

SNO-DAK NEWS

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Snowmobile North Dakota

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Board Messages



Executive Director

Hello everybody! Our snow dances have finally paid off this year! I'm getting guff in the office already for doing too much snow dancing. We have not had this much snow in many years. Reminds me of my years growing up on the farm in the 70's. We would push snow every morning so we were able to feed cows and could ride snowmobile in any direction as the fences were buried. Opening of several trail systems this season was delayed due to the deep snow

hindering groomer mobility. Many areas had to go out and pack trail without the drag and still had difficulty avoiding getting buried. Truly a good snow year.

At this time we are still contending with poor ice in cattails and sloughs as the heavy snow came before we had good ice. Some of the lakes that have ice do not have good clear ice as the snow was mixed in with it. Many trails have been rerouted to allow for opening and grooming. Just another example of ever changing conditions and weather in North Dakota.

I was able to get to all 13 trail systems for inspections

before Christmas this season. The signing overall across the state was again very good. It is always inspiring to see all of the hard work and effort that goes in to the trail systems across the state. Always remember your hard work does not go unnoticed. Countless volunteer hours are spent maintaining the trails. Keep up the great work.

Hoping for favorable weather and the snow to hold for the state ride in Rugby so I can see you all out on the trails!

Todd Thronson



**Laura Forbes
Vice President**

Hi everyone,
Well this winter has been full of challenges, lots of snow and high winds. We haven't seen this much snow for years. It is a good feeling driving

down the highway and seeing snowmobiles in the ditches and on the trails or you are in your yard and you hear BRAAP! I have been to a few fun runs. I have noticed MANY snowmobiles not licensed.

We have announced at the runs the reasons snowmobilers should license their sleds. They still don't license their sleds. There were 14,186 registered sleds in the State of North Dakota, for the years 2013-2015. As of October 2016, there

were 10,271 registered sleds in the State of North Dakota. Everyone knows there are more than 10,271 sleds in the State of North Dakota. My question to you how do we get people to register their snowmobiles?

Please let the public know how important the trails are to North Dakota and the snowmobiler enthusiasts that use the trails. Stay safe on the trails!

Board Messages

Joanne Seifert -
Secretary

Here are some updates from the two most recent board meetings, the December board of directors meeting held December 2, 2016 and the annual meeting held December 3, 2016.

The NDPRD team met with Governor Burgum's transition team to discuss rec and tech. He was interested in the snowmobile program, especially the groomer tracking software.

Revenue from the registrations is up even though numbers are initially down due to increase in registration costs and gas taxes. Hopefully registrations will increase with all the snow we've had. Discussions are being held regarding what type of vehicle should be allowed on a snowmobile trail. A proposal was made to allow tracked and

ski vehicles, not side-by-sides during the snowmobile season, if they pay a fee and get a permit they'll be able to use the trail. This will create interest in the trail system and expand our user base and hopefully expand our clubs memberships as well. This will likely be enacted next year.

A new groomer is up at the Red River Club in Grafton. A new drag went to Sheyenne Valley and the 8' drag in Casselton is going to the Northeast.

The Grant and Aid applications have been reviewed and awarded. \$700 went to Lake Region for their warming house and \$349.50 went to Rugby for their lean to.

CERT training is offered to clubs wishing to participate as emergency response vehicles, contact Todd or Tari and they will put you in contact with the appropriate representative for

the training.

The State Ride is in Rugby this year on February 4, 2017, all are welcome to attend. There will be a board of directors meeting this weekend as well.

There are not bids yet for the 2017 State Convention or the 2018 State Ride or State Convention. Clubs wishing to make a bid need to contact Todd or Tari in the office.

New Board Members were elected at the State Convention. They are Vice President Laura Forbes, Director-At-Large Mark Forbes, Region 1 Paula Berg, and Region 2 Quince Hambeck. Welcome to the new board members!!

Joanne Seifert

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*Erik
Dietrich*

Hey all you snowmobilers!!

