



SNOSCENE



THE MORE THE MERRIER

EASTER SEALS BENEFITS FROM SNOWMOBILERS' GENEROSITY

BY ERIN HART, President

Wow, spring 2013 is upon us. I guess it is a case of time seeming to go quicker the older you get, at least from my perspective.

As I assemble this message to you all, I am on a flight to Toronto for the weekend for a celebration of life memorial for my wife's uncle who unexpectedly passed. Looking down on the snow-laden peaks of B.C. and Alberta from 35,000 feet, I reminisce about the sledding conversations I enjoyed in the past with Tammy's uncle and how he enjoyed the sport (much to his wife's chagrin...LOL). Here's hoping he finds some great riding areas in the next life!

Snowarama events have been happening all over the province and I personally want to thank all the hard-working volunteers within the B.C. Snowmobile Federation (BCSF) member clubs. Your generosity in raising funds for Easter Seals for kids with disabilities is much appreciated. For those of you that have not had an opportunity to participate and raise some funds, how about purchasing a BCSF/Let's Ride BC/Snowarama T-shirt? Simply go to the BCSF online store and purchase with your credit card. All proceeds from the sale of the shirts will be donated to Easter Seals. Thank you in advance for your purchase and monetary support.

The BCSF and Kelowna Snowmobile Club were honoured to host the CCSO spring annual general meeting (AGM) on March 9. It had been quite a while since all the provinces had travelled to B.C. and I personally want to thank Clayton Prince and his merry band of volunteers for making this happen. The following day, March 10, Clayton was leading more than 20 riders through the Graystokes area and from all accounts, everyone had a great time. A hearty thanks and pat on

the back for the Kelowna snow groomer operator(s) that had unbelievable trails ready for our Eastern guests.

Speaking of spring AGMs, the BCSF will hold its AGM on April 20 at Camp Winfield. I personally would like to invite you all to attend. Please feel free to contact Donegal in the BCSF office to let her know if you will be attending. The more the merrier and the BCSF board of directors always looks forward to input and comments from our members. We look forward to seeing you there!

I would be remiss to not thank International Motorsports of Langley, B.C., for the very kind use of the 2013 Arctic Cat M1100 turbo this past season. I've certainly had some fun with it. More experienced riders than I have taken it for a ride and have all given the machine glowing reviews. It certainly has made me a better rider! Getting used to the turbo was a little different but once I spent some time with it, the more I appreciated the extra punch it offered to get me out of trouble.

On a final note, I would like to thank the BCSF board of directors and office manager, Donegal Wilson, for their hard work over the 2012/2013 season. There is plenty of work that goes on behind the scenes that most members are unaware

of. As a volunteer management group, we try our best to supply you with the most up-to-date information with regard to all organized snowmobiling topics. I urge you all to volunteer some of your time for your local club as it is the strength of the member clubs that, in turn, keeps organized snowmobiling in the province strong.

Until next September, I wish you all a fun and enjoyable summer.



Brody and Hayley with Arctic Cat sled



Kindergarten class with Arctic Cat sled

>> CLUB NEWS

From the office

—by Donegal Wilson

Spring is almost here in Keremeos. The snow is gone in town and now comes my favourite time of year—yard work on Saturday and sledding on Sunday. The Similkameen is a great place to live. I have been busy here in the office having been away the first week of February for a trip to Northwest B.C.

I have been assembling and mailing out 266 safety kits for our instructors across the province that are providing the Industrial Snowmobile Operators course. This course is a WCB-recognized course that is aimed at people who are required to use snowmobiles in their workplace. If you are interested in attending a course or your company would like to host a course, please send me an email at office@bcsf.org.

As the season is winding down and you are thinking about getting your ATV, UTV or motorcycle out remember that your B.C. Snowmobile Federation membership provides year-round value by providing up to a 35 per cent discount on your summer toys too, through Capri Insurance (www.capri.ca).

