

IOWA SNOWMOBILER

October 2020 • Volume 42 • Issue 2

Good Timing

Fresh Snow
Benefits Kossuth
County Ride

Last Winter
Falls Short of
Season Average

Convention
Preview: RSC
Update Planned



ISSA Platinum Sponsors

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KOSSUTH COUNTY
DRIFT SKIPPERS



ABOUT US

"The Cure for the Common Cold since 1973"

IOWA SNOWMOBILER

The Official Magazine of the Iowa State Snowmobile Association
www.iowasnowmobiler.com
1924 270th Street
Marble Rock, IA 50653
issa1257@yahoo.com

ISSA OFFICERS

President

Brian Carmichael
1369 Midway Ave.
Tripoli, IA 50676
(319) 215-5006
snohawk68@gmail.com



Vice President

Scott Nauman
402 Fifth St.
Rudd, IA 50471
(641) 425-9898
sdnauman04@gmail.com



Secretary

Sue Paulus (Joe)
1631 227th St.
Rockford, IA 50468
suepaulus81@gmail.com



Treasurer/Membership

Brittany Paulus (Mike)
1924 270th Street
Marble Rock, IA 50653
(641) 228-0977
bepaulus@outlook.com



ISSA COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

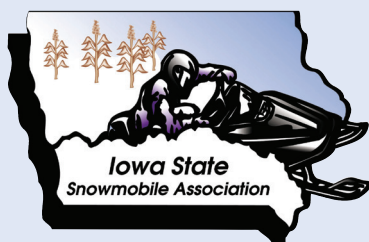
Jim Willey, Chair
Becky Willey
20838 247th St.
Delhi, IA 52223
(563) 927-4670, (563) 920-0911
james.willey2019@gmail.com

Gary and Karen McVicker
1120 110th Street, Hampton, IA
50441(641) 425-1375
gmcvic@yahoo.com

John Kahler
635 Greene Street, Slater, IA 50244
(515) 202-4061
jfkahler@hotmail.com

Managing Editor

Cameron Hanson
2552 Woodland Place
Charles City, IA 50616
(641) 330-5565
editor@iowasnowmobiler.com



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IOWA SNOWMOBILER

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Convention Preview

RSC expected to share state program budget numbers in Ames in November.



5

Good Timing

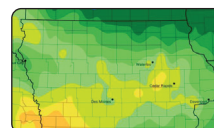
Last-minute snow benefits Kossuth County memorial ride last season.



9

Winter Recap

Last February fails to meet previous year's standard.



13

ISMA Update

New snowmobile sales remain steady year over year.



16

WIN \$500 CASH!

ISSA Grand Raffle

Tickets Cost \$5 each or 5/\$20.

- Winner drawn at 2020 convention.
- Need not be present to win.
- Limited number of tickets printed.

Contact your region director to purchase.
Call or text (641) 512-1932 for more information.

See page 6 for ISSA Grand Raffle details.



Kossuth County Drift Skippers Trail Map Inside



Remaining Magazine Deadlines

November	Oct. 16
December	Nov. 13
January	Dec. 11
February	Jan. 15
March	Feb. 12

COVER: More than 100 snowmobilers participated in the Kossuth County Drift Skippers' annual Dooby Wicky Memorial Ride Feb. 8. Photo courtesy Dave and Sally Petersen.

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October 2020 **3**



ISSA DIRECTORY

REGION ONE

Jim Skinner, Director
4871 Pierce Ave., Paullina, IA 51046
(712) 448-2567
mjmanure@tcaexpress.net

Randy Magg, Assistant
1728 280th Ave.
Spirit Lake, IA 51360
rdmagg5460@gmail.com



Kevin Winters, Assistant
PO Box 305, Lake Park, IA 51347
(712) 320-9530

Steve Wiersma, Assistant
5801 370th Street
Primghar, IA 51245
(712) 461-2774

REGION TWO

Jeremy Walker (Kayla), Director
1402 170th St.
LuVerne, IA 50560-8552
(515) 341-1626
jlkwalk@gmail.com



Jeff Felkey (Lori), Assistant
5391 190th Street
Armstrong, IA 50514
(712) 864-3741, jfelkey@ringtelco.com

Terril Johnson, Assistant
203 S. Finn Dr.
Algona, IA 50511
terril.johnson@motorinnmail.com

REGION THREE

Ben Diekhuis (Mindi), Director
2115 Nash Ave.
Britt, IA 50423
(515) 291-2329, diekhuis@gmail.com



Matt Trunkhill (Monica), Assistant
135 310th St.
Woden, IA 50484-8520
(515) 320-0737, mtrunk@wctatel.net



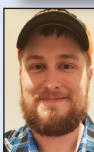
REGION FOUR

Seth Bram, Director
17313 Packard Ave.
Clarksville, IA 50619
(641) 512-1932, sethbram@gmail.com



Brent Nauman, Assistant
23667 210th St., Rockford, IA 50468
(641) 425-8964
bmnauman@gmail.com

Jeremy Wolf, Assistant
3006 Cheyenne Ave.
Nashua IA 50658
(641) 330-7410
jeremy.randjtrucking@yahoo.com



REGION FIVE

Matt Miner, Director
11256 Robin Ave., Cresco, IA 52136
(563) 380-7142
mmmffarms@hotmail.com



ISSA Dues Increase Begins Jan. 1; Ad Revenue Down

Faced with declining membership and ongoing financial strains, the ISSA Board of Directors voted in March to raise ISSA dues from \$15 to \$20 per year. The last time fees increased was in 2005, and the \$5 bump basically reflects the rate of inflation over that same time frame.

The conversation began at the board's January meeting, and the August Treasurer's Report confirms the need for additional revenue. The ISSA currently stands at 1,849 members, down more than 1,000 members since 2011. Inconsistent snow cover over the past decade in Iowa bears most of the blame for this downhill trend.

The ISSA's membership year follows the calendar year, so the price increase does not take effect until Jan. 1. If club members join during this grace period, the cost of an ISSA membership will remain \$15. Club checks and rosters will need to be postmarked by Dec. 31 to qualify. Dues received after that date will be subject to the new rate.

The two biggest expenses to the ISSA's budget are the legislative lobbyist at \$26,000 annually and the *Iowa Snowmobiler* magazine at \$21,000 each season. For the past 15 years, the ISSA Legislative Committee has leaned on the Club Challenge to offset the lobbying expense and is

currently reviewing the current contract.

Advertising revenue for the ISSA's official publication continues its decline as the final snowmobile manufacturer dropped its support this season. Traditional advertiser budgets have also been "frozen" due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Efforts still continue this fall to raise funds and sell ads, and any leads may be directed to the ISSA Communications Committee.

Committed to producing seven printed issues this season, the magazine continues to partner with neighboring states to help secure regional advertising. The communications committee also recently announced the Friends of ISSA donation level (formerly the ISSA Communications tab on p. 19) to create a lower price point for potential donors/advertisers. After Jan. 1, Friends will be listed in each issue of the magazine, and Associate Members will only be printed in the first and last issue of the season.

