. It's \$45 for 3 years.

54 Years Of Organized Snowmobiling

Come Celebrate November 7, 2026

Chestnut Mountain Resort

8700 W Chestnut Mountain Rd. , Galena, IL

61036 • 800-397-1320

Rooms are \$109 a night plus tax. Rooms available under
IASC block until October 9th.

**CALL HOTEL DIRECTLY TO MAKE ROOM
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IASC CONVENTION REGISTRATION (Nov. 7, 2026)

Package Choices	Early Bird Rates Good until 9/30/2026	PRICE AFTER 9/30/2026	# Plan	Cost
Plan A - All Day Saturday	\$50.00	\$70.00		
Plan B - Saturday Lunch Only	\$30.00	\$35.00		
Plan C - Saturday Dinner	\$45.00	\$55.00		
Plan D - Kids Registration (10&under)	\$30.00	\$30.00		

Total Enclosed: _____

- Make checks payable to IASC Convention
- Send registration form by October 15, 2026
to: Kaite Polhill 227 Shippee Rd. Lena, IL
61048

***Credit Card Convenience Fee Add 4% registration
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CC Account Number: _____

CVV# _____ EXP. _____ Signature: _____

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Club Name: _____

Additional Attendees: _____

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT ADVERTISING,
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(262)-745-6002

Kids registration receives a different meal. Dietary needs reach out to Kaite or Step.

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

Coach's Corner, Belvidere, 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

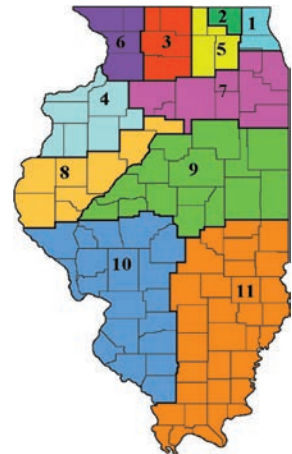
Call or Email for Information & Location

Region 10 & 11

Director: **Bob Steele**

217-691-4701 bsteele300@yahoo.com

Call or Email for Information & Location



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EVENTS

OCTOBER

October 4th:

31st Annual Grass Drags and Powersports Swap Meet
Gates open at 7:30am. Racing starts at 10:30am
Boone County Fairgrounds
8847 IL-76, Belvidere, IL 61008
For more information, email prairieriders@gmail.com or call 815) 509-1180

October 10th:

Northwest Relic Riders 17th Annual Vintage Snowmobile & Swap Show
Starts at 9am - 2pm
Vintage Snowmobile Show, Swap Meet, Kids' Games, Vintage Trivia, 50/50 Raffles and more!
Round Man Brewing and Smokehouse
N7017 Mackey Crk. Rd.
Trego, WI 54888

NOVEMBER

November 7th:

54th Annual IASC Convention
Come join us as we celebrate during our annual convention.
Chestnut Mountain Resort
8700 W. Chestnut Mountain Rd.
Galena, IL 61036

To make your reservation, call 1-800-397-1320 and mention IASC Group CODE SNO

FEBRUARY

February 21st:

Bay City Bluff Busters Vintage Show
Starts at 9am
Annual vintage show and ride event weather permitting
The Bluffs Bar@Grill
N1833 785th St.
Hager City, WI 54014
For more information, contact Roger 715 495 8836 or Will 651 380 6329

JUNE

June 9th-12th:

59th Annual International Snowmobile Congress
Little America Hotel
500 South Main Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84101
Call 801-596-5700 and mention ISC2027
Room block Utah Snowmobile Association. Book online at <https://reservations.travelclick.com/4650?groupID=5325336>

Please Email Us Your IASC Club Events to production@ilsnowmobiler.com



DeKane SnoTrackers Annual Maple Park FunFest

By Matt Linden

The DeKane SnoTrackers Snowmobile Club recently participated in the Annual Maple Park FunFest, bringing a little winter spirit to the community event.

The SnoTrackers were proud to showcase their new snowmobile groomer, a 2025 Kubota equipped with a 12-foot drag. The groomer was operated during the event by club members Rod and Whitney Johnson.

Club member Rob Kidd also participated, bringing his truck and trailer with two of his snowmobiles. Rob was joined by his sister Allison Probst and niece Brooke Probst, making it a family affair and adding to the club's presence at the FunFest.

The DeKane SnoTrackers enjoy opportunities to promote snowmobiling, introduce the community to the club, and showcase the equipment used to maintain area snowmobile trails. Their participation at Maple Park FunFest was another great opportunity for the club to connect with local residents and fellow outdoor enthusiasts.

