



SNOSCENE



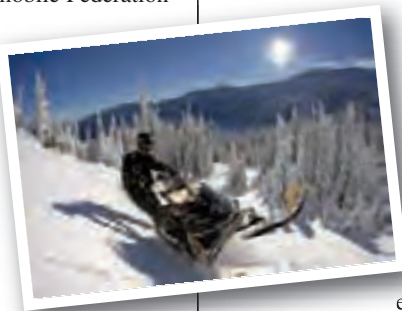
ENJOY SPRING RIDING

AND REMEMBER, ONE TRAGIC EVENT IS TOO MANY

BY ERIN HART, President

Ahhh, longer days, warmer temperatures, the first signs of spring showing up all around us and lots of snow to ride on (in some places). And what am I thinking about? Are our safety messages actually getting through?

Just recently I had one of those magical days to play in the alpine along with my wife, Tammy, and soon to be five-year-old son, Brody. A mid-week day during spring break with negligible traffic in the unloading area and the trail to the play area was magnificent. As great of a day as this was shaping up to be, my thoughts wandered to the tragedy of the riders recently lost in the Sea-to-Sky corridor and the Sparwood/Fernie area. My thoughts and sincerest condolences on behalf of the entire B.C. Snowmobile Federation family to the family and friends affected by these tragic events. That very same day, I happened upon a late afternoon TV show hosted by Anderson Cooper that chronicled (via helmet cam) and interviewed the survivor of a snowmobile avalanche incident where the rider was buried for over 20 minutes and miraculously survived to tell the story.



So what part of the safety message is not getting through? The BCSF as well as the Canadian Avalanche Centre spend a considerable amount of time, effort and money to make sure all back-country enthusiasts are aware of the dangers around them. Today, more than ever before, we have the luxury of social media to broadcast our message for free. Check the BCSF website and Facebook site and see the safety messages that are presented. The Let's Ride BC website broadcasts great information as well. Our corporate sponsors—Arctic Cat, BRP, Polaris and Yamaha—do a fantastic job of promoting the safety message annually. But it only takes one tragic event and one is a big number because it affects so many people around that one person.

Now it is easy to sit back and play armchair

quarterback and critique the season and deplore the tragic events that have transpired. However, this scribbler is always of a “glass half-full” mentality and I prefer to look at all the good that comes from organized snowmobiling in this great province of ours. The BCSF executive and directors take great pride in the Snowarama initiative and the dollars raised for Easter Seals for children with disabilities. I am truly moved by the amount of effort and hard work put forth by volunteers throughout the province for such a worthy cause and I commend you all for it. My only regret is that I wish I had the time to personally thank you all for such a great effort. Whether you realize it or not, you have made a difference in a child's life and I can only hope that it would put a smile on your face as I have seen first-hand the smiles it has put on the faces of the kids we help.

As the season winds down, the work continues for the volunteers who work behind the scenes of the B.C. Snowmobile Federation. We continue to work with government and other interest groups on issues that will ultimately affect us all such as the off-road vehicle legislation, natural resource road initiatives, ongoing caribou issues and more. We are striving to make membership in the BCSF or BCSF club far easier by re-examining the entire process from the bulky registration booklets to the BCSF online sign-up link. (Take a look at the new BCSF website at www.bcsf.org and purchase a raffle ticket online while you are at it.)

Remember the B.C. Snowmobile Federation's annual spring meeting will be held May 5 and 6 in Kelowna at the Sandman Hotel. We encourage all clubs and members to participate and stay involved with organized snowmobiling in B.C. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Until next time, enjoy spring riding—please be safe and enjoy your riding. As always, it is an honour to serve as your president.

>> CLUB NEWS

There's still time to host a Snowarama!

Several clubs have hosted their Snowarama event to raise money to help B.C.'s children with disabilities. If you haven't started planning one yet, there is still time to host a Snowarama in your community. The deadline to hand in funds is April 30.

Hosting a Snowarama can be as simple as adding a fundraising element to an event your club already does. You can also do a day where you collect donations at the head of a trail for the BC Lions Society for Children with Disabilities. Some clubs make a day of it and do a long ride with a poker run built in. That's the great thing about Snowarama—each event is customized for the host community and is unique!

