

SNO-DAK NEWS

Winter is coming

Board Messages
Club News
Region Reports

DATED MATERIAL

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Snowmobile North Dakota

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Latest News

Board Messages



As I start my 13th season with Snowmobile North Dakota, I reflect on how things have changed and yet remain the same. We face many of the same challenges as in the past but also look forward to what technology will bring to be used to accomplish our mission. The work at SND is always interesting to be sure. It is hard to believe it is also the start of my 3rd season as the Executive Director. My how time flies!

As we look back on the 2016-2017 season, it feels good to state that we at least had a normal to above normal snow year. We were able to groom in some areas that had not seen action in 5 years. Some of the normal snow areas were left short however. Much of the state trails with water areas to cross struggled with thin and unsafe ice issues do to early snow before freeze up.

This past season we were set to start using the groomer gps tracking system with

Automated Logistic Systems. We were able to provide a link on the website which showed which trails had recently been groomed. We are working on integrating the record keeping features of the tracking system. The company does have some updates and improvements coming as well.

Snowmobile North Dakota is so fortunate to have the involvement of so many awesome volunteers across the state. Although we are always in need of more help and involvement, we always seem to have those core people that year after year step up and take care of what needs to be done. Without these key people, we would not be able to move forward. Again, I sincerely thank them all.

I had the pleasure again to attend the International Snowmobile Congress (ISC) which was in Winnipeg, MB in June. I participated in many meetings with fellow administrators and had discussions with other states regarding how they manage their trail programs. Very interesting to visit with other people that deal with many of the same challenges

and hurdles as we do in our program. I came away from the conference with reviewed insight from fellow administrators. I look forward to attending again in the future.

Although our registration numbers are down this past year, our revenue was up 12.8 per cent due to the increase in registration fees and gas tax rate. The cost to register a snowmobile was raised from \$40.00 every two years to \$50.00 for two years. This has helped balance things even with the low registration numbers. We had good snow in many areas this past season and are surely hoping for snow this coming season to get our numbers and interest up.

SND looks forward to the future as we constantly grow to incorporate new technologies, funding sources and other resources. We need to remember SND's vision: "to generate excitement for the sport of snowmobiling!"

Todd Thronson

Board Messages



Troy Klevgard
President

Hello all,
Where did the summer go?
I couldn't believe it when Tari sent out the reminders that it was time to start thinking about our articles. Speaking of that. First off, I'd like to thank both Tari and Todd for keeping me on task over the summer making sure that I keep up with all my duties. They both do a great job and I am glad to have them both in the office.

Second order of business is to remind everyone of the SND convention. This year will be in Bismarck. There will be a board meeting on Friday night



Sherman Pladsen
Director-At-Large

Hello Fellow Snowmobilers!

Wow, this summer went by fast! Well, after being off the Board for 6 years, here I am again.

and annual meeting, classes and banquet at the Ramada on Saturday the 16th of December. I know it's repetitive to say, but it's a great way to gain ideas for your club and well, just a great time to get together with other snowmobile enthusiasts.

If you haven't heard, long time board member and friend of ours Perry Brintnell was in an accident in July. At the time I am writing this article he is continuing to make positive progress. Please keep him and his family in your thoughts and prayers during this time. If you would like to help offset some of the healthcare costs a fund has been established at Bremer Bank in Fordville. Donations can be made to Perry Brintnell Benefit.

After this dry dry summer, I think it's only fair that Mother Nature will grant us our wish

I am now taking on the job of Director-At-Large from Mark Forbes, who has moved out of state. It is my job to inform people of upcoming events and happenings.

First of all, the SND State Convention will be held in Bismarck at the Ramada on the 16th of December with the Directors meeting to be held at the SND office on the 15th.

of a "normal" snowfall. (I don't want to appear greedy)

It's been tough on us the last few years, signing the trails, maintaining the groomers, only to see them sit idle for most or all of the season. I know my wife heard me grumble more than a few times this last winter asking myself.... Why do we do this again? Good thing I have a short memory and the first ride of the season, I will know exactly why we do this!
"It's not about the miles, it's all about the smiles."