I enjoyed meeting members of the Canadian Council of Snowmobile Organizations (CCSO) on March 10 in Kelowna. It was interesting to meet snowmobilers from across Canada and I enjoyed the ride hosted by the Kelowna Snowmobile Club to the Graystokes.



Northwest B.C. shows teamwork

BY DONEGAL WILSON

The Burns Lake Snowmobile Club invited me up to attend the Burns Lake Cold Smoke Drag Races, which took place on February 9 and 10. I couldn't miss the opportunity to visit my old stomping grounds in Smithers and visit with all the clubs and dealers along the way so I hit the road in the first part of February.

I had forgotten how pretty the drive is between Kitwanga and Terrace along the river. The coastal cedar trees, the Skeena River and the beautiful mountains on a clear day are a sight to see. I could not see the Seven Sisters Mountains but did manage to view some great pictures of them at a friend's.

Terrace was a lot busier than I remember and it is great to see so many people working. Thank you to the Terrace club for allowing me to join their meeting and I am looking forward to an invitation to the cabin opening when it happens.

The drag races in Burns Lake were a lot of fun and there were some fast machines there. The weather was amazingly warm and we had blue skies both days. On Saturday night they had a banquet and the local chefs-in-training made a wonderful, memorable meal. It was hard to refuse the delicious-looking pastries that everyone was raving about.

On Sunday the weather was beautiful again and I was terribly overdressed in all my gear. I guess it's better to have too much than not enough but I had to make several stops to remove layers! I am thinking of entering the drags next year just to try and win one of those coveted custom paddle trophies. Check them out on Facebook under Burns Lake Cold Smoke Drag.

From Burns Lake I headed out to Wells and had the pleasure of staying at Hubs Motel. The room was great and even had an electric fireplace in it. They are very snowmobile-friendly and you can purchase your trail pass right at Hubs. I met with the club in the newly re-opened curling rink. For such a small community it definitely has a lot going on and a very active group of people to make it happen. I saw the most snow

the whole trip in Wells. The local club is working with the Prince George club to groom an interconnected trail between the two communities. The Prince George club had an overnight ride to Wells on March 9. It is great to see these two clubs working together.

In meeting with the Wells Snowmobile Club and the Quesnel Snowmobile Club it came up that in their caribou closure areas they have 98 per cent compliance in all closed areas. This is a great number and a big thank you goes to the snowmobilers in this area that are in compliance to help keep these herds viable.

The Williams Lake Powder Kings have hosted a few well-attended events this year including a freestyle competition that sounded like a lot of fun. They also hosted a Sweetheart Ride from Williams Lake for an overnight stay in Wells. This trail system is part of the Gold Rush Snowmobile Trail. A committee has been established, including a representation from the BCSF, which is actively working towards access issues and grooming this trail from Clinton all the way to Wells as a destination trail.

In talking with all the dealers along the way business has been steady and many have seen increased sales of UTVs and side-by-sides for the mining and exploration sector. Most regions were having a low snow year that has impacted snowmobile sales. It was great to see how many dealers were supporting their local clubs and had memberships and trail passes available for purchase.

It was great to tour the Northwest and I would like to thank Sandman Hotels, Hubs Motel, North Country Inn, Sunshine Inn, and the friends I stayed with along the way for providing a great night's sleep. I would also like to thank all

the clubs for taking the time out to meet with me and I look forward to seeing you all again soon at our spring annual general meeting to be held April 20 in Kelowna at Camp Winfield.



Surprise road-level view in Hazelton



King of the Strip trophy



Kings of the Strip 2013

>> CLUB NEWS

CAC fundraiser —by Norm Kobylanski

On a mild Friday night in Grande Prairie, Alberta, in excess of 170 backcountry snowmobile enthusiasts got together at Spurs Cookhouse and Dance Hall for a fun-filled evening in support of a cause that is near and dear to our hearts—the development of the North Rockies area avalanche forecasting system.

