

THE ALBERTA Snowmobiler



LEARNING FROM OTHERS

QUEBEC SNOWMOBILE TRAIL SYSTEM SETS AN EXAMPLE
BY DARRYL COPITHORNE, President

Thirty-four clubs, over 6,500 kilometres of managed trails, an active and enthusiastic board of directors and dozens of events all across the province—in a nutshell this is the Alberta Snowmobile Association.

For me the 2010/2011 snowmobile season was even busier than my first year as president of the ASA. I was relieved that we had the NTC trail program behind us, but our clubs still kept up trail building and trail improvement projects throughout the year. My hat goes off to our trail building clubs for all the ongoing work the club volunteers put into our snowmobile trails.

Working with our clubs and helping with trail projects is a fairly big part of the behind-the-scenes work the ASA board and staff do on a regular basis. Our zone directors work directly with clubs on trail projects, and then the trail committee and the entire ASA board work to make trail projects move forward. This all consumes quite a bit of volunteer time. Throughout all this our faithful office staff fills in the blanks and makes it all happen.

Between working with clubs, the ongoing land use issues, and the daily business of managing an organization of this size, we also took on and hosted the 2011 International Snowmobile Congress (ISC) in Calgary June 1 to 4. This turned out to be a monumental undertaking for our board and especially our office staff. Nobody within our group had any experience organizing an event like this and the international ISC committee offered little in the way of assistance. But after a rocky start our volunteer group found its groove and by the time the event started it went

off like we had been doing events like this for years.

A special thank you to the ASA ISC organizing committee who put in hundreds of hours of time to make this event the success it was:

Pat McGrath, Fran McGrath, Denise England, George Deputat, Pat Deputat, Joel Wasnidge, Mike Laing, Lauri Copithorne, Darryl Copithorne, Chris Brookes and Shannon Banting.

As well as our organizing committee we had about a dozen volunteers who spent four days working the event. Thank you to all those valuable members of our team.

At Calgary we had:

- 183 delegates from the United States
- 141 delegates from Canada (68 from Alberta)
- 5 from Sweden
- 5 from Russia

For those of you who attended the ISC, we hope you enjoyed the event. I know I did, and if you were not there you missed out on a great congress. Remember that you can attend the ISC every year, no matter where it is held. Next year it is in Sturbridge, Massachusetts, and the team from Sled Mass did a great job presenting their vision for next year at our ISC.

At the ASA we continue to maintain a great working relationship with various provincial government ministries. In June I was invited to and attended a premier's outing and dinner at St. Paul, where we discussed managed trails with the premier and a number of ministers and MLAs. A great outing for us.

Continued on page 2 sidebar ►



Darryl Copithorne (centre) and Jerry Bidulock (right) learning about the snowmobile trails in Quebec.



Darryl Copithorne (second from right) in Quebec with Minister Cindy Ady, Jerry Bidulock and members of the Quebec snowmobile federation.

>> EVENTS

Hosting an event or ride? Don't forget to post it on the ASA website calendar for all to see!

Edmonton Snowmobile, ATV & Off-Road Show
October 21 - 23, 2011
 Edmonton Northlands Expo Centre, Edmonton

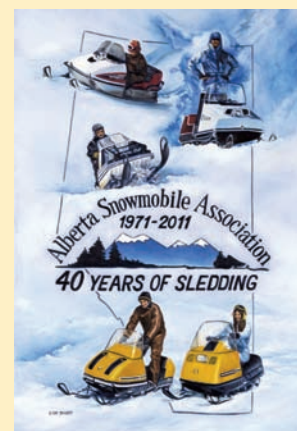
ASA Annual Snowmobile Excellence Awards
October 22, 2011 • 7 p.m.
 Edmonton Northlands Expo Centre, Edmonton

ASA Semi-Annual General Meeting
October 23, 2011 • 9 a.m.
 Edmonton Northlands Expo Centre, Edmonton

>> NEWS

40th Anniversary prints

We are selling limited edition 40th Anniversary prints by Pat Deputat. Prints will be on sale at all ASA events throughout the year.