Troy Klevgard.

SnoTrails will be holding their first meeting on October 10, 2017; Coulee Cruisers on October 4, 2017; Drift Dusters on October 6, 2017; and the Dakota Trailblazers will also be on October 6, 2017.

That is all that I have for now so have a great fall and see you this winter!

Sherman Pladsen

Board Messages



Laura Forbes
Vice President

Hi everyone,
How was your summer? For me it has been very dry in the Minot area, by the month of June our grass looked like it does in the middle of winter and crunched when we walked on it. Rain or snow would be nice.

The million-dollar question is how do we get the younger generation involved? Well I don't have an answer but I do have a few ideas. Over the years I have belonged to many different organizations, some of them were for work and others personal.

I noticed it is always the same people doing everything. So why is that?

Work- I feel if you belong to the organization and it is for work, you probably didn't want to belong but you were forced too. Well then you will have no interest in helping the organization by volunteering or how to make the organization grow.

Personal – Some people want something for everything they do or they are scared they are going to have to do all this work and it is going to take time away from having fun. We need to show them that we have fun and don't work all the time. We need to explain how volunteering does have benefits. A person takes 2 hours out of their time in the fall to help put up signs for the trails they will have countless hours of riding time

during the winter. If they are interested in running a piece of equipment, explain to them what it takes to run it and then let them try it. Who cares if they don't know how to run the piece of equipment or put up signs. We need to show them they could be good at it. Last time I checked you are no Einstein! I know one thing is for sure we need to change something because the old way is not working. We are spiraling in the wrong direction and if we don't change there will no longer be trails for the outdoor enthusiasts to use.

Laura Forbes

39th Annual 2017 SND Convention

Location: Ramada
1400 E Interchange Ave, Bismarck, ND
701-258-7000

Date: December 16, 2017

- Block of Rooms under Snowmobile ND
- \$84/plus taxes Standard Room
- \$94/plus taxes King Room
- Registration Coming Soon
- Saturday List of Events:
- Annual Meeting
- Lunch
- Classes



North Dakota Parks & Recreation



Benjamin Potts

Hello all,

Hope you all have had a great year so far. I know I am preaching to the choir when I ask this, but seriously, where did the summer go? As I type out this article (Aug 25th), the Pembina Gorge is already starting to change colors. At this point, portions of our OHV trails

are covered with acorns, yikes.

With the OHV season winding down and snowmobile season right around the corner, it's time to start thinking about snowmobile safety. During the next couple of months, we will be hanging up our OHV helmets and

breaking out the Snowmobile gear. This transition is a good time for a quick run though of all our safety gear such as helmets, jackets, snow pants, snow boots, and any survival gear we take onto the trails.

This period is also great for getting kids motivated for snowmobile safety. A quick reminder, any child ages 10 and older without a driver's license must be certified in order to operate a sled on all public lands including the State Trails. Parents interested in having their child certified can get more information from www.parkrec.nd.gov. Kids can either take an online test or attend a class. The physical classes cost \$20 and typically run for 4 hours with a test during the last hour. If any parent or local club is interested in scheduling a class, you can call (701) 328-5348. A big thank you to the local snowmobile clubs, they have done an amazing job hosting these classes throughout the years.

As always,
Ride Safe, Ride Smart.
Benjamin Potts

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CLUB * NEWS



Dakota Trail Blazers

Where has the summer gone, it sure went by fast!

Dale Deibert reporting for the Dakota Trailblazers Snowmobile Club of Minot.

I had the opportunity to attend the International Snowmobile Congress (ISC) June 7-10th at the Victoria Inn Convention Centre in Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada. It was a very interesting and informative congress. Over 300 people attend from all over the country. There was grooming equipment displays and many meetings US, Canada and International snowmobile topics. The congress ended with an awards banquet and the Thirsty Dogs closing out the Saturday night.

The Dakota Trailblazers did not have a summer campout get together this summer. It is hard to get the members all together on the same day.

