



SASKATCHEWAN Snowmobiler

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A ROARING SUCCESS

2012 FESTIVAL RIDE WAS THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE WINTER

BY BARRY BRADSHAW, Chairman

This year's Festival Ride to Hudson Bay was one of the best in a long time even though our snow conditions to start off were not the greatest. This year's ride consisted mainly of the old standby riders—most of whom aren't that old—who have been doing this ride with me for approximately 10 years. The ride consisted of three couples: Don and Marie Happy, Trent and Doris Kresak and Nelson and Shannon Scott; along with single riders Brent Moore, Curtis Ange, Jack Powell and myself for a total of 10 sleds and riders. All, of course, belong to the Yorkton Snoriders.

Being the ride would only be one day up and one day back the consensus was that it needed to be made a couple of days longer. We decided the first stop would be Moose Range Lodge in the Porcupine Hills, and on the way back we would ride as far as Tisdale and stay at the new Canalta Hotel.

Wednesday, Day 1: We all met at the Good Spirit Market at 9 a.m., Wednesday, February 22, to prepare for our ride and, after some debriefing, everyone was given the job of recording our ride. We finally left just before 10 a.m. First we headed north on our own trail and then did a mixture of cross-country and trail riding to the Whistle Stop at Norquay. As always, the food was great and the highlight for most of us was the sour cream raisin pie. After fuelling up our sleds at the Co-op it was on to Benito, Manitoba, Thunder Hill, Forget Me Knot Corner, Norm's Place, etc., and finally our destination of Moose Range Lodge. The owners, Dave and Sherry McCann, treated us to an excellent steak supper and their usual wonderful hospitality. If you are looking for a great place to stay and sled, email them at mrl@xplornet.ca.

The temperature was an ideal -10°C and we rode a total of 260 kilometres for the day. High-

lights of the day were seeing two black timber wolves in the Good Spirit pasture, moose and deer along the trail, the Elks warm-up shelter at Thunder Hill, Forget Me Knot Corner and some great trails, especially going through the rolling hills around Thunder Hill.

Thursday, Day 2: It was an enjoyable ride through the Norquay and Hudson Bay trails to the Weekes Hotel for lunch. The trails were great and so was the lunch. It was then on to Neely Lake Shelter.

On the way we took a detour off the trails through the area where Jack and I hunt moose. When riding in this area the week before we were lucky enough to see a couple of moose and found a pair of shed moose antlers that were a match. Finding two antlers from the same animal doesn't happen very often. We finally got to our destination at the Treeline Motel in Hudson Bay. We enjoyed a great meal and more camaraderie that evening. It had been a clear day with the

temperature being -15°C and we rode a total of 232 kilometres for the day.

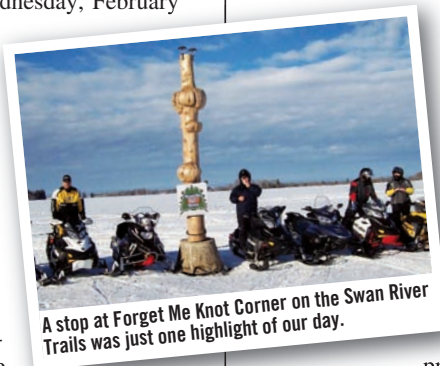
Friday, Day 3: The Premier's Ride left the Tree-line at approximately 10 a.m. Premier Brad Wall couldn't be in attendance, but we had MLAs Fred Bradshaw from Carrot River Valley and Greg Ottenbreit from Yorkton both representing the

province of Saskatchewan. The

ride headed out west to the Challenge warm-up shelter along the Greenbush River. The Hudson Bay Trail Riders served a great trail lunch to the 40-plus snowmobilers that came on the ride. It was the highlight of the day to see the two MLAs, who are "Friends of Snowmobiling," join the ride. A great time was had by all.

Friday evening included registration, meet and greet, wing night and entertainment at the Brooks Hall put on by the Hudson Bay Trail Riders. The

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A stop at Forget Me Knot Corner on the Swan River Trails was just one highlight of our day.

>> EVENTS

Annual General Meeting

June 23, 2012

West Harvest Inn, Regina, SK

Diamonds in the Snow Banquet and Awards

June 23, 2012

West Harvest Inn, Regina, SK

2012 Snowmobile Show

November 9 - 11, 2012

PrairieLand Exhibition Park, Saskatoon, SK

>> CLUB NEWS

SSA Four-Sled raffle winner

Congratulations to Craig Rodine of Weyburn, SK, who was the lucky winner of the SSA's Four-Sled raffle. The winning ticket was No. 19025 sold by the Ramsey Bay Snowmobile Club of Weyakin, SK.