Cont'd. on page 3 sidebar ►

SLEDS2BUY.COM





Sledding's impact is huge

ENJOY TWO NEW FEATURES WITH THIS NEWSLETTER

BY CHRIS BROOKES, Executive Director

Welcome to the fall 2011 edition of the *Alberta Snowmobiler!* It's hard to believe that the 2011/2012 snow season will soon be upon us (notice I say snow season and not winter—as I tell everyone, I love playin' in the snow, it's the cold I can do without). This last part of 2011 will complete our 40th season as an association and what a time we have been having. We have included in this issue a copy of the 40th Anniversary Sled Raffle poster where we are raffling off a fully restored 1971 Ski-Doo. With the hard work, time, effort and resources from our friends at the Alberta Relic Riders, the ASA will facilitate the raffle and all proceeds will go to Ronald McDonald House. I can't think of a better family-focused charity for the funds to go to.

Our friends at the Alberta Relic Riders helped us put on a fantastic display at the Calgary ISC and will have an exhibit at the Snowmobile & ATV Show as well. These are a bunch of hard-working, dedicated volunteers who work to preserve our sledding history and it's great to be able to help them display the fruits of their labours. You can learn some more about them at <http://www.relicrider.ca>.

Another nice event at the ISC in Calgary was the presentation by Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation Assistant Deputy Minister Bob Scott, where he presented the Economic Impact Study of snowmobiling in Alberta. For the first time, a study was done solely on the impact of snowmobiling, unrelated to other off-highway vehicles.

From Bob's speech: "Overall, the total direct spending attributed to sledding in Alberta in 2009 was estimated at \$366 million. Of this, almost 70 per cent was attributed to tourism activity with the other 30 per cent spent by snowmobiling enthusiasts and clubs on equipment and accessories. In 2009, the total net impact, province-wide, is estimated at \$387 million with almost 6,500 jobs supported province-wide."

These are some huge numbers! When we are talking about an economic impact in the hundreds of millions, we need to make sure we are recognized for what we bring to Alberta. The Ministry of Tourism, Parks and Recreation has even posted the study on its home page at: <http://tpr.alberta.ca/tourism/research/docs/Economic-Impact-of-Snowmobiling-in-Alberta-in2009.pdf>.

The ASA has taken a big step towards completing the Trans Canadian Snowmobile Trail (TCST) in Alberta. Working with the Fox Creek, Swan City and Wembley clubs, our contractor has finalized the route to connect Fox Creek to Big Mountain (south of Grande Prairie), over to the Wembley area, and then to the B.C. border. Currently, a snowmobiler can get on the TCST in Nova Scotia and ride across Canada, reaching Fox Creek, Alberta, where the trail ends. The ASA committed many years ago to connecting the trail through Alberta and it is now becoming a reality.

Copies of the plan are at the ASA office for interested parties.

Sled Smart, the ASA's educational school program, completed another successful season last year, presenting our safe riding program to over 10,000 Alberta students. Currently, the Alberta school curriculum does not provide any sort of educational component to our kids on how to properly operate a motorized snowmobile or off-highway vehicle. The ASA decided 10 years ago to help fill this void and bring into the schools, free of charge, a program that will teach them responsible snowmobile and OHV use, snowmobile and OHV safety and basic riding techniques.

Originally borrowing from the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) program of the same name, the ASA has been working with the province to develop an Alberta curriculum, to better assist our youth in understanding the dynamics of where they are riding. The ASA and the province have completed a new program, Ride With Respect, that all safety instruction programs will be required to use in Alberta, ensuring we are all bringing the same messages and program into Alberta schools. As the association with the longest track record in this area in Alberta, the ASA was instrumental in the development of this program and will use it in our ongoing programming.