The club looks forward to continuing its involvement in community events and promoting safe and enjoyable snowmobiling throughout the area.



Hampshire's Coon Creek Country Days

By Dwain "Duey" Stadie

The date may move around from year to year, but you always know the first part of August will be Coon Creek Country days. The tradition has continued for over 40 years now. 4 fun-filled days and nights on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and it's super easy to find, too. All you have to do is get close to Hampshire and you will spot the massive American flag being flown by the JB Crane. Thank you, Keith, and Brandy for doing that.

season 19 of the Great Food Truck race on the Food Network channel. So, not only will you have an awesome time at Coon Creek Country Days, but they are also a 501(C) non-profit so you will be helping many service groups around Hampshire.



There's a carnival for the kids (and some adults), craft vendors, the awesome food vendors, kids tent, petting zoo, ice cream eating contest, 2K walk, 10K run, Saturday fireworks by the Mad Bomber (must be Good with a name like that). You can also enjoy free sweet corn on Sunday provided by Goebberts Farm, a beer tent and the huge parade on Sunday with bands playing every day and night. Not only is it a major event in Hampshire, but it is the biggest small-town event around.

All the great food choices, along with Hampshire's very own Waffadilla Food Truck, made famous on



Again, this year the Hampshire White Riders Snowmobile Club entered the club's groomer in the parade. Dan Eikler and I got it out of the barn and drove it to town. Dan power washed it, greased the drag, and touched it up. Come parade day, I drove it while Dan and his wife Melissa sat in the back and threw out a couple of thousand suckers to the kids. I think it is great PR for the club, while in staging snowmobilers want to see it up close, and we answer so many questions from snowmobilers and non-snowmobilers. Along with reminding everyone it is also used for trail work and available for the club's snowmobile rescue squad.

Go check out the Coon Creek Country Days web or Facebook page for more information.

See you at next year's Coon Creek Country Days!

58th Annual International Snowmobile Congress, Omaha, NE



By Don Schaefer

For the last couple of years, I have been lucky to attend the International Snowmobile Congress in Prince Edward Island, Green Bay, Moline and Dubuque. Even though I attended a few others in the Midwest in my 40+ years of being involved, my interest really spiked when I was asked to help with planning the 2023 ISC hosted by the Illinois Association of Snowmobile Clubs in Moline, IL. I just have to say that the ISC is a great event and a great time. I have been lucky to meet people from all over that have a dedication to our great sport of snowmobiling. This year's ISC in Omaha was no exception. The Nebraska State Snowmobile Association did a great job hosting and Illinois was well represented.

The ISC is an annual event where many different snowmobile organizations, industries, administrators, media and tourism come together to talk about snowmobiling. The International Snowmobile Council meets at the ISC which includes many different organizations and after the council meeting. These organizations have meetings throughout the 4 days of the ISC. The American Council of Snowmobile Association (ACSA), Canadian Council of Snowmobile Organizations (CCSO), United Snowmobile Alliance (USA) and Northeast Chapter (NEC) represents the snowmobile Clubs and State Associations in the United States and Canada. The International Snowmobile Media Council (ISMC) and International Snowmobile Tourism Council (ISTC) represents the snowmobile media industry and snowmobile tourism bureaus. The snowmobile manufacturers are members of the International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association (ISMA) and government administrators representing the States and Provincial Department of Natural Resources are part of the International Association of Snowmobile Administrators (IASA). The Iron Dog Brigade is a group that includes individuals that are voted to join that have made outstanding contributions to snowmobiling and has their annual meeting and banquet during the ISC. In addition, there is a trade show and groomer show where many companies attend and proudly display the current products, groomers, GPS trail systems, club programs and assorted other snowmobile related products/service for the attendees to see and

discuss with the representatives of the business. There are also seminars and presentations to provide attendees with an assortment of subjects to increase their knowledge.

Your Executive Board members were busy attending meetings throughout the 4 days representing IASC including meetings with some vendors. The ACSA have their yearly general meeting as well as meetings of the Trail Riding Group and Mountain Riding Group. Reports were given regarding the many ACSA committees and their activities, accomplishments and goals for the future. Again, the big discussion was the creation of the ACSA Next Gen/Future leaders' programs encouraging associations to get their youth involved at the club and state levels. Make them feel welcome, listen to them and let them participate in planning and running your activities. As reported at the IASC general meeting by Mark Hazzard, ACSA director at large, the ACSA had a very successful DC fly-In and are part of discussions with those that matter that affect snowmobiling in the United States. Please consider having your club become members of the ACSA as this will provide you with a great weekly email newsletter prepared by the ACSA about what is happening that may or may not affect snowmobiling. It also helps support the ACSA to ensure that snowmobiling is included in discussions with the people that oversee land management. A big thank you to Dan Long, past President of the ACSA, for his years of service to the ACSA and its Executive Board. Note, don't worry, he is still involved as he is the committee Chair of the "Friends of Snowmobilers Political Action Committee."

