

# SNO-DAK

NEWS



SNO  
convention

PRODUCT  
Review

DATED MATERIAL



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 Friends & Snow

**Think SNO...**



# **SND convention**

**December 4-5, 2015**

**Bismarck, ND**

**Hosted by Snowmobile North Dakota &  
Rough Rider Snowmobile Association, Inc.**

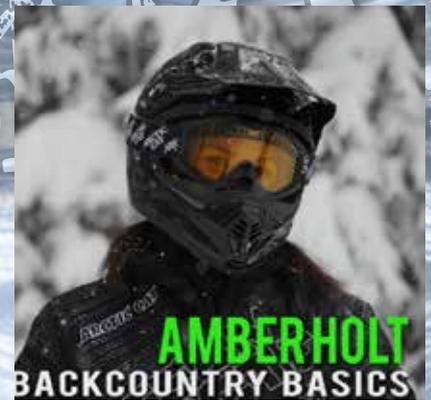
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**Sports Show**

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Laura Forbes



President

# board

Hi everyone,

So far, what do you think of this winter? For me I am wondering where the snow is. I was hoping Mother Nature would work with us this year.

SND and NDPRD have been busy with the legislation committee hearings. The SND staff has done an excellent job working with the legislation committees. We have also had SND snowmobile members go to the legislation committees and show their support also. I would like to say thank you.

Laura Forbes

You know have at least two feet of snow and temperatures around 20 degrees. This would be excellent! Well, I will keep dreaming.

This is my first article for the Sno-Dak News since joining the Board so I thought I'd take the opportunity to introduce myself. I'm Joanne Seifert from the Rural Cass Snowmobile Club in Region 5. I have been

the state secretary before back from 2003-2005 and enjoyed it so much that I decided to do it again. I'm married to Jeff Seifert who is also on the Board from Region 5 so we can spend more time together with snowmobiling, even if we aren't riding much this year. I don't ride much since I had shoulder reconstruction surgery, but still enjoy driving the

chase vehicle and hearing all the stories when everyone gets back from a fun day of hitting the trails.



Sadly, our association has had to cancel our premier snowmobiling event SnowJam this year due to low snow conditions. Our sponsors were all understanding and will still be supporting us next year, and I'm confident we'll have tons more snow and will have a great event. It's just too bad we had to cancel in our 10th year. The success of this event is mainly due to our great volunteers who go out and get sponsorships and gather door prizes. They also work hard all day running the various components of the event. And of course our great volunteers who get the trail system ready with signing and grooming. We truly couldn't do all we do without the volunteers, and I know I speak for the clubs when I say a big THANK YOU to all of you who give your time and talents for your local associations and trail systems.

I encourage you to look around the state and go ride the trail systems that are open. Not all areas are as hard hit as we are with low snow. Support the whole state trail system...what goes around comes around and we want all the riders to come visit us next year when we'll be waist deep in the glorious white stuff!

For sled or enthusiast, we've got you covered from head-to-toe loop!

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# MESSAGES



What a season! The first thought that comes to mind is disappointing because of no snow! We only get so many months to play and Mother Nature sure hasn't been kind this winter. So I hope you have found somewhere to rip and to all of the snowmobile clubs that pushed forward and held events without snow. I know it's tough to rally the troops and get people excited and please know Snowmobile North Dakota appreciates all of your efforts.

The season is also exciting. With three bills being discussed this legislative session, we've seen some good support. Special thanks to everyone that has come to the Capitol and helped show support for snowmobiling. It's definitely been noticed and the legislators are responding with support. So far all three snowmobile bills have passed the Senate and now are waiting for crossover. Since this is the last issue of the magazine, we'll use the e-newsletters, Facebook and [www.snowmobilend.org](http://www.snowmobilend.org) to keep everyone informed of the upcoming legislative adventures. I want to give a big shout out to Dave Vad with Johnson Sport Center in Bottineau, Region 1 Director Dale Deibert, Missouri Valley Trail Association Trail Coordinator Don Schmidt, Vice President Sheri Hoffmann and Director-at-Large Marty Malachowski for all representing the snowmobilers and speaking on behalf of the different pieces of legislation. We greatly appreciate all of you making the trip to Bismarck and representing! I also want to give a big thanks to my Mom, Mary Vammer, and my husband, Corey Wanner. They both