As we have grown, developed our own curriculum and expanded our program to all corners of Alberta, we are also rebranding the ASA program. Our school program will now come under the Safe Riders program, better communicating the fact that our instructors teach all-season safe riding, not dependent on machine type. We

Continued on page 5 sidebar ►

>> CLUB NEWS

► DARRYL COPITHORNE *Continued from page 1*

In February Jerry Bidulock and I had the honour of joining the Honourable Cindy Ady, Minister of Tourism, Parks and Recreation, on an outing to Quebec to discuss and experience the Quebec snowmobile trail system. The Quebec snowmobile trail system is truly amazing and sets an example of how to do things that we can all learn from—33,000 kilometres of managed, groomed snowmobile trails with 452 groomers keeping the trails in fantastic shape. This is possible through compulsory trail passes and hundreds of volunteers putting thousands of hours of their time into their trails.

Quebec also has managed, groomed trails for ATVs, which are, for the most part, separate from the snowmobile trails, only sharing the trails when necessary to access urban areas and infrastructure like road crossings and bridges, then separating. Minister Ady and her executive assistant saw first-hand how these systems work and that wheels do not belong on snowmobile trails. Fortunately Quebec has a well organized ATV association as well as the provincial snowmobile association, and they work well together to manage a provincial trail network for all users.

This was a very worthwhile outing for the ASA and fell directly after our CCSO meetings in Newfoundland and Labrador, so I was gone for eight days on ASA business. These were just two of the outings that the ASA took part in, but were probably the most important.

2011/2012 looks to be even more exciting for the ASA and a busy time for me.

**Don't
drink & ride . . .**
snowmobiling is a high!





Athabasca club completes trails

BY LYLE BIRNIE, Northwest Zone Regional Director

Reports are due for the fall edition of *SnoRiders* magazine and we haven't seen too much of summer—2011 to date has been a disaster for many areas with fires, floods and hailstorms but, on the bright side, we did have a lot of snow for the sledders. The winter rallies were well attended and Fox Creek hosted an excellent jamboree. To date we do not have a host for the 2012 Jamboree and it would be nice if a club would step forward.

The ASA hosted the International Snowmobile Congress in Calgary June 1st through to the 4th with around 350 registrations. People came from Sweden, Russia, Canada and the United States. The trade show had 19 booths along with four groomers on display outside the hotel on Stephen Avenue.

There were many information sessions along with meetings among the affiliate organizations. There was a video group filming each day with screening of the resulting footage held during breakfast—it was very entertaining to see who was performing the day before. There were some members from my zone who enjoyed the conference. Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped to make this conference a success.

Some of the clubs in the Northwest Zone are preparing for the Westlock club's rally, which will be on February 4, 2012. As well, Athabasca's rally is on the Sunday of the Family Day weekend and Whitecourt is hosting their rally on the Saturday and Sunday of the long weekend.

I received this write-up from the Athabasca club: The Athabasca River Runners are excited

about the upcoming season. We have recently completed 88 kilometres of new trails, including the Spotted Horse Lake Trail, the Grassy Lake Trail and the Bilsky Loop. Check out our new map at the Athabasca County tourism booth or at the ASA trade show in October. Please buy a trail pass to help maintain our trails (buy where you ride) as you know the groomer doesn't run on air. Trail passes are available at Athabasca Outdoor Products (780-675-7009) or from Jean at 780-675-3229.

For trail information contact Dave Bilsky at 780-689-0622 or check the ASA website at www.althasnowmobile.ab.ca.

Athabasca's meetings are on the second Wednesday of the month from November to March.

To contact clubs in the Northwest Zone I have listed their email addresses:

- Athabasca: Jean Bilsky - bil3229@telus.net
- Alberta Beach: Marlene Eckert - marlene2@xplornet.com
- Barrhead: Alan Breikreitz - alanbbz@hotmail.com
- Edson: Brant Baron - baron16@telus.net
- Fox Creek: Arnie Mostowich - logerlis@telusplanet.net
- Spruce Grove: Leanne Whaling - leannwha@essentials.ab.ca
- Swan Hills: Dwight Steenhart - dsstenhart@telus.net
- Westlock: Lyle Birnie - ljbirnie@telus.net
- Whitecourt: Ken Linford - whitecourttrailblazers@hotmail.com

The joy of sledding—pass it on

BY VERN PEDERSON, Southern Regional Director

Something was forwarded to me the other day that got me thinking about what we can do for the sledding community as a whole. *We can take a friend snowmobiling!* A lot of us have a group of people we choose to go snowmobiling with. For some it's the sleds they ride—Cat riders stick together as well as the turbos or the Ski-Doos and Polaris's. Maybe this is because parts are easy to exchange or the colours match. The list of reasons can be long, including riding ability, as sometimes three or four riders can have an awesome ride because of where they go and the time it takes to get there.

