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BRRR! TALK ABOUT COLD

IT WAS A CHALLENGING YEAR THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE

BY BARRY BRADSHAW, Chairman

Once again we are winding down another season—one which has had many challenges. Possibly the biggest challenge we faced was the record cold temperatures and the bitter cold wind chills. It has been a very difficult season for all of our clubs in the province, whether they were situated in the north or in the south.

I will start with the northern clubs as that's who the weather affected firstly this season. Their season started out very well in September and October with most of the clubs getting their trails cleaned and put in place. Then, in early November, a heavy, wet snow came to most of the northern area bringing many trees down across the trails. Because the swamps were not frozen, it meant heavy equipment could not be used to try and clear the trails, so most of the trail clearing had to be done by hand with chainsaws and manpower. Then to make matters worse, approximately a month later 110-kilometre winds came to all parts of the province bringing more trees down.

At this time we have just completed a trail evaluation of the Candle Lake trails, which is a very good example of what the clubs had to deal with. We saw and heard firsthand what this club went through in order to get their trails up and running. When riding through their forest trails the disaster could be seen on both sides of every trail—a twisted mess of downed and tangled trees and we could see how the club had to cut their way through the debris in many places to have a trail. Once the swamps froze down in late December and early January they were able to get some heavy equipment in to finish cleaning and widening the trails.

Shane Vermette, one of the Candle Lake club riders who rode with me during the evaluation, told me how they had to clear all of the Rachelle Trail on the east side of Candle Lake with a track hoe. This involved about 30 miles of work with the hoe in order to widen the trail enough to get the groomer through the trail. The heavy equipment work cost the club around \$25,000 and this also included many, many volunteer hours and donated equipment. Now with all this dedicated

work their trails are in place and in very good condition and they were able to score a 4 on their trail signing. Hats off to Candle Lake—you have a very dedicated group of volunteers in your snowmobile club.

Now I'm going to talk about the clubs that are in the central and southern part of the province and the clubs with trails in the open. This past season has been the most trying one that I can ever remember with signing and grooming snowmobile trails in the open fields. I personally have had firsthand experience dealing with trails in open areas. My Yorkton Sno-Riders club has about a 50/50 mix of trails through open farmland and what I call bush trails. There are three—sometimes four—of us that look after trail clearing and signing of the approximately 175 kilometres of our Yorkton Sno-Riders trails in the Good Spirit Lake area. We had our trails basically all cleared and mostly signed and then came the 100-plus-kilometre winds. Many clubs like us had most of their signing done, then the wind came in December and blew a lot of them down as well as many trees in the bush areas, so a lot of the trails had to be cleared of fallen trees and re-signed in the open areas.

Trail grooming this year has been another story. It seemed that you could groom your trails one day and the next day the wind would howl and you could not tell the trail had just been groomed the day before. The other factor that has influenced trail grooming this season was the bitter cold weather, with lots of wind chills down to -40. Groomers should not be out in that weather as that's when things freeze up and breakdowns happen. It has been a very expensive year for all the Saskatchewan clubs in trying to maintain the snowmobile trails. The bottom line is that all clubs are looking for a decent payout to cover expenses from this past season.

Now then, in talking about payouts going to the clubs, the clubs that have maintained trails for the full season should all receive approximately the same payout as last season even though snowmobile registrations are slightly down due

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>> CLUB EVENTS

Trail Fund Meeting

June 20, 2014 • 7 p.m.

Park Town Hotel, Saskatoon, SK

AGM & Diamonds in the Snow Awards Banquet

June 21, 2014

Park Town Hotel, Saskatoon, SK

Board Meeting

June 22, 2014 • 9 a.m.

Park Town Hotel, Saskatoon, SK

>> CLUB NEWS

SSA Four-Sled raffle winner

Congratulations to Laura Spence of Maymont, SK, who was the lucky winner of the SSA's Four-Sled raffle. The winning ticket number was No. 33504 sold by the Battlefords Trail Breakers of Cochin, SK.

2014 Saskatchewan Snowmobile Show

This year the 2014 Saskatchewan Snowmobile Show will be held at Prairieland Exhibition Park, 503 Ruth Street, Saskatoon, SK, on:

- Friday, November 7
4 to 10 p.m.
- Saturday, November 8
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Sunday, November 9
11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Weekend Pass: \$17

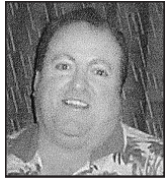
Adults: \$13

Children 6 to 12: \$6

5 and under: Free

Bring the whole family to this event featuring the latest in snowmobiles and accessories, vacation packages, sled decks, trailers, oils, safety and training, clothing and much more!





