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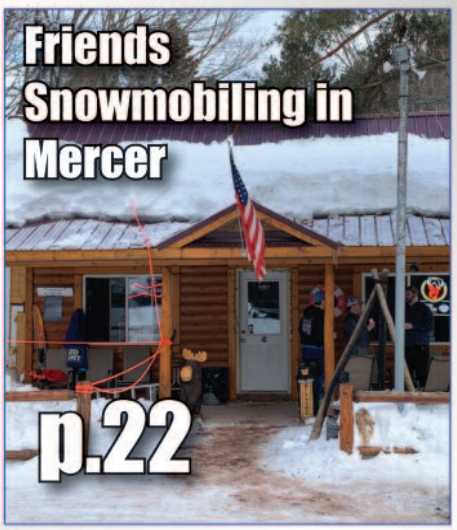

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The Official Publication of the Illinois Association of Snowmobile Clubs

Illinois Snowmobiler is published six times per year - October, November, December, January, February, and March - by KDR Productions, 1051 Perimeter Drive, Suite 1150, Schaumburg, Illinois 60173. It is the official publication of the Illinois Association of Snowmobile Clubs.

Subscriptions: Yearly subscriptions are a benefit of IASC membership - Individual Associate $25; Business Associate $35; Clubs $35, plus $11 per family club member. To join, contact the IASC office at 815-795-2021 or send check to:

IASC Office
PO Box 265
Marseilles, IL 61341

Illinois Snowmobiler is published by:

KDR Productions
1051 Perimeter Drive, Suite 1150
Schaumburg, Illinois 60173
Send Copy To production@ilsnowmobiler.com
Sales Dino Thanos 630-894-0934 ext. 229
dino@ilsnowmobiler.com

Publisher Dino Thanos
Managing Editor Danielle Christoffel
Art Directors Danielle Christoffel & Ray Toppel
Advertising Sales Dino Thanos & Meghan Naylor

Contributions: We welcome unsolicited materials and letters for possible publication. Letters, manuscripts, stories, materials, and photographs cannot be returned unless sender provides a self-addressed stamped envelope. Illinois Snowmobiler and KDR Productions accept no responsibility for returns, losses, or damage of unsolicited materials. Letters to the editor must be signed with address and telephone number of the sender. Submission of articles and letters implies the right to edit and publish in all or part.

Illinois Snowmobiler Magazine is the official publication of the Illinois Association of Snowmobiler Clubs (IASC). The opinions and attitudes expressed by the publisher do not necessarily reflect the opinions and attitudes of the IASC and are not intended as a statement from IASC, but rather as a statement from the publisher.

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OUT & ABOUT

Please send club stories to production@ilsnowmobiler.com with the subject line "Out & About."

Northern Illinois Polar Bare Club

By Teri Theis

The Northern Illinois Polar Bare Club headed up to Christmas, MI in the UP for their first trip on January 16th. The snow was great including at least another foot of snow coming down while riding. The trails were the busiest we had ever seen. With that said, the trails were great heading out early in the day, but a bit bumpy coming back. We stayed at the White Pines Resort and frequented several of the popular pit stops including Buckhorn, Foggys, the Brownstone Inn, Tanglewood, and Kawadin Casino. We had 19 club members riding. We had some great leaders including our President Mike Flaherty, Bob Pasquale, Dan Beyers, and Wade Theis in the back keeping look out for the group. Most of us rode over 200 miles for the weekend with a small group of the club adding on another 100. The Polar Bares are a great group of friends. We ended each day with social time sharing stories of the days adventures and playing games. This year included "Family Feud" - The Shith Eads Family vs. The Johnny Bacon Family. GOOD TIMES SNOWMOBILING HAD BY ALL.

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PRESIDENT'S DESK

Mason Long

Well here we are again, nearing the end of another season of snowmobiling. It's a sad time of year but one that we all knew was going to happen. Our season has been sub-par to say the least, but several days of rideable snow snuck into the state here and there and I hope you were fortunate enough to be able to get out and enjoy it, but if not let's hope and pray for next year!

So I am starting to feel like a broken record but we have been making progress with the DNR in getting our grants finalized for FY 19! We have signed the final papers, sent in the final grant acceptance fee and are awaiting the signature from the director of the DNR for the final release of our funds! For those of you that have been following this, you know this has been a long and painful process that basically passed our entire season up, cutting almost a year out of the availability of our money. With that being said, it is getting close to time to apply for FY 20 grants already! Now that we both have been through this once before, we have high hopes that this next year will go better, but only time will tell. Until then, keep your fingers crossed! So if your club has something new that you would like to purchase through the grant system, make sure to get ahold of your trail advisor so they can get them all together!

Don't forget that this month is the annual drawing held at our March meeting, so keep selling those tickets, it's a great fundraiser for the state and your club! Also, thank the sponsors that have donated the prizes on the back of the ticket! If it weren't for them, we wouldn't have this opportunity!

Next month I will be attending ACSA's annual D.C. Fly In, where we will spend one of the days meeting with fellow state leaders discussing state issues, and spend the second day sitting through guest speakers discussing legislation, and issues facing recreation and specifically snowmobile-related issues. The last day we will spend hitting the hill to discuss what we learned and bills we want to support with our legislators and senators in hopes to get their support for the bills that will benefit our snowmobiling community.

I hope you all get to go on one last trip for the year to enjoy what we all love so much before the winter thaw, and I hope you all got plenty of riding in up north this season! See you all next season!

Safe riding everyone!
Mason Long

Region Meeting Schedule:

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

Region 1
Mel Blaurock, Director - 847-345-5512
Call for meeting date and location.

Region 2
Jeff Lehman, Director - 815-388-5380
First Wednesday of the Month
Aug.-Apr. - Rusty Nail Bar & Grill
Ringwood, IL - 7:30pm

Region 3
Dan Damptz, Director - 815-985-6071
Second Monday of the Month
July.-Apr. - Location Rotates
Call for Location

Region 4
Pat Pendergast, Director - 309-335-4095
September, Nov. & Mar.
Third Monday of the Month
Call for Location - 7pm

Region 5
Rodney Kampfranz, Director - 815-236-4028
Second Wednesday of the Month
Red Ox Bar and Grill
Rt. 72, Hampshire, IL - 7pm

Region 6
Kirk Polhill - Director 815-275-3371
2nd Thursday of the month
Bottle Shed, Stockton IL
Sept - April

Region 7
Larry Michaels, Director - 815-252-6292
Second Thursday of the Month
Oct., Dec., March
Illini Lounge, Marseilles, IL - 7pm

Region 8
Director Position Vacant
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Region 9
Josh Bennett, Director - 309-648-3040
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Region 10 & 11
Carson Hanner Director - 217-948-5579
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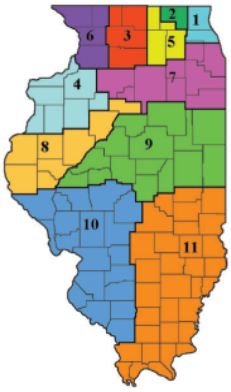

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PUBLISHER'S DESK

A Season In Review

From Top Left Clockwise: Ray Toppel, Dino Thanos, Meghan Naylor, & Danielle Christoffel

Snowmobilers likely had their hopes up with a bitterly cold late October, a snowy Halloween and a chilly early November. However, Fox 32 meteorologist Mike Caplan was correct; a chilly autumn doesn't necessarily translate to a snowmobiler's winter. Indeed, not much snow to speak of but, I'm composing this article in mid-February and we just had a snowstorm that will be followed by a cold front. So hopefully some of the local trails will be open long enough for you guys to ride and take advantage of the fruits of your labor.