Each day, the attendees were treated to speakers. We had the honor to hear a great presentation by Clayton Anderson, the one and only astronaut from Nebraska that spent 167 days in space. He talked about his career and leadership. Jaret Smith, President of ISMA and chairman of the Snowmobile Safety and Certification Committee (SSCC) provided his yearly state of snowmobile address. As we can imagine, snowmobiling sales are up just a little bit. We only have 3 main manufacturers left as Yamaha has discontinued the

manufacture of snowmobiles. Plus, the weather has not been great in some important areas where we enjoy our sport. Starting out the congress on Thursday morning was Dave Guenther, an old timer that has been involved with snowmobiling since his first ride in 1967. What a great start to hear about the great stories of the beginning of organized snowmobiling to how we need to bring youth to continue our missions. Besides the local clubs by his home in northwest Minnesota, he is involved with the Antique Snowmobile Club of America, on the International Hall of Fame Board and a member of the Iron Dog Brigade. It was great to listen to him talk about the "good ole' days."

Education is always an important part of the ISC and this year, there were several well attended seminars/break out sessions. The most popular was the ISMA introduction of their "Go snowmobiling" program hopefully launching this fall with the idea to help support snowmobile clubs and local organizations with the resources they need to thrive. Artificial Intelligence and social media were covered in several sessions to help us learn how we can boost our brand/clubs/associations and use these concepts to promote safe and responsible snowmobiling. Since youth is a current objective and project, there were sessions from current youth leaders and sponsors to encourage us to get our kids involved. KAOS program from Wisconsin and YETIS from South Dakota help present these sessions. There were some informative sessions regarding insurance and parliamentary procedures as well as avalanche awareness, first aid, ride preparedness as it relates to snowmobiling. Each year there is a groomer round table as representatives from the industry provide insight and comments on questions from the attendees. Besides the youth seminars, there was also a session for women to attend. Members of your executive Board attended these sessions and gained knowledge to bring back to Illinois to improve our association.

The ISC is also a place that conducts much fundraising for the ASCA and its various programs. Besides a well-stocked silent auction room there are many raffles throughout the days of the ISC. Attendees are always asking to bring out your wallet (or purse) for a donation or purchase of a ticket. This year, IASC very own and past president Mason Long, had his beard shaved after there was a live auction at the Saturday night Banquet and awards dinner. Thank you, Mason, and in addition to the attention of the shaving session, Mason was awarded the



ACSA Snowmobiler of the Year. Bill Brown, representing Illinois and the IDNR at the IASA meetings for many years, was awarded the Administrator Professional Excellence Award for his years of service and participation with the organization at the awards presentations. Congratulations, guys!



Of course, snowmobilers like to have fun and socialize at events. The ISC is no exception. Starting Tuesday, there was a motorcycle and car tour throughout the backroads of Nebraska for those that are adventures. Wednesday is a set up day, but also has 2 events to get the attendees together. In the afternoon is the annual FOSPAC event raising money for the ASCA Political Action Committee that helps provide support to snowmobile friendly representatives or senators. Then Wednesday night was a groomer reception that allowed attendees to mingle and check out the groomer equipment that were on display and talk to the industry representatives. Thursday night was an offsite dinner and event at the nearby Strategic Air Command and Aerospace Museum (SAC). Friday night, the host of the 2027 ISC, Utah Snowmobile Association, had a reception to educate the attendees about next year's ISC at Salt Lake City, Utah which will include a tour of the newly remodeled LDS Temple. Several members of the IASC have already registered. The ISC ends with the annual banquet and awards dinner honoring snowmobilers and clubs from the USA and Canada. Well, I should say, it officially ends when they close the doors to the Bahama Snowmobile Association Hospitality room sometime early Sunday morning.

As I once said and will continue to say, I have never met a snowmobiler that I didn't consider a friend. Attending the ISC the last several years has expanded my friends, increased my knowledge and I have heard many, many stories about adventures, activities and this and that about snowmobiling from people throughout the United States and Canada. I may have told a few stories as well. It is a great event to attend, participate in and to represent Illinois is a great honor.