Looking forward to spring

SSA TRAIL EVALUATORS PERFORM AN IMPORTANT ROLE
BY CHRIS BREWER, President/CEO

Can you remember the last time we had such a cold winter? They say it's the coldest winter in the past 60 years. All I can say is bring on some warmer spring temperatures for spring riding. One is going to have to sneak in a few days to make up for lost days of riding. Let's hope Mother Nature co-operates with warmer temperatures and a few big dumps of snow to finish off the season.

Some of you folks have received a questionnaire from the SSA on snowmobiling. The SSA is working with the province to review the snowmobile sector. For the past five years the cost to you, the user, has remained the same. At the same time the cost to operate the snowmobile trails has increased significantly. Fuel, wages, insurance, signage, repairs, parts and equipment all cost more, to the point that clubs are having a difficult time keeping up with the costs to keep the trails in a condition that is satisfactory.

Some may not understand what it takes to host the snowmobile trail system here in Saskatchewan—it's a very large undertaking for the clubs and volunteers. Our volunteer base continues to drop off and this leaves the clubs with the option of either hiring staff or closing trails—so far we have been lucky to see staff hired and no trails closed. We need volunteers to take up the positions that are needed to keep the clubs active so they can host trails and hire staff to install and remove trail signs, operate groomers and maintain the equipment. You are needed and we ask you

to please step up and participate.

Something new we are working with the province on is a sustainability fund. This fund will allow clubs that have a disaster that is not covered by outside funding access to get the trails up and open. We have a lot of work to do on it so let's all hope this can happen and happen for next season.

The SSA has a group that I would like you to know about; this group is our trail evaluators. These volunteers meet with the clubs, ride their trails and evaluate the trail signage, shelters and the general condition of the trails. This group of volunteers works with the club volunteers to see that the trail signage is done correctly and these volunteers are often volunteers with their clubs doing trail signage. I've heard it said that it takes the same effort to sign trails correctly as it does to sign them incorrectly.

I have to take this opportunity to send out a big thank you to all the landowners that are so kind to offer access to their land. Without the co-operation from the landowners it would be very difficult to have the great trail system we have, so take a moment and consider what all these landowners do for you.

Thank you to all of you who support snowmobiling, whether it is by registering your sled or volunteering with your club—you all make snowmobiling special in Saskatchewan.

See you all in Saskatoon for the snowmobile show on November 7, 8 and 9.

Whiteswan Snowhawks

BY DAVID HANSEN

We've had a pile of snow up here this year (141 centimetres) and we now have absolutely gorgeous trail conditions.

We had two major problems this year—just when we had all our trail system cleared of fallen trees due to the 18 inches of snow we received in a 24-hour period, we got walloped with that crazy 100-kilometre wind that shook the province. Needless to say we had to start all over. Problem No. 2 was the balmy temperatures we experienced for almost two months—enough already. But if you can trust the weatherman, it's supposed to be all good from now on.

Our rally turned out wonderfully; it was one of those nice days that happened so rarely. We had over 100 registered, which is great for our small

club. A big thank you to all those who volunteered their time to make it a success, especially Greg and Roxy Neufeld of Eagle Bay Resort at East Trout Lake for once again hosting this event.

We had a few out-of-province participants who were very impressed with our signage as well as overall trail conditions. It sure is a good feeling when folks come up and tell you you're doing a good job.

As always, my biggest regret every year is my inability to attend more of the rallies that take place every weekend. I promise I will do better next year. I know how much work goes into these events, plus I want to steal some of your

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>> CLUB NEWS

► CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE *Continued from page 25*

to the cold weather and lack of snow in the southern part of the province (people aren't riding and, therefore, not licensing their snowmobiles).

Most of the snowmobile clubs are aware by now that the SSA, on behalf of the grooming clubs, is in negotiations with the province for an increase in the snowmobile registration fees for next season from the now \$70 that goes directly back to the clubs to at least slightly over the \$100 figure.

After a season like this past one, an increase in the fee is much needed for our trail system to be sustainable in the future. The amount that we are asking for is the amount needed to just cover the ever-increasing fixed expenses that all grooming clubs have in their yearly trail grooming operations. Much club fundraising will still need to be done in order to upgrade trail groomers, warm-up shelters, etc.

All clubs are looking for new volunteers to step up and help with trail maintenance, trail signing and, yes, there is even a lot of fun to be had with your fellow snowmobilers and other club members. Join your local snowmobile club—they all need new volunteers.