Did we mention that there are prizes for Snowaramas? The club that raises the highest funds (raised by a single club) will get a \$500 gift certificate to Bombardier. The club that raises the second highest funds (raised by a single club) will get a \$250 gift certificate to Yamaha. Participants who raise over \$100 in pledges get entered in a draw to win a \$250 gift certificate to Yamaha. The top individual fundraiser also gets a prize. All donors who pledge \$25 or more are entered in a draw for some great prizes. To qualify for prizes, all funds must be submitted to the BC Lions Society by April 30.





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Dave Norona photos

Dave Norona (right), Ted McDowall and Rick Ebner on a group excursion to sample the legendary terrain in B.C.'s Shuswap region.

Ski-Doo ambassador loves his job

by DAVE NORONA

Let me start by saying that I am a privileged little guy who has been working with Ski-Doo for three awesome years and I love my job! Many people think sponsorship means you wake up each morning and ride, which isn't true. For me being a sponsored athlete for 22 years means working as hard as anyone else does in any regular job. Below are all the fun things I get to do off the sled.

The beginning of the year always involves photoshoots for all the new rad gear coming down the pipe. I love gear and it is always great to see what those crazy engineers have come up with. It is also a time when all us ambassadors, filmmakers and photographers catch up and have a great time during the long days to get "just the right shot."

The beginning of the season is also the time to pick up sleds and dial them in to your own



personal riding style. I am lucky that the boys at Greater Vancouver Powersports spend time talking with me and make it perfect from the box. I don't change a thing from stock. The E-TEC runs perfect right out of the box; changing pipes and exhaust does nothing to improve performance and usually makes the power worse. Plus I like the quietness Ski-Doo has created and I want to hear when I am still riding sleds in 60 years!

During the season videos and riding blogs are a big part of my season. I love taking photos and capturing videos that make other people want to get out and ride more. My agenda is to remind everyone to get out and play more as this makes you a better person, dad, friend, husband or wife. More fun makes life, well, more fun.

Continued on sidebar ►

>> CLUB NEWS

► SKI-DOO AMBASSADOR *Continued from left*

I also do a lot of work within BRP with both Ski-Doo and Can-Am on team-building workshops and social media. Our goal is to help everyone from the CEO to all dealers around the world work better together, which creates a more efficient team and, in turn, better products for the consumer. I love doing these events as I also learn a ton.

Then Ski-Doo Club happens; this year it was in Florida. This is where all the dealers see the new gear and make their orders. I have gotten to know so many dealers and it is a privilege to work with them to help create a better consumer experience when they visit their dealership in person or online through websites or Facebook.

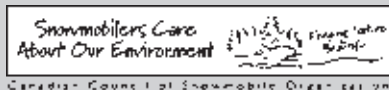
And finally, right now I am on the spring demo with Matt Mondek, travelling from Colorado to B.C. giving dealers, their customers and other prospective buyers all the new, awesome, mountain-specific sleds and gear. Each day we set up and break down for the event and travel over 10,000 miles total. Yes, I wish I was riding but, like I said, there is more to being a sponsored rider than just riding. Hit some pow for me!

Dave Norona has travelled the globe for 22 years racing and adventuring in over 400 of the world's toughest races in 10 different sports. He hopes his adventures inspire you to get out and enjoy life. www.NoronaLife.com

Caribou transplant project report

This past March a caribou transplant project was undertaken in an effort to boost caribou numbers in the Purcell South herd. Twenty caribou

Cont'd. on pg. 23 sidebar ►



Okanagan Sled-Fest wrap-up

by DOUG WASHER, B.C. Snowmobile Federation Director

Sandra Ferguson, Clayton Prince and I wanted to send out a personal note to everyone with a sincere thank you once again for all your support leading up to and during Sled-Fest Okanagan (SF-OK).