Bob & Pat's Excellent Adventure



By Pat Pendergast

Well, who's ready for another episode of Bob and Pat's Excellent Adventure? I'm not sure this one fits in the excellent category, but hey, we were snowmobiling, so I'm calling it a victory. Bob Hennenfent and myself, along with our newest glutton for punishment Greg Lardi, headed back to our favorite riding area, the NE quadrant of Minnesota. We fell in love with this area due to its awesome trail system full of twists, turns, hills and valleys and the fact that Lake Superior is never too far away. We have also never had to deal with a lot of traffic during our week-long travels, so that is a plus as well.

Trail reports and weather forecasts were a mixed bag; some fine, some awful just like any product review you may read online. We committed to making the trip and headed to Two Harbors, MN for a week of riding. We arrived in Two Harbors on Sunday afternoon and experienced 40 degree temperatures and what looked like less than ideal snow conditions. After we got settled in, unloaded our sleds, purchased and applied our trail pass stickers, we headed to McQuades Bar and Grill for an early supper. McQuades is a short walk from the Country Inn where we were staying, and they have great food and a good selection of beers.

After our complimentary breakfast, we headed out with sunny skies and 28 degree temperatures. We took the spur trail from the hotel heading for the North Shore state trail with Grand Marais as our tentative destination. As I led our group through minimal snow, long dry grasses and some dirt/mud, I was thinking to myself, "What in the heck did I get us into?" I figured the guys were thinking about how much snow was on the ground in the UP! We made it to the North Shore and it had rideable snow. Thin, but rideable. Keep in mind that Minnesota is pretty rocky, so thin snow conditions mean lots of rocks showing through. I have to admit that the clubs and the IDNR did a good job working with what little snow they had. Considering the trail conditions, we changed our destination to Ely. We caught the Tomahawk Trail with plans to stop at My Place for lunch, but they were closed. We had enough snacks to get us by, so we continued on towards Ely with plans to stay at the Grand Ely Lodge. The farther north we went, the better the trails got, arriving in Ely in early afternoon. We secured a nice room, unloaded our travel bags and rode some of

the lakes in the area. After riding we hit the lodge's restaurant, which is excellent, by the way, and then hit the pool and hot tub. We ended the day with 167 miles on the sleds.

Since the Grand Ely Lodge didn't have any free breakfast and the restaurant didn't open later, we headed out early for Tower to see if Sulu's was open and grabbed us a homemade scone. There was a big storm forecast for the eastern part of the area, so we decided to stay west of there for a day or so. We hit the Taconite Trail early and, for the amount of snow they had to work with, it was still a pretty fun ride. We lucked out and Sulu's was open and the scones were awesome. In case you hadn't guessed by now, food plays a pretty big role in our journeys. Hey, ya' gotta eat! After leaving Tower, we decided to try riding the lake trails and head for Crane Lake as our next overnight stay. The lake trails end up dumping you on to the Vermillion River, something I wasn't crazy about. It turns out that the depth of the river ranges from 1-4 feet, so I feel much better about it now. I have to admit, we had a blast riding that river, it was very twisty and the snow was in good condition. We made a stop at what is known as VRT, the Vermillion River Tavern near the town of Buyck. Bob spotted this and I was glad he did, it was a very cool stop. The place is full of all kinds of antique snowmobile items, from suits to signs to toys, old chain saws and even an old Harley up on a shelf on the wall. There is a lot of local history in that tavern. What a great stop. After a delicious hot chocolate, with whipped cream of course, we jumped back on the river and had an awesome ride all the way to Crane Lake. While I rarely use the words "river" and "snowmobiling" in the same sentence, this ride from Tower to Crane Lake was a blast. The homes on some of the big lakes and the condition of the river trail made this a really fun ride. I'd definitely do it again. We secured a nice room at the Voyageur Lodge by mid-afternoon. FYI, rooms at the Voyageur are half price in the winter, woo hoo! It is a very nice lodge with a good bar/restaurant in the same space and gas available onsite. After getting gear in the room, we took a ride around the lakes in the area. This area hooks up to the Boundary Waters canoe area, so the scenery is absolutely gorgeous; sheer rock cliffs, pine tree forests and the occasional dream home out in the middle of nowhere. Taking the tight portages from lake to lake is a fun, new experience as well. We

ended the day with 130 miles on the odometer.