We made some changes to the magazine that you may have noticed. We are using a new printer and I must say, the paper and print quality are really exceptional. In light of the new printer and slightly changed paper size, Danielle took it upon herself to start making some changes to the magazine's design. It's a fresher, more modern look with a sharper font that should be easier for all to read.

Speaking of Danielle, did you see her at the convention? She said it was a blast. Region 2 did a bang up job. The venue was great, the decorations, the cuisine and entertainment were all top notch. If you haven't had a chance to read her convention article, look inside your December issue. We're all very much looking forward to Region 7's gala in Joliet. A "Mardi Gras" sounds like a quiet, restful evening… said no one! For more information, please find the convention registration page in this issue.

As we close out another season of Illinois Snowmobiler, our list of "thank yous" is a must. First and foremost, thank you to all members of the eBoard. President Mason Long has done a fantastic job keeping the IASC posted about what's going on in Springfield. His efforts along with the trail advisors and rest of the board have been an uphill battle but their persistence is what will bring results. Thank you to Jane Austin and the proofing team that help make this magazine as typo-free as possible. Thank you to Pat Pendergast for his impassioned safety articles that are an inspiration to keep instructor-taught safety classes full. Thank you to Suzy Giese for her feature stories. Thank you to contributor Ken Conti for sharing his vast collection of snowmobiling magazine stories. Thanks to Duey Stadie for being a regular contributor. Last but not least, a big thank you to all members of the IASC for all you do for organized snowmobiling. We hope you all have a wonderful spring and summer.

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Ken's Archives

Tales From the Early Years

In looking back to the years 2005 & 2006 it was interesting to note that Blair Morgan and not Tucker Hibbert was still the king of SnoCross. In the X games finals, still current rider Levi LaVallee was in the lead coming up to the final lap when he lost control on a jump and came off his sled allowing Blair to pass him and go on for his 5th straight gold in the Snocross discipline.

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Although Tucker came on to dominate in later years, it was Blair who blazed the popularity and rising success of the SnoCross circuit with his flawless jumps and aggressive riding to the point of being unbeatable in his era. Over in Eagle River, things were changing also. From a small invitational start up to showcase the old vintage race sleds, the race grew so fast that by 2006 they had 500 vintage race sled entries and the Derby weekend was extended to two weeks which is how it's run today. In fact both attendance and race entries are higher for the vintage races then the world championship weekend itself.

Back here in Illinois, a SnoCross race known as the Winter Thunder Challenge was moved from Twin Lakes Wisconsin to a new venue at the Golf Farm in Wauconda, Illinois. This race took place every weekend through the month of March and featured both novice and pro races. The event had 17 levels of racing beginning with the junior level age 8-12, junior level 16-17, sports level age 15 & up, open and pro classes age 16 and above and last legends age 35 and above. The races were very popular and great for the spectators who had access to a full restaurant with an inside viewing area and also outside heated viewing stands. I'm not sure how many years the races were run but I bet our current Region 1 director and long time IASC officer Mel Blaurock would know the entire history of this event. In looking back I wasn't able to document any big snowmobile adventures in 05 & 06 but there was a notable club trip by the Sno-Grovers from Spring Grove who put together a trip to Munising Michigan in the U.P. They had seventeen seasoned veterans and two young rookies ages 7 and 4, and they stayed at the Best Western Hotel the second week of January. On one of the days, they traveled down to see the Big Springs located at Palm Book State Park 12 miles west of Manistque, better known to the locals as the KITSH-ITI-KIPI. The spring is 45 feet deep and is a natural hot spring phenomena flowing 16,000 gallons per minute of crystal clear water. They have a big self propelled observation raft that you can board and travel out over the spring and look down at the strange formations and big trout swimming about.

Revving U.P. the New Year — Sno-Grovers Style!

Welcome to Lakenenland

One last note about the trip. On the cover of the November 2006 Illinois Snowmobiler and in the featured article about the trip, there is a picture of an old IASC friend of mine, Dan Tybon on his custom built Shos Point Breeze machine which is like no other. Just think the next time you get your sled stuck wouldn't it be nice if he came along to pull you out!

I became involved with snowmobiling way back in the early 70's when it was still in its infancy and rapidly growing. Having joined a club my very first year brought with it all the organizational activities taking place in Illinois as well as the entire Midwest. Various papers and publications about snowmobiling were starting up all over and, partly because of my hoarding ways and later by purpose, I have virtually compiled a documented history of snowmobiling from its earliest years to the present. It's easy to spend hours reading about these past days and how snowmobiling evolved to the sport we enjoy today. I hope you will enjoy my tales of earlier days as much as I do.

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NOVEMBER 6th - 8th, 2020

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Nov. 6-8, 2020

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OFFICE NOTES

Jane Austin

Well, what can I say about this past season? There's been a lot happening that was very time consuming, such as fundraisers, trail insurance, grants, and club renewals. These have taken a lot of time to put together and complete by the specified deadline. I want to thank those clubs who answered my many emails in a timely fashion. It was greatly appreciated.

The IASC's biggest concern and "problem child" was dealing with the new paperwork that is required for all grants to be submitted. There were many changes since the IASC was able to submit a grant. This started with the "Pre-Grant Approval" to the endless GATA forms and Uniform Grant Budget Template forms that needed to be filled out or revised. It's been a slow and challenging process for both the IASC and DNR and we have learned a lot during the process. Now the IASC will compile a SOP's for the grants for future reference.

The IASC sent DNR the final signed paperwork for grant approval. By the time the March issue comes out, the grants should be finalized and we can use them!!

March 10th is the IASC annual fundraiser drawing to be held after the March monthly meeting in Rochelle.

April 1st is the deadline for scholarship applications. See the IASC website for the application. 1st place is $2,500.00 and 2nd place is $1,000.00.

The April 14th IASC meeting is a traveling meeting, location to be announced

November 6-8, 2020 – The 48th IASC Annual Convention will be hosted by Region 7 at Holiday Inn & Suites in Joliet, IL. The theme this year will be "Mardi Gras 2020." See the registration page in this issue. Region 7 is looking forward to hosting convention this year in Joliet, as it will actually be held in Region 7!

As always the IASC E-board will be working on projects during the summer months. If you have any concerns or questions please contact the IASC Office via phone 815-795-2021 or email iasc@mtco.com.

IASC office hours are: Monday – Friday, 9am – 1pm. When corresponding through the US postal system, please use IASC PO Box 265. The only time you should use the road address, 2904 E 24th Road, is when you are using UPS/FedEx. Thank you in advance.

Hope everyone found time to get some riding in. Have a great summer. Until next time, think snow.

NOVEMBER 6th-8th, 2020

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Hampshire White Riders Snowmobile Club's

By Dwain "Duey" Stadie

The dates were Friday January 17th to Monday January 20th The location, The Great Northern Motel in majestic Mercer Wisconsin. Some members arrived as early as Wednesday, a few more on Thursday, and everyone on site by Friday. Thirty-eight White Rider members in all. The ground work was completed for a great weekend of riding and camaraderie.

Snowmobile parking area at The Great Northern Motel.

Some had arrived earlier in the week, and had started riding, but by Friday everyone was on site, checked in, and gotten in at least a few trail miles. We all met back in the great room at the Great Northern Motel that evening. Also staying at The Great Northern this weekend were a dozen members from our neighboring Region #5 Club, the Elgin Cold Ducks.