► WHITESWAN SNOWHAWKS *Continued from left*

good ideas.

Well folks, that just about wraps it up for articles this season. As I said earlier, we have a ton of snow up here and I don't think it's going anywhere until July. Come up and see us before you summerize those sleds—we'd love to see you.

Don't Drink & Ride



Moose Mountain Snowmobile Club

BY TROY FOSTER

Greetings from the Moose Mountain Snowmobile Club. Where did the time go this past winter? It seems we just got our trails set up and it was time to put it all away. It was so cold for so long that there did not seem to be enough nice days to really get out and do a lot of riding. One request for the off-season would be for someone to design a wood stove for the shelters that a person could call on a cellular phone and have the stove burning when we reached the next shelter—wishful thinking, of course.

The area received a decent amount of snow this past winter—nothing compared to 2012/13—but the trails were still good and lots of snowmobilers were out on the days when the temperatures were above -20. On the busier weekends we found many riders coming out from the Regina region. We received many calls from riders who wanted to start in Windthorst, Kipling or Kenosee Lake and ride through the whole region. It sure is nice to hear from the people who like to ride our trails. If you want to know information about the area or the trail conditions be sure to call the club designate that is listed on the SSA website.

With regard to all the signage the club puts up each year—we would like everyone to know we have started putting up distance signs at all the towns, shelters and intersections on our trail system. For example, when you pull into the Village of Kisbey coming up from Estevan, it will show you how far it is to Carlyle, Arcola, Kenosee Lake, Corning, Windthorst, Kipling and even the Silver Bullet. These new distance signs will be up for next season and will, hopefully, help everyone know how far they want to ride.

Our first meeting for 2014/15 will be in early November in Corning. If you have any interest in snowmobiling please contact the club and volunteer some time. We can always use a few extra hands to help set up the trails and do maintenance on the shelters or even plan some events. In the off-season if you have any children turning 12, this would be the perfect time to take the online snowmobile safety training course, which is available at www.sasksnow.com.

Remember, for all the latest news and information on snowmobiling in the area, see our website at www.mmsnowmobileclub.com or check us out on Facebook. Come ride the Moose!

Pasquia Snow Goers

BY KATHY LINDSAY

Going snowmobiling? Pack your slippers in addition to your riding gear. You will find many great accommodations in the area where you can park your vehicle and snowmobile to the groomed trail for an adventurous day of riding. Come in for the evening—everything you need is in the cozy building. No need to go outside.

The Northeast has it all—wide open fields, winding trails in the forest where the watchful eye will catch wildlife patiently waiting for you to ride past before they venture out, or acres of unmarked powder no one has found yet. As an option you can venture into the Wildcat Hills to the east. Then after a wonderful day of riding, it's back to your room where you can pull on your slippers and wander down to the hot tub to soak your cares away, or just head down to the restaurant or lounge for a leisurely meal before calling it a night so you are well rested.

On January 30, 2014, the Pasquia Snow Goers were invited to Hudson Bay for an excellent meal. Pat Fiacco and the group then spoke on the value of snowmobiling to Saskatchewan Tourism, and the need to focus on Saskatchewan as a destination—not just the great place we are from!

We take for granted all the great opportunities we have in our own backyards. We are blessed with miles of connected groomed trails to investigate, which take us to different towns to explore where friendly, helpful people focus on making your visit memorable. We don't need to leave our beautiful province of Saskatchewan to experience a wonderful vacation destination.

It was exciting to listen to Mr. Fiacco speak about Saskatchewan being a destination and the wide variety of activities we have to offer. The best way to understand an activity is to participate in it. The following day representatives from Saskatchewan Tourism were taken on a trail ride so they could understand the fun of snowmobiling in the Northeast.

In the Northeast, we are the winter destination. This is confirmed by the number of trucks pulling trailers of snowmobiles you meet on the highway on a Friday night. As residents of the Northeast, we need to remember to be grateful that we just need to leave our yard and, often within a short ride, we are on a groomed trail.

Warm-up shelters are located close to towns or

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>> CLUB NEWS

Exhibitors—book your space now!

Book your space now for the 2014 Saskatchewan Snowmobile Show & Sale in November.

- 10 x 10 booth: \$575.00 (\$5.75/sq. ft.) + GST

Bulk space:

- 400 - 999 sq. ft.:

- \$4.00/sq. ft. + GST

- 1,000 sq. ft. + greater:

- \$3.00/sq. ft. + GST

Contact Debbie Giesinger at 1-800-499-SLED (SK only), 306-729-3500 or ssa.sales@sasktel.net.