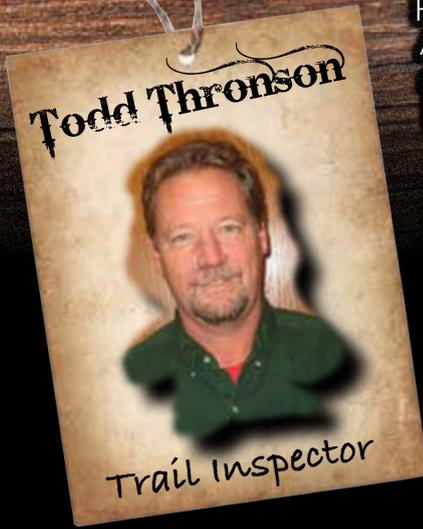
showed support and attended the hearings as well! I'm sure some of you have heard the Board of Directors mention a GPS groomer tracking program this past year. This discussion has actually been discussed and researched for the past three years. We found a vendor we feel confident can establish a program fit for North Dakota. This program will actually automate all snowmobile trail expenses online, making it easier to submit for reimbursement and eliminate the paper trail. It will also notify users when an expense hasn't been approved because of missing paperwork, etc. making the transaction process faster versus tracking everything in the mail. But the piece we are most excited about is the online grooming report that answers the number one question every snowmobiler asks, "when was the trail last groomed?" The online grooming report will color coordinate the trails based on the last time it was groomed. For instance, a green trail may represent the trail was groomed in the last 24 hours, a purple trail may represent the last 48 hours and so on. This is going to change how we provide trail reports and for the better! The program will launch July 1st and be ready for the 15-16 season. So stay tuned next season for upcoming training opportunities.

Again, thanks to all of you for your hard work this season. We realize even though you are not grooming, there is a large amount of work that goes into preparing the trails for the season, marketing events and so much more. So keep your chin up and let's hope for a better season next year! Cheers!!!

Keri

SND Secretary/Treasurers		
Year	Secretary	Treasurer
1975-1976	Connie McLaughlin	
1976-1978	Riki Mielke	Judy Anderson
1978-1979	Riki Mielke	Phyllis Huebner
1979-1980	Riki Mielke	Dot Theobald
1980-1982	Jim Meissner	Don Johnson
1982-1984	Rick Johnson	Will Hoesel
1984-1985	Nadine Darby	Will Hoesel
1985-1986	Pat Nugaard	Dale Deibert
1986-1987	Jane Trihub	Dale Deibert
1987-1988	Mary Ann Hoesel	David Dick
1988-1989	Mary Ann Hoesel	Dale Deibert
1989-1991	Rhoda Greenup	Dale Deibert
1991-1994	Mary Vammer	Doug Buckman
1994-1995	Mary Vammer	Jerry Lawson
1995-1996	Shirley Smith	Jerry Lawson
1996-2001	Cheryl (Obrigewitch) Kruger	SND Office
2001-2002	Mary Vammer	SND Office
2002-2003	Missy Sjolin	SND Office
2003-2005	Joanne Seifert	SND Office
2005-2007	Diane Axness	SND Office
2007-2010	Laura Forbes	SND Office
2010-2012	Sheri Hoffmann	SND Office
2012-2014	SND Staff	SND Office

# board MESSAGES



Hello everybody! Although we are struggling with another low snow year, we have nonetheless been very busy in Bismarck. It is a legislative session year and with that comes the preparation of testimony, testifying at committee hearings and following floor session votes. It is

very interesting and actually fun to be part of the entire legislative process, presenting and advancing the needs of the state snowmobile program. As I write this, everything we have brought forward has been well received with do pass recommendations in committee and some have already passed the Senate floor and will be going to the House side next.

We did our initial inspection loops in December and again signing was very good overall. We have a few trails open and are watching a snow storm right now that may add some much needed snow to our trails. It is so disheartening to see all the signing work get done and then wait again for snow. We are doing snow dances daily and keeping our fingers crossed!