SF-OK can, by all means, be described as an enormous success. Over \$1,500 was raised through Snowarama, a fundraising initiative of the B.C. Snowmobile Federation to support the BC Lions Society, which assists children with special needs by creating opportunities for them to attend Easter Seals camps and learn new skills. This is a very noble cause and your efforts are sincerely appreciated.

The Kelowna Snowmobile Club (a.k.a. the Snow Hoots) played a huge role in making all this happen, as did AdventureSmart, the BCSF and Sled:Link through tireless hours of preparation and planning. While the simple truth is we had strong attendance, the real value in many ways was the outreach created through our media relations and getting that message out to the broader community. This is a leadership role that the BCSF is very proud of and we thank you for your hard work to make it all happen.

We want to thank the local businesses as well as those who travelled from as far as Vancouver to share their products, knowledge and expertise with sledders from all over the region. What with high-tech GPS-embedded goggles, avalanche airbag demos, 400-horsepower sleds, avalanche beacon demos and new mountainized safety information, we covered a broad spectrum of the sledding industry topics.

While many could not attend the event, they still sent prizes and support for the estimated 200 in attendance that day and just about everyone walked away from the event with something fun in their hands.

The main focus of the day was to support Easter Seals camps and the children by participating in the poker run, which was hosted by the Kelowna Snow Hoots snowmobile club. Thank you for your participation and generous donations. I saw many big smiles on the trails from the volunteers out posting and planning the event and from chefs Dave and Deb.

I would be remiss not to mention Dave's awesome breakfast as well (you saved my day, Dave!). The food was awesome, the trails impeccably groomed, the weather was the perfect mix of mild and light falling snow and the crowd was as friendly as they come. Coming from the Coast and not having ridden the area before, I was thoroughly impressed with the trails, the abundance of meadows and the number of warm-up cabins. Our fearless leader, Clayton Prince, maintained a

steady pace that ensured we saw as much of the terrain as we possibly could while still having time to get back to base to plan and organize the final event details.

Of course, that meant a fine evening of wining and dining at Chops, the local restaurant associated with the Sandman Hotel where we hung our hats for the weekend. (You have to try the steak bits—simply awesome—and make sure you hit the hot tub afterwards). We look forward to seeing you all next year and hope it's bigger and better than ever.

Last but not least, the Safe Trails raffle tickets, with four great adventures to choose from if you win, will soon be available online at Let's Ride BC, BCSF and Sled:Link. In the meantime, they can be ordered from the BCSF office and from many clubs.

Special thanks to (in no particular order):

- Russell Bryer, Sled:Link
- Tourism BC
- James Retty, Escape Route
- Clayton Prince, Capri Insurance
- Erin Hart and Doug Washer, Amsoil
- Sandra Ferguson, AdventureSmart
- Erin Hart, B.C. Snowmobile Federation
- Kelly Watt, Sandman Hotels, Kelowna
- Jim Laing, Squamish Emergency Program
- Julia Barreiros, Sandman Hotels, Squamish
- Chuck Carter, Mountain Sports Distribution
- Carole Savage, Canadian Avalanche Centre
- Heather Hendry and team, Recon Instruments
- Matt and daughter Bridget, Canadian Avalanche Centre
- Central Okanagan Search & Rescue: <http://www.cosar.ca>
- Banner Recreation: <http://www.bannerrec.com>
- CR Racing: <http://crracingcanada.com/main>
- Valley Motosport: <http://valleymotosport.com>
- Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association: <http://www.totabc.org/corporateSite>
- Kelowna Yamaha: http://www.kelowna.yamaha.ca/contact_yamaha.php
- M & M Performance: <http://www.mmperformance.com>

Media Relations and Communications

- Shaw TV
- Rod Romanow, Snowmobiler TV
- CHTV
- Kelowna radio station Power 104

Organizers

- Sled:Link: sled:link.com
- Let's Ride BC: letsridebc.com
- AdventureSmart: adventuresmart.ca
- BC Snowmobile Federation: bcsf.org
- Kelowna Snow Hoots snowmobile club

>> CLUB NEWS

► CARIBOU TRANSPLANT *Cont'd. from pg. 22 sidebar*

were captured in the Level-Kawdy herd and fitted with GPS collars. They were transported by road to the Kootenay region. Nineteen animals were released into alpine habitat in the South Purcell Mountains. To date, little predator management has been completed in this area; however, six cougars and three wolves have been collared in the study area to allow for monitoring. One cow died in transit. Pregnancy has yet to be confirmed for each cow, but this will be determined once blood tests have been completed. As noted above, each transplanted animal has been fitted with a GPS collar that is programmed to send a distress signal if there is no movement for over four hours.