This is not to take away from the rides that have a great number of riders in which the lack of experience of some of the riders dictates where the group goes. I think all riders understand this and,

if they do not, they soon learn.

We can all look back and pick out those rides that bring out smiles and fond memories. We chat about them with our friends, co-workers and other family members. Some think of us as a crazy bunch of people that are all risk-takers, high-markers, or have total lack of respect for the land that we travel on. Talking with some of them, you might as well be speaking another language—the WOT T-shirts say it the best, "If I Have To Explain It, You Won't Understand." That is such a true statement as you cannot smell or taste a picture of food, or experience the breathtaking views of mountain peaks or the prairie sunset on those cool evenings. The only way to get that kind of stimulus is in person.

Continued on sidebar ►

>> CLUB NEWS

► CLUB NEWS

Cont'd. from pg. 1 sidebar

Economic impact of snowmobiling in Alberta

The province has released its study on the economic benefits of snowmobiling in Alberta. The report is on the home page of the Ministry of Tourism, Parks and Recreation, under the spotlight section heading <http://tpr.alberta.ca>.

2012 Go Snowmobiling Take a Friend Snowmobiling campaign

Want to earn \$5,000 for your club? ISMA (www.snowmobile.org) has sponsored a contest to get your friends out on the trails with you. Check details at the ASA website.

ASA celebrates 40 years of organized sledding in the province

The ASA is celebrating its 40th birthday this year and you can participate! In partnership with the Alberta Relic Riders, we will raffle off a completely restored 1971 Ski-Doo, lovingly rebuilt by the Relic Riders. It will be on display at the ISC conference and the Snowmobile Show, where it will be raffled off. All proceeds will go to Ronald McDonald House for families of sick children.

► VERN PEDERSON

Continued from left

Many people I know who have gone sledding for the first time are now sledders or have a totally new understanding of the sledding experience. This sport is not for everyone but you will never know unless you try.

One of my fondest memories was an opportunity to take out some school kids. One evening the local club met at a school field after a nice dump of snow. The club made arrangements to take Grade 4, 5 and 6 students for a couple of laps around the field. Many

Cont'd. on pg. 4 sidebar ►



CCSO Excellence Award winners

>> CLUB NEWS

In June the Alberta Snowmobile Association (ASA) hosted a very successful International Snowmobile Congress (ISC) with representatives from four countries in attendance. With 400 snowmobilers from the U.S., Sweden, Russia and Canada talking snow, the antique sleds throughout the Calgary Hyatt Regency Hotel and the groomers lining Stephen Avenue, tall tales and fun were had by all as plans were discussed for the 2012 season. Well done, ASA!

CCSO Excellence Awards were presented at the President's Awards Banquet Gala on Saturday night at ISC. Congratulations to all the nominees and a special thank you to all for your efforts to highlight the many success stories. The award winners in each category were:

Outstanding Snowmobile Dealership: the 2011 CCSO Snowmobile Excellence Award goes to Enns Brothers from Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Outstanding Snow-Related Company: the 2011 CCSO Snowmobile Excellence Award goes to SnowandMud.com from Alberta.

Outstanding Snowmobile Promotion & Development: the 2011 CCSO Snowmobile Excel-

lence Award goes to Cycle Works West from Alberta.

Outstanding Snowmobile Club: the 2011 CCSO Snowmobile Excellence Award goes to the Wasaga Snowmobile Club from Ontario.

Outstanding Snowmobile Family: the 2011 CCSO Snowmobile Excellence Award goes to the Byman family - Greg, Barb and his son Bryce from Revelstoke, B.C.

Outstanding Snowmobiler: the 2011 CCSO Snowmobile Excellence Award goes to Laurent Caoutte from Quebec.