Nomination time for upcoming awards

Diamonds in the Snow nominations are now being accepted for the 2013/2014 banquet and awards ceremony:

1. Outstanding Snowmobile Dealership of the Year

2. Outstanding Snowmobile Club of the Year

3. Outstanding Snowmobile Family of the Year

4. Outstanding Volunteer Snowmobiler of the Year

5. Outstanding Junior Achiever of the Year

6. Outstanding Business Contribution to Snowmobiling of the Year

7. Outstanding Snowmobiling Tourism Promotion and Development of the Year

8. Outstanding Volunteer Groomer Operator(s) of the Year

The Diamonds in the Snow awards will be presented at the Diamonds in the Snow awards banquet following the AGM at the Park Town Hotel, Oak Room, 924 Spadina Crescent E, Saskatoon, SK, on Saturday, June 21, 2014. Cocktails at 6:30 p.m., dinner at 7:30 p.m. and awards at 8:30 p.m.

Check our website at www.sasksnow.com for more information. Deadline for the Diamonds in the Snow nominations is May 1, 2014.



► **PASQUIA SNOW GOERS** *cont'd. from pg. 27* strategically placed in the forest. These shelters provide an excellent location to warm up, have lunch or just sit and visit with others on the trail. Sometimes you visit with your neighbours. Sometimes, it's with friends you haven't met yet.

Sometimes, it's our landowners who graciously allow us to use their land for our trails so it's a great time to honour them by respecting their grain bags and machinery when riding.

Come to the scenic Northeast where trails of adventure beckon!

Candle Lake Sno-Drifters

BY CAREY PAINCHAUD

First of all, we would like to thank all the volunteers for their help to clean our trails this year.

We had a disaster with the ice rain and heavy snowfall at the beginning of the year 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, were able to clear all the trails.

Hopefully everyone understands that the trails are maintained and worked on by volunteers and when our members come up to the lake for the weekend a good part of their time is spent getting the trails and warm-up shelters ready for the public who are visiting our beautiful area. All volunteers for all clubs should be acknowledged for a job well done.

We held our annual 250 Rally and it was sold out two weeks before the function—the demand for tickets was at an all-time high. The 250 Rally is our largest fundraiser of the season and the donations and support from everyone were overwhelming. There are far too many people and businesses to thank so we would just like to generalize by saying a big thank you to everyone. We will be holding the same event next year so watch for details on Facebook.

Our membership has grown and the age of our members is getting younger. It's exciting to see such young people and families joining a group that truly enjoys the outdoors. The future looks bright for snowmobiling in Northern Saskatchewan. As the season comes to an end it's a bitter-sweet feeling and the hope for next year is no more falling trees and that we get lots of snow. We hope to see you next year on the trails.

Lakeland Snowmobile Club

BY MARG CLAIR

Another year is in the books. I review it with mixed feelings and many that are very positive.

Hosting the Vintage Snowmobile Ice Drag Races and Ice Oval Races on March 8 and 9 was a unifying event for our club. Everyone had to be involved and work together to make it a successful event. We will have a meeting soon to evaluate and make recommendations for next year.

We were quite successful with our corporate sponsor and member recruitment initiatives this year. We have also made communication within the club easier as most is now done via email or text. It has been a sharp learning curve but most are getting on to the SSA website.

Our regular general meeting was March 18 at which time the executive was elected for 2014/15. Sufficient people have stepped forward to fill the minimum number of directors and by election night, all positions were filled. This is gratifying considering the financial challenges that must be faced.

Finances are the major negative for our club this year. Our area is mostly in the mature forest north of Prince Albert, which affords picturesque

trails. However, under some circumstances, tall trees can be a major problem, especially when they are dropped over the trails by high winds or ice storms. This is what happened this past fall and our club had to hire large equipment to clear them. Since there is no source of financial help for this, our club had to pay the \$55,000 to have this work done. That is close to double what our portion of the trail fund was in 2013. If we had not done the work, our provincial funding would have been the minimum as most of our trails would have been closed.

Our sources of funding are our generous business sponsors, our club memberships, trail fund allocations from the licences and fundraising. As outgoing president of the Lakeland Snowmobile Club, I have a problem with the last. Our volunteers are working hard to maintain trails and shelters and keep signs in place on the trails so all may ride safely in our area. It seems unfair that they should have to sell tickets or the like to provide fuel for the groomer too.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank

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►► CLUB NEWS

Goodsoil Ridge Riders —by Dean Kuypers

As the season winds down the Goodsoil Ridge Riders look back on the season and a sense of pride fills the air.