In addition to the caribou transplant, a captive breeding program is being contemplated by Parks Canada, the Calgary Zoo and the B.C. government. The goal is to contribute to maintaining a healthy population of Southern Mountain woodland caribou on the landscape in Canada. A more formal partnership in the form of a conservation agreement is expected to be signed by the partners in 2012.

The B.C. Snowmobile Federation is continuing to monitor the projects undertaken in an effort to improve caribou population numbers. We also continue to work with government in an effort to keep your riding areas open. Please ensure that you do your part by respecting closure areas. For those of you who are willing to take on an active role, please contact your snowmobile club and volunteer. There is always a need for areas to be signed and/or boundaries to be patrolled.



Snowmobilers Care About Our Environment
 Canadian Council of Snowmobile Organizations



Coast to Coast by Dennis Burns

Support at the political level

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has met with the National Trails Coalition (NTC) group and has also spoken with CCSO president Kevin Sweetland (now past president) about trails in Canada. Stay in touch with your member of parliament (MP) and look for their support for the future of snowmobile trails in Canada. The CCSO board of directors has placed a very high priority on finding a way to start replacing the groomer fleet in Canada.

Thank you to the volunteers, landowners and corporate members/sponsors

Thank you to the thousands of volunteers that make the snowmobile trails magically appear. Each and every one of you deserve our admiration for the long hours and dedication. Every job requires a special talent and the willingness of a person to have a "git 'er done" attitude. No job is too big or too small. Also some special recognition for the hundreds of thousands of dollars that you raise for so many charities and worthwhile causes—we can never thank you enough for your generosity of time and cash donations. Well done and thank you!



And to the landowners who allow the volunteers to cross your properties to build a connected snowmobile trail system—without you approving the access, trails could never be fully connected from community to community—thank you for being so helpful and understanding!

And to our corporate members who donate time and money to assist the CCSO in delivering the safety and environmental messages all across Canada. These cash donations also allow the CCSO to work closely with our members to adopt a unified look and approach in so many of the business practices that it takes for a national body to operate in today's fast-paced business world—thank you for being there.

CCSO spring board meeting

The CCSO held the spring board meeting in Quebec City and the main topic on the agenda was the review and input to the CCSO strategic plan and budget for 2012-2013. Congratulations to the newly elected president Steven McLelan and re-elected vice-president Mario Côté. The board offered overwhelming support for all the ►

► Continued from left

executive and in particular thanked Kevin Sweetland for his work and efforts in his many executive positions and now as both the past president and the nominations chair for the coming year.

Welcome to our newest corporate members: Victory Resources and Sierra Iron Ore corporations join forces with the CCSO to sponsor the Zero Alcohol and Make the Smart Choice campaigns all across Canada.

Clean Snowmobile Challenge was a great success

Clarkson University of Potsdam, New York, captured first place in the 2012 SAE Clean Snowmobile Challenge, which drew to a close March 10 at Michigan Technological University.

Kettering University of Flint, Michigan, placed second with the University of Wisconsin-Platteville earning third place in the internal-combustion category.

The University of Alaska-Fairbanks won the zero emissions category.

The Clean Snowmobile Challenge is a collegiate design competition of the Society of Automotive Engineers. Engineering students from participating schools re-engineer a stock snowmobile, while preserving the riding quality demanded by snowmobile enthusiasts. A total of 12 university teams participated in the internal combustion category.

The contest's zero emissions category, for battery-powered sleds, is sponsored by the National Science Foundation. NSF uses electric

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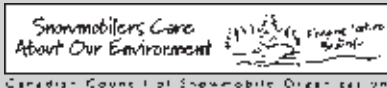
The CCSO would like to thank our sponsors for the 2011/2012 season . . .