2012 Saskatchewan Snowmobile Show

This year the 2012 Saskatchewan Snowmobile Show will be held at the PrairieLand Exhibition Park, 503 Ruth Street, Saskatoon, SK, on:

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

Weekend Pass: \$17
Adults: \$13

Children 6 to 12: \$6

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





Common courtesy is a must

PLEASE STAY ON THE TRAILS AND KEEP THE NOISE DOWN

BY CHRIS BREWER, President/CEO

This article will coincide with the end of another successful snowmobile season and get us working on next year's. This season has been an odd one but not one we haven't seen before. I can remember back to the early '80s when we had poor snow for snowmobiling. I remember on Valentine's Day loading sleds in the mud to head to the Southern Rally. This is not something new—we will live through it and we look forward to next season and what it offers in terms of snow. You don't have to think back too far to remember a winter with great snow—I think it was the winter of 2010/11 that saw outstanding snow province-wide and it will return.

Low snow in the majority of the province and fair snow in the Northeast put a lot of pressure on the trails in that area and created issues. Landowners are not happy with off-trail riders so the clubs posted stay-on-trail signs, but snowmobilers chose to ride off trail anyway. Sledders need to understand that if you wish to ride in open fields you need to get permission from the landowner, and when it's posted "Stay on Trail," please stay on trail.

Loud sleds—ones with "cans"—are really causing problems. Sledders arrive in the small communities and unload, start up their sleds and then ride the sled around the community. I have heard from the mayors of several communities and they have informed us that they are looking at closing the snowmobile trails into the communities. We are going to be working with our clubs to post signs going into communities that say keep your sled quiet, but you the sledder can help us by not installing cans on your sled. People who use loud cans are not getting more horsepower or better performance—they are saying "look at me, look at me." They need to grow up and understand they are hurting snowmobiling in our province. Sledders with loud sleds (non-OEM) need to realize they are not legal; the owners can be fined under the Snowmobile Act, and have the sled impounded.

This season has been a contentious one with the clubs seeing a great deal of damage to the trails from ATV use. We have clubs reporting they have spent thousands of dollars to fix areas damaged by ATVs. Spring is just around the corner and we will see the ATV user take to the trails and damage what our clubs have repaired. We will see ATV rallies that will use the snowmobile trails and leave behind damage that will take major dollars to repair. Groups using the snowmobile trails need to understand they host an ATV event, take the money and then leave the

snowmobile club to pay the cost to clean up the mess. ATVs now have larger motors, 32-inch tires and snorkels, and can rip up the trails in such a way that Mother Nature can't repair. ATV users need to get organized and build ATV trails and parks. ATVs need to be licensed with a fee attached so the users have the funds to build trails and parks and keep them maintained and off the snowmobile trails. I have finished my rant for the year but we, the SSA, will continue to urge that ATV users get organized.

Now on to some of the good things that come with snowmobiling.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank folks that have helped snowmobiling:

- Landowners who provide permission for snowmobile trails
- Rural municipalities that provide permission for snowmobile trails
- Cities, towns and villages that allow snowmobile access to the community
- Snowmobilers who register sleds with SGI
- SSA member snowmobile clubs for being involved to host trails, shelters, safety and events
- Volunteers—the most important part of snowmobiling. They are the ones who keep this wonderful industry alive. Without volunteers we wouldn't have what we enjoy today, so please take the time to thank a volunteer and please consider volunteering with your local club.

I would like to personally thank Jon and Samantha from Power Sports Regina for the opportunity and use of the Ski-Doo Summit 800 E-TEC 146. What a great sled! I really enjoyed this sled and the improvements in 2012, but I am looking forward to the new and improved Ski-Doo Summit for 2013—from what I have seen this will be a sweet ride.

The SSA Trade Show will again be in Saskatoon at Prairieland Exhibition Park on November 9, 10 and 11. Many have asked why in Saskatoon again? We are hoping to see the facilities in Regina get upgraded to host our show; we have and will continue to work with the folks in Regina to see the SSA show return once the buildings receive upgrading and improvements. You will also notice we have had to change weekends; this is due to show date changes across Canada and the availability of displays attending other shows—we want to see them include our show within the circuit. With the record turnout at last year's show and with 30 new displays, snowmobiling continues to grow in Saskatchewan.

Thanks to everyone and we look forward to working with you for the upcoming season.

>> CLUB NEWS

► CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE *Continued from page 21*

Hudson Bay club had a record registration with most of the expected 350 registering. There were more than 100 on their waiting list as 350 was the maximum for the hall. It was a long night for some.

Saturday, Day 4: This was Festival Day. After a pancake breakfast at the Brooks Hall our group decided to ride north up to the Wildcat Hills as some had never been there. We rode east on Trail F to the Wachee Shelter, then on the P Trail to the Bankside Shelter, and around to Larry's Place Shelter where we had ridden on the first Premier's Ride four years ago. Then it was on to the Dahl Lake Shelter and Fir River Shelter, then a quick ride back down the Fir River Trail to Hudson Bay. It was noted by all the riders what great shelters the Hudson Bay club has on their trails and in what great condition all the trails were. It was another great day of riding with temperatures of -15°C and 140 kilometres for the loop.