We managed to upgrade our groomer and the trails are in better shape than ever. This season has also seen the club complete our new warm-up shelter and it is awesome. We got the fireplace burning and it is a sweet spot to stop and cook up some sausage or roast a hotdog.

We also had our trials this season—the big melt in January hurt our trails, but not as bad as some. We were able to persevere and keep the trails in decent shape. The huge windstorm had all available members out re-signing or cutting windfall off the trail. Good work guys—you are an awesome bunch.

Our snowmobile rally was held March 8 and everyone had a great time. Safe riding my friends, have a great summer and we'll see you all on the snow next fall.

► LAKELAND *Continued from left*

the businesses who have shown confidence in what we do by being a corporate sponsor. This year especially, we could not have operated without your support. I don't know how many snowmobile owners realize that the clubs are only able to maintain good trails because you license your machine. It seems to me that \$70 is a small price for each to pay so the trail system can exist. I encourage each and every owner to license your machine and help us out. Not only that, but it is the law!

Until next season, keep safe.

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



Broadview Snow Busters Club

BY SHIRLEY LARTER

This article is going to contain news of the good, the bad and the ugly!

The Good: Our club held the annual poker derby on February 1 with excellent raffle prizes, which were donated by club members and businesses. A noon lunch was served at the Missing Link Shelter and several snowmobilers enjoyed a steak supper at the hotel. Despite the lower attendance and cold weather, a good time was had by all. A special thank you to all those who gave donations and volunteered their time.

The Bad: A community snowmobile ride was planned for March 1 to ride from Broadview to the Missing Link Shelter and area to enjoy a wiener roast and fellowship. Unfortunately, this had to be cancelled due to the temperatures forecast to be in the -30° C range.

The Ugly: In January, we learned the very disturbing and disappointing news that Baker's Small Engine Repair Ltd. located in Kipling will no longer be a full-line BRP dealership. This was not a decision made by them but by BRP and nothing could be done to change that decision. Although they will continue to service BRP

products in the interim, it has forced the business to close by summertime. It is upsetting that these big companies can, and will, close a thriving business in the smaller communities with no consideration for the owner or customers.

Ben Baker and staff have been in business for 30 years and provided exceptional service to customers from far and wide. As customers, we thank Ben and staff for their many years of service and friendship and wish them well in any future endeavours. We will miss you and are so sorry for the decision made that you had no control over.

What a year this has been for snowmobilers in this area! However, it was a good year for anyone who went south to escape the frigid cold temperatures and then there are those of us who wished they had travelled south. We were not alone in our thinking, as we learned from neighbouring clubs that they had similar problems with snow conditions and weather for staking trails, grooming and planning events. For this year, we will use the farmers' cliché: "Maybe next year will be better!"

Yorkton Sno-Riders

BY SANDY KONKEL

Winter is almost over and, as of yet, there has not been a lot of relief from the cold temperatures and the wind chill factor. The wind has been a thorn in our side all this winter and has started to get on our nerves. Groomer operators groom the trails and the drifts follow along right behind them. This has certainly kept them busy maintaining the trails. Of course, we can't forget about the signs. Once again signs are being checked as our lovely wildlife creatures, the moose, still chew and stomp on the signs. I really can't figure out what their aversion is. They are definitely creatures with an attitude.

All three groomers are operational. Just a note of thanks to all groomer operators. These operators don't just jump in the groomers and ride around the trails. They stop at warm-up shelters and remove the garbage, check for matches, paper for firestarter and the wood pile. If the wood supply is low the wood is usually loaded onto the groomer and taken out to the shacks and unloaded. Usually members on snowmobiles meet the groomer operator at the shelter and help unload the wood and sometimes snowmobilers just out for a ride give them a hand.

I have had the opportunity this winter to ride in

all three groomers. It was a lot of fun but taking pictures and videos was a real challenge. We met some snowmobilers on the trails and I must say I was very impressed with the respect they display towards the groomer operators, always cautious when passing and a nice big wave or a big thumbs-up.

Timmy's Snowarama was held on Saturday, February 28, with a total of 350 riders. Great show! A grand total of \$135,000 was raised for Snowarama.