A beautiful snow was falling when we left Crane Lake. Luckily we were on the western edge of the storm that was hitting the Lake Superior coast. We took club trails west, making our way to the Arrowhead Trail so we could travel south with Hoyt Lakes as our next planned stop for the day. We rode in falling snow most of the day along with some windy conditions, but the trails were in good shape, so the riding was fun. The Arrowhead is a fun trail when you're that far north. The southern portion is somewhat grade-like, but it is a very nice trail that will take you all the way to International Falls. We stopped for lunch at Tavern on the Bay and bought some terribly overpriced gas before we left. With good riding the rest of the afternoon, we pulled into Hoyt Lakes before dusk. We got our gear unloaded into the rooms at the Country Inn, fueled up at a nearby convenience store and headed to The Haven restaurant for a hot meal. The pool and hot tub at the hotel were closed, so that was unfortunate. I don't think they are ever going to open either of them, so we may have to rethink that as a stopping point in the future.

The next morning, we woke up to maybe 3 or 4 inches of fresh snow vs. the 38 inches the coast got along with 50 mph winds. We felt pretty fortunate as we planned on some pretty sweet riding as we headed back east towards the North Shore trail and eventually back towards Two Harbors. After our complimentary breakfast, we hit the trails and soon found out that we were just on the outskirts of the big storm. We were soon to encounter at least 2 feet of snow on the trail. Greg and I took turns leading as our group was the first out on the trails. Once we got into the wooded areas, we had to deal with one downed tree after another, almost all of them blocking the trail. Bob's folding saw broke pretty early in the game, so I got my hunter's saw out and we used it for the next umpteen downed trees. I swear there was a tree around every turn. I don't know how many trees we had to cut so we could get through, but it was absolutely exhausting. Then we came to a badly drifted stretch of trail that looked impassable. There was a marshy area next to it, but I stepped down into that and the snow was probably 3+ feet deep. Since Greg's sled was the lightest, and he's also the youngest, we asked if he wanted to give the drifted section a shot. Never being one to back down from a challenge, Greg gave it the ol' college try. Keep in mind that this snow wasn't lake effect snow, it was system snow. That plus the fact that it wasn't terribly cold, so the snow had some body to it. Greg was probably half way through that stretch when he hit a huge, albeit solid, drift that sent him up and over into a beautiful, missile-like launch that left the sled nose down in 4 feet of snow and headed in the wrong direction. Walking to the sled was a big enough job, not to mention getting it out of the hole and back on the trail. We finally got him out and back to the start where Bob's and my sled were and tried to decide on a plan. We were so exhausted from dealing with downed trees and getting the sled unstuck that we were seriously considering turning around and spending another night at Hoyt Lakes. Then along came a group of riders who thanked us for clearing the trees off of the trails and looked at the situation that had us whipped. They didn't seem to see the marshy area as much of an obstacle, so the first guy in the group dove in and bypassed the killer drifts that Bob and I bravely sent Greg into. I'll be danged if he didn't plow right through that marsh as did the rest of the guys in their group. After that, we sat there for a while feeling like a bunch of wusses, we took the same path through the marsh and got back on the trail. At least the other group got to cut some trees ahead of us this time. We had plans to catch the North Shore and head north towards Grand Marais, but we were so exhausted and dehydrated that we decided to stay in Silver Bay for the

night. The closer we got to Superior, the more snow there was and the worse the trails got since groomers hadn't been out yet. We holed up in Silver Bay for the night. We fueled the sleds, grabbed some food at the town convenience store and then secured a room at the Black Beach Inn with a whopping 80 miles for the entire day. I don't mind saying that we were absolutely shot and ready to be done.



Our plans for the final day of riding was to head north on the state trail for a ways, then turn around and head back to Two Harbors to wrap up the trip. We rode towards Finland, stopped at the Finland Co-Op and grabbed some hot dogs, buns and condiments with hopes for a trail-side fire and lunch. We got back on the North Shore trail and found a nice trail side shelter in the sun with an awesome view, so we started a small fire, cooked dogs and really enjoyed the break. There was a lot of snow in the area so starting a fire wasn't an easy task. I'm glad Greg had some injection oil with him! Due to the excessive snow and the rough trail conditions, we decided to head back south after lunch, return to Two Harbors and call it a trip. With all the snow and high winds, I'm sure most locals were digging themselves out and not grooming yet. With no grooming and all of the sledders that foolishly headed to the area immediately following the storm, the trails were in awful condition. It was a very long ride back to the hotel and we were happy to be back. We ended the day with 100 miles, definitely nothing earth-shattering. We celebrated the end of an eventful trip with another meal at McQuades, then back to the pool and hot tub for some recovery. I couldn't get over the amount of sledders heading into town following this storm. The local clubs and IDNR were taking a verbal beating for the trail conditions, but I don't fault them at all. Over 3 feet of snow with 50 mph winds is a lot to deal with on a personal level, much less spend your entire day/night making trails smooth for riders both local and from far away. If folks could've given the area a couple of days to recover, the riding would have been golden.