Back at the Treeline we spent a couple of hours reminiscing about the day's ride before the Saturday night banquet. We got on the shuttle van around 5:45 and were off to the banquet and festivities where we were treated to a great meal. The evening included the SSA awards, with our own rider, Curtis Ange, getting the trophy for coming from the farthest distance—3,836 kilometres—as he is from Chocowinity, North Carolina. We had to give up the trophy for the most coming by snowmobile, which we had managed to hang on to for a number of years. This year it went back to the Creighton club—oh well, there is always next year. After the awards

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Lakeland Snowmobile Club

BY LORI FEHR

Hey there riders and club members—another sledding season has come to an end. The winter weather was beautiful, a little short on the white stuff, but you couldn't ask for nicer temperatures.

As most snowmobilers know, when you buy your licence for your machine a portion of that money goes to running the SSA, and they split the remainder between the member clubs based on a matrix system. We get our funding based on points for signing, grooming, shelters and kilometres of trail in our club.

What we are finding is that many riders don't realize that while the money helps a lot, it does not pay for all of the work required. Most clubs still have to rely heavily on volunteers and additional fundraising to get the jobs done.

This past year saw our club faced with several challenges. First of all, summer 2011 hit us hard with tornadoes and plow winds tearing up many of our wilderness trails. Not only did it take several days and hundreds of volunteer man hours to open the trails, many of our signs simply disappeared.

Then we had somebody drive through almost every stake we had on every lake. The stakes

were not only hit, they were destroyed. Hundreds of stakes were gone in an evening.

We are finding, due to vandalism and the new signing requirements, that signing has become the most difficult and frustrating job for our club and very discouraging for our volunteers.

I'm sure we are not the only club suffering from these issues. Our trails and shelters are used heavily year round as we are in a resort area and quad/ATV traffic is huge—some of our vandalism occurs in the summer months as well.

We are wondering if anyone has any solutions to these problems. Are there stronger stakes that can withstand people hitting them? Does anyone feel that perhaps the signing should be handled at the provincial level?

That would possibly guarantee the consistent signing that the province of Saskatchewan is aiming for. Personally I don't see how we can maintain highway-level signage with a volunteer workforce.

You can reach us by email at rothenburgpark@xplornet.com or by mail at RR 1, Site 7, Comp. 55, Christopher Lake, SK S0J 0N0. Thanks for the input and have a great summer.

Pasquia Snow Goers Club

BY KATHY LINDSAY

Hotdogs, buns and condiments—supper in 15 minutes when we arrive at the new warm-up shelter, located only 12 kilometres north of Arborfield—who's in? Our newest warm-up shelter, located on a beautiful scenic trail winding along the local creeks and rivers, is a wonderful place to zip out to have dinner or supper. How many people can enjoy this luxury? It's in our backyard and we are willing to share with everyone who is interested in checking out our freshly groomed snowmobile trails and playing in the abundance of powder we have off trail. We are very spoilt having the snowmobile trail located just outside our back doors and a wonderful warm-up shelter close enough that any hot food you take barely has time to cool down.

We have noticed an increased number of snowmobilers coming to the Northeast as we have lots of fluffy white snow perfect for getting that "I'm in the mountains" feeling. However, you don't need to worry about avalanches or having to "whoa" a runaway sled headed down the mountain by itself!

There have been a number of very successful snowmobile rallies in the Northeast this winter.

The temperatures encourage even the most timid rider to come out and participate in the rallies or just to enjoy the fresh air and scenery along the trail.

Even with the increased number of snowmobiles in the area this winter, the trails are not clogged with snowmobiles. You can enjoy being out on a ride with your friends but you can still stop at one of our shelters and enjoy the company of other riders out on the trails.

We have the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association to thank for all their efforts to keep our trail network well connected and maintained. The Pasquia Snow Goers are conveniently located in the middle of the Northeast. We have the Twin Lakes Trail Blazers club to our northwest, the Hudson Bay Trail Riders to our east, the Mistatim Snow Packers to our south, and last but not least, the newest club to our corner—the Tisdale Snowmobile Club to our southwest. All the above snowmobile clubs' trails link into the Pasquia Snow Goers trail system.

We encourage you to stay centrally and plan your trips to all the communities located within a

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>> CLUB NEWS

► CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

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and thank-you's, the club had hired comedian Dez Reed for a good hour of laughter. A dance and silent auction followed with many door prizes given out. At 12 p.m. the draw was made for the SSA snowmobile (winner's choice of one of four snowmobiles), as well as the raffle of the Polaris sled, which was given away by the Hudson Bay Trail Riders. All in all it was just a great evening.

Sunday, Day 5: This day brought a little cooler weather, was overcast and -17°C with little wind. After a hearty breakfast at the Treeline at 9:30 a.m. it was off on the trails west and then on the N Trail (the "autobahn") north to the Pasquia Trail TC220A.