The lunch was held at the Good Spirit Lake Provincial Park Recreational Centre. Everyone had a chance to warm up with smokies, wieners, bratwurst, beans, coffee and hot chocolate. Sounds like a pretty volatile situation to me, if you get my meaning. Riders continued on to Yorkton or participated in riding some of the trails before the banquet held in the evening. From my own viewpoint, I think everyone thought the supper was delicious and a good time was had by all.

Kailee Popowich won the SSA Junior Achievement Award for raising a grand total of \$3,700. Congratulations to Kailee for all her hard work

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>> CLUB NEWS

Porcupine Trail Blasters

—by Kelly Dahroug

Hello to everyone who came up to ride the trails in the Porcupine area this year. We had a bit of a late start on grooming trails due to lack of snow. We had an awfully cold start to winter also.

It took us a while to get the Cat through all the trails this year. The Cougar Canyon area took the longest due to the cold, but we were finally able to get the Cougar Canyon Trail open February 1. We had to do a lot of extra work on the trails this year so, hopefully, the quads take it easier on the trails this summer.

We want to thank everyone who participated in our annual snowmobile rally. It was nice to see the Prarie Women on Snowmobiles (PWOS) come through Porcupine and stop for lunch on February 7. Thank you to everyone who supported the PWOS and their fundraising ride for cancer research. Ride safe and we hope to see everyone come out and enjoy the scenic and social fun on the trails.

Melfort & District Trail Riders

—by Russ Dickie

February was a busy month for the Melfort & District Trail Riders.

We hosted the 44th annual Provincial Snowmobile Festival on February 21 and 22 with 300-plus riders calling Melfort home for the weekend. We had riders from all over Western Canada, as well as places as far away as Ontario and North Carolina.

Snowmobilers started showing up in Melfort two or three days before the festival and were still in town two or three days after the event. This

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>> **CLUB NEWS**

► **MELFORT & DISTRICT TRAIL RIDERS**
Cont'd. from pg. 29 sidebar

proved to have a positive economic effect for Melfort and surrounding businesses. It was nice to see groups of 20 to 30 sleds parked at different hotels and new faces walking around town enjoying our restaurants and facilities.

The weekend's events kicked off with registration and socializing at the Kerry Vickar Centre (KVC). Saturday included breakfast at the KVC followed by a choice of two routes, the 95-mile north loop or the 65-mile south loop. Riders also had the choice of taking part in the guided rides sponsored by the Melfort & District Trail Riders. Riders were treated to trail lunches throughout the day before returning to the KVC for supper and a short program that included the Co-op Awards, followed by a dance that featured Forty Ounce Philosophy.

The festival's success was highly attributed to a festival committee put together by co-chairs Gillian Hipkins and Sandy Wikstrom. These ladies did an excellent job of co-ordinating and putting together a very successful weekend.

The support from Melfort and surrounding area was excellent and was reflected in the abundance of prizes, services and volunteer support. A big thank you to all involved with the 44th annual Saskatchewan Provincial Festival.

The Melfort & District Trail Riders are looking forward to finishing out the season with a few more weeks of riding. We are also looking at expanding our club with the purchase of a second groomer and the possibility of a clubhouse in the future.

We wish all riders a safe rest of the season. Take care!

The winter festival was held in Melfort in February and was a great success. A total number of 44 Sno-Riders attended the festival. Out of the 44 a total of 37 members rode their machines from this area to Melfort. The club won the trophy for the most members at the festival. A good time was had by all.

► **YORKTON SNO-RIDERS**
Continued from page 29

and dedication. Brent Moore also won an award for the most seasoned rider (I hope you like how I worded that, Brent). Brent has participated in Snowarama for many years. Congratulations Brent!

Festival award winners announced

BY RICHARD DOLEZSAR

Here are the winners from the Cruizin' the Northern Lights provincial festival:

- 1. Snowmobile club with the most members registered at the festival:** Yorkton Sno-Riders Club Inc., Yorkton, SK - 44 members
- 2. Youngest snowmobile rider:** Kaitlin Rienks, Broadview, SK - 8 years old, rode with her dad
- 3. Oldest snowmobile rider:** Shirley Ingham-George, 76 years young, Edmonton, AB
- 4. Largest snowmobile family in attendance:** Clay Rienks, Broadview, SK - 6 family members

- 5. Oldest vintage snowmobile ridden at festival:** Donald Larson, Regina, SK - 1977 Arctic Cat Panther 5000
- 6. Farthest distance travelled to festival via non-snowmobile:** Curtis Ange, North Carolina, USA - 3,377.84 kilometres
- 7. Farthest distance travelled to festival via snowmobile by road map kilometres:** John Kivisto, Wanless, Manitoba - 444 kilometres
- 8. SSA member club with most members travelling to festival via snowmobile:** Yorkton Sno-Riders, Yorkton, SK - 35 members