As detailed on page 12, the committee still solicits Platinum Sponsorships at \$500 for businesses and \$350 for non-profits, including clubs. Clubs can also print their trail maps in the center section for \$500 at the non-Platinum rate and \$350 for Platinum members. Platinum Sponsorships remain the only way to advertise on the ISSA website at iowasnowmobiler.com.

New language on proof of sales tax

The Iowa Legislature added new sections regarding snowmobile owners and all-terrain vehicle owners to guide county recorders when the owners are unable to present satisfactory evidence of payment of sales or use tax. When an owner cannot prove that they paid sales or use tax, the county recorder is required to collect the tax owed and remit taxes collected to the Department of Revenue, as well as an itemized statement by the 10th day of each month. The statement must include the name of the taxpayer, make and purchase price of the snowmobile or all-terrain vehicle, amount of tax paid, and other information as required.

CALENDAR

October

- ISSA Board of Directors meeting Sunday, Oct. 18, at 9 a.m. at the AmericInn in Hampton.
- Central Iowa Snowmobilers Grass Drags Saturday, Oct. 24, at the Central Iowa Snowmobilers Speedway in Grundy Center. For more information, call (641) 485-3161.
- Spina Bifida National Day of Walk-N-Roll on Oct. 25 at 9 a.m. Virtual only. Visit sbaia.org for more information.

November

- 47th Annual ISSA Convention Nov. 13-15 at the Quality Inn and Suites in Ames. See pages 7-8 for registration and hotel information.
- ISSA Board of Directors meeting Sunday, Nov. 15, at 9 a.m. at the Quality Inn and Suites in Ames.

RSC Update Scheduled for Convention Weekend

by **Cameron Hanson**

Approaching their fourth winter of managing the state snowmobile trail program in Iowa, volunteers on the ISSA's Review and Selection Committee (RSC) remain committed to putting snowmobile registration and trail pass dollars where they will do the most good.

"In the end, it's about having the best groomed trails in Iowa," said RSC co-administrator Chris Willey, a past ISSA president, at the August meeting of the ISSA Board of Directors.

Since September of 2017, the RSC—consisting of current and former ISSA officers along with representatives from western, central and eastern Iowa—continue to work without administrative salaries. They, instead, funnel those savings into grooming equipment, maintenance expenses and trail development.

Previously, revenue from the snowmobile trail program was split evenly between snowmobile clubs and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). Following landmark legislation four years ago, 70 percent of the trail funding is now controlled by the ISSA with the balance retained by the IDNR for law enforcement and safety training.

The IDNR still collects registration and trail fees through electronic licensing agents statewide and then distributes the program's share in quarterly payments to the RSC. For checks and balances, the IDNR maintains representation on the RSC, and program expenditures must pass an annual audit during the off-season.



Trail grants approved

Last winter, 20,269 snowmobiles were registered in Iowa at \$15 apiece, and another 12,418 riders purchased \$15 trail passes to legally ride in Iowa for a 60 percent compliance rate. In July, the committee met in Thompson to approve \$333,885 in expenses for the upcoming season, and club contacts should be receiving their co-operative agreements in the mail shortly.

In all, 51 clubs had requested a combined \$249,740 in trail grants. Most applications followed the usual askings, but a few big-ticket items had to be denied, including a \$53,000 request to purchase an old county bridge and a \$50,000 request to convert an existing groomer to rubber tracks. In the end, \$134,735 was awarded to clubs for trail expenses this winter.

"That amount is really no different than any other year," noted RSC co-administrator Terry Durby, another past ISSA president.

"Most of the grants came in pretty standard. Mostly fuel and maintenance, but there are a few major repairs we're work-

Iowa State Snowmobile Trail Grant Program Review and Selection Committee

Permanent Administrative Positions

- Chris Willey, Past ISSA President
- Terry Durby, Past ISSA President

Members By Position

- Brian Carmichael, ISSA President
- Scott Nauman, ISSA Vice President

Members By Election

- Randy Magg (Western representative)
- John Kahler (Central representative)
- Todd Sieverding (Eastern representative)

Iowa DNR Representative

- Rhonda Fowler

Iowa Recreational Trails Advisory Committee Representative

- John Kahler (by appointment)

Please communicate with the committee via email at ISSA.RSC@gmail.com.



ISSA DIRECTORY

Randy Kaune, Sr., Assistant
11419 90th St., Fayette, IA 52142
(563) 920-8491
randysr05@hotmail.com



Steve Vorwald (Sherri), Assistant
1582 210th St.
Manchester, IA 52057
(563) 927-5362

REGION SIX

Gene Gerdes, Director
P.O. Box 826, Lake View, IA 51450
(712) 665-8541
gaskgerdes@gmail.com



Jamie Rohlfs, Assistant
408 Center, Wall Lake, IA 51466
jrohlfs70@gmail.com

REGION SEVEN

John Kahler, Director
635 Greene St. Slater, IA 50244
(515) 202-4061
jfkahler@hotmail.com



Daryl Promes, Assistant
810 4th St. Gowrie, IA 50543
(515)-352-3393
dpromes@wccta.com

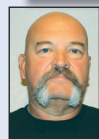


David Eide, Assistant
3339 Stagecoach Rd.
Stratford, IA 50249
(515) 835-8000



REGION EIGHT

Geo Prescott, Director
302 Main St., St. Anthony, IA 50239
(641) 485-6525
geomoney@icloud.com



REGION NINE

Jamie Prull, Director
1101 First Street, Palo, IA 52324
(319) 981-0397, jprull@aol.com



Todd Sieverding, Assistant
4737 St. Catherine Rd.
Bellevue, IA 52031
(563) 599-0584
tsfire10@gmail.com

REGION TEN

Aaron Dorothy (Anna), Director
502 E. Cedar Ln., Mt. Pleasant IA 52641
(319) 986-5188(h), (319) 217-6361(c)
aarond65@hotmail.com



Cody Krueger, Assistant
19272 Danville Rd.
New London, IA 52645
(414) 313-5973, cjk4@uwmalumni.com



Jim Fitzgibbon
1729 180th St., Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641
(319) 931-3410
drumcat9800@gmail.com





COMMITTEES

ALS CHARITY LIAISON

Brian Carmichael, snohawk68@gmail.com

AWARDS

Sally Carmichael/Carol Nauman

BREAST CANCER AWARENEES

OPEN

BUDGET/FINANCE

Brittany Paulus, bepaulus@outlook.com

BY-LAWS AND SOPS

Jim Willey, james.willey2019@gmail.com

CHARITY

Brittany Paulus, bepaulus@outlook.com

CLUB OF THE YEAR

Sally Carmichael/Carol Nauman

COMMUNICATIONS

Jim Willey, james.willey2019@gmail.com

CONVENTION 2020

John Kahler, jfkahler@hotmail.com

EARLY MEMBERSHIP

Dennis Nauman/Brent Nauman

EFC

Terry Durby, tdurb@yahoo.com

GRANTS

OPEN

GROOMER TRAINING COORDINATOR

Chris Willey, kiotti79@gmail.com

IOWA REC TRAILS ADVISORY REP

John Kahler, jfkahler@hotmail.com

LEGISLATIVE

Jim Willey, james.willey2019@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP

Brittany Paulus, bepaulus@outlook.com

TRAIL BREAK TRAILER

Brian Carmichael, snohawk68@gmail.com

NOMINATIONS

Jim Willey, jim.willey@camso.co

PROMOTION

Jeremy Walker, jlkwalk@gmail.com

RAFFLE

Seth Bram, sethbram@gmail.com

REVIEW & SELECTION

Terry Durby, tdurb@yahoo.com

Chris Willey, kiotti79@gmail.com

EASTERN IOWA TOURISM

Becky Willey, beckywilley@iowatelecom.net

CENTRAL IOWA TOURISM

OPEN

WESTERN IOWA TOURISM

Merv Hoermann, mebeefeater2@yahoo.com

TRAIL SIGN & TRAIL DEVELOPMENT

Matt Miner, mmmfarms@hotmail.com

YOUTH PROGRAM

Aaron Dorothy, aarond65@hotmail.com

SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

Bruno Andreini, awbrunoa3@gmail.com

SPINA BIFIDA CHARITY LIAISON

Bruno Andreini, awbrunoa3@gmail.com

ing through," Willey said.