Outstanding Youth - The Pete Greenlaw Award: the 2011 CCSO Snowmobile Excellence Award goes to Blake Schofield from Gravenhurst, Ontario.

CCSO Environmental Recognition Award for 2011 goes to the Alberta Snowmobile Association (ASA).

The Canadian Council of Snowmobile Organizations would like to thank everyone for their nominations and wishes to congratulate all of this year's winners of the 2011 CCSO Excellence Awards.



Profile: Whitecourt Trailblazers

- Established in 1979
- Club meets monthly on the second Wednesday of each month, October to April each year
- One of Alberta's largest snowmobile clubs with annual membership/ASA trail pass sales exceeding 300 per season
- 455 kilometres of trail system
 - Includes portion of the Golden Triangle Trail system and the Trans Canada Trail
 - Golden Triangle is a 350-kilometre trail system that joins the communities of Whitecourt, Swan Hills and Fox Creek via developed snowmobile trails
 - Also includes the Summit Trail that joins the Whitecourt and Edson snowmobile trail systems and leads riders to the Silver Summit ski area north of Edson—a great destination with food and lodging available. It's a 200-kilometre return trip from Whitecourt, so extra fuel is needed.
 - Club owns one snowcat and drag groomer. Trails are groomed weekly Monday through Thursday; however, due to the size of the trail



system some trails that don't see as much weekly traffic are only groomed a few times per season (Summit Trail south of the Summit warm-up shelter and Golden Triangle/Trans Canada Trail northeast of Carson warm-up shelter).

- Two staging areas, three warm-up shelters, three lookouts. All staging areas, warm-up shelters and lookouts have washrooms, firepits and picnic tables.

RECENT INITIATIVES

• Completed extensive upgrades in 2009/2010 in conjunction with the federal NTC program; \$500,000 was spent on the development of 100 kilometres of new trails, 100 kilometres of trail upgrades, an upgrade to the parking lot at our main staging area (Eagle River snowmobile staging area) and the development of a second staging area south of Whitecourt at the Groat Creek recreational area.

• Extensive signage program for the 2010/2011 season and the 2011/2012 season. More than

Continued on page 5 ►

► VERN PEDERSON Cont'd. from pg. 3 sidebar

of these children had never been close to a machine before—for some it was a total thrill and for some it was very scary. At that time some of us had very loud machines and I was one of them. We asked for consent from their parents before they were allowed to ride. It was a total success and the response from the children to their teachers was that of total appreciation.

There was a young boy who jumped on my sled as we went around and said he wanted to go faster—a bit of a thrill seeker I would say! It was getting close to the end of the night so I told him to stick around and the last ride would be his. I later found out he was not alone in his request—six or seven others wanted the same. The track had been running all night and was in perfect shape for some speed—nothing too radical—so we opened up with a nod from the other riders and were off. But, by far, the best ride of the night for us was not that one, but the ones with the kids who had never experienced snowmobiling before that night. The smiles that came from those kids spoke volumes. That is what leads people to this sport. Sure, some of it is the thrill, the freedom and the company of others. That is how we all got started in this sport—someone took the time to take us for a ride and now look at us!

Summer is now over and I hope everyone enjoyed themselves. The snow dance started in my house a few weeks ago. There is a lot to talk about in regards to what is happening in the sledding community—that is why I urge you to become a part of your local club and get involved in its activities. Support the efforts of the association in its efforts to have a place for all of us to ride in the future.



► **WHITECOURT PROFILE cont'd. from page 4**

1,000 volunteer hours were required to complete the signage program.

• Developed a new website in 2010/2011 (www.whitecourtrailblazers.ca)

• More than 2,000 volunteer hours required annually to maintain the club trail system, staging areas, warm-up shelters and lookouts.

• Hosted an avalanche course in Whitecourt in 2010. This is the third avalanche course we've hosted in the past nine years. The club has provided avalanche training to more than 200 sledders.

• Hosted the 2009 ASA Jamboree and Sled Invasion. More than 1,200 sledders took part in the two-day snowmobile rally and more than 9,000 spectators took in the snowmobile freestyle shows on Friday and Sunday nights (5,000 on Friday night, February 13/09, and 4,000 on Sunday night February 15/09). The club had a volunteer group of 160 volunteers to host the weekend event.