The Great Northern Motel is located right on trail #17 (The Grade), has 80 rooms, along with The Wolf's Den, a restaurant/bar, and the great room. This room works out just perfect for members to hang out and meet up in every morning and evening. It has plenty of counter space with coffee and juice, along with a toaster, micro wave, fireplace, tables, chairs, couches, and a large screen TV. It's just perfect.

We started out Saturday morning with almost everyone going to The Beaver Lodge, on Little Martha Lake at 9am sharp for a club paid breakfast. Eunica put out a great breakfast buffet for us. You can't beat a free breakfast paid for by the club, time to eat, talk, and figure out groups to split up into, according to riding style, for today's adventure. Great food, and lots of fun, thank you Eunica.

We made a nice loop today, with outstanding trails. What an awesome job the local clubs are doing. Not only was it a weekend, with lots of traffic, but a holiday weekend. Groomers were out in force, and because of that the trails were awesome, hardly a bump encountered all day.

The main thing I wanted to do today was stop at a place I had found on a list of top snowmobile pit stops. Willy's Still, located on the northeast side of Island Lake. This cool little bar serves a fantastic burger. It's off the beaten trail, is a small place, but it's a MUST STOP if you're riding in the area. It also has a fire pit out front with chairs, and a camp fire. You'll love it. Make sure to check out this great trail stop.

After a day of wonderful trail riding, the groups all returned Saturday evening to the Great Northern Motel and gathered in the Great Room. Subway delivered 3 gigantic sub sandwiches, one ham, one turkey, and one cold cut combo, which the club paid for. Everyone brought some kind of snack, and we had a wonderful feast. An evening of fun was had by all. Stories were told, pictures from the day compared, and games were played.

I gotta tell you, watching little young Haley Hagendorn play some kind of game on the big screen TV with adult big Brad Black was a riot. You know one of those games were they're dancing like they are on the video. I don't believe it gets much more fun than that. Best part is Brad will never mess with me again, cause I got video!

On Sunday morning everyone did their own thing for breakfast. Some had the continental breakfast served in the Great Room, provided by The Great Northern. The rest had breakfast at The Wolf's Den in the

Annual Trip to Mercer Wisconsin

motel. But as always we met in the Great Room and came up with a plan.

Once again we were all breaking up into groups according to riding style, but the plan was to all end up at The Frontier Bar which is just 4 miles down the road from Saxon Harbor for lunch. The Frontier is a bar, gas station, and a camp ground, that also serves a darn good cheese burger. Located about in the middle between Ashland and Ironwood.

Taking pictures at majestic look out in Michigan.

The bunch I rode with today took a little longer route to lunch. We headed north from Mercer before cutting over and making a loop through Da U.P. of Michigan. Trail #160 through Michigan was awesome! Great trail conditions, a couple of majestic look out points, then back into Wisconsin and through Saxon Harbor. The harbor is located on Lake Superior's Oronto Bay. There is a park right were Oronto Creek comes into the lake. This is a must stop location with great views, pictures always need to be taken at this spot.

Amazingly all five groups ended up arriving within fifteen minutes of each other. We filled our tummies with cheeseburgers and topped off the tanks on the sleds. We all rode together for a short time before splitting up and heading our different routes back to Mercer. We must have looked like a freight train coming through the woods.

A majority of The White Riders pose for a group photo.

We all returned to the great room Saturday evening and dined again on Subway sandwiches and snacks. We watched the Packers playoff game (enough said about that) and played more card and dice games. Finally calling it a night before loading up and heading home Monday morning.

I must compliment the Mercer snowmobile club, and all the neighboring clubs. The trails this weekend were EXCELLENT. Groomers were out constantly and the trails were just perfect. Thank you to all their club members that made our weekend of riding wonderful.

Thirty-eight Hampshire White Riders members, plus a dozen of our neighbors from The Elgin Cold Ducks. That's fifty people together riding and hanging out together for the weekend. You know how you can be part of something that special? Join a snowmobile club. That's the only way you'll get together with fifty snowmobilers for the weekend. Check the listings in the back of this magazine to find a club near you. I can't wait for the next club trip, and I hope to see you on the trails soon.

The 2019 IASC

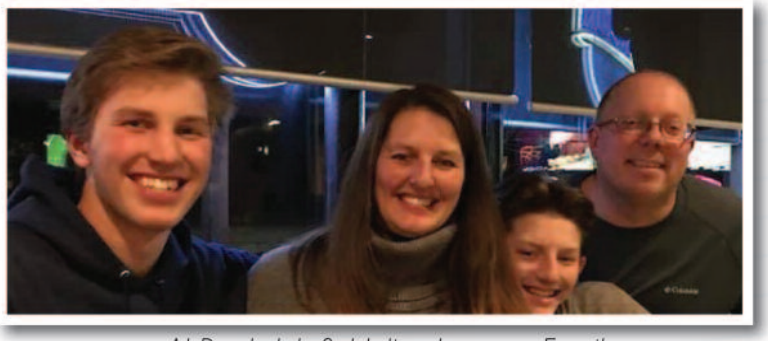
By Suzy Giese

Every issue of the Illinois Snowmobiler, we break down the convention and do articles about the Dealer of the Year, the Scholarship winners and Yamaha Challenge winners that you will see somewhere in this issue, and the convention. But lately, we have just shown pictures of the winners of the other awards Snowmobiler of the Year, Snowmobile Family of the Year, Sam Madonia, Harry Kroll, Instructor of the Year, Charles Metcalf and Glue Award.

The winners of the following awards are submitted to the American Council of Snowmobile Clubs (ACSA) to compete with 22 other snow states for the ACSA Snowmobiler, Dealer and Family of the Year. These winners are announced at the International Congress in June.

Stephanie Steward

The first award winner to talk about is the Snowmobiler of the Year. This year's honor went to Stephanie Steward. Stephanie has been a member of the Roscoe Oak Ridge Riders for 10 years. She has held numerous positions in her local, regional and state associations. Not only is she considered a cornerstone to the Oaks Ridge Riders, she became the regional secretary for a year. Steph then assumed the role of treasurer in 2015 and still holds it today. She has also has volunteered for the IASC Scholarship chair since 2014. Stephanie is involved with every fundraiser hosted by her club as well as the Tri-County Snowmobile Alliance (her regional group). Her organizational skills have set the bar high for seeding, staffing, procuring and monitoring every aspect of a fundraiser. Many say that without Stephanie, the committees that she has been involved with would be at a great loss for financial and organizational knowledge. Stephanie is someone who doesn't take a break in the off season. She is always ready to go to work, even in the summer, to get ready for the next season. She is always looking for ways to make the meetings better and looking to increase memberships. She knows that if the meetings aren't fun, people won't come. Congratulations to Stephanie for the amazing volunteer you are and this award is well deserved.



