



SASKATCHEWAN Snowmobiler

www.sasksnow.com



HOW TO KEEP TRAILS OPEN

TRAILS GET CLOSED WHEN SNOWMOBILERS IGNORE SIGNAGE

BY BARRY BRADSHAW, Chairman

Here we go again—the start of another season and we are already facing trail closures or the threat of trail closures in many parts of the province.

I am going to start with my own club, the Yorkton Sno-Riders. Our main trail, which runs from Yorkton to Good Spirit, has had a five-kilometre section closed with a new fence and locked gate. We have had to close this trail this season due to snowmobilers not staying on the trail. The trail was clearly marked last year with Stay on Trail signage at both ends of the three-quarter-kilometre section that crossed private land. The individual had put in a few cross-country ski trails on the other end of his property very close to his residence for his own use. Well, I think you all know the rest of the story. A group of so-called snowmobilers veered well off the trail that was clearly marked Stay on Trail and ruined his ski trails. Also, what really did it was the machines had noisy “cans,” or aftermarket pipes, on them, so it was a dead giveaway when he first heard them and went out to see what all the noise was about. He was not a very happy camper. I think some of these sledders put a helmet on and go brain dead or can’t read or don’t care as they will find another place to ride. But with continuing actions like this the areas we ride in will continue to get smaller and smaller and soon there will be no place to ride. Then the comments will be “How come you guys let the trails be closed?”

We are posting the new Quiet In - Quiet Out sign both at Yorkton and Good Spirit Acres. Whether anyone will read or adhere to these signs will remain to be seen.

The other issue that I know of is the Saskatoon Snowmobile Club’s problem with the private land just north of Saskatoon and adjacent to their clubhouse. Most of the land is fenced, but some areas are not, so they have legally posted No Trespassing and No Snowmobile signs in these areas. These signs are being ignored and there are snowmobile tracks going right by the No Trespassing signs. I don’t know if the snowmobilers think the No Trespassing signs are just for hunters or what, but to me No Trespassing means

exactly what it says, no matter what a person is doing. Another ongoing problem in areas where trails run through communities is the noisy aftermarket pipes on sleds. Saskatoon has had one community that does not want part of the trail running through it because of the noise factor, so after much work rerouting, it no longer goes through parts of that community. They are also posting the new Quiet in - Quiet Out signage hoping it will make a difference.

I just recently had a call from a friend of mine in Norquay asking about a new shelter they would like to put in very close to Norquay. After a discussion on this topic I asked him about their trails and how things were going with signing and grooming. He told me things were proceeding along quite nicely in the farmland but they had real problems when they headed north into the forest on the way to Parr Hill Lake. The quote was: “The quads have rutted it up so bad that it will take a couple of feet of snow in order to be able to groom and fill in the ruts. Something has to be done in the forest to stop this destruction of our snowmobile trails.” No truer words were spoken and I agreed with him 100 per cent.

We, the SSA, have been trying but it all seems to fall on deaf ears. For our part we have posted on our web page, www.sasksnow.com, as well as on all the club maps: No ATVs on Snowmobile Trails. We have also been working, in conjunction with the Saskatchewan ATV Association, with various government departments to find a solution to the issues around recreational ATV use, mainly in forest areas, without the banning of ATVs. We have been in meetings for what seems like an eternity but, as always, it takes so long to work with government and get things accomplished. Here’s hoping that soon we will have some answers to the ATV problem that has been plaguing most of the snowmobile clubs throughout Saskatchewan.