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



Dennis Burns





The frostbitten rider

by RICHARD CRONIER, Paradise Valley Snowmobile Club President

Well, we've waited until February 25, 2012, to get a small amount of snow but it feels like the first flake of snow in November. It's early spring now and 2°C—we can only hope the heat of the sun does not melt all the snow too quickly. We have a wiener roast planned—a feast of slow-cooked, flame-touched, perfectly grilled meat-like tube steaks cooked on a hand-carved fork made out of natural twigs. When you say it like that, it feels like a five-star restaurant in Jasper or Banff. Perhaps we can all give ourselves a French name to add to the ambience of our outdoor eatery.

If you can't feel the excitement, I feel sorry for you. It's just been too long without a snowmobile ride. As I was preparing for the festivities, it was like a scene out of a movie. I'm not a fan of those romance movies but this was going to be a classic love story for sure—the reuniting of two spirits, separated by the seasons of spring, summer and fall. If you can imagine the director setting the scene of our love story, it would go like this: The man, nervously undoing the lock and tossing open his shed door, reveals his lost love and exposes her to the winter air. Just as the sunshine enters the dark shed past his muscular shadow, the rays of sunshine gently touch the polished aluminum and our lady-in-waiting responds by shimmering back, her red hood brilliantly gleaming with a coat of last season's wax... mmmmm, she looks pretty fine. Our hero walks slowly towards her and climbs onto the running boards. It

was like they were never apart. He's pretty nervous that she might be offended; after all, she has been locked away for months. He speaks to her, "Well baby, it's been a while. Are you ready to conquer a snow drift?" He gently turns the key, pulls the choke to full on, massages the kill switch up, reaches for the cord and pulls hard once, and hard twice, hard and hard. Are you getting the idea? You know how sleds work—pull, pull, pull until finally a cough and a sputter and she roars to life.

Out of fantasy and into reality. I'm the hero of the story and I'm panting pretty hard now because I'm a fat guy out of shape and I have been pulling a long time now, but she's running and she's a beauty. You couldn't get the smile off my face with a Bosch rat tail grinder. Yippee! And it's out to the snow we go. Through the ditch, over the lawn, across the field, track a turning, snow flying and teeth getting really cold. A guy has to learn not to smile too much when he's riding. And then it happens; she dies in the middle of the lawn. The dogs are staring, the horse is staring and I'm thinking I've been jilted again, and now she's paying me back for those months of dark storage. Oh, duh, I forgot to turn the fuel on again. Two pulls, a cough, a sputter and we're in business again.

I know it seems a little weird that a guy would be this attached to his sled. Not that Thunder (that's right, my sled has a name) fills the void

Continued on sidebar ►

>> CLUB NEWS



► FROSTBITTEN RIDER *Continued from left*

that a great wife and family does, but she really has been truly missed. I hope all my riding buddies have had more riding than I have, but early spring can often be the best time to get out and enjoy what's left—sunshine and warmer temperatures, great riding friends and a lot more hotdogs.

► SNOWMOBILE CHALLENGE *Cont'd. from pg. 24 sidebar*

snowmobiles while conducting atmospheric research in pristine arctic locations. The electric or zero emissions challenge involves running up to 20 miles with one battery charge. Five teams participated in this category.

This was the 13th annual challenge. The snow was great and all the events ran smoothly. Awards were presented for recognizing the best balance between cost, fuel economy, performance, design, handling and acceleration.

The Clean Snowmobile Challenge is sponsored by Michigan Technological University, the Keweenaw Research Center and the Department of Mechanical Engineering-Engineering Mechanics.

The members of the International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association (Arctic Cat, BRP, Polaris, and Yamaha) are gold sponsors of the event and support the competition throughout the year.

Plans for next year's event are being discussed and preparations are underway for another great event.

For all your motor oil needs, simply go to the BCSF Amsoil website at www.bcsnowmobile.wboil.com and download the price list from the top right-hand corner of the home page. Call Louise in the office at 1-877-537-8716 for ordering instructions.

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