We attended the board meeting and State Ride at Wahpeton and Mooreton last weekend. Lack of snow again dictated no riding and the use of fun buses for the run. The vintage sled event had a good showing with at least 10 sleds on display. Always fun to see the vintage stuff and hear it run.

I hope this finds everybody safe and healthy and I hope to see you all on the trails!

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**PRODUCT**  
*Review*



# ALPHA SERIES

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*REDEFINING INNOVATION*

# Club News

## MAGIC CITY DRIFTBUSTERS

It is comforting to think that the Magic City Driftbusters Club has been around since, I think, before I was born. One reason being that fact makes me still feel young, but also because it proves the club's ability to hang tight during the dry years.

Last weekend several club members took a road trip to snowmobile for the day at Lake Metigoshe. A few went Saturday, with another group on Sunday. The scenery and trail system are very nice, and can even make you feel a little like a dare devil as you cruise across many bodies of (hopefully) frozen water. Most years our club plans a day trip, or two, up to the lake to ride, but this year it was something more. This

year it was an opportunity to just get out and ride.

The group trips to the black hills this year also had that same underlying drive behind them as well. It was not only about getting to ride someplace different, it was the opportunity to ride at all.

So even though the amount of times we have been able to get out and ride this year has been limited, hopefully they have been enjoyable and memorable for all. I know for myself, I will not soon forget the black hills stories of those who may have fallen off their sleds; we, I mean they, don't need to be mentioned here. But, I would like to mention one of our senior

members, who still made it out on the trail with us to ride. It is our club president, Jerry Lawson, who rode both days last weekend. He also made the first trip to South Dakota as well.

As I listen to the wind whip around outside tonight, I speculate if late February and March will bring that fluffy white stuff our way. Hopefully this winter will go the way I overheard an elderly gentleman explain it to a new arrival. Well first we have a January thaw, and then in February up until May we can get snow. I sure hope he is mostly right, until early April anyway.

Jennifer Korgel

## ROUGH RIDERS SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION

Our winter weather conditions have been shifting from normal temperatures to nearly spring temps off and on but never cold enough with snow to get our trails opened. So on January 30 our Club did its 3rd annual ride in Deadwood, SD. About 28 club members made the trip and enjoyed good snow conditions and had a good time while there.

The December 2015 SND convention is in the planning stages and it is starting to look really good already. The dealers

are finding support from their manufactures and suppliers to get us some top of the line guest presenters and exhibitors for the convention. Getting early commitments from everyone is a key to make this a very good convention.

As I write this it is hard to believe that the rumors and even pictures and specs of new 2016 snowmobiles are hitting the internet. Seems like the 2015's were just being delivered to their happy owners and here's next

year's models. No wonder we like snowmobiles - there's just no end to the changes and new products to get excited about. Who doesn't like more horsepower and less weight, easier handling, better brakes and lights - all with factory warranty? Now just how much will it cost to trade?????

Bob Gregoire, Secretary

# Club News

## SOUTHERN VALLEY TRAIL RIDERS

It's still our motto...."Stuck on Snow, High on Wintertime!" We survived the 2015 ND State Ride without snow once again. The Southern Valley Trail Riders pulled off another great time with not enough of that white stuff. The weekend started off with the Snowmobile North Dakota Board meeting at the Baymont Inn in Wahpeton at 8 pm Friday, that was also attended by some of our club members. Thanks to the Snowmobile ND staff and board members that came to Mooreton and took in the Vintage Snowmobile Show at 9 am Saturday. Also, thanks to Marty and Dale for riding on the bus.

Thanks to Dave Link of Mooreton, Paul Kuzel of Lidgerwood and Perry Brintnell of Fordville for providing the great selection of vintage snowmobiles for all the community to enjoy. Glad Paul's

son got to celebrate his birthday at our vintage run.