After a brief stop at the Jubilee Shelter it was on to Arborfield to the Co-op cardlock for fuel. As we were fuelling up a friend of ours, Dwight Thesen, pulled up in his truck to check us out. After a visit he suggested that the Pearl Café was a good place to have lunch. The highlight of the day was their special won ton soup. It amazes me what some of the small-town cafés have to offer. After lunch it was off to Zenon Park where we would pick up the Tisdale Trail 225D to Wilkinson's Inn Shelter and then on to Tisdale where, as in Doris's words, we would "stay at a four-star hotel"—the Canalta. A comment by the riders on the last two days of riding was "what great field staking both the Pasquia club and the Tisdale club had." I agreed—it was second to none. We were in the hotel by 3 p.m. just in time to watch the final of the Scotties ladies curling and the win by Alberta. We had ridden 184 kilometres that day.

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► **PASQUIA SNOW GOERS**
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short snowmobiling distance. There are several bed and breakfasts that will happily accommodate snowmobilers and all their gear.

Snowmobiling continues to be great for tourism as the snow will bring people to our area who have never been here before. We hope they will

come back in the summer to enjoy all the Northeast has to offer.

Come on over and check out our well-groomed trails. Our groomers happily groom miles of trail over and over again to ensure you have a great ride while checking out the Northeast. We are confident that you will give our groomers two thumbs up!

Moose Mountain Snowmobile Club

BY TROY FOSTER

It was the winter that wasn't here in the Moose Mountain area. Thankfully we have the park to ride in, as everywhere there wasn't tree lines to ride there was no snow. We didn't get one decent measurable snowfall all winter and the only club trail that saw a groomer was from Kisbey to Rae's Shelter. The trip to Rae's Shelter was made just to try out the new drag that we bought from a company in Quebec. We renamed the Kisbey shelter last winter in memory of Rae Johnston; he was always heavily involved in the snowmobile club.

The guys in Windthorst got their new shelter into place as did Stoughton, but neither got any traffic this season. Even if we had experienced a good snowfall some of the trails wouldn't have been up to standard as some creeks and fields are still flooded from last summer's rains. I figure this year's mild winter was a blessing for all those who lost homes and businesses, and had flooded farms last summer—because of that we

should all be OK with this snowless winter.

Now the planning starts for next season. With no grooming happening, a few of our guys spent a lot of volunteer hours servicing all the groomers, flushing fluids, fixing hydraulics, wiring, and working on lights, tracks and drags. A lot of new signage has been replaced and thousands of new orange stakes are at the ready for next season.

A group from our club made the trip to the Blast in the Bay and from all accounts had a great time. The Hudson Bay area is a great asset for snowmobilers in the West with great scenery, wildlife and hospitality. Hopefully lots of people registered their snowmobiles this winter so the clubs will have funding for 2012/13.

If you want to stay up to date with the goings on of the Moose Mountain Snowmobile Club, check out our website at www.mmsnowmobileclub.com and click on our Facebook link.

Cheers to Hudson Bay for a great 2012 festival!

Timber Trails Sno-Riders

BY BARRY NONTELL

The 2011/2012 snowmobile season in the Big River area has been challenging. During the past summer we had two major storms that left our trails with extensive storm damage. All of the trails had trees down but our 115D Trail had the most damage and took the most work to clean up.

Our great group of volunteers have been busy since last summer preparing for the winter season. Trails were cleared, permanent signage installed, and shelters painted and stocked with firewood.

Then came our winter season with virtually no snow until late December and January. Fortunately we were able to enjoy some very good sledding after that. The upside of no snow meant our lakes had a chance to freeze completely, with no slush to speak of, making lake travel safe.

Our club acknowledges the importance of the logging industry in our community; however, we hate to see the trees along our snowmobile trails

disappear. This logging activity has forced our club to close a portion of our 115C Trail this past winter, which does cause us hardships.

In late December our snowmobile club held a very successful snowmobile safety course. Our annual snowmobile rally was a huge success with more than 140 riders from all over Saskatchewan and Alberta attending.

The mild winter weather and good snow conditions have brought a large number of sledders to our snowmobile-friendly community. This great group of snowmobilers creates some very good economic spin-offs in our community with new service facilities opening up for not only sled repairs, but complete RV service. All businesses in our community see an increase in business from sledders, which is very much appreciated.

Although our season was short, our trails have been used heavily, and we do appreciate all the

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► **CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE**
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Monday, Day 6: After a great complimentary continental breakfast at the Canalta we were homeward bound through light snow heading south on 225A to Darren's Den Shelter. Jack had made arrangements with a friend to take us on a shortcut from the Den across to Barrier and Marean lakes to Greenwater Park saving us about 50 kilometres. This ride no doubt was the highlight of the day. We stopped at the Cove at Greenwater for lunch and fuel.