Battlefords Trail Breakers Club

BY DALE WOYTIUK

The Battlefords Trail Breakers Snowmobile Club has had a very busy winter season. We have undertaken several costly projects this year to help improve our trail system. We have 450 kilometres of groomed trails to maintain with 10 warm-up shelters. Our trail system is based out of North Battleford and extends northwest along the North Saskatchewan River towards Turtle Lake via Meota, Cochin and Edam. It also runs east and south to Denholm and north towards the Whitewood Lakes area and Blue Mountain Resort. The terrain is varied with farmers' fields, wooded meadows, hills and valleys, lakes and creeks and pine forests. We offer riding choices for all types of riders with several loops of different lengths.

We have found that in the past few years we have had trouble keeping up with grooming with only one groomer and drag. When we had mechanical breakdowns, we would get behind in maintaining our groomed trails. We have been running our 1988 PistenBully PB 240 since 1999 and it has served us well, but the hours on it have started to get up there so our club made the decision to purchase a second groomer. We purchased a 1999 PistenBully PB 300 from All Cat Services in Kelowna, B.C., and took delivery in October 2013. The groomer arrived and we added a gooseneck hitch and tool boxes to get ready for first snowfall. We started grooming in

early December and found some mechanical issues. Danny Hendrick, owner of All Cat Services, made arrangements to fly out a mechanic to work on the groomer. Jason Schoemaker worked for two days and took the main drive pumps off and shipped them back to their shop. He returned the next week and re-assembled the pumps and it has been working great. We want to thank All Cat Services for their great service and will always recommend them to anyone purchasing a groomer.

Next on the agenda was the acquisition of a drag for our new (to us) groomer. We initially thought that we would build one similar to the one we are currently using. We were running out of manpower to build the second drag. Norsask Farm Equipment, our local BRP dealer, gave us a wonderful donation towards a drag and we went on the hunt to purchase a used one. We located a 2005 Mogul Master MBP 18-10 that The Shop Industrial from Lively, Ontario, had taken in trade. The drag was in Stanley, Idaho, so we made arrangements with a local transport company to go pick it up for us. We were very happy with the condition and purchased this for half the price of a new one. We had to build a gooseneck hitch for it and tool boxes. It has been out on our trails several times and performing great.

The last major undertaking was the building of
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Trail signage—how can I help?

BY DON THOMPSON

The Provincial Snowmobile Festival in Melfort has come and gone and our tradition of riding to the annual event is complete. We travelled through communities like Canora, Norquay, Carrot River, Melfort and Hudson Bay on our way back to our starting point of Good Spirit Acres, which is just north of Yorkton. The one thing that stuck out was the consistent safety signage along our route. The question is how does this happen and how can you help?

Several years ago when Saskatchewan residents were asked to register their snowmobiles, one of the requirements of the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association was to improve the safety signage throughout the province. The goal was to make the signage consistent and promote safety.

The provincial association adopted a standardized system based on international snowmobile safety requirements with adaptations for local conditions. The Saskatchewan regulations require that all trails have to be evaluated and that scores received on the evaluation are directly tied to the funding received by clubs. Now the volunteers took over.

Volunteers attended meetings to become familiar with the new signing procedures; these volun-

teers in turn went to their clubs and taught more volunteers how to provide consistent, safe signage. More volunteers attended classes and became trail inspectors/evaluators who do the evaluations around the province; they ride with more volunteers from each club so that the education process continues. The results are safer, more consistently marked trails throughout our magical trail system. The bottom line is that without volunteers this system cannot sustain itself. Hats off to our thousands of volunteers who make the system work.

The question was: How can you help? Occasionally signs are blown over in windy conditions or knocked over by inquisitive moose or picked up by “sign predator” wolves and coyotes. Unfortunately, a few are destroyed by thoughtless runaway snowmobiles that really should know better.

So if you have the pleasure of riding on our safe trails and happen to notice a sign knocked down or partially covered by snow, please take the time to stand it up so the trail is even safer because you became a volunteer. We encourage you to become a member of your local club and become a part of the solution for safer snowmobile trails in our province.

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► BATTLEFORDS TRAIL BREAKERS

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10 new outhouses to replace the old ones at the warm-up shelter. We had a dozen club members working over a two-week period in a great heated shop at Charabin Seed Farm. Thanks to Dale and Tim Charabin for all the support they offer our club. We would not be able to maintain our equipment without their generosity. The outhouses were finished just before Christmas and we have installed most of them. A few will have to wait until later this spring to install. I think all of our trail riders will appreciate the new comfortable facilities.