Al Przybylak & Halina Levterov Family

The Snowmobile Family of the Year this year went to the Al Przybylak and Halina Levterov Family. Al and Halina, sons George Levterov and Christopher Przybylak, are members of the Riverbend Benders club and have been for over 20 years. In the club, Halina and son George have held the position of Sergeant of Arms. This means they have the responsibility to set up the club meeting and participate in the club Board. Halina also chairs the nomination committee for elections. She manages most of the club's internet presence. The whole family has pitched in on all club activities. Besides the manpower the family provides, they support all club activities with equipment and tools for trail marking, float building for community events and roadside cleanup. They invite and bring their network of friends to support meat raffles and state raffle tickets sales. They network with other clubs and represent the club and IASC at

Award Winners

snow shows, grass drags/flea markets and also setup booths at the open house events for Route 12 Arctic Cat and Nielsen's Enterprise. Besides bringing their families as well as friends (and their kids) to events for clubs and IASC, Al, George and Christopher are instrumental in trail marking. Halina manages to promote club events with their internet presence. The family helps promote snowmobiling by working the booths at snow shows and open houses and trying to recruit attendees. They never miss a meeting or an event and they will even help you fix your sled with their equipment and sound skills. Since this is a surprise award, they were not aware of them winning the award, because Halina and friends were surprising Al with a 50th birthday party. Because of this, something new was tried – we Skyped the family with an inside source at the party. They were surprised and speechless for a few moments and very appreciative of this honor.

Dan Long

The Harry Kroll Memorial Trophy is the oldest award presented by the IASC. It is named for the second president of the Northeastern Illinois Association of Snowmobile Clubs. His two main pushes were to organize new clubs and to connect all of the club trails into a network. He was a dedicated snowmobiler. He would work evenings for free repairing peoples' snowmobiles so he would have someone to ride with on the weekends. Mel Blaurock served as his vice president. The Sportsmen Snowmobile Club sponsors the award. It is presented each year at the IASC convention banquet and is awarded to the person that the delegates feel has done the most for the sport of snowmobiling in Illinois. Nominating résumés are turned in to Mel Blaurock by members. These are read at the annual meeting of the IASC and a secret vote is taken. The award recipient is announced at the banquet. The trophy has been won by politicians, officers and regular members of the IASC.

This year's winner is Dan Long. Don Long is a past IASC president, trail advisor coordinator, was president of the midwest chapter of ACSA and has now taken the position of vice president of the ACSA executive board. He spends as much time as necessary to help clubs, the IASC and ACSA, without hesitation, to improve the sport and help club members. Dan's long list of achievements and dedication to the sport proves that he is definitely the best candidate for the award.

Mason Long

The Glue Award started about 7 years ago. It is given to someone who has helped to keep things running as smoothly as possible. This year's winner is the IASC president Mason Long. He has persevered through all the issues with the grants, IDNR and insurance issues to try to get the best possible representation and betterment of the IASC clubs and members. With a wife and small children at home, Mason's dedication isn't always easy but he is always there when he is needed.

That's it for now, I hope everyone has enjoyed the articles that I have written this year. I hope you all have a healthy, safe summer and we'll see you on the trails next year.

Advertiser Appreciation

As snowmobiling season comes to a close, please visit the wonderful establishments that advertise and support this magazine. Here's a little bit of what they do during the off-season.

ROUTE 12 ARCTIC CAT

1320 East Rand Rd., Arlington Heights, IL 60004 • 847-818-8859

www.route12arcticcat.com

Route 12 Arctic Cat sells the full line of Arctic Cat off road units from utility side by sides, to ATVs, and sport side by sides, are also carry the full line of CF MOTO off road units. We open our shop service doors to most makes and models of ATV, UTV, and sport side by sides for all kinds of service work from changing tires and oil changes to full engine overhauls. We have a HUGE inventory of outdoor clothing, and accessories for your ATV, UTV, or sport side by side.

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3061 E 103 Rd., Peru, IL 61354 • 815-220-1780

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Even when the snow is not flying at Leone's, we continue to be busy selling sleds especially used ones during the late summer months! But we do also keep very busy selling ATV's and Side by Side's. We have all types of machines from the Outlaw 50 for the kids up to the RZR Pro XP for the big kids and everything in between! Not only does Polaris make the best snowmobiles, the Polaris Ranger is the industry leader when it come to capability, durability and comfort. So if you are looking for something to do some work around the yard or a machine to have some fun with, stop by and check out our great selection!

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RJs Recreational Vehicles is an CAN-AM ALL TERRAIN VEHICLE and POLARIS SNOWMOBILE retail specialist located in West Chicago, IL. They also provide goods/services for MOTORCYCLE & MOTOR SCOOTER DEALERS, SEA DOO BOAT DEALERS. Residential and Commercial. ATV/Four Wheelers, Snowmobiles, Roadsters, Watercraft, Sport Boats, Outboard Engines, Carts, Ranger Utility Vehicles, and Victory Motorcycles. Certified. We sell and service Sea Doo personal watercraft and Can Am ATV's.

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www.lovesparkmotorsports.com/Contact

For the summer, we move our attention to dirt, road and water products. We carry a vast selection of Can-am ATV's and UTV's. We also carry the full line of Can-Am Spyder's who just released a new model called the Ryker starting at $8,499. Turning attention to water we offer all of the Sea-doo PWC line which starts with the Spark at $5,399. If a boat is more of your speed we have the Manitou Pontoon line that has a boat for whatever your needs are. You could have a pontoon that runs in excess of 70mph! If you are more of a fisherman, we have you covered as well with two different lines. We have Mirrocraft fishing boats to cover the needs of anyone who wants an aluminum fishing coat and Ranger Boats to cover the needs of a fiberglass line! Feel free to give us a call with any of your needs!

ski-doo

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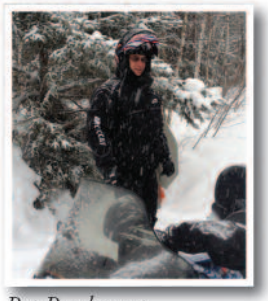
Safety & Education



Pat Pendergast

It doesn't seem possible that I am writing my spring magazine article already. I haven't even made it up north yet. There has been no local riding to speak of for me at home either, so it has been a long winter, though I don't think this season really fits into the winter category. I hope by now you have had both local riding opportunities and at least one chance to visit your favorite up north riding areas. As of this writing, I am getting ready to travel east to Maine for what I hope to be another one of Bob and Pat's Excellent Adventures. With any luck, I will have an enjoyable article to add to the Illinois Snowmobiler next fall.

I know this sounds like a broken record but I am going through with it anyway. Four snowmobile fatalities so far in MI for the '19-'20 season, WI has had nine since Jan 1st! MI says 80% of the '18-'19 season fatalities were speed related. A quick read of WI report shows very similar results; failure to negotiate a curve, vehicle left the trail and struck a tree. I know lots of folks love the speed and acceleration of these new and powerful sleds. Plus now they have the suspensions that allow them to ride in almost any kind of condition at speed. I am just not sure how we get through to people how dangerous it can be, both for themselves and potentially their passengers or fellow snowmobilers. I don't think I have ever been on a trip where we didn't encounter at least one group of sledders (and normally much more than that) riding way too fast, on the wrong side of the trail and usually not giving you any space when you meet/pass. I keep hoping riders will start to figure this out and begin showing some common sense and courtesy, but we cannot count on that. When out on the trail, now so more than ever, you need to ride defensively. Every corner you round, every hill you crest or intersection you cross, you need to always be expecting to find another rider where they shouldn't be. I know that takes some of the fun out of it but I don't think you can go out on a ride every time and expect it to be as carefree as we would like.

There were also a lot of lakes that froze late this year, so please make sure you know the conditions before you head out. Many clubs now have Facebook pages where you can contact them and many will respond fairly rapidly. Just like the ISMA posters state, "Know before you go." Unfortunately that was one of the incident reports in WI where two individuals died when 3 sleds rode from ice right into open water. One rider was able to get out and call 911 but the other two did not make it. I can't think of a much worse ending to a snowmobile outing than having someone in the group becoming a statistic. So please, please make safety a constant, conscious effort when you head out on a ride, whether it be a trip around the pasture on the family farm or a big travel trip to the great white north. Keep your eyes open, ride defensively, and ride within your abilities. That is one of the many things I enjoy and appreciate about being a snowmobile safety instructor, I get to do at least one refresher course every year! As always, for whatever is left of your snowmobile season, ride safe. Catch you next fall.