After lunch we headed south on Kelvington Trail 211A, 25 kilometres to Rosie's Roundhouse Shelter—a unique round building in a very nice location. The trail to this point was a little rough due to the weekend traffic coming back and forth from Greenwater Park. A few kilometres south of Rosie's we encountered a river running across the trail, but managed to get around it without incident. Farther south on the trail we met an oncoming snowmobiler who was flagging us down. It was Dennis Szafron from the Kelvington Trail Blazers who, along with a helper, was on his way out to reroute the trail around the washout. After a short visit it was down to their D Trail and on to the Assiniboine Shelter (at the headwaters of the Assiniboine River). Then we took C, O & R trails to the Ranger Cabin Shelter. After a brief stop we continued on the Preeceville Rough Rider Club Trail 223E to Endeavour. Some rough riding came into play here as the trail was quite rough and needed fresh snow and a grooming to fix it up. From Endeavour we took the highway ditch trail 223D south to Preeceville. It was then south cross country to

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► **TIMBER TRAILS SNO-RIDERS**

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snowmobilers coming to Big River.

Our club is preparing for another fundraiser—the annual Big River Walleye Classic fishing derby, which will be on July 1 and 2, 2012. This derby is held at South Stoney Marina on Delaronde Lake, which brings fishermen from far and wide. It is co-sponsored by our snowmobile club, ATV club and our local downhill ski club,

Ski Timber Ridge.

With spring and summer approaching our club will be again doing some major work to our trails, so look forward to improvements in the 2012/2013 snowmobile season.

So until then, we hope you have a chance to visit Big River, Saskatchewan. Check our website at www.bigriver.ca; look for our many lake resort developments and community attractions. We are “Nature’s Doorstep.”

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► **CHAIRMAN’S MESSAGE**

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Good Spirit Lake and down past the many eight- to 10-foot ice heaves. This ride across country was better than anyone expected and the second highlight of the day was the beauty of the sun reflecting like a prism off the ice heaves. We were back at our starting point at 6 p.m., the longest day of the ride (272 kilometres) and just over 1,200 kilometres for the entire trip.

It was one of our best rides—all sleds ran well, we enjoyed great companionship and everyone is already looking forward to next year and the Festival Ride to Nipawin.

Prairie Women on Snowmobiles

—by Carol McKnight

Thank you everyone! Prairie Women on Snowmobiles has just finished up with another very successful mission. Our Mission 2012 team raised over \$184,000 for breast cancer research with all that money staying in Saskatchewan.

We would just like to take this opportunity to thank all our corporate sponsors, which include CTV, Co-op, Mancor, CKRM, NLS Welding & Contracting, Cropper Motors, Frontier Peterbilt, Q-Line Trucking, Horizon Fertilizers, Choko Powersports, Impact Printers and IBEW Local 2067. Thanks also for the support provided to us throughout this wonderful province to make Mission 2012 the success it was even with the lack of snow.

This will now bring our total provided to the Canadian Cancer Society to \$1.8 million in the past 12 missions, and with that one might say “mission accomplished!”

We would like to congratulate
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Porcupine Trail Blasters

BY KELLY DAHROUG

Last year the members of the Porcupine Trail Blasters felt there was a need in our area for a snow ambulance. As some of you might know, the Weekes Bush Pushers snowmobile club shut down last year. The Porcupine Trail Blasters, while looking at purchasing a snow ambulance, had the Weekes Bush Pushers club approach us; club members asked if we could use some funds for the purchase of a snow ambulance. When we told them the cost of the whole unit including snowmobile and trailer, they de-



cidated to use their club money to purchase the whole unit. The Porcupine Trail Blasters and the surrounding communities would like to thank the Weekes Bush Pushers for their generous donation—we hope we never have to use it but it is nice to know it is there if we need it.

The Porcupine area offers some of the most scenic groomed trails in the province and our town offers everything you need for a weekend getaway. Come and visit our snowmobile-friendly community—we have it all right here.

Yorkton Sno-Riders

BY SANDY KONKEL

It is almost the end of the riding season and we are still praying for snow!

On the weekend of January 27 and 28, sled drags were held at the Yorkton Exhibition Grounds in conjunction with the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Racing Association and the Yorkton Sno-Riders. Friday, January 27 was the meet and greet with racers at the Industrial Building. Saturday, January 28 the races were held at the exhibition grounds. An estimated 700 to 800 people attended the races. Trophy presentations were presented at the Painted Hand Casino. There were approximately 85 riders who participated in the races. Thank you to the SSRA, the Yorkton Exhibition Association, the Painted Hand Casino and corporate sponsors, CJGX and the RCMP. The new John Deere groomer was taken into the exhibition grounds to be on display during the drag race event. Thank you to the groomer operators who built and prepared the racetrack for this event.

On February 11 Snowarama was held in Yorkton. Due to the lack of snow there was no ride but

the turnout was great. Friday was registration and wing night, Saturday a breakfast was held and at noon smokies and hotdogs were served at the Abilities Centre. There were 352 people in attendance at the banquet, which was held at the Agriplex. A total of \$125,000 was raised.

I would like to say thank you on behalf of the club to all Sno-Rider members who volunteered at the drag races and Snowarama. Your help and involvement is greatly appreciated.