• ASA Club of the Year 2009.

• Meeting with SRD, oil and gas and lumber companies on a regular basis to discuss their work and any new industrial development near our trail system.

ANNUAL INITIATIVES

• Host Alberta's largest snowmobile rallies each February on the Family Day long weekend. Two-day rally consisting of two different 80-kilometre tracks. More than \$15,000 in cash and prizes annually plus a new snowmobile giveaway each year for the past four years. Tickets on the snowmobile available for \$5 each.

• Host annual VIP and media ride that includes MPs, MLAs, municipal leaders, SRD, Edmonton and local print, radio, and TV media. 40-kilometre trail ride to warm-up shelter with trail lunch and wind-up mixer after the event. Snowmobiles and gear provided by club members to VIPs and media.

• Provide chainsaw safety training to club members.

• Clean snowmobile trails using quads and chainsaws each year in November to remove fallen trees. Generally 600 to 1,000 volunteer hours are required to complete this task.

• Club has a booth at the ASA Snowmobile Show each year in October.

• Average of 300 groomer hours over an eight-week grooming season—generally from January 15 to March 15 each year, about 40 hours per week of grooming during the snowmobile season.



>> CLUB NEWS

► **CHRIS BROOKES**
Continued from page 2

are proud of the fact that our efforts have been very successful in helping to bring the message of Safe Riding to our youth, and we will continue to grow the program.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the 2011 Alberta Snowmobile, ATV and Off-Road Show at Edmonton Northlands Expo Centre, on October 21, 22 and 23 (<http://www.albertasnowmobileshow.com>). As many of you know, the ASA owns and produces this show every year, with the proceeds coming back to the ASA. This is our main fundraiser for the year and, with the help of our new show manager Peri Price, we are making this year's show bigger and better than previous years. Peri brings many years of show production experience to the position and we have been having a great time working with her.

The show this year has expanded and added another hall to the floor plan, as we grow to meet the demand. Many parts of the show experience for attendees are not controlled by us (parking, concessions, etc.) but the parts we do control are being tailored to meet the requests of show patrons and exhibitors alike.

Also this year, same as the previous two, we will hold the ASA Snowmobile Excellence Awards Banquet on the evening of Saturday, October 22. Conveniently held at the Expo Centre with the show, our annual awards night celebrates and recognizes the best of Alberta snowmobiling. As a volunteer organization, we recognize the dedication and contributions our members make, helping this last year to take our trail system to over 6,200 kilometres of managed trails in Alberta. Nobody builds, grooms and maintains trails like the ASA!

Continued on page 8 ►

Alberta Snowmobile Association

Help celebrate the Alberta Snowmobile Association's 40th Anniversary

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All proceeds will go to Ronald McDonald House® Northern Alberta

Tickets \$10.00 each – only 1000 tickets printed

Contact the ASA for details at (780) 427-2695

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Draw to be made October 23, 2011

Alberta Snowmobile Association

2011 Alberta Snowmobile ATV & Off-Road Show

Oct 21 - 23, 2011

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Great Show Deals!

Come celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Alberta Snowmobile Association

brought to you by:

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Adults - \$15 | Youth & Seniors - \$12 | Kids 12 & Under - FREE
Friday 4pm-10pm | Saturday 10am-7pm | Sunday 11am-5pm
Tickets Available at Ticketmaster 780.451.8000 or at:
albertasnowmobileshow.com



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ASA CLUB MEMBERS

Snowmobile clubs are an integral part of this popular sport with activities including development of trail networks and staging areas, competitive events, trail rides, picnic/bonfire rides, safety clinics, fundraising for charity, camping trips, search and rescue and maintenance clinics. Club activities are often family oriented, so all ages join in the fun and also the work to make the fun possible. Check out the list of member clubs. Is your club a member? The ASA can help you form a club if there isn't one in your area. Call us at our office (780) 427-2695 or visit www.altasnowmobile.ab.ca.