The roast beef and chicken supper received rave reviews. Members of our group were able to bid on some amazing prizes that we received through the generosity of many local, and some not so local, businesses. Kudos to Ryan Shelley from Summit Avalanche Consulting for his presentation to the group. Some good laughs were had at the expense of the brave souls who put aside their long-track steeds and got aboard the mechanical bull. The 50/50 was completed jointly with the Swan City Snowmobile Club, which is the backbone behind the efforts of the North Rockies CAC fundraising committee.

As a group we were able to raise \$7,700 towards this cause. This would not have been possible without the collective belief that having consistent and accredited forecasting for our areas such as the Pine Pass and Kakwa, will save lives. We applaud the efforts of the Canadian Avalanche Centre to date and look forward to providing our support towards their future endeavours in the North Rockies. This was the third year that Paul Wheeler and Norm Kobylanski have put on this fundraiser. It was started on the fundamental belief that if you don't like something, then change it. Snowmobilers don't present problems—we provide solutions!

A great day in the Graystokes

BY DONEGAL WILSON

On March 10, 2013, the Kelowna Snowmobile Club hosted a ride into their Graystokes riding area for members of the Canadian Council of Snowmobile Organizations (CCSO). Members of the Kelowna Snowmobile Club, manufacturer representatives and dealers in the area all provided snowmobiles for the CCSO members to ride. It was a beautiful, mild day and visibility was excellent. It would have been great to have more fresh snow to play in but the conditions were still great.

Twenty-six people took part in the ride including our hosts from the Kelowna Snowmobile Club. Almost all the provinces and territories were represented with CCSO delegates from the Northwest Territories, B.C., Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island all taking part in the ride. Members and volunteers of the Kelowna Snowmobile Club and representatives from the B.C. Snowmobile Federation, including myself, also took part in the ride.

The Kelowna Snowmobile Club volunteers did an excellent job of moving a group that large along and no one got separated from the group at any point. Some of the local riders out enjoying the day were a little surprised to see a group that big pull into the main chalet for lunch. The main chalet of the Kelowna Snowmobile Club is a very large A-frame style cabin and was easy to access with groomed trails and maps all the way. It has an upstairs loft area and a large wood stove to keep you warm or to dry out your gear. It was so mild out that it was warmer outside than in the cabin and we did not bother to light a fire. We had a great lunch catered by the Kelowna Snowmobile Club and then continued on our ride.

Many of the CCSO riders had never ridden in B.C. and it was interesting to hear the different perspectives from riders on what was similar and what was different. Apparently, the Graystokes area is very similar to riding in Newfoundland and Labrador, only their trees are much smaller and they have more bowls. I assured them that there are many areas of B.C. where bowls and steep terrain are the everyday ride.

They all enjoyed the lookout where we could see Big White, Little White and the Monashee

mountain range. There were a few trees covered in snow, or "snow ghosts," that many of the riders wanted to have their pictures taken with. From the lookout there was a little drop down towards our next destination, which was quite a thrill for many of the riders that are not used to hills. With a little coaching at the top everyone got down without incident but remarked that it was a very fast descent.

I was amazed at how many kilometres of groomed trails there are in the Graystokes and how many other riding areas you can hook into. It was the ultimate playground with meadow after meadow and widely spaced trees that went on forever. It had great family terrain and if you had two-plus feet of fresh snow you would definitely want to pack fuel. It was hard to stay on the trail and avoid the temptation to dart off through the trees to reach some of the untouched meadows. But we were moving along fairly quickly and I did not want to become separated from the group.

I had never been on an organized trail ride before or ridden with such a large group, so it was fascinating for me to see all the different riding styles and how everyone was able to find some fun within their individual riding abilities. It was great to see the camaraderie among this group and to know that these are the people that are working together to advance organized snowmobiling in Canada and in their individual provinces.

The B.C. Snowmobile Federation would like to thank the

Kelowna Snowmobile Club and, specifically, Clayton Prince, Bryan Jackson, Dave Leimert, Robert Fiume and Myk and Lisa Detmers for organizing the ride and ensuring we all got back safely. Individuals or businesses that supported the ride with a generous donation of their time or snowmobiles are Stuart from Banner Recreation, Terry from Kelowna Yamaha, Jeremy from Valley Moto Sport, Gerry Dussesoy from BRP, Cory Davidson from Polaris, Doug from H&D Catering, BCSF safety instructor Herb Shaede and Roger Frost from Wide Open Throttle.