The Yorkton Sno-Riders were contacted and advised that the club had been nominated for the chamber’s Celebrate Success awards. The Celebrate Success finalist luncheon was held on February 16 and the awards night was held on March 15.

On February 22 nine Sno-Rider members left Good Spirit Acres to snowmobile to the Hudson Bay Provincial Festival. On February 23 approximately 10 Sno-Rider members left Yorkton to attend the festival in Hudson Bay. For a club that doesn’t have a lot of snow in the area we sure seem to keep motivated and involved.



Tisdale Snowmobile Club

BY SHANE BECKER

The Tisdale Snowmobile Club has had a very busy season.

The club officially opened the trails in early January. With the lack of snow in most parts of the province, we were fortunate enough to have enough snow to get rolling. The new groomer and power unit are working well, making the grooming process much easier and more comfortable. The lack of snow in most parts of the province has made for a very hectic season in the Northeast.

The trails have been ridden extensively with people travelling from Manitoba, Alberta and all of Saskatchewan. The increased pressure on the trails has been noticed but they seem to be holding up well. The shelters are going through lots of wood, as lots of travellers have been using

them. The local communities have been thriving with the increased traffic and this has definitely been a boost to the local economy.

We would like to thank all of the out-of-area travellers for the support to the local communities and businesses; also to those who have donated to the local snowmobile clubs.

We held our annual fundraiser in early February. An excellent supper was served at the Tisdale Hotel and was a great hit with everyone. Raffles, a 50/50 draw and a silent auction kept everyone busy for the evening. Thanks to all who attended for your generous donations and support. Without your support our club would not survive. Until next time, ride safe and enjoy our great Saskatchewan outdoors. Don't forget—if you pack it in, pack it out!

Whiteswan Snow Hawks

BY CHRIS JAMES

NORTHERN EXPOSURE RALLY

February 11 turned out to be an awesome day for snowmobilers. The comment we heard when people came in to register for the rally was that the temperature and the trails were great.

We had 72 riders, sold 119 hands and had wonderful prizes for our draws. Congratulations to all winners.

Winners for hands were:

1st Tricia McFarlane	\$297.25
2nd Ray Ouellette	\$178.25
3rd Glen Pickard	\$119.00
50/50 Brenda Shilling	\$240.00

We had another successful rally. Thank you to all who helped out the day of the rally as well as the days before and after to get everything organized. Thank you to all who donated prizes—the prizes were awesome this year. Thank you to all those who participated in the rally and to our hosts Greg and Roxy at Eagle Bay Resort for the use of their facilities and the great food.

GET READY TO RIDE

The day was cool and windy but we still got more than 16 people out for either a ride or to have a hotdog. Thank you to those who did the work to make this event happen.

LICENCE PLATE REMINDER

I was talking to one member at the rally and this member told me they ensure that all their company members have plates on their sleds when they are snowmobiling on our trails. They have also made comments to other snowmobilers they have seen on our trails who do not have

plates. If every member does their part to ensure people riding our trails have purchased plates, we will continue to enjoy well-groomed and safe trails. After all, it is against the law to ride groomed trails without a valid licence plate. Purchasing plates is no different than having to pay green fees to golf or buy lift tickets for skiing.

KEEPING OUR TRAILS SAFE

Everyone benefits from having safe trails to ride on. So please, if you see a rock, stop and remove it. If some willows or other trees have come down across the trail, try to remove them. If an ice patch has appeared where there isn't any warning sign, let Bob know. Ice patches can change daily. It's a good safety practice to keep a first aid kit and a small saw in your sled. Use common sense. And one last important reminder—when on any trail and, more importantly, on groomed trails, do not spin your track causing snow to pile up behind you. In a few hours this turns into a large, rock-hard lump on our trail, causing a serious threat to the next snowmobilers using the trail.

WARM-UP SHELTERS

We know that it isn't just our members who use our shelters, but when you use them please take home whatever you bring with you. No one wants to pack up someone else's cans or clean up after someone else.

DO NOT DRINK AND RIDE

Please, please do not drink and ride. Let's keep everyone safe. Thanks again to everyone for coming out for the Northern Exposure Rally.

>> CLUB NEWS

► PRAIRIE WOMEN

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late Joe Bronner who was the lucky winner of the 1974 Roll-o-Flex and to extend thanks to all of you who either bought or sold tickets to support this event.

We invite anyone who is interested in being a part of Mission 2013 to visit our website at www.prairiewomen.ca and submit an application to our head office prior to May 1, 2012.

SSA trail maps are now on Facebook

The Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association is encouraging snowmobilers not only from Saskatchewan but all over the world to check out our Facebook page—Sask Snow. Not only do you receive updates on events in the province, media releases pertaining to snowmobiling, trail closing/opening announcements and safety information, but now available on our Facebook page will be trail maps! Snowmobilers who visit our beautiful province will be able to save/upload our club's trail maps to their smartphones or look up the map right on our Facebook page while enjoying a trail or warming up at one of the shelters.