Additional expenses approved by the RSC this past summer included \$54,000 for trail insurance, \$74,000 for major repairs to the groomer fleet, \$16,000 in sign orders and a \$25,000 reserve for in-season repairs. Five clubs did not submit grant applications for 2020-21, but the RSC decided to cover their trail insurance anyway this season as a precaution.

"We are going to pay for the trail insurance for those clubs yet this year, because even though the club is dormant or the trails may not be marked there any more, snowmobilers are used to running on them and they may still go ride there, so this still gives that county some trail coverage," Willey said. "Whether those clubs have any expenses beyond that, we don't know."

"You still have to protect John Q. Snowmobiler and the landowner," ISSA Vice President and RSC member Scott Nauman pointed out.

Changes in insurance expected

The RSC also reported that trail insurance coverage and premiums will likely be changing next season. V & V Insurance in Cresco notified the group that the underwriter which has provided trail insurance the past 34 years has decided to stop, effective May 1.

"V & V is in the process of trying to find a new provider, and I'm sure they will," Willey said. "We just don't know what the premiums and coverage are going to look like yet for next year. We won't know until V & V knows. There is still trail insurance for this year, and we will get something figured out for next season."

"There are 24 states in the same boat as Iowa," Durby added. "This affects more than just us."

The RSC continues to work through three open federal trail grants from the Recreational Trails Program. The state snowmo-

bile program normally relies on this cost-share funding to purchase new grooming equipment, but since 2017, the Buy American Act has limited their options. As of this writing, only Tucker groomers with a 2018 or newer steel stamp qualify.

"That's the game we play," Willey said. "We are probably going to buy more used units going forward, but anything older than that or any other brand, we will need to buy outright."

As updated equipment arrives, the RSC will review current inventory and club needs and make placement decisions which make the most sense. "We are going to look at all of our groomers and see where they can do the best good," Durby said. "It does create a chain reaction for a lot of club needs."

"The biggest focus right now is putting the right equipment in the right places," Willey said. "Snow conditions play a role in that. How much the club is using their current groomer also affects our decision."

Learn more at convention

Willey, Durby and the rest of the RSC team will provide their annual update at the 2020 ISSA Convention in Ames next month. Also at that time, the representative for the eastern region of Iowa will be up for re-election. That seat is currently held by Todd Sieverding. Non-ISSA members are eligible to vote and serve on the RSC.

The RSC is also looking to streamline the somewhat antiquated trail grant application and reimbursement process in Iowa. Willey said the committee is researching web-based applications where clubs can submit their grants online in a "central hub." "It's 2020, and we need get away from handwritten paper copies," he said.

More information on that improvement process as well as a full financial reporting will be shared during the Saturday afternoon session at convention. A groomer

WIN \$500 CASH!

ISSA Grand Raffle

Tickets Cost

\$5 each or 5 for \$20.

- Winner drawn at 2020 convention.
- Need not be present to win.
- Limited number of tickets printed.

Contact your region director to purchase.

Call or text (641) 512-1932 for more information.



certification course is also planned that afternoon, and the ISSA's Convention Planning Committee, chaired by Region 7 Director John Kahler, is still working on the rest of the seminar lineup. A tentative convention agenda appears below.

A new president will be elected convention weekend with Nauman expected to move up one position. Candidates are still being sought for the office of vice president, and at the August board meeting, Secretary Sue Paulus announced her intention to step down from her position. Only sitting board members are eligible to serve as vice president. The secretary's seat is open to any ISSA member.

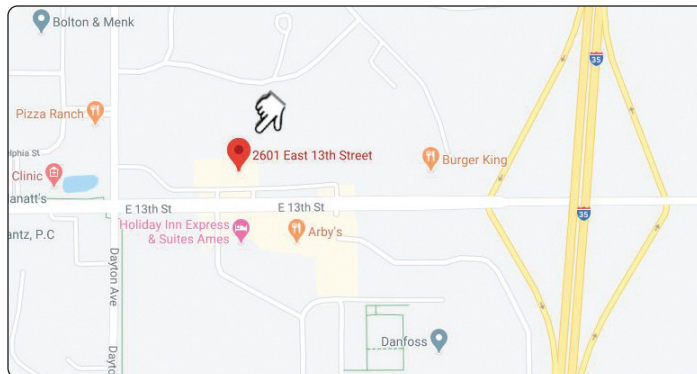
Kahler is encouraging ISSA clubs to step up as convention sponsors. Those opportunities appear on page 8 of this month's issue. He is also asking for members to bring donations to the silent auction and ISSA raffles. Proceeds from those drawings benefit ISSA programs like charity, scholarship and communication efforts.

Register early and save

Clubs are also reminded to bring their contributions to the Club Challenge, a special fundraising drive which helps offset costs associated with the ISSA's legislative and lobbying efforts. Last year, 17 clubs raised \$4,504 for this special fundraising arm of the ISSA Legislative Committee.

Donations will also be accepted convention weekend for the Spina Bifida Association of Iowa, the ISSA's official charity, and the ISSA's Scholarship and Education Foundation. A list of all charitable causes recognized by the ISSA appears on page 19.

This fall's convention is being held at the Quality Inn and Suites Conference Center in Ames. A block of rooms has been held in the ISSA's name through Oct. 15 at \$109 per night plus tax. Reservations are the responsibility of the attendee and can be made by



Quality Inn and Suites Conference Center
2601 E 13th St., Ames, IA 50010

contacting the hotel directly at (515) 232-9260.

Convention registration costs \$65 per person through Nov. 1 and \$75 per person after then. Ala carte registration is also available. See the registration form on page 8. All checks will be held until Nov. 1, at which time the planning committee will determine if the convention proceeds as planned or is cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

If the convention is cancelled, all checks will be returned. This contingency plan does not apply to hotel reservations. All attendees should check with the hotel's cancellation policy at the time of booking. As of this writing, Kahler said the committee's intention is to continue with annual state convention as scheduled.

"Of course, things can change between then and now, but we are continuing to move forward and will comply with any and all safety and health guidelines," Kahler said.

For questions regarding convention or for more information, contact Kahler at (515) 202-4061 or jfkahler@hotmail.com.