It was a wonderful day and the next sunny day after a snowfall I would definitely head towards the Graystokes with extra fuel to go play in those meadows!



>> CLUB EVENTS

April 6, 2013

Vintage Snowmobile Ride, Revelstoke Snowmobile Club

April 20, 2013

B.C. Snowmobile Federation Spring Annual General Meeting, BC Lions Society, Camp Winfield, Winfield, B.C.



Cranbrook poker run

The Cranbrook Snowmobile Club held its 28th Annual Poker Run on Saturday, February 23. The weather co-operated and gave us fresh snow the night before and sunshine for the day of the ride. The event was well attended and there was even a group of riders who made a special trip out from Saskatchewan just to attend our poker run. The poker run draws riders of all makes of sleds and it's a chance for others to showcase their "oldies." Everyone who participated in the poker run and those who attended the dinner and dance had a good time. We'll see everyone back in 2014.

Paradise Valley Snowmobile Assoc.

BY RICHARD CRONIER

It was a calm, quiet early Sunday morning on March 3, 2013, until the sound of thunder shattered the stillness—the thunder of more than 30 vintage sleds, that is. It took months of planning and preparation to get ready for this day and nobody knew that just hours before about 30 volunteers had been working to build a racetrack and concession booth, as well as placing a starter shack and hanging safety fence.

Arriving at 6 a.m.—in the darkness—was Vern Shaw, who quietly opened the gates to allow the first few racers to begin arriving at 6:15 to prep their sleds and their heads for a long day of racing. I remember seeing Vern as he met me at the gate. I said, “You’re here early, Vern,” and he quickly replied, “I hate being late!” You see, Vern is the kind of club member that everyone wished they had—faithful, dependable and willing. Pam Hewitt made arrangements to have qualified people do a speedy registration for our racers and soon after tech began at 7 a.m. sharp.

While waiting for the races to begin and the spectators to arrive, racers were able to enjoy a quick snack at the concession. They also enjoyed viewing the 35-plus vintage sleds that were beginning to arrive. Little did they know that, not only would they get to look at these beautiful sleds, but they would also be able to see an exhibition run of some of them. The Vintage Show ‘n Shine is always well attended and Randy and Cathy Derflur, who owned some of the collection on hand, are more than willing to talk about how their addiction has grown and grown over the years.

Vintage trophies were given out under the classes of Best Restored, Best Survivor and a People’s Choice award. The Paradise Valley Snowmobile Associ-

ation (PVSA) sees this event growing more and more popular every year, drawing more and more people to see the exhibition races for vintage sleds. Sleds included Nordics, Mercuries, Elites, Mustangs, Colts and a working 793-CC Motoski Bullet that was beautifully restored.

Races started at 10 a.m. and ran until 5 p.m. finishing with the Mod King Class, which was won by Murray Booth of Chetwynd, B.C. on his turbo Yamaha Apex. Booth was unbeatable at the lights proving the fastest trigger speed of the day. Improved King Class went to local rider Mark Sutton who had to earn every win on his 2004 RMK 800. I guess that’s the result of hours on his drag strip at home. Stock King Class was won by Colin Simlik riding his stock Pro RMK 800. Undoubtedly, it was nice to see some local talent win the \$500 classes but we also had winners go home in multiple classes from some very far-away places. A special thanks to our riders who came from Conklin, Alberta, a mere 745 kilometres from Dawson Creek. They also netted a pretty stack of winnings, nearly \$1,300. Riders also came from Grande Prairie, Alberta, Prince George, B.C., Fort St. John, B.C., and Tumbler Ridge, B.C.