Saskatchewan is the only province that offers this kind of access to the trails that we love, which is even more reason to make Saskatchewan your winter snowmobile or holiday destination. From the amazing hospitality of our snowmobile clubs to never getting lost because you always have access to our trail maps, we make snowmobiling in our province fun and safe.

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



Saskatoon Snowmobile Club

BY GERRI SAMETTS

It appears that Mother Nature really has it out for us this season. At the time of this writing the Saskatoon area is currently sitting at approximately 21 centimetres of snow for the season, which equates to bare fields and empty ditches. Our trails remain closed at this time.

It is somewhat rideable north of Rosthern but there is not enough snow to groom or sign in that area either. The Nisbet Provincial Forest has fair to good off-trail riding. To date our club has been unable to host any club rides, although a lot of members have been travelling to those areas of the province that have been lucky enough to get some snowfall. At this time it is highly unlikely that any grooming, signing or organized rides will take place during what remains of the season.

The SSC was proud to host the finale banquet for the Prairie Women on Snowmobiles (PWOS) Mission 2012 on Friday, February 3. There were approximately 150 people in attendance and a great time was had by all. The SSC and PWOS must extend a heartfelt thank you to all local businesses who donated amazing items, to the club members who attended the event and to the general public who supported us. These people all helped make this event the success it was. The event consisted of a delicious meal, silent auctions, raffle items, a 50/50 draw and an excellent program. The event generated a total donation amount to the PWOS of \$8,000! Not too shabby for a little club on the Prairies (as one of our directors put it).

Marcel Voyer has already completed seven safety courses this season. Approximately 135 students have completed the safety course in Saskatoon this season with an expected 10 to 12

more before the season is over. This is the most ever instructed in Saskatoon in one season. Overall numbers of students taking the course are up province-wide, even with many areas receiving little snow this year.

John Popoff, SSC secretary-treasurer, has spent some time compiling some important facts about the SSC. I wanted to share a few of them with you:

- Fall 1970 - the Saskatoon Snowmobile Club was formed in the Grasswood area, south of Saskatoon
- Fall 1986 - the clubhouse was built at the Grasswood location
- November 2000 - a 1986 BR-400 groomer and a 2000 Mogul Master drag were purchased for \$44,000 and grooming of trails began north of the city to Rosthern and Duck Lake
- October 2001 - the SSC acquired use of the Penner School, north of Saskatoon, as a clubhouse
- October 2003 - the SSC built the warm-up shelter (the North 40) near Hague

The SSC would like to take a minute to recognize 13 of our members. These dedicated individuals have been members of the SSC for a minimum of 35 years! That is a fantastic commitment and a wonderful milestone. Congratulations to:

Reinie and Myrna Berndt
Jim and Pam Smith
Gary and Elaine Farkas
John and Mae Popoff
Ken and Carol Steinhauer
Bob and Susan Nicol
Vern Mattson

I hope you enjoy the remainder of the winter!

>> CLUB NEWS

Twin Lakes Trail Blazers

—by Mae Paterson

I am sure we are like everyone else this year hoping for more snow, although we do have enough to enjoy a ride. Several of our club members have been sledding to neighbouring trails and have seen that the lack of snow is a problem everywhere.

Our Vintage Drags were held March 3 and the Nipawin Drags on March 10. A couple of the guys packed the race-track for the Vintage Drags to ensure that we had a good stable base. Everyone worked hard on these events to make sure they went on without a hitch.

Grant and Ken have been busy taking wood to our three Northern area shelters. Keeping wood in the shelters is a real problem. Kelly Lynn and family keep the Tobin and Homer's Hide-Away shelters stocked all winter.

We had our annual club ride to the Aylsham Inn for a Valentine's supper. It was delicious as always. There were 24 riders who braved the colder temperatures but the dessert of death-by-chocolate made it all worth it!

We enjoyed the Peace 100 rally this year on Saturday, February 18. Our club helped the local Elks Club by having a snowmobile rally with a great prize selection, banquet and cabaret in conjunction with their prizes.

This will be our last report for this year. We hope everyone enjoys the rest of the winter sledding season.

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

The joys of snowmobiling

BY CHRIS BREWER

So it's fall and you're just starting to think about winter. What can you do to keep yourself and the family occupied for the long winter? You want to do something with the kids, something they will enjoy and can grow with over a number of years. Something you and your family can enjoy while exploring the outdoors, visiting locations in and around Saskatchewan that you can only do by riding a snowmobile.

Snowmobiling is a great way to enjoy the winter, with a network of groomed and signed trails that allow you to visit the backwoods and prairie landscapes. Visit one of the many warm-up shel-

ters along the trails to enjoy a family cook-out or just a place in the country to enjoy and get warm. Travelling by snowmobile on the trail system is enjoyable, relaxing and refreshing. Families can enjoy a day outing or plan a weekend or a vacation snowmobiling.