QUESTION

What is the first step when crossing a road?

a) Select a crossing point that offers good visibility in both directions.
b) Slow down on the shoulder of the road.
c) Look both ways and yield to oncoming traffic.
d) Have your passenger dismount.

Answer: a) Select a crossing point that offers good visibility in both directions.

Safety Class Schedule

Class Date	Location	Address	Time	Registration

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 815-795-2021, or email Pat Pendergast at ppenderg@knox.edu. 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.

SAFE RIDERS!

Test Your Snowmobiling Knowledge

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

Snowmobile Safety Awareness Program

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Reliable and efficient, PRINOTH's HUSKY trail groomer is the ultimate work tool to take care of Illinois' snowmobile trails. With it's **narrow width, light weight, low fuel consumption** and **optimal comfort**, it delivers results like no other option.

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Friends Sharing Their Passion

By Dino Thanos & Danielle Christoffel

It seemed like I hadn't been snowmobiling in ages. In fact, it had been almost exactly one year since I had last hit the trails. As a long time snowmobiler and I'm sure you'll all agree, a year is too long. I needed my fix, so I contacted some of my buddies and organized a trip to one of my favorite destinations, Mercer in northern Wisconsin. On Thursday, February 6th, myself along with my good friends David, Jeff and Bob, set out on the highway and headed north. After the long drive, we were ready to get the festivities underway.

David Hansen, Jeff Allen, and Bob Tyler.

First, we had to drive to Minocqua to pick up the trailer. It was 7:30 at night and our bellies were grumbling, so we drove to Manitowish Waters for dinner at Little Bohemia. I love this locale for so many reasons. First off, the food is delicious but there's also a lot of history and trivia at this gem. Did you know that Little Bohemia is where the FBI had a shootout with the notorious American gangsterJohn Dillinger in 1934? This historic lodge has changed very little over the years and you can still see the original bullet holes from the gun battle. So much has been preserved and there's a collection of memorabilia from the period for curious eyes to peruse. The movie "Public Enemies" starring Johnny Depp is a depiction of the incident and the movie was actually filmed on location at Little Bohemia. It's always a great stop and we devoured our pork shank and weiner schnitzel.

After a satisfying dinner, we drove to Bob's cabin in Mercer. This cabin has been in Bob's family since 1972 when his grandfather purchased it. Located on Spider Lake, it was a great way to wind down the day with good conversation. We needed a good night's rest to prepare us for the schedule we had mapped out for the following day.

After a somewhat late start on Friday morning, we got our sleds and hit the trails. Our first stop was to see our good friend Wayne at the beautiful Gateway Lodge in Land O' Lakes. Wayne is a longtime supporter of Illinois Snowmobiler and his historic resort has hosted generations of vacationers from all over the world. Situated on the Wisconsin side of the Wisconsin/Michigan border, the dark woods and hand-built fireplace harken back to bygone times. The food is also top notch, so we treated ourselves to a wonderful lunch.

Willy's Still is always a great time with great food.

For Snowmobiling in Mercer

With our day just getting underway, it was time to once again go blazing the trails. We proceeded north across the flowage to Willy's Still in Hurley. It's such a fun place that boasts of the best burgers around but I can tell you, their chili isn't bad, either. We continued along north to towns including Pence, Iron Belt, Gile and Hurley. These beautiful areas were bustling in the early 1900s, a time when mining drew many people in for employment opportunities until the 1960s. After taking in all the nostalgia from this forgotten era that time has passed by, we started heading east and then south.

Bob's family's cabin in Mercer with a beautiful view of Spider Lake.

Our travels led us to the Liberty Bell Chalet. Most locals and regulars refer to this place as "the Bell." This is the Bell's new location and if you like Italian food, you'll want to make this ristorante a priority on your trip if you're nearby. They moved from their Silver Street location roughly a year ago and are now located a bit south off of highway 51. Their pizza is unique and delicious. Plus we devoured the caesar salad. After satisfying our hearty appetites, we headed back to downtown Mercer for a refreshment at the local Around the Corner Pub. It was a great way to top off the day after having logged in over 150 miles for the day.

Come Saturday morning, we decided to head west and set our sights on Boulder Junction. We ended up at the Skyview Lodge in Presque Isle. A historic landmark since the 1940s complete with a beautiful fieldstone fireplace, rustic decor and beautiful wilderness views, Skyview Lodge was the perfect place to stop for food and rest. We were soon back on the trails and traveled to Headwaters just outside Boulder Junction to refill our sleds' gas tanks. It was then back to Bob's cabin in Mercer. The day wasn't quite as jammed packed as the prior day but still fun-filled and eventful. We wanted to be rested for the long journey back to Illinois the following day.

Beautiful snow super moon in Boulder Junction.

Sadly, Sunday marked the end of our snowmobiling adventure for this trip. We loaded up our sleds and dropped off the trailer in Minocqua. We were looking forward to a relaxing drive back but Mother Nature had other plans in store in the form of heavy snow. I've made this trip dozens of times and it's usually a solid 6 hours. However, this time it was easily 2 hours longer. Thankfully, being with my buddies and having great conversation the entire time definitely made the ride more tolerable.

While our trip was brief, it wasn't lacking in content. We had perfect snowmobiling weather, the trails were in great shape, we met up with some great friends, we took in scenic views and enjoyed the delicious food that Wisconsin is known for. I've been snowmobiling for decades and it never gets old. Each trip is unique with new experiences, new adventures and it just seems to keep getting better.

EVENTS

MARCH

March 1st:
7th annual Deering, ND vintage Snowmobile Show
The 7th annual vintage snowmobile show and ride will be held Sunday March 1st 2020 in Deering ,ND from 12-4. More information to come closer to the show.
For more info 701-240-7597

March 7th:
Lost Trail Race
Join us for the Lost Trail Race!
Sula Montana
Sula, MT 59871 US
www.rmsha.net

March 7th:
Henriette, MN – Winter's End Vintage Snowmobile Gathering, Hinckley-Pine City Flames Snowmobile Club, Swap meet, trail ride, meat raffle, silent auction games and more; 9am to 1pm, trail ride leaves from Ryders Saloon at 11am. Visit the Hinkley-Pine City Flames Facebook page for more information

March 7th-8th:
Naytahwaush, MN – USXC Cross-Country Racing, 50th Annual Nightriders Snodeo Naytahwaush 100 presented by the Naytahwaush Nightriders Snowmobile Club. Usxcracing.com or naytahwaushnightriders.com

March 14th:
Orr, MN – Melgeorge's 34th Annual Antique and Classic Snowmobile Race

March 19th:
Jackson Hole World Championship 2020
Join us for the Jackson Hole World Championship!
Join us for the Jackson Hole World Championship!
All registration, entries and racing is run by the Jackson Hole Snowdevils Association. Any and all questions should be directed to their board, please see their website for contact information and any further details. Rustic Inn is proud to offer exclusive rates for RMSHA Racers during the 2020 Hill Climb. Rate includes a full, hot buffet every morning, parking, shuttle service to/from all events, on-site bar & bistro, pool, hot tub, sauna, 24-hour fitness center, and luxurious accommodations
Jackson Hole, WY
www.rmsha.net