Our day then moved to the Fun Run via a bus sponsored by Channel Seed. A big shout out to Channel Seed for supplying a great time on a beautiful and sunny North Dakota day. The bus commuted to various frequented "snowmobile stops" in Richland county. Thank you to all the businesses for making this a great day full of hospitality. Our ride ended in Mooreton at Buzz's Garage with great food, drink and service. We announced our big raffle at 10 pm with Monty Miller winning the Polaris 800 Ranger! We're still hoping for snow here in Richland County, maybe by the time you're reading this article, we'll have some!

Thanks to all our club members for all the signing they do even

in years like this and all the work they do behind the scenes. Remember to support your local snowmobile clubs throughout the state for some great North Dakota snowmobile experiences and best of all North Dakota Nice.

Renee Braun





**Moorhead, Minn.** (February 24, 2015) - After roughly 4300 Miles on the road the Bunke Racing crew has made it home from Michigan for the third and final time this year. The guys brought home a podium finish in the No Bull Triple Crown. This Triple crown event consisted of three 500 lap races. First, Starting in Kinross, Michigan. The Bunke crew came out in full force and took the checkered flag nailing down the first place position. Next up for the No Bull was the Soo I-500. The team had a great sled again this year and were determined to win. The race was unfortunately cut short due to snow conditions and their position at that time was once again on the podium taking the third place position. The team was devastated with the call of the race breaking the winning streak. Which, made them push forward to the third and final race in Lincoln, Michigan. Heading into the third and final leg of the triple crown Gabe and Aaron were leading the triple crown by two points. A late start and timing wire issues again had the team frustrated. Around lap 320 the timing wire was cut and the officials had to cut the race short again. Unfortunately, at this time in the race the Bunke racing sled was sitting in seventh position. "On these longer races we strategize for the end and always plan for 500 laps," said Gabe Bunke " Because of bad luck and shortened races our good fortune was cut short and we ended in the third position for the Triple Crown. "

"We wouldn't be able to compete and be successful without the help of our sponsors and crew members. We appreciate all the support we have received and we are now more determined than ever to get back out and run the No Bull Triple crown in 2016 and win. Thank you to all of our sponsors and fans for your continued support," said Gabe Bunke. " We have two more cross country races to finish out our 2014-2015 season and we are looking for that checkered flag."

Next up for Bunke Racing is the USXC Seven Clans 300 in Thief River Falls, February 28 and March 1st. It will be a 2 day ditch and river race. For more info on Bunke Racing visit [www.bunkeracing.com](http://www.bunkeracing.com). You can also follow Bunke Racing on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/BunkeRacing>



## NEW PRODUCT

# Giant Loop Snow Tracker Packer™ Ruggedized Holster Secures SPOT Gen3 to Rider



*Highly Visible, Accessible Location Enables Quickly SPOT Gen3 Deployment in Emergencies*

**(BEND, OREGON USA)** Adventure proof packing and gear systems innovator Giant Loop Snow has introduced the Tracker Packer™ ruggedized holster for the SPOT Gen3 GPS-enabled location tracker and emergency beacon. When traveling beyond cell phone range, the Tracker Packer and SPOT Gen3 enable snowmobilers and snow bike riders to quickly deploy the SPOT's SOS signal in the event of an emergency, sending the GPS location to an international emergency response coordination center.



The super rugged and secure Tracker Packer firmly attaches the SPOT Gen3 device to the rider's arm, backpack shoulder strap or many other locations. Redundant closures and multiple connection points help prevent the SPOT from becoming separated from rider, even in the most extreme conditions. Just as the best practice is to carry snow shovel, avalanche beacon and probe on the rider, the Tracker Packer positions the SPOT within reach, in a horizontal position for optimal satellite signal.

By keeping the device in a visible, easy-to-access location, anyone on the scene can activate the SPOT's emergency signal. When traveling beyond cell service, riders can also let family and friends know they are OK and use it to track their routes.

Tracker Packer features include a high-visibility closure printed with "EMERGENCY," a redundant double hook-and-loop SPOT Gen3 attachment system, a heavy duty hook-and-loop band, Slip-Not grippy backing, foam padding to absorb shock and vibration, reflective trim for visibility, fully bound seams and webbing loops with grommets for additional mounting and tethering options.