Saskatchewan is fortunate to have snowmobile-friendly accommodations—you can ride up to the door and several have compounds to host your sleds for overnight stays. Saskatchewan is also fortunate to have communities that are snowmobile-friendly, where you can ride your

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► **JOYS OF SNOWMOBILING**

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sled into and out of the community or get to hotels, motels or service stations.

All of the routes/trails are well marked to and from all the amenities in the communities that have snowmobile trails. You will find You Are Here maps at all intersections on the snowmobile trail system. This will assist in guiding you to your destination without problems. The trail maps that you can



find on our website, www.sasksnow.com, offer the locations of fuel stations—and remember it is always best to stop and fill your tank to insure you don't encounter problems.

If you are looking for a way to enjoy winter and enjoy the company of your family and friends, then you should take a long hard look at snowmobiling. A family that snowmobiles together stays happy together. You will enjoy snowmobiling—just give it a try!

Policing the trail system

BY RICK DOLEZSAR, SSA Zone 2 Report

Lately there has been a lot of discussion in our corner of the province concerning policing on the trails and what the proper amount of discretion is in terms of straight-up enforcement versus education of riders through warnings.

First off let me say that I don't wish to be too much of a hypocrite in this regard as, like the majority of snowmobilers, we have almost all had the odd ounce of rum in our hot chocolate or took that machine out around the block on the first weekend of snowfall when the licence issuer wasn't open until Monday. However, those are risks we chose to take at that point in time, and if there were consequences then it was up to us to deal with them.

This season there was a tremendous amount of traffic in Northeast Saskatchewan and many sledders from the south came up to enjoy our snow conditions because, basically, they had none south of a line from Kamsack to Prince Albert. Apparently registration of snowmobiles was a new concept to some of these visitors, and after RCMP members gave out a number of warnings and requested sledders to subsequently produce registrations, a number of tickets were issued for operating non-registered snowmobiles in towns or on public rights-of-way comprising our trail system.

Our organized clubs who are part of the Saskatchewan Trail Fund receive a \$70 registration fee through the registration of snowmobiles. Registration provides liability insurance for the owner/rider when meeting other sleds or vehicles on the trails or in parking lots. It is the law as supported by the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association and all grooming clubs—a law that all of us involved in the Saskatchewan groomed trail system fought for 15 years to put in place. So this one is pretty simple—if you're not registered, you're not welcome on our trails. I support the

approach of the RCMP to give out a few warnings early in the season in case you forgot, and then let you produce a registration certificate, but by mid-season there is no excuse, especially when you are planning a trip to a groomed trail destination.

On the other topic of alcohol and snowmobiling, although many have tried to make this a grey area through the years, when you think about it fairly, it is really black and white.

Yes, you should be able to legally transport unopened alcohol from legal point A to legal point B on your snowmobile, provided you are not over the legal blood alcohol limit. Also, if you have a drink or two at your cabin or perhaps in the local establishment, and have not exceeded the legal limit for blood alcohol content, then you are not doing anything wrong. If you can't stop before exceeding the legal limit, and still head out on the trail, then it is simply against the law and you are endangering yourself and others, all of whom we have designated our law enforcement agencies to protect through the legislation put in place by those we elected. The RCMP have a tough job—let's be on the same side, the right side, the common sense side. There has to be a substantial amount of appropriate enforcement or it would be an uncontrolled free-for-all out on the trail.

How many times have we heard on the news over the years about a snowmobile fatality, followed by the statement that alcohol was a factor? Snowmobiles have no governors, and many are capable of speeds in excess of 160 kilometres per hour. For goodness sake, we all have pickup trucks that are governed off at that speed and there you are protected by a cab, seatbelt and airbags. So, how do you like the odds? From the outset, I knew these would be controversial topics, but should they be? Ride safe, ride sober!

>> CLUB EVENTS

Provincial Festival "Blast in the Bay" announces winners:

1. Snowmobile club with most members registered at festival: Border Explorers Snowmobile Club from Creighton with 23 members

2. Youngest snowmobile rider: Logan Miller, 13, Hudson Bay, SK; Carter Palidwar, 13, Nipawin, SK; Evan Richter, 13, Broadview, SK

3. Oldest snowmobile rider: Jay Hitchcock, 77, Hudson Bay, SK

4. Largest snowmobile family in attendance: The Richters from Broadview, SK - Dale, Tracy, Chelsea, Braden, Evan and Shaelyn

5. Oldest vintage snowmobile ridden at festival: George Belchamber, Nipawin, SK - 1992 Polaris Indy 500

6. Farthest distance travelled to festival via non-snowmobile: Curtis Ange, Chocowinity, North Carolina - 3,836 kilometres

7. Farthest distance travelled to festival via snowmobile by road map kilometres: Taylor Koivisto, from Snow Lake, Manitoba - travelled 296 kilometres from Flin Flon, Manitoba

8. SSA member club with most members travelling to festival via snowmobile: Border Explorers from Creighton, SK, with 22 members.

Make new friends—join a snowmobile club



For safety sake —never ride alone!