2020 ISSA Annual Convention Nov. 13-15 Ames, IA

Tentative Agenda

Friday, Nov. 13

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. | Convention Registration
Snowmobile Iowa Set Up |
| 7 p.m.-10:30 p.m. | Hospitality Meet & Greet
Entertainment |

Saturday, Nov. 14

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 8:15 a.m. to 10 a.m. | Convention Registration
Snowmobile Iowa Set Up |
| 8:30 a.m. | Opening Remarks & Welcome
Presentation of Colors |
| 8:50 a.m. | Region Meetings & Elections |
| 9:00 a.m. | General Membership Meeting |
| 10:30 a.m. | Brunch. Silent Auction Opens |
| 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. | Seminars TBD
RSC Update
Groomer Certification Class
Women's Craft Time |
| 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. | Social Hour |
| 6 p.m. | Dinner |
| 7 p.m. | Awards Ceremony.
Donation Presentations |
| 8:30 p.m. | Drawings & Raffle
Entertainment |

Sunday, Nov. 15

- | | |
|--------|--------------------|
| 9 a.m. | ISSA Board Meeting |
|--------|--------------------|

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*** AVERAGE SNOWFALL +200"**

*** 500 MILES OF GREAT TRAILS**

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SNOWMOBILE FRIENDLY CITY

Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs

TRAIL MAPS AVAILABLE AT THESE OFFICES:

Iron County Development Zone / 715.561.2922 ironcountywi.com

Hurley Chamber of Commerce / 715.208.0902 hurleywi.com

Mercer Chamber of Commerce / 715.476.2389 mercercoc.com

24 Hr. Snow Report 715.476.SNOW

2020 ISSA Annual Convention Nov. 13-15 Ames, IA

Sponsorship Opportunities

Convention

Friday Night Hospitality (Sold)	\$300
Saturday Afternoon Seminar	\$200
Saturday Evening Guest Speaker	\$500
Saturday Evening Entertainment	\$500
Saturday Evening Social Hour	\$400
Program Printing	\$200
Name Badges	\$200
General Expense Donation	\$300

Awards Banquet

Family Award	\$200
Young Snowmobiler Award	\$200
Snowmobiler Award	\$200
Groomer Award	\$200
Club Award (Sold)	\$200
Dealer Award	\$200

Name/Club _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Email _____

Sponsorship Type: ☐ Donor ☐ Convention ☐ Awards

Sponsorship Item: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

To secure your sponsorship, please send your sponsorship check made out to the ISSA and this sponsorship form to:

John Kahler
635 Greene St.
Slater, Iowa 50244

For more information, contact John at
jfkahler@hotmail.com or (515) 202-4061

2020 ISSA Annual Convention Nov. 13-15 Ames, IA

Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

Email _____

Snowmobile Club _____

Organization _____

Check all that apply:

☐ Early Registration (expires Nov. 1) \$65

☐ Full Registration (after Nov. 1) \$75

☐ Friday night-only Registration \$25

☐ Saturday-only Registration \$50

☐ Youth Registration \$30 (5-14 years old)

Under 5 are Free.

Please Note: Registration fees do not include lodging. For hotel rooms, please contact the Quality Inn and Suites Conference Center in Ames at (515) 232-9260. Be sure to tell them you are with the ISSA Convention to receive the group rate of \$109 plus tax

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Please make check payable to the
ISSA Convention 2020.

Mail payment and completed registration form to:

John Kahler
635 Greene St.
Slater, Iowa 50244

For more information, contact John at
jfkahler@hotmail.com or (515) 202-4061

2020 ISSA Annual Convention Nov. 13-15 Ames, IA

Snowmobile Iowa Club Showcase

Club Name _____ Region _____

Contact Person _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

Mail completed form to:

John Kahler
635 Greene St.
Slater, Iowa 50244

For more information, contact John at
jfkahler@hotmail.com or (515) 202-4061

Official Notice of ISSA Elections & Proposed By-Law Changes

Who:

Officers & Directors from
Even-Numbered Regions

When:

ISSA General Membership
Assembly ISSA Annual
Convention, Nov. 14, 2020

Where:

Quality Inn and Suites
Conference Center, Ames

Good Timing

Fresh snow benefits Kossuth County memorial ride



Riding along Highway 18 between Algona and Sexton.

Photos courtesy Kossuth County Drift Skippers

by Cameron Hanson

Members of the Kossuth County Drift Skippers in Region 2 were positioned nicely this past January to enjoy an extended period of snowmobiling last winter. The club's trails were sandwiched between two storm systems which brought close to seven inches to Hancock County to the east Jan. 3 and another eight inches Jan. 18 to Emmet County to the west.

Snow filled the ditches, and the club's Prinoth groomer was making good use of the white stuff in a Jan. 19 Facebook post along Highway 18 between Algona and Wesley. Then, the last week of the month arrived and, along with it, a second stretch of unseasonable warm temperatures, including highs around 40 degrees on Jan. 31.

The ill-timed warm-up decreased snow depth, but enough cover remained for a Feb. 1 club ride. The main concern for club members, however, was the following weekend for their second annual Dooby Wicky Memorial Ride, coordinated with the Humboldt Sno-Skimmers to the south. The ditches were fine, but getting to business sponsors would be questionable.

Grooming north of West Bend.



Snowmobiles line up behind the Flipside bar in LuVerne.



"As the clubs began preparing the route, the temperatures were rising, and we were losing a lot of base in towns," reported Region 2 Director and Drift Skippers member Jeremy Walker. "Ditches were still good, but to try and get through the towns was going to be a challenge."

By Wednesday, the decision was made to move forward with the tribute ride, named in memory of Keith "Dooby" Grimm and Jason "Wicky" Wickman, Drift Skippers club members and good snowmobiling friends who were killed in a snowmobile accident and a separate car accident, respectively. Fortunately, the weather cooperated, and a couple of inches of snow fell two days before the ride.

"As luck would have it, the heavenly gates opened up, and the two guys we named the ride after decided we could use some snow for the weekend," Walker said with a smile of the celestial boost.

Encompassing 140 miles roundtrip, the route originated at the West Bend Country Club and included the towns of Sexton, Wesley, Corwith, Luverne, Livermore, Bode, Rutland and back to West Bend. More than 100 riders turned out for the event to

honor the late club members and to patronize the ride's sponsors.

"We had a great ride," Walker said. "The weather was beautiful and the trails were in great shape. A big shout-out to the Drift Skippers and Sno-Skimmers for getting everything groomed for the event."