March 20th-22nd:
RAM Trucks Snocross Grand Finale
Grand Geneva Resort & Spa
7036 Grand Geneva Way
Lake Geneva, WI 53147
www.grandgeneva.com
Phone: (800) 558-3417
www.snocross.com

March 28th:
March 28
Meat Raffle, baskets, 50/50
Noon - 3:00PM
Route 20 Bar & Grill
2051 AYP Rd
Freeport, IL 61032
815-238-7826

APRIL

April 3rd-4th:
USXC Sno Cross
This will be a Friday evening & Saturday race with the year end awards banquet Saturday evening after that day's events. USXC will be adding the TWO EIGHTY SIX Sno Cross series to our final event in Alexandria. All 286 classes will be run, 286 will race on Friday April 3rd starting at noon. 286 racers will not have to join USXC but are required to have an ISR insurance card. A one day card can be purchased. 286 drivers are welcome to race any regular USXC classes that they qualify for. 286 classes will run the full ski hill course ahead of any USXC classes so the course will be fairly smooth.
Andes Tower Hills
Alexandria, MN
https://www.usxcracing.com/

April 4th:
Huntley Penguins
Meat Raffle
Saturday 6:00pm
American Legion
Downtown Huntley
huntleypenguins.com

April 4th:
Pebble Creek Race
Join us for the Pebble Creek Race!
Pocatello - Inkom, ID 83245 US
www.rmsha.net

April 4th-5th:
USXC Awards Banquet
Alexandria, MN
Holiday Inn
5637 MN-29
Alexandria, MN 56308
https://www.usxcracing.com

April 4th-5th:
MESC Big Powderhorn
Saturday HillX and Hillclimb racing: HillX will be 3 rounds of heats, LCQ if needed, & Finals
Hillclimb will get 3 runs at the hill, fastest time of the 3 will count
Sunday XC: Laps and course route will be announced 2 weeks prior to event except for Pro Stock.
Big Powderhorn Mountain Ski Resort
Bessemer, MI
https://corpowersports.com/MESC/MESCBP/

April 11th:
Beaver Mountain Race
Join us for the Beaver Mountain Race!
Beaver Mt. Ski Resort
Logan, UT 84023 US
www.rmsha.net

April 18th:
Grand Targhee Race
Join us for the Grand Targhee Race!
Alta, WY - Alta, WY 83414 US
www.rmsha.net

April 18th-19th:
MESC Giants Ridge
Saturday HillX and Hillclimb racing:
HillX will be 3 rounds of heats, LCQ if needed, & Finals
Hillclimb will get 3 runs at the hill, fastest time of the 3 will count
Sunday XC:
Laps and course route will be announced 2 weeks prior to event except for Pro Stock.
Giants Ridge Ski Resort
Biwabik, MN
https://corpowersports.com/MESC/MESCGR/

JUNE

June 10th-13th:
52nd Annual International Snowmobile Congress
Representatives from the national snowmobile organizations and representatives from the state and provincial snowmobile organizations form the International Snowmobile Council (ISC), which meets annually at the International Snowmobile Congress (also called ISC). The International Snowmobile Council is dedicated to promoting safe and responsible snowmobiling. It provides a communication forum and a means of addressing issues that are common from an international perspective.
The DoubleTree by Hilton, Regina Saskatchewan
Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association
P.O Box 533
221 Centre Street
Regina Beach SK
S0G 4C0
Email: info@sasksnow.com

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

Ski-Doo MXZ TNT 600R E-TEC

By Jake Adams

It wasn't so long ago that the 600 cc (or 120 hp in 4-stroke speak) class was the heart of the market. In recent years, however, the big guns have taken over, leaving the once-omnipresent 600s relegated to also-ran offerings. Could it be, however, that most trail riders have been led astray by the Pied Piper of Displacement? Is Ski-Doo's MXZ TNT 600R E-TEC capable of overturning the trend?

Since its introduction four years ago, Ski-Doo's REV G4 chassis has become known for its narrowness and agility, and the TNT is faithful to this tradition. The midsection is remarkably slim, allowing the rider to move about with ease, the profiled panels making it possible to not only hang off laterally but also slightly forward. This type of acrobatic manoeuvring may not be for everyone but those enthused by thoughts of mastering twisty trails will revel in the possibilities. This ergonomic dimension, combined with the sled's superb weight distribution and the mill's modest gyroscopic effect, create a fantastically responsive and capable ride.

Of course, fabled handling would be all for naught if the engine's enthusiasm was sub-par but the Rotax 600R E-TEC's is anything but. In fact, it may just be the most responsive engine in all of snowmobiling. The ferocity with which the 599 cc twin spools up borders on addictive, as generous applications of throttle have the skies skimming the trail in a manner that is quite un-600-like. If impressive acceleration were not enough, the engine's soundtrack delivers a sporty growl that fills your senses and has you coming back for more. Engineers' efforts at reducing stiction in the pDrive clutch pay off as well as the clutches deliver smooth and seamless action, both in upshift and downshift mode. Vibration levels are not at 900 ACE levels but are also not so intrusive as to rain on the parade.

BRP's proven rMotion rear suspension continues to deliver the goods, making bumps disappear with uncanny ease. Nine years after its introduction, it remains the standard against which all others are measured. The RAS 3 front-end does an excellent job at the front as well, though it doesn't stand out in a similar manner. Despite not having the MXZ X-RS version's rack configuration, the front end remains quite stable in the bumps, though a mild level of bump-steer can be felt when encountering sizeable mid-corner bumps. Handling effort is light and the TNT carves in a neutral fashion in all but the loosest conditions, the Pilot 5.7 skis proving versatile and capable. Bump aficionados will not mistake the TNT with its RS brethren but the former is surprisingly adept so long as the pace is kept below WOT. Suspension bottoming does occur as speed and bump size increase but the REV G4's optimized weight distribution keeps things predictable. It bears mentioning that the zippy 600R proves a wonderful ally at such times, its lightning-quick response allowing you to use the throttle to fine-tune chassis altitude on demand.

The new gauge cluster drew a mixed reaction, its all-digital configuration proving less intuitive to read at a glance than the previous semi-analog version, in part due to the modest size of the characters, as well as the sub-optimal background lighting. Attention to detail is first-rate and standard electric start ease the burden of daily life with the TNT.

One can draw out the analysis of the new MXZ TNT 600R E-TEC at length if desired, but one thing is clear and easy to assess: it's a truly fun sled to ride. It makes you eager to ride and sad to see your outings come to an end. It is light, sporty and is quicker and faster than a 600-class sled has a right to be. Its intuitive response also makes you a better rider.

So, did we enjoy it? You betcha! And we're willing to bet you will too, regardless of what the Pied Piper would have you believe!

TECH SPECS

Wind Protection Revisions

In an effort to give the TNT line sportier esthetics, Ski-Doo engineers replaced the previous editions' deflector-equipped medium-height windshield (17") with by a deflector-less lower unit (14"), lending the TrackNTrail models a sleeker appearance. To help compensate the lost wind protection in the handlebar area (in addition to continuing down the road to sporty "street cred"), the TNTs now wear hand guards too for 2020.

Digital Gauges

Gauges with needles are that much closer to extinction following BRP's decision to switch over its trail-bound REV G4-based models to new all-digital LCD clusters. In the case of the TNT, this means a new 4.5-in gauge taking over from the previous "analog with display" unit. The new cluster, which is backlit and set at a flatter viewing angle for easier reading, features a speedometer, tachometer, fuel gauge and temperature indicator.