Another problem that exists this snowmobile season is nature-oriented; the ice storm and heavy wet snow that hit a widespread area across most of Saskatchewan from Meadow Lake to

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>> CLUB EVENTS

Zone 1 & 4 Meeting
April 5, 2014 • Shellbrook, SK

Zone 2 Meeting
April 6, 2014 • Nipawin, SK

Zone 3 Meeting
April 12, 2014 • Yorkton, SK

Sneak Peek
April 8 & 9, 2014

PrairieLand Park,
Saskatoon, SK

Trail Fund Meeting
June 20, 2014 • 7 p.m.
Saskatoon Inn, Saskatoon, SK

AGM & Diamonds in the Snow Awards Banquet

June 21, 2014
Saskatoon Inn, Saskatoon, SK

Board Meeting
June 22, 2014 • 9 a.m.
Saskatoon Inn, Saskatoon, SK

>> CLUB NEWS

Relive the glory days at two vintage events

—by Marg Clair

What was your first snowmobile? I bet everyone can answer that question quickly. Mine was a 1964 Ski-Doo Olympic 16-horse, electric start.

Somehow those old machines hold a special place, even if they couldn’t go a hundred miles an hour. You could change the carb setting as you went to get that extra pop that took you by the competition. Hopefully, everything held together to the finish line. Some of us got files mounted instead of ski rods that gave the needed edge going around the icy curves as you hung as far as

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The granddaddy of ice ovals

EAGLE RIVER IN WISCONSIN HOSTS AN ACTION-PACKED FOUR DAYS
BY CHRIS BREWER, President/CEO

My wife, Jeannie, and I took in the World Championship Ice Oval Racing at Eagle River Derby Track held January 16 to 19, 2014. This Wisconsin event is the big one of all ice oval racing held in North America. This year was the 51st running of the derby that first started on Dollar Lake in the area; after two years they moved it to its present location. For years the Eagle River Lions Club owned and operated the derby. A few years ago the famous snowmobile racing family, the Deckers, purchased the property and have hosted the derby since then. Richard and Audrey Decker are still working and running the event, but son Chuck is now greatly involved. Over the years I have got to know both Richard and Audrey and I always pay a visit when I'm in Eagle River. I first got to know them years ago while attending the International Snowmobile Congress.

This year's racing was exceptional; it was very competitive in all classes. I personally was pulling for Sabrina Blanchet, riding for Sampson Racing. All weekend she was the crowd favourite, but mechanical difficulties would keep her from becoming the first woman to qualify for the world championship. At age 17 she knows how to ride one of these custom-built race sleds. She rides fast and is very competitive. I got to watch her race the ice oval at the 50th running of Eagle River. Watch for this young lady's name in the future.

Malcolm Chartier from Team Woody's took the checkered flag in the world championship making him the two-time world champion. Malcolm won at the 50th running of the derby—this

year it seemed Malcolm didn't have the competition he had the previous year. He led lap times all weekend and finished first in the TLR Cup on Friday, qualifying him for the world championship Sunday and sole position.

In between oval racing, snocross races are held in the centre of the track; this keeps the action moving all weekend. Also to entertain, they run outlaw sleds, bikes and a few vintage sled races. This is one action-packed four-day racing weekend. If you want snowmobile action and entertainment you need to take in the World Championship of Ice Ovals at Eagle River, Wisconsin (www.derbytrack.com). You won't be disappointed—you will see oval sleds that you have never seen before. I suggest you take earplugs; it gets a bit loud if you stand trackside in the corners for the close-up view.

I remember way back when we had an ice oval event of this calibre here in Waldheim, Saskatchewan. When I asked Chuck and Mike Decker about the favourite track they raced on in the past, both came back with Waldheim. Waldheim had high banks and was fast, and from what I remember racers like this track the most. Waldheim was on the pro circuit for ice oval racing. With snowmobile sales down in the early '80s and budgets tight, the pro teams pulled long travel races and we lost our pro event.

Vintage ice oval has returned to Saskatchewan along with vintage drags—you can find more info on this at www.saskiceovalracing.com. This is very good entertainment right here at home so get out and see first-hand some good home grown racing!