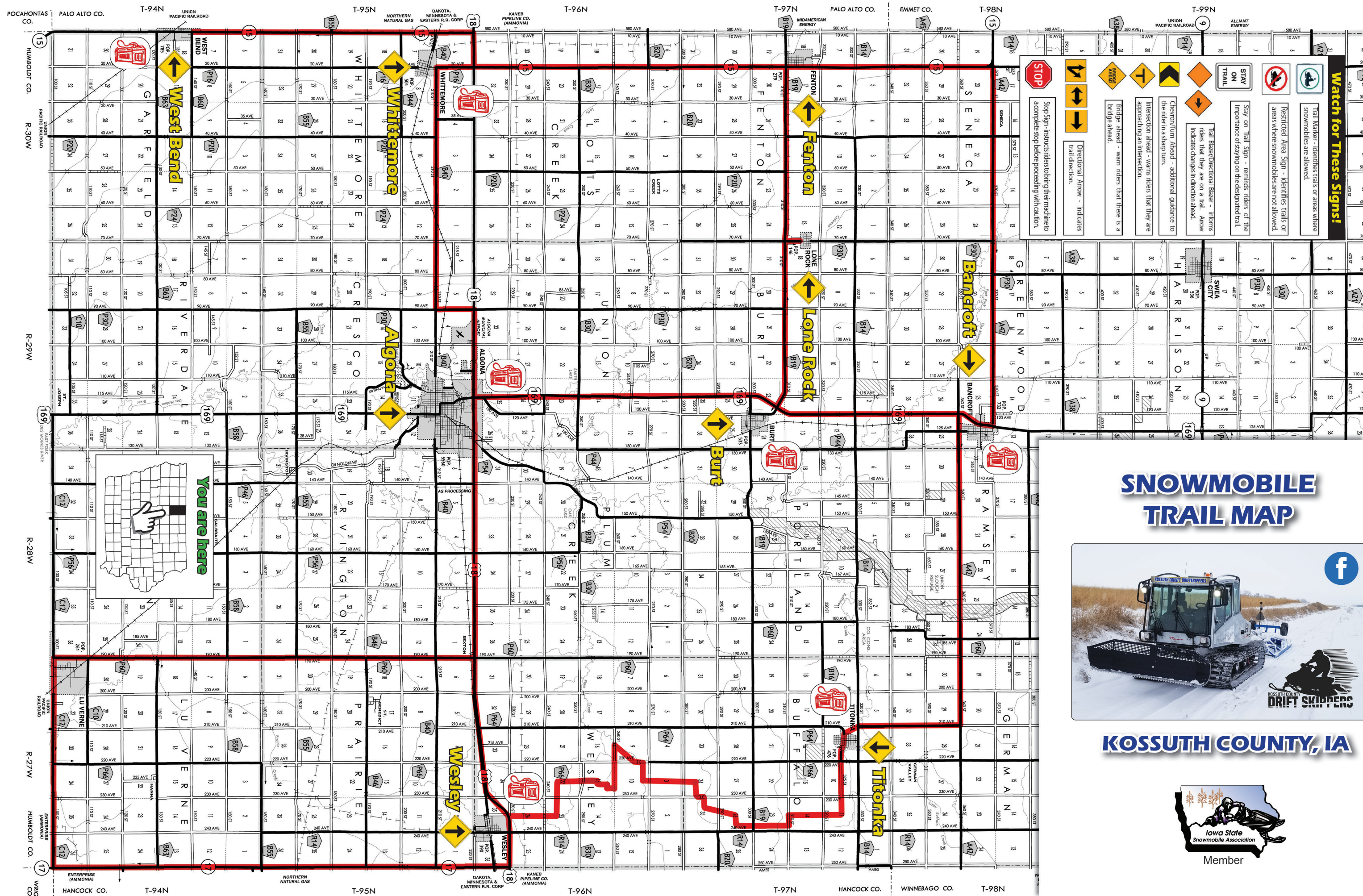
As detailed on the trail map in this month's center section, the Drift Skippers mark and maintain 285 miles of trail in Region 2. With the exception of a cross-country stretch between Wesley and Tiltonka, most of the club's trails follow ditches in each direction.

As for the rest of their season, the momentum gained in January fizzled out by the end of February. Walker described last winter as "hit and miss" for club events, but he said he was pleased they were able to get the Dooby Wicky ride in as scheduled. "We're glad it worked out, and I'm glad everyone had fun," he said.

The Drift Skippers memorial ride also served as the fourth of six Snowmobile Iowa events planned last season by the ISSA. The previous weekend, ISSA members were invited to ride through Big Creek State Park in Region 7, and an earlier ride was held during SnowFest in Cresco Jan. 25. The other three rides were cancelled due to weather.

Barney's in Livermore moved snow onto the street so sleds had a place to park.





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- Trail Blazer/Directional Blazer** - Informs riders that they are on a trail. Arrow indicates changes in direction ahead.
- Chevron/Turn Ahead** - Additional guidance to the rider in a sharp turn.
- Intersection ahead** - Warns riders that they are approaching an intersection.
- Bridge ahead** - Warns riders that there is a bridge ahead.
- Directional Arrow** - Indicates trail direction.
- STOP** - Instructs riders to bring their machine to a complete stop before proceeding with caution.

SNOWMOBILE TRAIL MAP



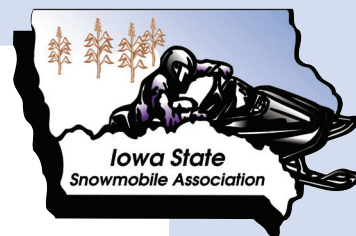
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Participants in the Feb. 1 Snowmobile Iowa ride in Region 7 pause along the trail in Big Creek State Park. Half of the six planned ISSA rides survived last winter's roller-coaster snowmobile season.

Winter Rewind

Last February Fails to Live Up to 2019's Standards

by Cameron Hanson

Despite measurable snow falling for six straight months in Iowa, the winter of 2019-20 failed to reach the historical statewide average of 32.2 inches. Snow first arrived in November and continued to fall through April, but some lackluster months in between there led to just 26.4 inches of total snowfall for the season.

In fact, February of 2020 only produced 3.5 inches of snow, half of its normal average and a far cry from the record-setting February the year prior when 22.6 inches of snow fell in Iowa that month alone. Last December also fell short of its normal average with just 2.4 inches reported for the month, and March did not amount to much with just two inches showing for the month's statewide average.

According to state climatologist Justin Gilsan, last winter emerged as the 42nd least snowiest in 133 years of recordkeeping, especially for the traditional winter months of December, January and February. Considered the meteorological winter, that three-month stretch produced just 16.9 inches of snow statewide with February ranking as the 23rd least snowiest on the books.

"Multiple National Weather Service co-op stations reported their driest February on record, and there were only a few notable systems that moved through Iowa," Gilsan noted.

January holds strong

Taking up most of the slack last winter, January brought 11.2 inches of snow across Iowa, or 3.5 inches above average and nearly half of the season's total. Last January was the 20th snowiest on record in Iowa with Kanawha in Hancock County reporting 24 inches of snow, including 6.9 inches from a New Year's storm system.

"The first measurable snowfall of 2020 occurred across much of Iowa from Jan. 2-3," Gilsan observed from the Iowa Climatology Bureau in Des Moines. "Northern Iowa was blanketed with the heaviest totals, as anywhere from four to six inches was reported across the first few north-central tiers of counties."

According to Gilsan's monthly summary, the most widespread snowfall event occurred Jan. 17-18 as a strong low pressure system moved through Iowa. Snow totals across much of the state were in the three- to six-inch range with higher totals in northern Iowa, including eight inches at Ringsted in Emmet County. The last significant snow event for the month hit the southeast quadrant of the state with up to eight inches reported at Amana in Iowa County.