We were lucky enough to rack up close to 600 miles for the trip. Tough riding is definitely not something we're used to in MN. But it was still a lot of fun with good company and several interesting stops along the way. We're fortunate we get to do this and I hope to do it for many years to come.

CLUBS 2026-2027

ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF SNOWMOBILE CLUBS

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815-210-0587
iasc.illinois@gmail.com
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• SCHOLARSHIP

Stephanie Steward
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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 2026-2027

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
 October, November, December,
 and March
 Marseilles Lions Club
 511 Commercial 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
 bsteele300@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 2026-2027

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

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

REGION 4

Tempo Marine & Sport
1235 14th Ave.
East Moline, IL 61244
309-752-0868
sales@tempomarine.com

Triple E Sales
1301 Division St.
Orion, IL 61273
309-526-3443
tripleesales.com

REGION 5

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

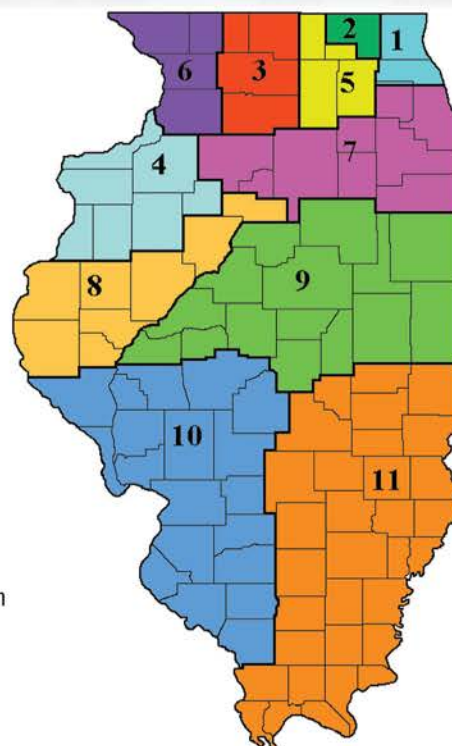
To List Your BUSINESS
Contact the IASC Office
815-210-0587
iasc.illinois@gmail.com

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



By Dan Dampitz

Over the past 5 years, the snowmobile industry's four major manufacturers—BRP/Ski-Doo, Polaris, Arctic Cat and Yamaha—

along with ISMA, have provided more than \$1.5 MILLION in direct support for snowmobile clubs, trails, safety, access and riding experiences across North America.

Over the past 5 years, nearly \$1.8 MILLION has been awarded in Illinois through state and federal grant programs specifically supporting snowmobile trails, grooming, equipment, maintenance, access and infrastructure.



The Early Times Street Rods Car Club Suds & Fun Car Show

By Dwain "Duey" Stadie

Every year during the first 2 weekends in August, the majestic little Village of Hampshire hosts Coon Creek Country Days and the Suds and Fun Car Show. It all depends on what weekend the Coon Creek committee can get a carnival, and whichever week that is the other weekend is the car show.

This year, the car show came first. Once again, it was held under the oak trees at Ralph Seyller Park (East Park) in Hampshire, a setting car enthusiasts appreciate because it is far better than a sunny blacktop parking lot. On this day, though, sunshine would not be a concern.

Since I was a kid (a couple three years ago), the Hampshire White Riders Snowmobile Club has helped Early Times Street Rods car club fence in the park on Saturday (a gorgeous sunny day), run the south entrance gate on Sunday, and take down all the fence on Sunday after the show.

The weather people had predicted rain on Sunday (show day) for 5 days prior to the show, but every weather person had the rain starting at a different time, some even saying 5-ish, which would have been awesome. The show is normally a nice fundraiser for our snowmobile club. We sell loaded baked potatoes with butter, sour cream, salt, pepper, chili, and cheese. Nachos with cheese and jalapeno peppers if you dare, sweet corn with butter, Coke, Diet Coke, Sprite, and water.

We had the food tent ready by 6:00am, started cooking at 7:00am, passed the county health department inspection at 8:00am, and began selling soon after. Business stayed steady until about 11:00pm, when the rain arrived. It began lightly, then came down hard and sideways. It was just like Forrest Gump described it in the movie, "dropping three-quarters of an inch." Add some wind and a little thunder, and it made for a difficult afternoon. The show can draw more than 700 cars and 2,500 spectators,

so there are usually plenty of lunches to serve. This year, we had 380 cars and 450 spectators; apparently, many people saw the forecast and stayed home. Thankfully, we did not lose money, but we only made a small profit. Like snowmobiling, maybe next year it will be better.