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► CHRIS BROOKES
continued from page 5 sidebar

On Sunday morning, also at the Expo Centre, the ASA will hold its semi-annual general meeting, bringing together all our clubs and executive, to discuss the business of the ASA. We plan this year to bring in the executive director of the Canadian Council of Snowmobile Organizations (CCSO), Dennis Burns, to give us an update on national matters. Dennis joined us last year and enjoyed the weekend experience and will be back again this year.

You will also notice in this issue of the *Alberta Snowmobiler* two new features. The first is an ar-

ticle that will present to you information from Dennis and the CCSO. We will provide space for the CCSO to present items of interest, concerns or just plain FYI for you from the national perspective. The other new feature will be a club profile. This issue features a description of the Whitecourt Trailblazers and who they are. With 34 clubs among us, it's sometimes easy to miss out on who is with us. This feature will allow the ASA clubs to re-introduce themselves to us, so we know who we are on the trail with. I am looking for the next issue's club to profile, so if you want to write up who you are, send it to the ASA office and we'll get busy.



Great memories from ISC

NOT MUCH HAS CHANGED IN THE PAST 40 YEARS

BY JANET RIOPEL, Vice-President

It's trail pass time again. Yep, fall is here and it is time to get out and support your local club. Many of the clubs will be at the Snowmobile, ATV and Off-Road Show on October 21, 22 and 23 at Northlands Expo Centre, along with many other exhibitors. The Alberta Snowmobile Association has been putting on the show for 40 years now and to celebrate the association's 40th anniversary we are having a raffle to win a fully restored 1971 Ski-Doo TNT. Thanks to the Alberta Relic Riders who restored and donated the Ski-Doo for the prize. At \$10 a ticket and only 1,000 tickets printed, they will go fast. The draw will be made October 23, 2011, at the show, with all the proceeds going to Ronald McDonald House.

For those of you who made it down to Calgary for the International Snowmobile Congress (ISC), I hope that you had a great time and learned lots. It was great to have the first president of the Alberta Snowmobile Association, Mike Welykochy, attend and address the entire congress. Mike had some great stories about the ASA and how it got started along with the first *Alberta Snowmobiler* magazine. It is pretty good reading and was a big hit at the ISC. In the magazine it talks about a three-day trip to Jasper National Park on sleds—can you believe that? The magazine also talks about the International Snowmobile & Winter Fun Show. The first paragraph about the show says, "More than 50 different models will be unveiled at the Edmonton International Snowmobile & Winter Fun Show, September 25 - 27 at the Sportex Building at the Edmonton Exhibition Grounds."

Can you believe that—more than 50 different models of sleds! Emphasis on safety, dependability and noise reduction highlight the 1971 snowmobiles. It is unbelievable that not much has

changed in 40 years. OK, maybe there are not 50 different models of sleds each year, but safety, dependability and noise reduction are still on the top of the list for Arctic Cat, Polaris, Yamaha and BRP. I know that there are still a few reprints of the first *Alberta Snowmobiler* at the office if you would like to have a great read.

There have been a few changes to the board of directors since the spring meeting in Red Deer—Jesse Johnston will be acting Central director and George Deputat is secretary/treasurer. Shannon has resigned and Robyn Morrison has taken over her role in the office. We wish Shannon all the best and are sorry to see her leave the office, but she will still be an ASA member so we will be seeing her on the trails.

I am hoping to get to many club events this year and if you would like me or any other board member to attend your event please give us a shout so we can put you in our datebook. At the time of writing this article we still do not have a club that has stepped forward to host Jamboree 2012—it will be the first year in 40 years that there will be no jamboree. I do hope that there is a club that will take on this endeavour.

ISMA has a new contest out this year for the "Take a Friend Snowmobiling" campaign. The campaign this year is designed to encourage the associations to work with their local snowmobile clubs, visitor and convention bureaus, and other interested parties in developing and holding snowmobile demonstration rides this winter. The snowmobile riding events may be held any time between January 1 and March 31, 2012. The entry forms are due at the ISMA office by April 30, 2012. Your regional director has all the information and entry forms for this contest.

So here's to another great year. See you soon on the trails and remember to ride safe and sober!

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