April and November were the next two snowiest months last season with the bookends to the snowmobile season each reporting 3.5 inches of average snowfall in Iowa. For November, three storm

systems moved through the state, beginning with a four-inch ban on Veterans' Day across the middle of the state and ending with blizzard conditions around Thanksgiving in northwest Iowa.

According to Gilsan, the airport at Estherville in Emmet County recorded wind gusts up to 47 mph on Nov. 26 with sustained wind speeds around 30 mph. "Near whiteout conditions" were reported with snow totals coming in the highest in northwest and north-central Iowa. Sanborn in O'Brien County observed 8.6 inches of snow from this Nov. 23-26 system.

"Over 40 weather stations reported totals above three inches of snow," Gilsan noted for this storm.

For April, a substantial snowstorm impacted southern Iowa



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April 16-17 with measurable snow generally falling south of Interstate 80. The highest accumulations were recorded near the Iowa-Missouri border, where snowfall rates approached one to two inches per hour.

While Allerton in Wayne County reported the most snowfall at 13.6 inches, accumulations from this unseasonable system “dropped off into central Iowa with general totals between three to six inches,” Gilsan noted. April’s surprising snowfall total was two inches above average and ranks as the 13th snowiest on record.

While snow fell after the Easter holiday in Iowa, spring-like temperatures, ironically, were to blame for the under-performing months of December, February and March. December witnessed 22 days where temperatures read above normal, and the longest stretch of regrettable warmth lasted from Dec. 18-31.

“Temperatures averaged at least 10 degrees above normal for seven consecutive days prior to Christmas, and nearly 40 weather stations in Iowa broke their daily temperature records for Christmas,” Gilsan reported, noting holiday temperatures reached the low 60s in southern Iowa. “December’s statewide average maximum temperature was 38.1 degrees, 6.4 degrees above normal.”

Average temperatures for February and March also finished above freezing at 34 and 49 degrees, respectively. What little snow was left over from February dissipated quickly as a stretch of warm weather the first week of March saw temperatures across the state creep into the 60s and 70s. Similar to February, March also finished in the bottom percentile for historical snow data.

Roll with the punches

As always, snowmobilers in Iowa have learned to take what they get for snowcover and riding conditions. Fortunately, three of the ISSA’s six Snowmobile Iowa rides survived the up-and-down sea-

son. Only two of the cancellations were blamed on substandard trails, and the third was scratched, ironically enough, due to blustery conditions related to the mid-January storm.

Depending on their location in Iowa, other club events were held as planned, modified or cancelled based on snow and ice conditions. Later in the season, snowmobile trails were open and groomed one week and then closed and melting the next. What began as a promising start to the season in northwest Iowa turned out to be a roller-coaster ride for most snowmobilers in Iowa last year.

“It was right around Thanksgiving when we were riding last year,” recalled Kevin Winters, president of the Dickinson County SnowHawks in Region 1. “December didn’t bring much, and then we got a shot right before Winter Games in January and a little bit in February. Overall, though, our riding conditions were pretty light last year compared to a normal season, which we haven’t really seen over the past couple of years.”

Trail conditions were equally as spotty in the next region over. The ditches caught enough snow for decent riding conditions in the northern half of Region 2, and timely snow arrived for a Feb. 8 ride coordinated between the Humboldt Sno-Skimmers and the Kossuth County Drift Skippers. Operators with the Emmet County Driftbusters were also able to work their club’s upgraded groomer.

Other areas of the region were not as fortunate, however, according to Region 2 Director Jeremy Walker. “The other two clubs in my area—the Palo Alto Rough Riders and Sno-Pak—were really on the short end of the stick as far as snowfall last season,” he noted.

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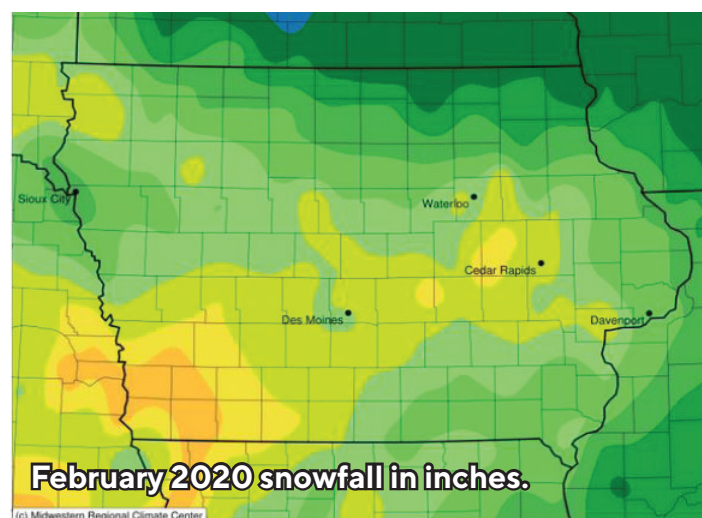
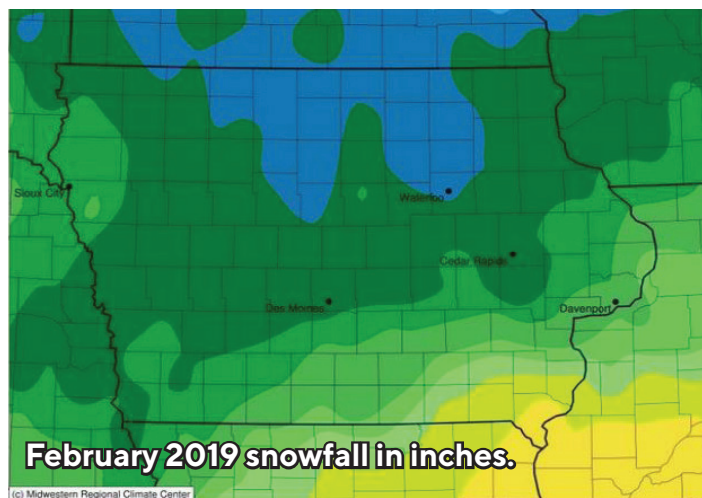
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eliteautodoug@gmail.com

Dickinson County SnowHawks

www.dickinsoncountysnowhawks.com
P.O. Box 504, Spirit Lake, IA 51360
President: Kevin Winters
P.O. Box 305, Lake Park, IA 51347
(712) 320-9530
kwinters9530@gmail.com

Lyon County Sno-Lyons

P.O. Box 576, Rock Rapids, IA 51246
President: Walt Dibbern
902 1st Ave., Rock Rapids, IA 51246
(712) 472-3804
walt.dibbern@yahoo.com

O'Brien County Snowtrackers

President: Kelly Jongerius
Visit club's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/pages/O'Brien-County-Snowtrackers/149959738392476.