Classes included Juniors, 500-cc to 900-plus in Stock, Improved Stock and Mod classes. Total payouts of prizes and trophies were close to \$7,500. The gates were lively with spectators as they lined the track to watch over 30 entries race 500 feet wide open. The day was filled with impressive tur-

bos, big bores, cookie cutters, belt drives and whatever else was hidden in those trailers. The club feels that this was an impres-

Continued on sidebar ►



>> CLUB EVENTS

► PARADISE VALLEY *Continued from left*

sive day for the community with almost 250 spectators. Our Facebook page was having videos and requests loaded on it for two days with people asking for photos. Check us out under Paradise Valley Snowmobile Association Dawson Creek. If you want to know more about races for next year please contact our race director, Mike Hewitt, at 250-782-4415.

The club would like to thank all our business sponsors for their support of this great community event. It never fails that we would forget a volunteer if we tried to make a list. It takes so many people, a lot of time and a huge amount of energy to make an event like this possible. So if you worked a gate or concession, gathered sponsor money, worked a shovel in the pits, hung snow fence, brought firewood, built a shack or a booth, did registration, cut willows, hauled equipment, ran a mower, pulled a groomer, parked cars or hung a poster—we thank you for making this race event a huge success!

Member showcase: **Mike Hewitt, club race director**

The Paradise Valley Snowmobile Association, which is based in Dawson Creek, has been active since the early '70s when the club was started by Bruce and Emma Holmes. The hardworking people of the Peace Country hand cut their trails—no wonder club members have such a strong work ethic. It is the dedication of many that make snowmobiling great in this province and we are glad to showcase our newest club director, Mike Hewitt.

Cont'd. on pg. 29 sidebar ►

For Sharoo, camp means freedom

Sharoo Kanwar is a 15-year-old Easter Seals camper diagnosed with cerebellum ataxia, a complex motor disturbance, which can occur as a result of many diseases combined and presents with symptoms of an inability to co-ordinate balance and eye movements. He has attended Easter Seals camp since he was nine years old, shortly after moving to B.C. from India with his mom, dad and younger sister.

During the year, Sharoo is a busy teenager. At school he volunteers during the lunch hour in the school library. He likes to play basketball and plays on a team that goes to the Special Olympics. He likes to play on his Nintendo Wii and spend time with his friends and family, especially his younger sister. He also finds time to work at his father's gas station.

Sharoo's favourite camp activities are the big swing, arts and crafts, rock climbing, canoeing and kayaking, camping outside and enjoying the campfires. The craziest thing Sharoo has ever done at camp was swing on the giant swing, something he's never had the chance to do prior to attending Easter Seals camp.

When asked what Easter Seals camps mean to

him, Sharoo says "freedom"—freedom to be himself in a supportive environment. This past summer the counsellors noticed that Sharoo was maturing and willing to take on more of a leadership role at camp. They encouraged him and would ask him to help and take on responsibilities, which Sharoo was more than happy to do. After six years of going to Camp Squamish, he is looking forward to eventually getting involved in the leadership program at camp so he can one day be a counsellor.



Sharoo's family is very supportive of him and is encouraging him to take on new challenges and responsibilities. In 2011, he was able to share part of his Camp Squamish experience with his family at Family Camp, a new program offered by Easter Seals thanks to fundraising events held across the province like Snowarama events through the B.C. Snowmobile Federation. Family Camp offered Sharoo's mother, father and younger sister an insight into what Sharoo calls the best place on earth—a place that has allowed him to grow and be accepted no matter what his challenges are.

>> CLUB NEWS

► MEMBER SHOWCASE *Cont'd. from pg. 28 sidebar*

This hard-working mechanic lives life to the fullest whether it's snowmobiling in the winter, hunting in the fall or riding an ATV through the trails of northern B.C. Married to Pam, they share an intimate passion for the outdoors and, in particular, snowmobiling.