This season has been a very challenging one for our club and our patron riders. We had a very strong windstorm mid-January that blew down hundreds of our signs and markers. We have been busy putting marker posts and signs back up when possible. The snow melted and froze in January as well and trail conditions were not great. We have groomed a couple of times and trails are improving.

The lack of snow and heavy winds in the south half of our system has been challenging and we can see a drop in trail usage so far this year. Northern sections around Edam, Turtle Lake, Glaslyn, Cochin and Blue Mountain are still very good. We could just use a nice break in the weather. I saw an article in February which said that Saskatchewan has had the coldest winter in 18 years. Quite disappointing after the great start we had in December.

Oh well, there's always next year.

Don't drink & ride ...

work to keep our trails safe!

Prairie Women on Snowmobiles

BY CAROL McKNIGHT

Prairie Women on Snowmobiles were able to raise \$150,199.69 for breast cancer research during Mission 2014. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our sponsors, as well as all of the support that was provided to us from this wonderful province to help us achieve this huge accomplishment. We truly would not have been able to accomplish what we have over the past 14 years without your continued support.

We also collected \$15,000 from raffle ticket sales from our portion of the SSA tickets, sold for the Sno Jet Star Jet 338 snowmobile and the 84" 3-point hitch snowblower. This money will go towards purchasing equipment listed on either the Saskatoon or Regina cancer centres' wish lists.

Congratulations to Jan Gillespie of Saskatoon who won the 1973 Sno Jet Star Jet 338 snowmobile that was donated by the Twin Lakes Trail Blazers Snowmobile Club. The other congratulations goes to Ryan Bergen of Big River who won the 84" 3-point hitch snowblower that was donated by Schulte Industries from Englefeld. Last

year we sold approximately \$11,000 worth of raffle tickets and that money went toward two radiologist workstations for reading mammograms, which have been in use in the Regina Cancer Centre for the past eight months.

We introduced ourselves in a few new communities this mission such as Eston, Elrose, Kyle, Swift Current, Herbert, Chaplin, Mortlach, Caronport, Rouleau, Milestone, Sedley, Regina and Strasbourg. Thanks to everyone who came out to give us support as well as the survivors we got to meet.

In 2010 PWOS made a quilt that had squares made for it by past core riders for our 10th anniversary. We raffled this quilt off and the winner donated it back to PWOS. For the past four years this quilt has been used as a comfort quilt by breast cancer survivors throughout this province. The survivor who has it now would like to make another travelling comfort quilt and have breast cancer survivors or any of the survivors who used this quilt make the squares. Her re-

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Tisdale Snowmobile Club

BY SHANE BECKER

The bitter cold has been very challenging for everyone this winter; the wind just didn't seem to quit blowing! It seems to be one of the coldest winters in numerous years.

The trails seem to have held up very well this winter—hats off to our two groomer operators. As usual, they did a wonderful job of keeping our trails groomed on a weekly basis. Most of our trails are open fields so we fight with the wind. We can groom today and the wind will blow tomorrow—that's Murphy's Law!

Our shelters have seen less traffic due to the cold temperatures and, as a result, the wood piles seem to be holding up very well this season. A new outhouse has been constructed for the Dog River Inn shelter.

A very big thank you to Boxall Farms for the use of their shop, tools and manpower for constructing this new facility—it will be put out this summer and ready for next winter. We hope you ride safe and enjoy the great Saskatchewan outdoors!



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quest is as follows: "Survivors—please pick up your material, design a square and run to your sewing machines or have a friend do it for you. Let's help comfort others on their journey! The square can be in memory of loved ones or just say in your own words, 'I beat cancer—you can too!' Let your imagination go."

All squares should be 10 inches square and made of 100 per cent cotton. Embellishments are great but do remember the quilt will be washed many times. The colours and design are up to you and can include your name. If you are comfortable with it please send your name, a story as to what the square represents to you or who it is in memory of. We will put a picture of your square and your story in a book to send with the quilt.

Please send your square to the PWOS head office at 579 - 28th Street W., Prince Albert, SK S6V 4T1, or contact Carol Lueken for more information at 306-961-1994.

If you're interested in riding in Mission 2015 please check out our website at www.prairiewomen.ca and fill out an application as they are due by April 30, 2014.

Make new friends—join a snowmobile club



For safety sake — never ride alone!