Osceola County High Point Riders

www.highpointriders.com
President: Jeremy Wollmuth
5992 200th Street, Melvin, IA 51350
(712) 461-1510
jeremywoll10@gmail.com

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P.O. Box 154, Remsen, IA 51050
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President: Dee Jay Kellen
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Sioux County Snowmobile Club

President: Ben Van Den Brink
3471 Eagle Ave
Rock Valley, IA 51247
(712) 470-1176
bkland@mtcnet.net

REGION TWO

Emmet County Driftbusters

President: Mike Blomstrom
526 W 9th St., Estherville, IA 51334
(515) 408-8053
mblomstrom@forceamerica.com

Humboldt Sno-Skimmers

President: Shane Braby
1005 5th Ave. N, Humboldt, IA 50548
(515) 890-1945
snoskimmers@gmail.com

Kossuth County Drift Skippers

President: Jeremy Walker
1402 170th St., LuVerne, IA 50560
(515) 341-1626, jlkwalk@gmail.com

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President: Adam Kerr
P.O. Box 118, Cylinder, IA 50528
adamkerr1@outlook.com
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Find us on Facebook
President: Kolby Wagner
749 South St., Rockwell City, IA 50579
(712) 830-3821
kolbywagner@yahoo.com

REGION THREE

Hancock County Snowmobile Assn.

President: Dan Stromer
1840 Hwy 69, Klemme, IA 50449
(641) 587-9903, stromerd@yahoo.com

Iowa River Riders

President: Lenny Watts
2835 Sycamore Ave., Dows, IA 50071
(515) 571-6034
lenny@usa-chemical.com

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(641) 390-1499
petersonex@wctat.net

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President: Seth Bram
17313 Packard Ave
Clarksburg, IA 50619
(641) 512-1932, sethbram@gmail.com

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3205 McClain Dr., Cedar Falls IA 50613
(319) 235-7667
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President: Jim Paul
11217 East Dunkerton Rd.
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President: Joe Obermeier
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buckarro0149@hotmail.com

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128 State St., Osage, IA 50461
(641) 732-5778
jkconstruction92@yahoo.com

REGION FIVE

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Allamakee Sno-Blazers
PO Box 94 Waukon, IA 52172
President: Brandon Fahey
snoblazers@yahoo.com

Asbury Snowhawks

President: Tom Spalla
3309 Brook Hollow Dr.,
Asbury, IA 52002
(563) 582-8893, tnspsalla@hotmail.com

Clayton County Snowbirds

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29465 Dyersville E Rd.
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233 Bailey Dr., Manchester, IA 52057
(563) 920-2141, heimsm@live.com

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2005 Centennial Rd.
Decorah, IA 52101, (563) 380-6747
jakeludeking@gmail.com

REGION SIX

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408 Center St., Wall Lake, IA 51466
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1122 W. Mamie Eisenhower
Ave. Boone, IA 50036
(515) 236-0500
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5204 Neva Pt., Panora, IA 50216
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(515) 240-5444
sastarmer@q.com

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www.teamiowasnowmobilers.com
President: David Eide
3339 Stagecoach Rd.
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Webster County Ice Breakers

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P.O. Box 193 Dayton, IA 50530
(515) 351-7859
jgallentine86@gmail.com

REGION EIGHT

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P.O. Box 1751
Marshalltown, IA 50158
President: Blake Matney
PO Box 171, Liscomb, IA 50148
(641) 485-3161
bmatney05@gmail.com

Tri-County Snowmobile Association

P.O. Box 231, Traer, IA 50675
President: John McKenna
5164 23rd Ave., Mt. Auburn, IA 52313
319-721-5895, jnmckenna1@gmail.com

REGION NINE

Cedar County Winter Warriors

ccwwarriors@yahoo.com
President: Jerry Meier
1241 Jackson Ave., Tipton, IA 52772
(319) 325-6021
jerrymeier2040@gmail.com

Cascade Snowmobile Club

President: Steve Peiffer
916 6th Ave. SE, Cascade, IA 52033
(563) 599-1875

Eastern Iowa Sledheads

P.O. Box 519, Lone Tree, IA 52755
easterniowasledheads@aol.com
President: Mindy Scott
P.O. Box 435, 204 W. Dougherty Dr.
Lone Tree, IA 52755
scott4@iowatelecom.net
(319) 629-4630(h), (319) 325-1903(c)

Eastern Iowa Sno-Riders

President: Logan Goettsch
1945 278th St, Calamus, IA 52729
logan.goettsch@channelseedsmen.com

Frozen Few

P.O. Box 612
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406-0612
President: Rodney Rocarek
1718 O'Connor Rd
Mt. Vernon, IA 52314
(319) 533-1115, rocarek.inc@gmail.com

Scott County Sno-Seekers

www.snoseekers.org
P.O. Box 2332
Davenport, IA 52809-2332
President: Conor Flaherty
(563) 505-4806, eagle3382@aol.com

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President: Bill Hogan
3959 MacBride Pl NE, Solon, IA 52333
(319) 325-5588, bshogan@msn.com

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President: Aaron Michels
39014 308th St., Bellevue, IA 52031
(563) 599-4935
jcsnowmobile@gmail.com

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Southwest Iowa Snow Scooters

President: Trent Larson
25817 208th St., Crescent, IA 51526
(712) 309-1516, trentlarsn@gmail.com

Stag Island Skol Patrol

President: Brad Landhuis
3046 210th St., Clarinda IA 51632
Appanoose County Trails, Inc.
P.O. Box 825, Centerville, IA 52544

Southeast Iowa Ridge Blasters

se.iowa.ridge.blasters@gmail.com
President: Aaron Dorothy
502 E. Cedar Ln.,
Mt. Pleasant IA 52641
(319) 986-5188(h), (319) 217-6361 (c)
aaron65@hotmail.com

**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENTS**

Chris Willey (2017-18)
1765 Firefly Road
Manchester IA, 52057
(563) 920-9010, kioti79@gmail.com



Merv Hoermann (2007-08, 2015-16)
P.O. Box 22, Sutherland, IA 51058
(712) 260-4810
mebeefeater2@yahoo.com



Jim Willey (2013-14)
20838 247th St. Delhi, IA 52223
(563) 927-4670, (563) 920-0911
james.willey2019@gmail.com



Gary Burger (2011-12)
7255 NW 54th Court
Johnston, IA, 50131
(515) 334-0360,
gary@burgersofiowa.com



Gary McVicker (2009-10)
1120 110th Street
Hampton, IA 50441
(641) 425-1375
gmcvic@yahoo.com



Terry Durby (2005-06)
44232 Hwy 69
Leland, IA 50453
(641) 590-7007
tdurb@yahoo.com



Jerry Kramer (2003-04)
1930 Lincoln Ave.
Humboldt, IA 50548
(515) 890-1099



Dennis Nauman (2001-02)
402 Fifth St. Rudd, IA 50471
(641) 395-2933
cdnauman@myomnitel.com

Jeff Jans (1999-2000)
308 2nd St. NW, P.O. Box 153
Fostoria, IA 51340-0153
(712) 262-3309



Bruno Andreini (1997-98)
2306 230th St., Dallas Center, IA 50063
(515) 240-3858
awbrunoa3@gmail.com

Dave Carmichael (1995-96)
Deceased

Scott Kooiker (1993 -94)
261 160th Ave., Ellsworth, MN 56129
(507) 360-4667
sjkooiker@hotmail.com

Dale Vagts (1991-92)
24573 Kings Rd.
Cresco, IA 52136
(563) 547-2161

**2020 ISMA Update**

New snowmobile sales remain steady in U.S.

by Cameron Hanson

Sales of new snowmobiles in the United States have remained steady over the past decade, finishing last season at 51,036 units sold, according to figures released in May by the International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association (ISMA).