Mike's passion for the race world can be seen in a photo on the toolbox of his controversial 700 RMK and the numerous trophies that he has won over the years. He has spent a great deal of time and energy focused on squeezing every quarter second possible off his time after spending hours and hours on the drag strip making pass after pass. Congratulations on your success, Mike—it is well deserved. Now Mike takes that winning effort to his job at Hyper Toys where he installs turbos on sleds and is building a reputation for himself and his employer in the mountain segment of their business.

The club is proud to have you on board Mike, and we wish you continuing success.

Ten things you didn't know about Mike:

- Hometown:** Williams Lake, B.C.
- Occupation:** Polaris master tech at Hyper Toys in Dawson Creek
- Fave riding area:** Pine Pass, B.C.
- Fave fast food:** Quiznos
- Most memorable sled rode:** 1972 Polaris 650 Starfire
- Favourite superhero:** The Incredible Hulk
- Most valuable sled mod:** Scratchers
- Favourite Movie:** Hot Rod
- Fave summer pastime:** ATVing
- Technical vs. hillclimb:** Technical



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Coast to Coast by Dennis Burns

How to keep a volunteer happy

Snowmobiling may have started slowly in some parts of Canada but a winter storm has hit again all across the Midwest and a new storm is building in the central U.S. that will travel north into Canada for more late-season “winter gold!”

As we reflect over the season we must recognize the hard work and efforts of the thousands of volunteers who make the trails magically appear each year—from brushing and clearing, to installing thousands of signs, to staking lakes and fields, to building or re-decking a bridge, to putting a track back on a groomer at 2 a.m. on a -30-degree day! Whether Celsius or Fahrenheit, -30 is much colder than a warm bed. Yet they do it willingly for the sport they love.

Join me in also thanking all of the landowners who allowed access on or through their properties. This allows the trail system to be truly inter-connected with day loops and community-to-community touring capabilities. Let’s also say thank you to individual landowners, to the many corporations and to the local or national business partners who support our vision and passion for snowmobiling.



Let’s work together to encourage our governments at all levels—municipal, provincial and federal—to continue to partner with the largest organized trail managers and operators in Canada. Organized snowmobiling represents 50 per cent of all known organized trails in Canada. Over 10,000 kilometres of the Trans-Canadian Snowmobile Trail are in operation today and many sections are under investigation or review by local teams. One section that is very hard to finalize is the trail from Alberta to British Columbia as the area is affected by the national parks of Jasper, Banff and Yoho. More work still needs to be completed to identify the right corridor through this scenic section.

The efforts of volunteers can and should be recognized. It shows appreciation for their hard work, long hours and time away from their families and other activities. Remember, we are competing with other needy volunteer groups. Volunteers will go where they feel valued and are having fun. So keep the workload manageable and keep the person doing what they are good at or like to do. As the leader, president, ►

► committee chair or just an eager volunteer, another huge job to be completed each year is recognition of your team.

Here are the “3 Rs” of working with volunteers:

1. **Recognition:** If you have a great volunteer, consider a human interest story on your web page or in the local paper, introduce them at a local club meeting or get a town councillor to speak at a meeting where many of the volunteers get a thank you and a few minutes in the spotlight.

2. **Reward:** Everyone who shows up to volunteer should be acknowledged for their time with a simple thank you; recognition by their peers could include a plaque or pin or perhaps dinner for two at a local restaurant.

3. **Recruit:** Challenge everyone to bring a friend for a ride or join in on a brushing and clearing day. For every new recruit you may get two or three more.

Once you recruit the new folks, listen to them as they have ideas. Some may have been heard before but you have to help them grow and learn. Just think—how did you get so good at what you are doing? Match up your volunteers so that the new ones have a mentor identified to work with them. Check on them and make sure that your teams are working well together. If not, mix them up or ask them who they would like to team up with. The 3 Rs of volunteering can go a long way in building larger teams. Volunteers create magic as they do all of the hard work to make trails a reality. What many do not fully understand is the hard work to close the season to make the trails magically disappear until next season.

The CCSO would like to thank our sponsors for the 2012/2013 season..

Please support businesses that support the CCSO—the national voice of organized snowmobiling!



Dennis Burns