Pasquia Snow Goers

BY KATHY LINDSAY

Our first few grooming passes were done with our existing groomer so the trails were up and running for our avid snowmobilers. We didn't have our trails ready for Christmas but we still saw many sleds out and about town. For the remainder of the winter our grooming will be done by a shiny new groomer tractor sporting our Soucy Tracks. This is just one of the benefits of these tracks—they can be taken from one unit to another—and our previous groomer is now back to its original tractor tires. An operational learning curve will be happening with the new tractor. Just like buying a new vehicle, none of the but-

tons are where they are supposed to be.

While out riding, you will probably notice we have replaced our T and Y signs with Junction signs. After checking with the SSA, we opted to use the junction signs to let you know an intersection was coming. One of the many benefits of riding on signed and groomed trails is the signs that let you know what's coming up so you can safely enjoy your time snowmobiling.

On November 22, 2013, many of our landowners, renters, members and friends of snowmobiling turned out to enjoy the appreciation night. A

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>> CLUB NEWS

► CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE *Continued from page 25*

north of Hudson Bay this past November. The storm started with freezing rain followed by a dump of heavy wet snow causing a disaster in the forests. Most of the clubs had their snowmobile trails all cleared and ready for another snowmobile season. In early January clubs were still dealing with clearing deadfall off their trails. Adding to the problem is the fact that the swampy areas had not frozen good enough under the insulation of the snow cover to bring in heavy equipment to help with clearing trails. About the heaviest equipment being used are Bobcats with tracks and most of the clearing is being done by hand by volunteers with chainsaws and back-breaking manual labour. Some of these trails, mainly in the Christopher/Emma and Candle Lake areas, may never open this season due to the miles and miles of downed trees.

After all that doom and gloom, here's hoping by the time you read this article we have an abundance of snow and everyone is out enjoying the trails we have in place, and that most of the trail closure problems I have mentioned have been worked out.

Have a great snowmobile season and please obey Stay on Trail, No Snowmobiling and No Trespassing signage. Also when riding through communities remember Quiet In - Quiet Out. If you're running a pipe, back off the throttle—there's no need to braap, braap.

Help keep the trails that run through our communities in place—we don't need any more trail closures.

**Remember...
Don't Drink & Ride**



► **PASQUIA SNOW GOERS**
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huge thank you to our landowners/renters—it's only with your support that we have the great trail system we currently do. Thank you to our members and friends who helped get the trails ready for another winter of riding.

Thank you also goes to Chris and Jeannie Brewer, Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association CEO and his wife, who drove from Regina to share the evening with us. We attempted to talk them into staying the night but they found it necessary to return to Regina to watch the Saskatchewan Roughriders claim the Grey Cup the next day.

Watch on the trails for our newest warm-up shelter built in memory of Marlin Kapeller. This shelter was placed near where Marlin spent many

hours having fun in the snow. Marlin may have had mobility challenges but that didn't stop him from enjoying winter activities. Alois Bronner spearheaded this project. Alois approached numerous businesses in the area for donations and once local people heard, they too were donating to the project. Alois picked the start date in early December and they were off and building. The shelter was completed and ready to be moved to its permanent location before Christmas. The speed at which it was constructed by the many volunteers shows how committed people were to the project. Alois has helped with many of our shelters and I think he has this down to a science, but he is quick to point out that having Larry LeGrand work together with him is the beneficial link to the project. See you in the scenic North-east where many trails of adventure beckon!

►► **CLUB NEWS**

► **VINTAGE DRAGS**
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you dared off the side. Boy, those were the days—racing without killing yourself.

If you're like me and would like to relive those glory days, you can. There is a vintage snowmobile circuit where nothing newer than 1981 can run and there are heats for all years, horsepower and age of rider. There are both drags and ovals—whichever was your specialty. As in the old days, bragging rights are the coveted prize though there is probably a trophy to take home and dust. Getting together and talking shop is far more rewarding. We can even educate the younger generation about the true value of these wonderful machines that got us hooked and formed our riding habits.