Thank you soooooo very much to all the members who worked so hard to make this all happen; Becky Haseman, Scott Haseman, Randi Haseman, Auston Haseman, Keith Lima, Jerry Hirsell, Pete Fields, Jodi Fields, Pat Doherty, Kent Nussbaum, Mike Navigato, Sherry Navigato, Chris Moore, Steve (Bullitt) Gustafson, Linda Gustafson, Ed Brettschneide, Genice Brettschneider, John Cermack, Dave Wright, Don Banke, Dwain (Duey) Stadie and club members Dan & Cheryl Linnemann of Prairie View Gardens & Farm Market for the potatoes and sweet corn. Thanks to Chris Moore for the use of his trailer. I hope I did not forget anyone.

Now I know your club did some kind of activities. Please send me your stories with a couple of pictures so we can share it with other clubs in the Illinois Association of Snowmobiler Clubs. We would love to hear about your club.



Snowmobile Safety Vests



By Dwain "Duey" Stadie

We wear a lot of essential gear every time we take our sleds out. This includes warm, lightweight pants, a warm shirt or layers under our jacket and bibs, socks, boots, gloves, glove liners, a balaclava, and our favorite helmet. But do you also wear a safety vest? If not, especially if you know what I went through, I must ask... why?

They go by many names: racer vest, trail vest, body armor, ballistic jersey (one of my favorites) and safety vest, to name a few. My friend Dominic calls mine a flak jacket. Call it whatever you like, but remember its purpose: upper-body impact protection. Let me repeat that: upper-body impact protection. In my opinion, it is a must-have.

Do not confuse safety vests with roost guards, because they are quite different. Roost guards are designed to shield motocross or snowcross racers from roost spray. They might help if you are riding behind my friend Terry, or any other knucklehead who punches the throttle from every stop and sprays snow and debris all over you. But roost guards are durable plastic and protect against roost spray.

There are a few assorted brands available, but TekVest is by far the largest manufacturer. In addition to selling vests under its own name, TekVest also makes vests for Arctic Cat, Polaris, Ski-Doo, 509, Diva, and Klim. They produce about 95% of the safety vests on the market. No matter what name appears on the front, check the tag inside—it will most likely say TekVest.

EVS is another major brand, along with a few others. I own both a TekVest and an EVS vest, and while any vest is better than none, these two companies design specifically with snowmobilers in mind. Their vests provide impact protection, absorb energy, dissipate force, and help shield riders from roost spray. If those 4 reasons are not enough to make you wear one, I have to ask again... why not?

All vests are designed to be worn over your bibs and under your jacket. Like much of our gear, they are race proven. They are made with hand-laminated closed-cell foam and ultra-high-molecular-weight plastic, are 100% synthetic, and can be cleaned easily with soap and water. They are lightweight and will gradually mold to your body over time.

Everyone out riding wears a helmet to protect their face from the cold, and their head from an accident, right? So why not wear a safety vest to keep you from the possibility of getting broken ribs, broken collar bone, punctured lungs, a bruised heart, or many other injuries? Read any state's DNR accident reports. Most snowmobile accident injuries involve hitting a stationary object (a tree usually) or hitting the handlebars (the sled stops, the rider does not). Not fun. Take it from me and I hope it never happens to you, but wouldn't you like some kind of protection?

Some people say the cost is too high, but I disagree. You can usually find a vest for around \$300. Sometimes a little less, sometimes a little more. That is comparable to buying a helmet, and it is just as important. It is also a long-term investment, not something that wears out quickly. TekVest says some riders have been wearing the same vest for more than 10 years.

I have heard people with different ideas on sizing, a lot of people say one size smaller than your shirt size. Most sizing charts I have seen are done by body weight. Try one on, adjust the straps for a snug comfortable fit. I would suggest going to your local dealer or snow show to try one on. Either place you should find knowledgeable personnel to help you find the correct size.

Some people say they do not like the way safety vests looks, or that they seem bulky and uncomfortable. I admit I was not excited the first time I rode with one. It takes a little getting used to. But after my accident in 2025, believe me, you should want to wear one. Vests may feel stiff at first, but they loosen up over time. Mine is flexible, has adjustable straps for a snug fit, and now I barely notice it. The more I ride with it, the more comfortable it feels, almost like a new pair of shoes.