Made in USA with military-specification components and materials, the Tracker Packer is backed by a limited lifetime warranty. USA MSRP is \$40. The Tracker Packer is available bundled with the SPOT Gen3 for \$150 exclusively at [www.giantloopsnow.com](http://www.giantloopsnow.com).

Giant Loop worked in conjunction with four-time Baja 1000 winner Quinn Cody and the Kurt Caselli Foundation to develop the Tracker Packer to help keep off-road motorcycle racers and riders safer. A portion of all Tracker Packer sales will be donated to the Kurt Caselli Foundation ([www.kurtcaselli.com](http://www.kurtcaselli.com)). For more information and to contribute to the Kurt Caselli Foundation, visit [www.kurtcaselli.com](http://www.kurtcaselli.com).

Giant Loop adventure proof motorcycle, snowmobile and outdoor packing and gear systems are available from international distributors, as well as from a network of dealers throughout the USA. Giant Loop is a rider-owned company that designs and tests products in Bend, Oregon. For all the details, go to [www.giantloopsnow.com](http://www.giantloopsnow.com).

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# SKI-DOO BULLETIN

## BRP ADDS MORE COLORS TO SKI-DOO MODELS

Summit X and Renegade Enduro get additional colors, Electro-mechanical reverse added to Renegade Enduro with 900 ACE and 1200 4-TEC w/ITC

Valcourt, QC March, 3, 2015, In response to dealer input, BRP has added two new colors to the 2016 Ski-Doo model line-up plus an upgraded reverse feature.

Spring buyers for the Summit X can now choose from the new Matte Black/Lava Red color combination, Matte Black/Sunburst Yellow option or Black option.



Riders looking for the new Renegade Enduro model will be able to choose from a new Black look or Northern Lichen. In addition those Enduro buyers choosing the 900 ACE or 1200 4-TEC w/ITC engine will get an Electro-mechanical reverse for easier operation.





For more information on Ski-Doo snowmobiles visit [www.ski-doo.com](http://www.ski-doo.com), or the On Track blog site



#### About BRP

BRP (TSX: DOO) is a global leader in the design, development, manufacturing, distribution and marketing of powersports vehicles and propulsion systems. Its portfolio includes Ski-Doo and Lynx snowmobiles, Sea-Doo watercraft, Can-Am all-terrain and side-by-side vehicles, Can-Am Spyder roadsters, Evinrude and Rotax marine propulsion systems as well as Rotax engines for karts, motorcycles and recreational aircraft. BRP supports its line of products with a dedicated parts, accessories and clothing business. With annual sales of over CA\$3 billion from 105 countries, the Company employs approximately 7,100 people worldwide.

[www.brp.com](http://www.brp.com)

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# SKI-DOO BULLETIN

# SKI-DOO BULLETIN



## BLAIR MORGAN TO VISIT VALCOURT GRAND PRIX

**Valcourt, QC February 16, 2015**, This year's Valcourt Grand Prix will have a special guest on hand as legendary X-Team snocross racer Blair Morgan will return to visit during the weekend festivities.

This will be Blair's first visit back to the storied Grand Prix track since 2008 where he will serve as Master of Ceremonies for some of the weekend races. Fans and racers will get a chance to meet the snocross icon throughout the racing action, which starts on Friday and runs through Sunday. Blair Morgan revolutionized the sport with his standup riding style when he burst on the National snocross scene in 1997. Others followed and learned from him, but he blazed the trail and always demonstrated the ability to see fast lines no one else could. Blair was recently inducted into the Snowmobile Racing Hall of Fame – an honor well deserved.

For more information on Ski-Doo snowmobiles visit [www.ski-doo.com](http://www.ski-doo.com), or the On Track blog site for racing specific information. For information on the Valcourt Grand Prix visit [www.grandprixvalcourt.com](http://www.grandprixvalcourt.com)



## **Polaris Acquires Hammerhead Off-Road Vehicles Business**

### **Expertise in Light Utility Vehicles and Go-Karts Complements Polaris' Existing Product Portfolio**

**MINNEAPOLIS (February 18, 2015)** —Polaris Industries Inc. (NYSE: PII) today announced it has signed an agreement to acquire HH Investment Limited ("Hammerhead"). Hammerhead manufactures gasoline powered go-karts, light utility vehicles, and electric utility vehicles in Shanghai, China. The Company markets its products globally under the Hammerhead Offroad® brand, along with maintaining key private label relationships with other OEMs. The transaction is expected to close within the next 90 days. The terms of the pending transaction were not disclosed.