Saskatchewan has a circuit for these vintage machines. One of the stops for 2014 will be Bells Beach at Christopher Lake, with the Snow Drags on March 8 and the Ice Ovals on March 9. If you're a vintage racer, bring your machine. If you are a romantic—like me—come out, watch and relive the good times when you tried hard to beat those guys from Regina that rode SnoJets during the day, then partied with them half the night. There'll be opportunity to do both.

For more information contact Rusty Watt at cwatt@sasktel.net or marg.clair@yahoo.ca.

Porcupine Trail Blasters
—by Kelly Dahroug

The Porcupine Trail Blasters would like to welcome all snowmobilers to our area.

We recently bought a small Cat—a D4—and it has been a great little unit so far. There

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Broadview Snow Busters

BY SHIRLEY LARTER

This season our club suffered a case of the "too's" to get the snowmobiling season off to a flying start. We had "too little snow; members were too busy; the weather was too cold (wind-chill equal to -50 C) and the groomer was too inoperable." Finally, by mid-January, everything came together. Some members joked that when they would be putting in the last stake for marking, they could turn around and start taking them out again.

Our soup and sandwich fundraiser in November went very well with excellent support from the community. On December 14, 2013, Dale Richter and Larry MacGregor attended the Risk Management Workshop in Yorkton. The Missing Link shelter was opened and freshened up for the season, plus a supply of wood was purchased.

Members were occupied in January with trail

marking and grooming, collecting advertising packages, printing new maps, and organizing and preparing for the Snow Busters Derby which took place on February 1.

Bill and Shirley Larter snowmobiled in the Yorkton Snowarama on February 8, which is an annual fundraising event that benefits children with disabilities in Saskatchewan. The Snow Busters club made a donation toward this worthy cause as well as to Prairie Women on Snowmobiles.

The provincial Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association rally held in Melfort was attended by several club members and, as always, was a good time where we got to meet and greet snowmobilers we may not have seen since the previous year. We trust snowmobilers have been enjoying the season thus far.

Yorkton Sno-Riders

BY SANDY KONKEL

The dealer open house held on November 16, 2013, was a great success. The sausage and pancake breakfast held at Discovery Motorsports had a great turnout—the poor cooks ran out of sausages, but kept flipping pancakes. The breakfast was followed by a hamburger lunch served at King's Sport Leisure and Marine where, once again, the lunch was well attended—this time, the poor cook ran out of hamburgers. It shows how well attended these functions were. Brown's Leisure World and Schrader's Honda Yamaha Suzuki were also on board and also had a good turnout at their establishments.

To cap off the day a steak supper was held at the Yorkton Gun Club. We were unable to attend but, by all reports, the supper was scrumptious and the event was well attended. A big bouquet of roses to all the club members who volunteered and worked at the dealer open house. A job well done!

The day following the dealer open house, maintenance of the groomers was undertaken and members from the club spent a full day checking and maintaining the groomers in preparation for the trails.

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► YORKTON SNO-RIDERS
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December was extremely cold with only about three or four days that were actually nice, with not a great deal of snow. Club members were out on quads and side-by-sides cleaning debris off some of the trails, and checking out beaver dams and warm-up shelters.

Once we got some snow, club members were out on the trails signing some of them. It's a tough job when there's not enough snow to keep the signs up. Another snowfall swung by and

more stakes were put up and some of the prior stakes had to be stood up again. As usual, the moose seem to hate the stakes and either knock them down or sometimes chew on a few of them.

Johnny has been out a few times. The cattails thrived tremendously this year so Johnny had his work cut out for him. Oh, by the way, my husband calls the John Deere groomer, Johnny, so I will probably refer to the groomer as Johnny from now on. If the other groomer operators have pet names for their groomer let me know so I can refer to them also.

►► CLUB NEWS

► PORCUPINE TRAIL BLASTERS

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were areas on our trails that were badly torn up from summer quadding, and this gave us the ability to smooth out some of those areas. We are hoping to go through most of the trails with the Cat—if we don't finish before the end of the season, we will finish them up in the spring. We are also hoping we don't have any groomer problems like we did last year.