IceRipper XT Track Option

One of the dearly-departed Blizzard model's favorite features was its 15 x 129 x 1.25-in Camso Ice Ripper XT track. Featuring a pre-studded design, the Ice Ripper , now offered as an option on TNT models, shares the same basic multi-directional lug profile as the standard RipSaw but adds a measure of safety and control for icy conditions, all the while adding little in the way of extra weight.

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CLUBS 2019-2020

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Gages Lake Snowmobile Club, Mike Foye
847-902-6510 mikefoye@hotmail.com
Meets 7:30 pm 2nd Tuesday Fourth Lake Resort, 36670 N Corona, Lake Villa

Riverbend Benders, Eric Urban
847-894-3812 EGUKSU@HOTMAIL.COM
Meets 7:30pm 3rd Thursday Sides Out Eatery 4018 Roberts Rd, Island Lake

Sno-Kommanders of Lake County, S Schaefer
224-627-1406 skipschaefer5804@gmail.com
Meets 7:30pm 2nd Monday El Puerto Restaurant, 200 N Forest Ave, Fox Lake

Sportsmen Snowmobile Club, Mel Blaurock
847-345-5512

Wauconda Snowmobile Club, Robert Lang
847-762-7830 langhme@aol.com
Meets 7pm 2nd Wednesday Wauconda Bowl 381 W Liberty St, Wauconda

Windy City Sledheads, Paul Gris
Email or call for information
773-545-7222 sledhead@comcast.net

Region 2 Director, Jeff Lehman
815-388-5380 doonut20@yahoo.com

Harvard Snow Gophers, Scott Schlendorf
815-560-2014 scott.schlendorf@charter.net
Meets 7:30pm 2nd Thursday Heritage House Restaurant, 21225 Route 14, Harvard

Lakers/Sno-Bugs, Bill Rieke
815-405-6065 rieke7603@frontier.com
Meets 7:30pm 1st Tuesday Rusty Nail Saloon 4520 Ringwood Rd, Ringwood

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

Polar Bares, Mike Flaherty
847-848-1204 flaherty3107@sbcgloabl.net
Meets 7pm Tuesday Sides Out Eatery, 4018 Roberts Rd, Island Lake

Richmond Trailblazers, Dick Arseneau
815-675-1234 funnyfarmer@comcast.net
Meets 7:30pm 1st Thursday Rusty Nail Saloon 4520 Ringwood Rd, Ringwood

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

Woodstock Snowmobile Club, Jim Ponstein
815-382-4818 jponstien@sbcglobal.net
Meets 7pm 2nd Wednesday Public House of Woodstock, 101 N Johnson St, Woodstock

Region 3 Director, Dan Damptz
815-985-6071 dandamptz@gmail.com

Blackhawk Snowblazers of Oregon, Stan Bergstrom
815-732-2635 stan500xcsp@yahoo.com
Meets 7:15pm 2nd Tuesday VFW, 13010 Washington St, Oregon IL

Byron Sno-Blasters, Chris Criddle
815-289-9885 ccrid4@yahoo.com
Meets 7:30 1st Thursday Aero Ale House 120 N Unions St, Byron IL

Durand Ditch Riders, Arthur Jones
815-449-9201 akjones918@frontier.com
Meets 1st Tuesday 7pm call/email for location

German Valley Sno-Riders, Kevin Baumann
815-541-9940 baumann.deb@gmail.com
Meets 7:30pm 1st Tuesday Loose Screw 45 Church St, German Valley

Midway Sno-Busters, Kevin Kerechner
815-291-4087 kerch06@gmail.com
Meets 7pm 2nd Wednesday call for location

Neboshone Trail Riders, Dan Brennan
815-378-6595 danielbrennan.bbb@gmail.com
Meets 7pm 1st Monday Fritz's Wooden Nickel 208 Walnut St Stillman Valley, IL

Oaks Ridge Riders, Brandon Jack
815-636-7636 bj@lovesparkmotorsports.com
Meets 7pm 3rd Tuesday Roscoe VFW 11385 2nd St, Roscoe IL

Polo Snow Rangers, Tim Cavanaugh
815-973-8640 tcav1169@gmail.com
Meets 7pm 2nd Tuesday The Polo Room Rte 26, Polo

Rochelle Rail Riders, Stuart White
815-716-0843 swhite61068@gmail.com
Meets 7pm 2nd Wednesday Abrahams (Comfort Inn), Hwy 251 and Hwy 38 Rochelle

Rockford Moonriders, Royal Taylor
815-874-4502 rltsnow@comcast.net
Meets 7pm 2nd Thursday The Image 5524 Auburn, Rockford

Tri-County Alliance, Drew Goeke
815-998-0188 drewgoeke@gmail.com
Meets 7pm 2nd Monday 7pm various locations Call for location

Winnebago Sno-Gliders, Alex Hazzard
815-985-0661 bagosnopro440@hotmail.com
Meets 7pm 3rd Tuesday Toni's Event Center 508 N Elida St, Winnebago

Region 4 Director, Pat Pendergast
309-335-4095 ppenderg@knox.edu
Meetings Call for information

Corn Belt Driftbusters, Helen Cline
309-534-8322 ninr63@hotmail.com
Meets 7pm 1st Tuesday Side Tracked Saloon 809 3rd St, Orion

Prairie Drifters, Kevin Schwarzkopf
309-299-4347 clayhillfarm@divcominc.net
Meets 7pm 1st Monday Genisio's 249 N Division St. Woodhull

Region 5 Director, Rod Kampfranz
815-236-4028 rkampfranz@yahoo.com
Meets 7pm 2nd Wednesday Red Ox Restaurant, 129 E Oak Knoll Dr, Hampshire

DeKane Sno-Trackers, Ron Julian
630-546-8058 RGJulian@comcast.net
Meets 7:30pm 1st Tuesday The Lodge 41W379 IL Rte 64, St Charles

Elgin Cold Ducks, Sue Metz
847-217-2431 suzq37@gmail.com
Meets 7:30pm 3rd Tuesday Nick's Pizza and Pub, 990 S Randall Rd, Elgin

G.K. Trailblazers, Jay Schaack
224-339-4266 jschaack@yahoo.com
Meets 7pm 2nd Tuesday Genoa VFW 311 S Washington St, Genoa

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

Huntley Penguins, Henry Regard
847-910-0142 Hank56@comcast.net
Meets 7:30pm Huntley VFW 11712 Coral St, Huntley

Marengo Snow Goers, Gary Zickuhr
815-970-1732, gzickr@gmail.com
3rd 7pm Tuesday Glo-Bowl Fun Center 101 Franks Rd, Marengo

Prairie Riders Snowmobile Club, Jayme Carlson
815-494-2103 jayme.alhi@gmail.com
Meets 6:30pm 1st Thursday Bravo Pizza 1355 IL Rte 76, Poplar Grove

Region 6 Director, Kirk Polhill
815-275-3371 kdpwire@yahoo.com

Cedarville Snow Travelers, Brad Pfile
815-541-8778 bpfile95@gmail.com
Meets 7:30pm 3rd Wednesday Route 20 Bar & Grill, 2051 AYP Rd, Freeport

Elkhorn Creek Runners, Tom Plog
815-631-6270 kingcub@jcwifi.com (Alan)
Meets 7pm 3rd Thursday The Other Bar 436 N Main St, Milledgeville

Lena Blackhawk Trailblazers, Mike Smith
815-291-4843 mikejakismith@hotmail.com
Meets 7pm 3rd Thursday Coach's Sport Bar & Grill, 621 W Lena St, Lena