Since 2010, the number of new sleds sold in the U.S. has hovered between 40,000 and 60,000 units, compared to approximately 140,000 new snowmobiles in 2000 and close to 170,000 units in 1997, the highest total in the past quarter century.

The graph for snowmobile sales worldwide paints a similar picture. Last year, sales in the U.S. and Canada, along with Russia and Scandinavia, closed in on nearly 124,000 units, but that total was still less than half of the 1997 high of more than

250,000 new snowmobile sales worldwide.

According to ISMA President Ed Klim, year-over-year sales in all three major markets reported minor declines influenced by a shortened sales season and the onslaught of the coronavirus pandemic. He said a strong economy during the preseason, along with excellent snow conditions in many parts of North America, helped dealers and manufacturers early on.

"Continued interest and enthusiasm in snowmobiling this past winter helped sales to remain steady at 123,862 new sleds sold worldwide, a seven percent decline from the previous year, which was a strong sales year supported by a long winter season," Klim explained.

In the U.S. last season, 1,112,810 snowmobiles were registered, with 20,269 registrations coming from Iowa. More than a half million snowmobiles were registered in Canada, according to Klim's information. He said those numbers tell a good story.

"The registration numbers continue to be steady, showing that snowmobiling continues to be an active, healthy winter sport," Klim said. "Recently conducted surveys show that 82 percent of snowmobiling households own two snowmobiles that they register and ride."

According to ISMA's surveys, the average age for a snowmobiler is 45 years old. Males outnumber female snowmobilers by nearly 6:1, and the average number of miles ridden each season is 1,111. Half of all respondents said they take off on their sleds from their homes or cabins and the other half trailer to their destinations.

"Snowmobile-related tourism continues to increase in North America and beyond,"



ISMA President Ed Klim at a 2020 GoSnowmobiling! promotion.

Klim pointed out. "This can be seen in recent economic studies conducted by major colleges and universities. Miles ridden by snowmobilers, which is always predictive of economic impact, showed that riding and related tourism continued on a steady pace compared to previous years."

According to ISMA, the average cost to snowmobile was \$3,420 annually. While most start off on used equipment, all snowmobilers eventually buy new sleds and purchase trailers, clothing, gear and other accessories. Klim said people initially get into the sport to view the scenery, spend time with family and friends and "to get away from the usual demands of life and to be close with nature."

Approximately 60 percent of all riders belong to a club or state association. "These active, outdoor enthusiasts build the trails and support snowmobiling access across North America," Klim noted. When they can't snowmobile, survey-takers said they ride all-terrain (ATVs), go camping or boating as their top three off-season activities. In general, Klim estimated outdoor recreation generates \$766 billion in consumer spending and accounts for five million jobs in America.

"Economic impact studies show that snowmobiling is growing in importance as part of the overall economic engine and job growth for winter tourism," he said. "Studies are showing that snowmobiling generates over \$30 billion worth of economic activity in North America. Snowmobiling provides many jobs and investment opportunities and generates considerable tax revenue for local governments, which eagerly support snowmobiling."

On behalf of ISMA, Klim participates in the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable and routinely promotes outdoor recreation to Congress in Washington, D.C. Klim also supports the Recreational Trails Program, which brings federal dollars back to the states by capturing a portion of the federal

fuel taxes paid by off-road user groups.

Klim also encourages donations to the Friends of Snowmobiling Political Action Committee (FOSPAC), which endorses campaigns and makes contributions to candidates for U.S. Congress who are considered "friends of snowmobiling." Learn more about FOSPAC by visiting ISMA online at snowmobile.org.

While there, snowmobilers can also learn about ISMA's efforts to provide safety training and to expand the sport through the International Snowmobile Safety Week in January and the Take-A-Friend Snowmobiling Week in February. Interested riders can also visit the companion website at GoSnowmobiling.org and follow ISMA on social media.

The GoSnowmobiling! Campaign started several years ago and, according to Klim, serves as another "strong indicator" of the interest in snowmobiling. "This year, the GoSnowmobiling.com website received over two million visits, and a majority of them were new snowmobilers or did not own a snowmobile but expressed a great deal of interest in going snowmobiling," he said.



ISMA Graphic

	2020	2019	2018
Worldwide:	123,862 Units	133,081 Units	124,786 Units
United States:	51,036 Units	55,025 Units	53,179 Units
Canada:	43,535 Units	46,784 Units	47,024 Units
Sweden:	8,326 Units	11,956 Units	10,159 Units
Norway:	4,768 Units	5,862 Units	5,071 Units
Finland:	5,094 Units	4,581 Units	3,627 Units
Russia:	7,191 Units	6,411 Units	3,404 Units
Other:	3,912 Units	2,462 Units	2,322 Units

Three-year trend for new snowmobile sales.

Dick Melick (1989-90)
1314 Washington St.
Cedar Falls, IA 50613-4153
(319) 231-0819

Roger Muth (1987-88)
365 West 5th St.,
Garner, IA 50438
(641) 923-3560

Larry Childs (1986)
311 E. Prospect St.
Manchester, IA 52057-1456
(563) 927-5934

Dan Martin (1984-85)
4712 Candlelight Dr.
Davenport, IA 52806
(563) 386-3769

Marv Heikens (1982-83)
Deceased

Chuck Colegrove (1981)
5606 6th Ave., Armstrong, IA 50514
(712) 864-3170

Rich Moench (1980)
2155 Iowa Ave.,
Humboldt, IA 50548
(515) 332-3587

Gary Fairchild (1979)
933 170th St., Ogden, IA 50212
(515) 275-4133

Bill Nordstrom (1978)
Deceased

Gary Bruns (1977)
102 Honeysuckle,
Baytown, TX 77520

Richard Grosse
7543 Ford Rd. (Mar 1975-Dec 1976)
Janesville, IA 50647
(319) 987-2155

Larry Huntley (Nov 1973-Mar 1975)
401 East 1st St., Alta, IA 51002



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208 16th St., Sheldon, IA 51201
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Text message to (712) 324-4387

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(712) 336-1500
(877) 607-2868
www.okobojigmttoyota.com

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(712) 441-0934
jesse_wynia@hotmail.com

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zr599@hotmail.com
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iowaostrich@gmail.com

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racingcy@yahoo.com

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jason@principalbuildersinc.com

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info@alsaiowa.org
webia.alsa.org

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Notify ISSA of Club, Address Changes

If your club has elected new officers or if you have an address change, please email bepaulus@outlook.com so we can keep our recordbooks and directory listings current.

Thank you.

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Friends of the ISSA (\$100 minimum)

Dickinson County Snowhawks	\$100
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Cedar Falls Snow Hawks	\$250
Chickasaw Sno-Riders	\$250
Eastern Iowa Sledheads	\$250
Howard County Stump Jumpers	\$250
Lyon County Sno-Lyons	\$250
Snow Pioneers	\$200
Team Iowa Snowmobilers	\$200
Butler County Snow Snoops	\$150
Saylorville Dam Snowmobile Club	\$150
Dickinson County Snowhawks	\$100
Iowa River Riders.....	\$100

Spina Bifida Association of Iowa

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Driftrunners, Inc.....	\$1,000
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