We want to thank everyone who participated in our annual snowmobile rally. Don't forget to come on out and enjoy the scenery and the social fun on the trails.

Candle Lake Sno-Drifters

—by Carey Painchaud

First of all, we want to thank all the volunteers for their help in clearing our trails this year. We had a disaster with the ice, rain and heavy snow that fell at the beginning of the season

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Lakeland Snowmobile Club

BY MARG CLAIR

Each year brings new challenges but this year must be in gold medal contention for most challenging.

It started out with an ice storm followed by over a foot of snow that dropped trees on virtually all our trails. This was compounded by the fact that it had not been cold and nothing was frozen. Many of our trails cross creeks and boggy areas that were a problem well into our usual year. We had to hire heavy equipment to clear the trails, which put a heavy financial burden on our club, forcing us to use the funds we had saved for a new groomer. Considering that the only industry in this area is tourism and recreation, it is devastating to the businesses if the trails are not great for riding. Without the trails cleared and signed, there is no funding and without funding we are hard pressed to handle such disasters.

On a more positive note, we are hosting a stop

on the vintage snowmobile race circuit on March 8 and 9. It is very positive for our members to have a major event on which to focus. Rusty Watt, who has been a racer in these events for a number of years, chairs the event and our club would like to thank him for all his work. Hopefully, it will become an annual event for our club.

We continue to have tremendous corporate sponsorship support from the business community. Peter Kalyn and Terry Sylvester, the sponsorship committee members, deserve a hearty round of applause for their efforts this year. Our club would like to thank and acknowledge each of the 41 corporate sponsors. Without your help it would have been very difficult to provide the service we did.

Our club also hosted a very successful member recruitment night, a volunteer appreciation event
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- Entry for a Grand Prize: \$500 Gift Certificate from Recreation Supply.
- Snow/trail conditions, event information and Vintage Snowmobile information on the SSA website.

Your membership ensures that the SSA can deliver snowmobile safety, provincial/national and international representation, accessibility to land access for trails, a strong government partnership, insurance for trails and long-term planning to keep snowmobiling alive and well in Saskatchewan. An SSA family/single membership is \$25 and can be purchased by visiting the SSA website at www.sasksnow.com and clicking on Membership!








► **LAKELAND** *Continued from page 28*
and was showcased in an article in *SnoRiders* magazine through the efforts of the Waskesiu Wilderness Region. We are still learning all the benefits of the new SSA website system.
As president, I would like to also thank all the

dedicated volunteers from our club who gave countless hours this year. Whether it's working on the trails or the machinery, planning events, making phone calls or helping with any of the other jobs, you have certainly made my job easier.

Tisdale Snowmobile Club

BY SHANE BECKER

We have had a late start to the season—we seem to be in an area that has had very marginal snow. Conditions never really improved until the last few days of December and then the extreme cold was battling against us. One good thing about the cold is the fact that the ground has frozen up extremely well, which makes for safer lake and creek crossings. As of early January, we were able to put out all of our trails.

We would like to thank all of those people and businesses that support our club financially by purchasing advertising signs for the advertising boards at our shelters—this financial support pays for repairs and fuel for the groomer and helps with maintenance costs and wood supplies for all the shelters. Without you this would not be possible.

The Tisdale Snowmobile Club, like many small organizations and clubs, is struggling to recruit

new members and volunteers. With everyone being so busy with work schedules and other commitments, it is hard to find the time to volunteer for another community club. People have often asked, "Why aren't the trails out?" Well, as volunteers, we club members also have busy lives and we take pride in getting the trails out in a safe and timely manner.

Marginal snow conditions and extreme cold temperatures like we experienced in December was not a safe situation for the volunteers putting out the trail or for you, the snowmobiler, riding on minimal snow causing damage to you or your snowmobile.