Mississippi Ridge Runners, Matt Montgomery
563-599-9318 matt.montgomery@cb-sisco.com
Meets 5pm 2nd Sunday Galena Golf Course US Hwy 20 West, Galena

NWISA, Alan Bracken
815-631-6270 Kingcub@jcwifi.com
Meets 7:30pm 2nd Thursday 7:30 The Bottle Shed, IL Route 20, Stockton

Sno-Pearls, Todd Brookman
815-238-2837 toddbrookman@yahoo.com
Meets call for time & location

Thomson F.A.S.T. Trax, Marvin Green
815-821-5341 mc_green@hotmail.com
Meets 7:30pm 3rd Thursday Majestic Pines 11503 3Mile RD, Thomson

Whiteside County Snowbirds, Tim Geiger
815-499-3720 chevymudder@hotmail.com
Meets 7pm 3rd Wednesday Kickback Saloon 102 N Main St, Tampico

Warren Winter Warriors, Brian Saunders
815-541-1031 saunders@aeroinc.net
Meets 7:30pm 2nd Monday call for location

Region 7 Directory, Larry Michaels
815-252-6292 lasfm@mtco.com

Evergreen Snowmobile Club, Ron Planis
815-249-5342 thumpr161@aol.com
Meets 7pm 1st Tuesday Beggers Pizza 15600 S Cicero Ave, Oak Forest

I&M Trailblazers, Dale Fritz
815-467-2836 Dalefritz2@comcast.net
Meets 7pm 2nd Tuesday Twin Rail Pub 502 Twin Rail Dr, Minooka

IL Snirt Riders Snowmobile Club, Mike Pearson
815-795-7512 michael.pearson@gmail.com
Meets 7pm 2nd Wednesday Illini Lounge 390 Main St, Marseilles

IL Valley Winter Sports Club, Larry Michaels
815-252-6292 lasfm@mtco.com
Meets 7:30pm 1st Thursday VFW 571 Rutland St, Marseilles

Rusty Runners, Paul Killa
630-391-3645 paulki@sbcglobal.com
Meets 7pm 3rd Wednesday Beggers Pizza 300 Veterans Parkway, Boilingbrook

Will County Driftbusters, Char Spiess
815-485-3023 c_spiess@msn.com
7pm 2nd Monday call for location

Region 8 Director, IASC Office
815-795-2021 iasc@mtco.com

Yellow Streakers, Kevin Connell
815-257-6772 traciekjbc@gmail.com
Meets 7pm 2nd Tuesday Boardwalk Tap 124 N Chestnut St, Wenona

Region 9 Director, Josh Bennett
309-648-3040 bennettjosh@yahoo.com

Woodford County Snowmobile Club, Shawn McGinnis
309-508-7189 sbmscm72101@yahoo.com
Meets 7:30pm 1st Monday Kouri's Grill Kouri's Grill on Route 116, Germantown Hills

Region 10 & 11 Director, Carson Hanner
217-948-5579

Heartland Polar Riders, Nick Weiss
618-420-2337 nickweiss@mts.ag
Meets 7pm 3rd Wednesday Meets Call for location

Central IL Ditch Riders, Drew Bartolozzi
217-306-4751 Bartolozzi5@aol.com
Meets 7:30pm 3rd Wednesday Bunkers 220 Old Route 36, Illiopolis

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www.midstatesindustrail.com

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815-586-4895
www.taltypolaris.com
taltypol@fairpoint.net

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MINNESOTA

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info@haywardlakes.com

Walker Equipment, Inc./Arrowhead Groomers
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715-479-4200
dave@arrowheadgroomers.com

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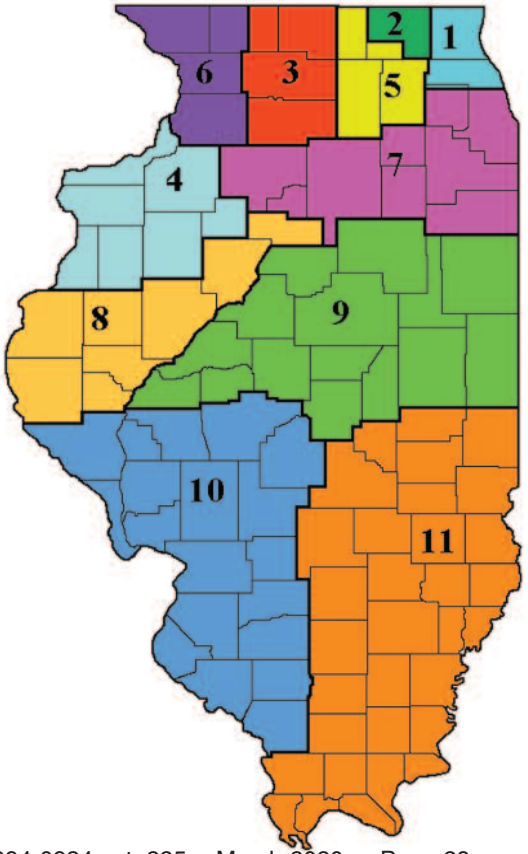

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Intrepid snowmobiler and travel writer Mike Carr has traveled from coast to coast and throughout the Midwest to explore and enjoy many of North America's premier snowmobiling venues, three of which are presented in each issue for your consideration. Living in the center of the Midwest and the continent gives Illinois snowmobilers endless riding opportunities if they're willing to travel and this series is intended to broaden your horizons and encourage you to explore new places. So take your pick, hook up your trailer and get ready to hit the road for some great riding and outstanding experiences!

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Location: South Wayne, Gratiot, Darlington, Mineral Point, Dodgeville, Blanchardville, Wiota

Highlights: Cheese Country State Trail, Pecatonica River, historic Mineral Point

Info: Phone for maps and trail conditions (608) 776-4048

WASHINGTON COUNTY, VERMONT

Vermont is a fantastic place for snowmobiling, thanks to its natural beauty and the superb network of trails maintained by VAST, the Vermont Association of Snow Travelers. The riding is great from one end of the state to the other, but Washington County stands out. West of the state capital at Montpelier is the scenic Mad River Valley and the 24-mile Camel's Hump Loop around the towns of Waitsfield, Fayston and Moretown. This and other trails in the Green Mountains offer exhilarating climbs and descents, with elevations ranging from 500 to 2500 feet. There are scenic features galore – and even a 270-foot suspension bridge over the Winooski River!

Trail Towns: Waitsfield, Fayston, North Duxbury, South Duxbury

Highlights: Camel's Hump Loop, Huntington Gap, Winooski River suspension bridge

Info: Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (VAST) web site, www.vtvast.org

IRONWOOD, MICHIGAN

Michigan's Upper Peninsula is an endless winter wonderland and from the western end, it all starts at Ironwood, the town that shares the border with Hurley, Wisconsin. Lake effect snow blesses this area all winter, so the season starts early and runs late. East of Wakefield is the Ottawa National Forest with countless forest roads available for backcountry riding and beyond are Lake Gogebic and the Porcupine Mountatins, both less than 30 miles away.. Riding on the Wisconsin side is equally impressive and it's not far to the Iron Horse Trail heading to points west, as well as legendary destinations like Mercer, Manitowish Waters and Saxon Harbor.

Trail Towns: Ironwood, Wakefield, Marenisco, Hurley, Mercer, Maintowish Waters, Iron Belt

Highlights: Lake Gogebic, Porcupine Mountains, Iron Horse Trail

Info: https://travelironwood.com/snowmobiling/

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