"Hammerhead provides Polaris with a unique opportunity to expand both our international manufacturing footprint and our armada of off-road products," said Scott Wine, Polaris Chairman and CEO. "We are impressed by the entrepreneurial spirit and passion for innovation of the Hammerhead team, and look forward to pursuing new customers in new markets with their high-quality and low-cost off-road vehicles. We are excited to establish Polaris' operational footprint in China and believe the opportunities for further international growth are significant."

Hammerhead's main manufacturing operation is located in Shanghai, China, near Polaris' Chinese subsidiary. Hammerhead also has an operation located north of Dallas, Texas responsible for light assembly and sales distribution of its products in North America. Hammerhead will continue to market its products under the Hammerhead brand and operate under its current leadership structure as a stand-alone entity.

"I am thrilled at the opportunity to make Hammerhead a part of Polaris and its growing portfolio of global brands," said Jerry Qiu, Chairman of Hammerhead. "I am very proud of what we have built at Hammerhead. We share the same enthusiasm and passion for off-road vehicles as Polaris and look forward to sharing our mutual expertise as we take our products, engineering and manufacturing skills to the next level."





## **Polaris Takes the “Plunge” in a Big Way** **Company was No.1 fundraiser for all Large Minnesota Corporations at the White Bear Lake Plunge**

**Minneapolis, February 13, 2015** – Polaris® Industries Inc. (NYSE: PII) today announced the company, through its employees and matched by The Polaris Foundation, raised almost \$30,000 for Special Olympics Minnesota. The company also donated two snowmobiles which will be offered at raffle by the organization.

“Polaris is proud to lead the way in fundraising efforts for the Special Olympics Minnesota’s Polar Plunge,” said Scott Wine, Polaris Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. “This organization provides wonderful programs for more than 8,100 Special Olympic Minnesota athletes and I’m pleased our employees embraced the cause in such a big way.”

As part of the fundraising effort, Polaris employees had the No. 1 team with 110 “Plungers” from the organization participating at the White Bear Lake Plunge, on Saturday, January 31. The event saw more than 8,000 attendees, consisting of “Plungers” and spectators, who spent the day watching the Plunge, snacking on food, meeting “Snowflake,” the Plunge mascot, and checking out Polaris’ new ground-breaking on-road vehicle, Polaris Slingshot®.

The White Bear Polar Plunge was only the second of several Plunges happening around the state. Interested parties can find more information at [plungemn.org](http://plungemn.org). People interested in the snowmobiles being raffled by Special Olympics Minnesota can find more information at [www.plungemn.org/polaris-raffle](http://www.plungemn.org/polaris-raffle) or by visiting any of the upcoming metro Plunge locations to purchase a raffle ticket.



# Go Snowmobiling/Take a Friend Snowmobiling Campaign expands on Facebook and on the Web



**HASLETT, MI, February 19, 2015:** The Take a Friend Snowmobiling Week proved to be a great success. Clubs, groups and Associations across North America held fun rides, military rides, Political rides and just had fun snowmobiling with friends. Following the designated week, many individuals are planning additional rides with new and old friends alike. There is still a good bit of winter ahead of us and the trails and riding areas in many areas are in phenomenal shape. Remember too that this time of year, the daylight is getting little longer and provides slightly warmer temperatures for our riding comfort.