As for looks, yes, you do kind of have that football or hockey player look. The more miles wearing it, the better it will feel. Let me tell you, broken ribs suck! There are a couple of other bonuses. First, they are very warm, they trap in the heat. An impressive wind stopper and insulator. I can tell you from wearing mine, it keeps me warm. Second, the TekVest with the type of foam (closed cell) the vest is made of, does not absorb water. So, it gives you buoyancy, meaning flotation. I am not sure of the other brands, and it is not Coast Guard approved yet, but TekVest does state that as a final selling point in their brochure. I also know of one state's DNR personnel who actually tested it, and they say it works. So, after reading this story, I just want to know, why aren't you wearing one?

I wish I had my vest on when I crashed. I would not have broken my ribs and collar bone. Heaven forbid I assess it out as a flotation device. But I think of it now as necessary riding gear, just like my helmet. Remember, just because something protects you well at a 30 mph impact, it may not work as well at 100 mph impact. Do not push it, don't think you're Superman just because you are wearing a safety vest. Be smart. TekVest's sales brochure sums it up well. "Gotta be somewhere Monday? Maybe you should be thinking about a TekVest," and, "It only has to work once to pay for itself." Some people say, "It's not for me," but I do not think so. because it just makes sooooo much sense. Take it from me and wear one!

Ya know it is still warm out as I write this, but it may be time to put on my vest and jump in the pool to do a little research.



Safety Class Schedule



Class Date	Location	Address	Time	Registration
10/25/26	Hampshire Township Park District Building	390 South Ave., Hampshire	7:00am-4:00pm	www.hampshirewhiteriders.com
12/12/26	Triple E Sales	1301 Division St., Orion	8:00am-4:00pm	Bob 309-368-0620 Pat 309-335-4095
12/13/26	Lena Community Center	497 Lions Dr. Lena	8:00am-4:00pm	815-990-2652



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

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

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



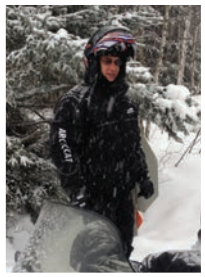
Test Your Snowmobiling Knowledge

Visit www.saferiderssafetyawareness.org to test your knowledge about safe snowmobiling practices. If you're an experienced snowmobiler, you may try a quiz first to see how much you think you know — and then take the quiz again after you've reviewed a section's materials to see how much you've learned. If you're new to snowmobiling, work through each section first before taking the quiz to enhance your learning experience.

Snowmobile Safety Awareness Program



Safety & Education



Pat Pendergast

Happy Fall, everyone. It's that time of year that we all look forward to, snowmobile pre-season. I mean, we all look forward to winter, but there's something about fall that gets the snow and ice flowing through those veins. Sled prep begins, club meetings get underway (you're in a club, right?) and trail work is right around the corner. Fall also brings snowmobile safety classes for everyone to take to help them become safe riders.

While these classes are geared towards youth aged 12-15 and allow them to gain their certification card, there is always more for adults to learn about our sport. Discussions with the students and other adult riders during the class always provide opportunities to learn something new, even for the instructors. If you have a son or daughter in the age group where they can take the course to get their snowmobile safety certification, please consider taking him or her to an instructor-taught class vs. the online version. I realize the online course is more convenient and works well with the busy schedule of today's families, but the in-person classes offer so much more. Instructors are experienced snowmobilers who can share much insight into this wonderful sport with your son or daughter.

Sure, there is a lot of reading and bookwork, but there is always an opportunity for hands-on learning, too. With an actual sled on sight, students get their hands on a sled and can identify parts in real life, not by looking at pics on a screen. They can talk to riders, riders who are club members, and maybe a groomer operator will show up to talk or is even teaching the class. Groomer operators can give an entirely new outlook and information stream to our new riders. IDNR officers often come to the class for a short visit and discuss Illinois snowmobile rules and regulations as well. They are usually pretty good at putting our new riders at ease, explaining the laws so students can understand them and let them know what things look like from law enforcements' point of view.

So please consider checking out the IDNR's website under snowmobile safety education and find a class that works with your schedule and location. There are usually plenty of class options that will allow your son or daughter to get certified well in advance of that first local snow and the big "up north trip." Also remember that as a parent you can take the course along with your child. I can almost guarantee you will learn something new before the class' end.

So let's all welcome the end of summer, the arrival of fall and the anticipation of winter with its white gold.

ROB'S **FALL OPEN HOUSE** **& RIDE-IN**

SATURDAY
OCT 24TH

LIVE MUSIC

BELLA CAIN
7-10PM



DAVID MARSHALL BAND
3-6 PM



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VINTAGE
SNOWMOBILE
SHOW



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