I participated in the Bottineau Crazy Days on August 5th and set up a booth for Snowmobile North Dakota and information for the local snowmobile clubs. It was very well attended.

I will be attending HayDays Grass Drags and Swapmeet in North Branch, MN September 9-10th.

The first meeting of the Dakota Trailblazers will be October 6, place to be announced.

Snowmobile trail signing for the Sno-Trails Systems will begin in later October.

The Snowmobile North Dakota (SND) Convention will be December 16th, with a Board of Directors meeting December 15th. All meetings and classes will be held December 16th at the Ramada Inn, Bismarck. Hope to see you all there! Bye for now.

Dale Deibert

Rough Riders Snowmobile Club

Hello! Hard to believe it's that time of year to start having meetings and think about snowmobiling. Hopefully we get off to a great start here in Bismarck for snow like we did las year. Only it could have lasted longer, but it was great while it lasted.

We already have had two meetings and are discussing new projects for the year. One is maybe a warming house on our trail system and another is a swap meet, which is scheduled for October 28 at the 4H Building in Bismarck. So if you have any sked, parts or anything snow related bring it or contact us. ND Parks and Recreation will be having a snowmobile youth safety class at the swap meet on October 28. More information on Facebook and other social media sites to come.

Also, would like to mention we lost one of our foundation members who says he retired from snowmobiling. Think if we get a lot of snow, Bob will be itching to get back out. We sure will miss him. BRP Avalanche class will be held once again at Moritz Sport & Marine on October 25th at 6:00 pm. Hope to see you there!!

Don Schmidt

Region Reports



Paula Berg Region 1

Greetings Fellow Snowmobilers

Our snowmobile registration renewals were in the mail a few weeks ago which was a reminder that it will soon be time to get ready to ride. Even though the calendar says it is fall and sweatshirt weather I am already wondering what type of winter we will have. Sure hoping for the snowfall we had last year but also hoping it freezes hard first so we don't have the tough trail conditions again.

Fall is also the time for a lot of the associations and clubs to meet and plan for the coming season. Fall trail grubbing will likely be a topic. The Peace Garden Trails will have a number of landowner elk hunters out hunting during the time they usually grub trails so some prior planning will be needed.

Here are a few things that happened around Region 1 this summer:

- In June Dale Deibert attended the International Snowmobile Congress in Winnipeg. Next year is the 50th anniversary of the organization and the event will be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The dates are June 13-16, 2018.
- The Bottineau County Family Snowmobilers (BCFS) had an information booth on display at the Bottineau County Fair.
- Bottineau held a Vintage Car, Tractor and Snowmobile show in early August. The BCFS had asked to have a booth but somehow it expanded to vintage snowmobiles without much notice! But there were 14 sleds registered and members from the BCFS, Dakota Trailblazers and Magic City Drifters were represented. The club will probably participate next year as there was a lot of interest in the old sleds.
- The Sno Trails groomer made an appearance at the parade in Surrey in August. Thanks to Dale Deibert for showing off the groomer.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in December in Bismarck

Jesse Fritz Region 2

Greetings fellow snowmobilers! Another year of Sno-Dak News and snowmobiling in North Dakota is upon us. Let's make it great again! Last winter was a blessing; let's hope this year will be much of the same. I am especially excited because any day now Keri Wanner will be calling to say my new 2018 Ski-Doo has been delivered and is ready for pickup. Woot Woot! As far as Region 2 news is concerned, it's kind of quiet around here early in the season. Club membership remains stable, but most clubs could always use another helping hand. Making a cold call to a maybe "not so active" member for help is encouraged. Sometimes we need a little assistance in getting involved..... The Rugby area had a few wicked storms this summer that damaged lots of crops and downed trees along the trail system. The south warming house had downed trees everywhere but Cory Heilman, Randy Knain and Jason Fedje made short work of the mess and it's ready to host club activities again. I hope this newsletter finds you in good health and excited for another season of snowmobiling in North Dakota.

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