The Take a Friend ride that I participated in highlighted again for me the WOW factor and the pure enjoyment that people have on a snowmobile. I rode with a number of first time snowmobilers and they couldn't quit talking about how much fun it was and how they couldn't wait to do it again! Thankfully I was well prepared for the ride and made sure that my guests were well dressed and comfortable. I have been fortunate to have snowmobiled with the Intrepid Snowmobiler – Craig Nicholson. Craig recently wrote an article on "how to shape your friends' experience to help determine if snowmobiling wins over another convert." Craig's article hit the nail on the head when he stated that the first thing to remember is: "Your friend is not experienced. Keep the ride slow, short and simple. Chances are that your normal ride would seem like a marathon to an uninitiated friend." A few well put words from Craig go a long way when introducing your friends to snowmobiling. As Craig highlights to me, "Don't show off or push the envelope or challenge your friend beyond their capabilities or comfort zone. Remember, you're the one that snowmobiles and understands his/her machine. Let your friend enjoy the day. Go slow, make it short, make it simple, and by the way....it always helps to feed them well."

The Go Snowmobiling/Take a Friend Snowmobiling campaign continues to expand with new additions to the Go Snowmobiling Web site. The Safe Riders! 22 minute safety video is now available on YouTube and can be accessed through the Go Snowmobiling Web site at <http://www.gosnowmobiling.org/snowmobiling-resources.html#InstructionalVideo> , or the ISMA Web site at <http://www.snowmobile.org/snowmobilesafety.asp> . This is a great tool when introducing a friend to snowmobiling to help make your ride more enjoyable.

If you "LIKE" our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/GoSnowmobiling](http://www.facebook.com/GoSnowmobiling) , you may notice that more snowmobilers are posting their pictures and their experiences to our page. We have over 7500 friends who visit our page regularly and it is common for our fun and informative posts to be forwarded to thousands of snowmobile enthusiasts. A new addition to the Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/GoSnowmobiling/app\\_190322544333196](http://www.facebook.com/GoSnowmobiling/app_190322544333196)) and Go Snowmobiling web site ([www.gosnowmobiling.org/snowmobiler-survey.html](http://www.gosnowmobiling.org/snowmobiler-survey.html)) is a short general survey through Survey Monkey. We ask that everyone visiting our Facebook page take this short 10 question survey, (and if you haven't done so yet, "LIKE" our page! [www.facebook.com/GoSnowmobiling](http://www.facebook.com/GoSnowmobiling)) This survey helps us to better understand the needs of snowmobilers, enabling us to develop programs that will benefit all of us and help us expand the trail systems and riding areas.

Remember that the Take a Friend Snowmobiling contest runs until March 31, 2015. Applications to win the contest are available on the web site. Contest applications are due by April 30, 2015. We look forward to many more late winter rides this year as it appears the ground hog was correct and winter will be with us for a while longer.



# BRC & COALITION LEADERS HONORED AT **SNOWEST** 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

**GOLDEN, CO (February 17, 2015)** -- On January 30th and 31st SnoWest Magazine hosted a major event to Celebrate 40 years of the magazine's history. The weekend featured a number of events and brought several hundred riders to West Yellowstone. The attendees came from all over the U.S, and Canada.

The included a number of fun activities, such as demo rides of the latest snowmobile models, a poker run, a donation ride challenge, vintage snowmobile races, a video contest and much more.

One of the highlights of the event for me was a ride led by SnoWest Publisher, Steve Janes. Also on the ride were Chuck Wells the first supervisor of the Idaho State Snowmobile program, and I. We toured the outstanding trail system starting in West Yellowstone and traveling into Idaho and back to Montana. We stopped several times to take pictures and discuss the "good old days."



-----  
 Jack Welch (foreground), BRC Vice President, rides along on one of the many activities at the event to celebrate 40 years of the SnoWest history (photo by Steve Janes, SnoWest Magazine).  
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The SnoWest 40th Anniversary event culminated Saturday afternoon with a SnoWest Recognition Awards Ceremony held in the Union Pacific Dining Hall.

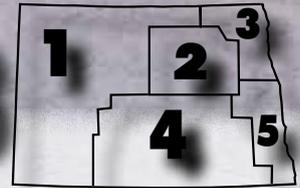
The event, attended by several hundred snowmobile enthusiasts highlighted those individuals, organizations, businesses and governmental agencies that had made significant contributions to western snowmobiling over the past 40 years.