WOW!! We are into February already. We have had a heavy snow year in a lot of areas and have more trails opened then in the previous 3 years! Waterways definitely had a late freeze though with ice not thickening up until early January. I hope everyone has been enjoying their winter!! State ride just finished up in Rugby and it was great to see everyone again!

In this article I am going to talk about riding on the ice since we did have late freeze up. That's right, lakes, rivers, creeks and slews. These are places that a lot of snowmobile enthusiasts like to ride on but should also know some of the hazards associated with bodies of water.

First things first, if you don't see any tracks going out onto the water, don't try to be the leader and make first tracks because it is probably not being driven on for a reason. NDPRD and SND recommends that the ice be AT LEAST 8 in. thick it to be safe for you to take your snowmobile out on. A good rule to go by is if you see ice houses out on the lake or river, it is probably safe

to ride on.

Ice is a funny thing, it could be 20 in. thick on one side of the lake and on the other side it could be 2 in. thick or have open water! Remember, be very careful when driving on bodies of water and NEVER completely feel safe on the ice! ALWAYS be WATCHFUL of where you are going!!

If you have any questions or any stories you would like to pass on, please feel free to call me at 701-328-5357.

Be safe and enjoy the snowmobile season!!

I'll see you on the trail,

Erik
Motorized Recreation Coordinator

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CLUB ❄️ NEWS



Sheyenne Sno-Drifters

We are so excited to have snow! Unfortunately most of it came after a Christmas day filled with rain (yes, RAIN). That base layer of ice followed by snow and strong winds worked together to create some bare spots on trails. Members have been busy scoping out trail conditions, contemplating emergency trail relocation to snow-filled ditches, and repairing a groomer to get it out so we can open trails. Something that hasn't happened for a few years now.

In the meantime, our club has partnered with the Barnes County Museum to set up a window display. This is our third year of utilizing one of their big front windows on Central Avenue and we appreciate the opportunity to bring some awareness of our club to the public. This year's theme is snowmobile racing. We have a couple kids on their Kitty Kat just getting into the sport and an Arctic Cat EXT 282 owned by Jerry Perkins. For a bit of humor, we've added a mechanic working on the race sled. This year we are planning on expanding on the window display with an open house inside the museum. Our hope is to get some of the people who used to race just south of Valley City to come in and share their stories and have a slide show with pictures of the old races and results running alongside. It will also be a great opportunity to share information on current club events and how club members work to maintain local trails.

Speaking of current events, members of the club should be back from a long weekend trip to the Black Hills and we have a few other things in the works for the area. If all goes as planned there will be a Vintage Show and Poker Run in Fort Ransom on March 4th and Cabin Fever Days—a joint venture between the Sheyenne SnoDrifters and the James River Drifts Skippers—on February 11th.

Become a member of our Facebook page 'Sheyenne SnoDrifters Snowmobile Club' for event updates, photos, and information on local grooming.



CLUB ❄️ NEWS



Turtle River Roughriders

Other than the usual yearly business of getting the trail signage in place, scheduling some club trips and events, the Turtle River Roughriders hosted Santa and Mrs. Claus on December 15th. The club members pitch in and donated their extra lights, tinsel, trees and other various Christmas decorations and dressed up both the inside and outside of the Manvel Community Center for the Fourth Annual visit from Santa.

There were approximately 100 children that were able to share their Christmas wish with the man in the big red suit. Other activities to keep the little ones occupied as they waited in line included cookie decorating and games. Free pictures are taken, and a printout or two is given to each family.



This is a 100 percent free event for the families and children, and is growing more and more every year. It has turned out to be a great event for our club, and the surrounding communities of Manvel, ND. What other non-snowmobile related events is your club doing?

Brandon Thorvilson

Dakota Trailblazers

The Dakota Trailblazers Snowmobile Club has been doing some riding. The temps have been cold and the wind blowing a lot. The trails in the Minot Sno-Trails system have been groomed when the wind lets up. There has been over 60 inches of snow in the Minot area.

The Dakota Trailblazers had a Fun Run on December 10th with 295 cards sold. It was a very cold day but there were about 20 riders.