If you enjoy the sport of snowmobiling, please consider volunteering for your local snowmobile club—the help would be much appreciated.

Until next time, ride safe and enjoy our great Saskatchewan outdoors!

>> CLUB NEWS

► **CANDLE LAKE**
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and it rendered most of our trails impassable. In fact, we contemplated closing the trails for the whole year.

The weather in December was very cold and it was difficult to work in such cold conditions. However, the club members came together and with a lot of help from heavy equipment and volunteers we have cleared most of the trails. Thank you for your patience—if you see our club members on the trails feel free to pat them on the back for working extremely hard to get everyone back on our beautiful trail system.

Our 12th annual 250 Snowmobile Rally is on March 8, 2014, and tickets can be purchased by contacting us at thesnodrivers@hotmail.com.

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Goodsoil Ridge Riders

BY DEAN KUYPERS

The Goodsoil Ridge Riders were fortunate enough to be able to purchase a 2004 BR400 snowcat from the Fairview Ski Hill. It came with a pan and a tiller along with our drag and we are now able to lay down some pretty sweet trails. Barry Thornton and his signing crew have been busy signing the trails so they are looking fantastic.

Our club also finished off our new warm-up shelter on the north side of Pierce Lake. I recommend you load up the Wieners and marshmallows and head there for a nice trail lunch.

The windstorm we experienced on January 14 left our trail in shambles and the crew had to hustle out with the chainsaws to clear the debris off the trail. We have also opened up a new trail called the Fox Lake Trail, which makes an awe-

some loop ride from Goodsoil to the warm-up shelter and back. While there is still work to do on our trail system, Goodsoil is a hidden gem with miles of riding. There is something for everyone—no matter if you like boondocking in the powder, hitting the groomed trails for a nice relaxing ride or maybe dropping a hook through the ice and catching yourself a shore lunch, you are in for a treat.

Check out the Northern Meadows Golf Club for cabin rentals—they have awesome accommodations and you can ride right from your doorstep. Premium fuel is hard to come by though, so bring a couple of extra jerry cans if you need premium gasoline.

We hope to see you on the trail soon—ride safe and don't drink and ride.

Moose Mountain Snowmobile Club

BY TROY FOSTER

We had a great start to the 2013/14 season with many new volunteers stepping forward in the Stoughton area. They had the trail marked before Christmas. The more people who come out to help mark and maintain the trails makes the job easier for all the volunteers. Thank you to MTN Grooming Equipment for covering our warranty work on a bent hitch on the new drag. It was great to see MTN stand behind its product. All clubs should share the good and bad so we all know who to buy products from.

We hope the new snowmobile trail to North Dakota will bring more snowmobile tourism to the Southeast Region of Saskatchewan. The South East Saskatchewan Stubble Jumpers Club has a great new trail south of Carievale to link up with the trail from Sherwood, North Dakota. One

of the Stubble Jumpers' trails links up with our trail on the east side of Carlyle. From Carlyle you can go west to Estevan, Stoughton and Weyburn, or north to Kenosee Lake or Kipling.

Some really great day rides or multi-day rides are now available from our area to travel to the Turtle Mountains, Minot or north to Yorkton or farther. The Moose Mountain Snowmobile Club would like everyone to give Chris Brewer, his team at the SSA as well as the South East Stubble Jumpers club a big thumbs-up for getting this new snowmobile trail to North Dakota planned and set up.

To keep up to date on the trails in the Moose Mountain Snowmobile Club region check us out at www.mmsnowmobileclub.com and click on our Facebook link for weekly updates.

Big River Timber Trails Sno Riders

BY BARRY NONTELL

The winter of 2013/2014 will be one to remember. We have been blessed with lots of snow, which came the first weekend in November and has stayed. This wet snow caused a lot of problems with trees being knocked down on the trails, no frost in the muskeg and poor ice conditions. Then along came record-breaking cold temperatures that lasted well into January with the odd occasional warmer day. All these conditions made it very difficult to get our trails groomed.