Those receiving the Outstanding Lifetime Contribution Awards included myself and Kay Lloyd. The Award reads "Forty Years on the Mountain - For outstanding lifetime contribution and continued enthusiasm..." When I was presented my award, Steve Janes thanked me for my efforts as Past President of the BlueRibbon Coalition (BRC) in ensuring that snowmobilers continue to have the opportunity to visit Yellowstone Park in the Winter on non-commercially guided trips. BRC Board Member, Kay Lloyd, was recognized for her efforts in organized snowmobiling in Washington State and Western U.S. Additional snowmobile leaders from snowmobile businesses, industry and governmental agencies received recognition also.

Outstanding Contribution Awards went to the BlueRibbon Coalition and additional individuals, businesses, snowmobile clubs and governmental agencies from the region. It was an honor to be recognized and to accept the awards, as an individual and on behalf of the BlueRibbon Coalition. Many thanks to SnoWest Magazine for presenting these awards, and recognizing our efforts on behalf of over-the-snow recreation.



# Region Reports



## Jeff Seifert- Region 5

Well here it is February 10th and we finally got a 4" snowfall. It's still not enough to ride but it's a start. This year I'm measuring the distance my sled has traveled in feet not miles... from the storage shed to the garage.

I just returned from our club meeting and we have decided to cancel our big annual event SnowJam. We can only hope for a better snow next year. Six of us from the Rural Cass Snowmobile Club attended the State Ride in Mooreton last weekend. Unfortunately we were in a vehicle, not on a sled, but it was still a good time. I would like to thank the Southern Valley Trail Riders for hosting and putting on a great event with the Fun Bus even though there was no snow. The stops along were all glad to see us and they demonstrated what a great trail system they have and support, even in low snowyears.

Jeff

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# North Dakota Parks & Recreation

The 64th legislative session is now in full swing and the snowmobilers or "snowmopeople" as referred to by Senator Oelke from Devils Lake, are becoming recognizable faces at the capitol. The North Dakota snowmobile program has a large legislative agenda this session and has seen favorable support from the snowmobiling community and legislators. All hearings have a strong snowmobile enthusiast presence which has shown favorably to North Dakota decision makers.

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD) is involved in some capacity with all the snowmobile legislation but the bill that most affects the agency is Senate Bill 2139. This bill would transfer what agency licenses snowmobiles, from North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) to NDPRD. This change makes sense to NDDOT, NDPRD, Snowmobile North Dakota (SND) and legislators because it is a natural fit, given our agencies current involvement in the snowmobile program. We have the ability to develop our snowmobile licensing process to better serve the snowmobiling community and adapt to any trends. Our current methodology is to model the licensing process similar to North Dakota Game and Fish and their licensing of boats.

This bill will also remove the titling requirement for snowmobiles; which should make the transfer of ownership easier, especially across state lines. We have heard from many snowmobilers during the development of the 2013-2017 Snowmobile Program Strategic Plan of their desire to remove the titling requirement. This will also keep

North Dakota current with national practices for not titling snowmobiles.

The current status of this bill saw a unanimous pass in the Senate (47 yeas, 0 nays) and the bill was sent to the House of Representatives. If this bill passes the House of Representatives and is signed into law by the Governor it will become effective July 1, 2016. This delayed effective date will give NDPRD time to develop the computer system to administer snowmobile licensing and to inform the public of this change. We will also be working closely with Snowmobile North Dakota during this time to develop best practices for snowmobile licensing.

Finally, I want to thank SND and the volunteers who make the North Dakota Snowmobile Program a success. It is great to know there is a dedicated group of enthusiasts that make the state snowmobile trail system possible.

Matt Gardner



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\*While installation of MPI Turbo Kit will not 'void' your snowmobile's warranty, specific failures determined by Yamaha to have resulted from installation of kit components or other modification may not be covered by the Yamaha limited warranty or extended service coverage. Dealer installation costs not included. \*The warranty is a three year factory limited warranty. See dealer for details. \*\*On approved credit. See dealer for details. \$500 customer deposit required which will be applied to down payment. Some conditions apply. See your participating Yamaha dealer for complete details or visit [Yamaha-motor.com](http://Yamaha-motor.com). Professional rider shown in controlled conditions.

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