We had a supper and meeting on January 6th at the White Buffalo in Granville. We finalized the plans for a club weekend at the Lake Metigoshe State Parks Slemen Lodge. It will be February 10th-11th. The Sno-Trails system has new maps of the trails around the Minot area. There are many sponsor support ads on the map. Please support local. Sno-Trails is having a Fun Run and vintage show in Deering February 26th and all are welcome.

Until next time, see you on the trails!

Dale Deibert



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THE Region Reports



Dale Deibert Region 1

Dale Deibert reporting from Region 1 from Minot for Snowmobile North Dakota.

The Minot and surrounding area has had over 60 inches of snow thus far this winter. The weather has been cold and the wind blowing a lot. The trails have been groomed but blowing a lot with this wind. Some grooming has been done at the Lake Metigoshe area, but with very poor ice no trails have been groomed across the lake area.

The Bottineau County Family Snowmobilers have a ride every Sunday starting at 1 pm. They meet at the restaurant on the east side of Lake Metigoshe by the Quilt Inn Hotel and the Four Seasons Resort store and gas station.

The Minot snowmobile clubs had some Fun Runs this winter. The Dakota Trailblazers had a run on December 10th with 295 cards sold. The Magic City Driftbusters had a run on January 7th with 418 cards sold. The Sno-Trails system has a new trail map out. There are many supportive sponsors on the map, so please support them.

Sno-Trails is having a Fun Run and vintage show on Sunday, February 26th in Deering, all are welcome. Bye for now and see you on the trails.

Paula Berg Region 1

Greetings from the Turtle Mountains! As a new member to the SND Board of Directors I am excited to work with Dale Deibert representing Region 1. I am retired from Dakota College at Bottineau and live in the Turtle Mountains with my husband who still brings home a paycheck! We are fortunate that we can hit the trails right from our home in the hills. And fortunate that we have advanced from our first sled, a Sno Flite!

Like most of the state the Peace Garden Trails have a lot of snow. However we are still running across sloughs and marshes that did not freeze before the area got hit with a pile of snow. The lake edges have started to firm up and good ice is forming. The Seldom Seen Club has submitted for approval an emergency trail change so that they can groom a segment of their trail. The Bottineau County Family Snowmobilers have been busy signing and trying to establish a loop that can be groomed. Both clubs are somewhat frustrated with the slush and lack of ice that they are finding scattered throughout the trails. Maybe by the next issue of SnoDak both clubs will have some segments of their trails groomed.



Mark Forbes
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Jesse Fritz Region 2

A few months ago in one of my last region reports I closed my article with, “the Facebook map says so”. This was in regards to snowfall amounts and winter predictions according to maps on my Facebook news feedback in October. Well, they were right! Even though it was close to 60 degrees the Saturday after Thanksgiving, Old Man winter has got us in a Stranglehold since. This has been one for the ages. Storm after storm in December finally got us snowmobilers back in business! There has been plenty of Fun Runs in the area and on January 7th the Northern Lights Trailblazers in Rugby hosted their annual run. High temperatures soared to -10, but didn’t stop over 60 riders from entering that day. Yours truly even picked up a cool \$100 for having the low hand. I had a couple guys come from Bismarck for the ride and they had a blast. They had never been to the area and were impressed with how welcoming and polite all of the billers’ were. Kudos to the many great people across the state who share the same courtesy. In addition to the many riding opportunities all this snow brings, it’s been fun to scan the Bismarck snowmobile category this winter. Instead of page after page of M8’s and Dragons that nobody wants, some older but not quite vintage sleds have come out of the woodworks and are available for purchase. I wish I had about \$20K and an empty storage unit to fill.

I’m not sure what the rest of the winter will bring, but I hope you will enjoy it. If you were lucky enough to take in the State Run in Rugby, I hope you enjoyed that too. I know I did! And remember, the next time the National Weather Service names a winter storm after a song performed by a musician who was present at Woodstock 1969, it’s going to be a good one! In 20 years we’ll still be talking about the Christmas of 2016. #Europa

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