When it looked as though we were going to finally get some grooming done, we were blessed with a severe windstorm that closed many of the trails with more trees down. We have been busy with men and equipment trying to get our trails opened and groomed. We ask all snowmobilers to be cautious and patient with us as we are doing the best we can with our limited base of volunteers.

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>> CLUB NEWS

► CANDLE LAKE *Cont'd. from pg. 29 sidebar*

The event includes a trail ride, trail lunch, supper and dance with live band. Last year we sold out early, so get your tickets soon.

Zone 3 Report —by Paul Ficken

Here we are enjoying another snowmobile season. So what's important this year? The usual stuff, things that make us think ahead as we plan the season's trails. Things like: Will the trail follow last year's path? Are there any fallen trees? Are there new bodies of water to cross or get around? Do we have enough stakes and signs? Does the groomer need any parts or repairs? Do we have enough volunteer help to place and maintain our trail system? All these things are of the utmost importance as we plan for the season's tracks.

I can't say enough about the volunteers. They are the glue and the backbone of the whole operation. They make it all happen, and all for the mere enjoyment of riding their snowmobiles. Hats off to all who help out every year and I hope everyone gets enough snow soon.

New this year will be an international trail between Saskatchewan and North Dakota. I think this is fantastic and I hope everyone can ride it and enjoy the freedom of travel back and forth between borders. Time to get started, so we will see you out there. Take care and ride safe!

For Safety's Sake...
use the buddy system
never ride alone!
Tell others about your plans—just in case.



► **BIG RIVER** *Continued from page 30*

On a more positive note our club attended the Saskatoon Snowmobile Show with a trade show booth display. This event was very well attended—we met many new faces and very much enjoyed meeting old friends.

On December 8 our club held a snowmobilers night out in which we recognized our dedicated volunteers and recruited new ones. This was also an informational evening with club members available to answer any questions about funding, trails, safety, and any other questions they had.

We also invited and recognized our landowners who we impact upon. Without these good people we could be limited to where we have snowmobile trails.

The future is looking positive—we have great snow conditions, our groomer is running great and we have a limited base of volunteers out signing and clearing trails. We can always use more volunteers, but we will get through.

We would like to thank all the snowmobilers that come to Big River and support our great community—we are “Nature’s Doorstep.”

Prairie and Pine Sno Riders

BY LORNE ROBINSON

This season got off to a little slower than normal start, but that may mean that we can ride longer into the spring—let’s hope so. With the temperatures and snow conditions we have had, riding hasn’t been the best anyway. But that can change quickly as we received a good dump over Christmas, but then the cold weather came back.

The club has a few projects on the go again, and then there are all the jobs that we have every year to keep up with things. These jobs are the ones that a lot of people take for granted, assuming that they just happen. Not true. Some of these things are cleaning trails, supplying the warm-up

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>> CLUB EVENTS

March 8, 2014

Goodsoil Rally, Goodsoil, SK
Contact: Dean Kuypers at 306-238-7783 or madtrapper74@hotmail.com

250 Rally, Candle Lake, SK
Contact: 306-929-2150 or thesnodrifters@hotmail.com

Star City Nite Riders
Snowmobile Rally, Star City, SK
Contact: Debbie Perkins at r.dperkins@staffcomm.com

Vintage Snowmobile Snow Drag Races, Bells Beach, Christopher Lake, SK

March 9, 2014

Sanctioned Vintage Snowmobile Ice Oval Races, Bells Beach, Christopher Lake, SK

March 22, 2014

Annual Fish Derby, Weyakwin Lake, SK
Contact: Lois Wood at 306-663-4165 or loiswood1@msn.com

Melfort & District Trail Riders

—by Doug Armstrong & Russ Dickie

The Melfort & District Trail Riders kicked off the season by building a snow mounder for the front of our groomer unit. This attachment speeds up the field staking process and significantly reduces the manual labour required. Many hours were spent by club members designing and fabricating the mounder. It works very well and cuts the staking process in half from previous years.

Grooming was behind schedule due to cold weather and lack of snow; however, we had a recent snowfall so we currently have good snow conditions and all trails are groomed.

Club members also worked very hard making arrangements for the 2014 Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association Provincial Festival, which was held February 21 to 23 in Melfort.

Gillian Hipkins and Sandy Wikstrom were the co-chairs
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► **PRAIRIE AND PINE** *Continued from page 31*
shelters with wood and supplies, solar lighting, garbage bags and a broom for people to use, trail signing (up to Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association standards), groomer maintenance and grooming all winter. And that is just a start. It really is a big task to take on.

Last spring we installed a bridge at Malfunction Junction that is going to need a new top. This bridge is just north of the Valley Inn warm-up shelter. We are looking into this now.

All trails are cleared and waiting for another good dump of snow before grooming can take place in certain spots. We need a lot of snow for certain trails and parts of other trails. The trail between Boiler Junction and the Valley Inn, and the hill leading up to Boiler Junction from Parr Hill Lake, is badly rutted up again by ATVs. This is a constant problem that everyone knows about and it is just getting worse every year. All the summer riding is just pushing the problem onto us to try and fix it for the winter. Please remem-

ber this when you ride our club trails.

The club has begun selling club memberships once again. We have even had people ask for them. That's great! We hope that trend continues. As you all know, the money from the memberships goes directly back to the local trail system, and much more is spent to keep the ball rolling. There are some people who don't snowmobile regularly, or even at all, but still do support the trail system by purchasing memberships. We thank everyone, because at one time or another, most people will use the trail or warm-up shelters in one way or another. Please show your support and buy a membership.

Once again, thanks for your help in keeping the local trail system alive. We can't do it without you. Local trail conditions can be found at www.sasksnow.com/trail-club-updates/zone3/prairie-and-pine-sno-riders-club-316. If you would like to contact us, do so at: prairieandpinesnoriders@gmail.com. We wish you a safe and enjoyable snowmobiling season.

>> CLUB NEWS

► MELFORT TRAIL RIDERS *Cont'd from pg. 31 sidebar*

for the event and did a tremendous job. The festival committee was also broken up into sub-committees to co-ordinate all parts of the festival weekend. Melfort is fortunate to have many beautiful facilities in which many of the activities were held.

Support for the festival was very good and we appreciate all the support we received from the community and surrounding area. Melfort & District Trail Riders hope you enjoyed Cruizin' the Northern Lights.

► MISTATIM *Continued from left*

We are bordered by some very well organized and operated clubs: the Pasquia Snow Goers to our north, the Hudson Bay Trail Riders to our east, the Porcupine Trail Blasters to our south and the Tisdale Snowmobile Club to our west. All of our trails link to these clubs, so we have got to keep our nose to the grindstone—these clubs have set the bar very high.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of our past and present members for the countless hours of help and their relentless pursuit of perfection on our trail system; without members like this there would be no Mistatim Snow Packers today.

We would also like to send out a special thank you to Conrad and Shirley Sluzalo and Ingrid Conway, who are taking this time to pursue other winter activities—don't forget your sunblock.

When enjoying the many groomed trails in our area, please don't forget to support the many local businesses that support our sport.

Be safe, respectful and enjoy our great sport.

Mistatim Snow Packers

BY DAROLD BIETTE

As everyone has probably heard by now, there is no shortage of snow or trails in our area. Our core trails are primarily forest trails, so there is always lots of cutting and cleaning going on. Thank goodness for the support we get from members and non-members alike—it sure helps lighten the load on our shoulders as everyone seems to have a lot on their plates these days.

We have a diverse group of members—from farmers and business owners, to construction workers, livestock raisers and loggers, and everyone brings something a little different to the table in the way of experience and new ideas. I think the same could be said for every club in the province.

Continued on sidebar ►



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