



SNOSCENE



Lights, camera, action! BCSF director Blake Erickson and BCSF president Erin Hart presented a very big cheque to Easter Seals during Timmy's Telethon. The BCSF encourages participation in Snowarama with hopes of raising even more money in 2012.



DO IT FOR THE KIDS

SNOWARAMA EVENTS HELP CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

BY ERIN HART, President

Greetings to all snowmobile enthusiasts around the province and a Happy New Year!

It is that time of year again when many clubs around the province get together and organize an event that the BCSF has been part of for many, many years. Snowarama is upon us once again and here is our chance to raise some money for Easter Seals for kids with disabilities.

Some of you may have seen the Timmy's Telethon telecast December 4 on Shaw TV when the BCSF made a donation to Easter Seals for almost \$45,000. This was money raised by members of the B.C. Snowmobile Federation. It was a great honour for director Blake Erickson and myself to present that cheque live on TV. To see the video of our donation, check out the BCSF Facebook site.

However, not to rest on our laurels, I understand from conversations with long-time directors that the BCSF member clubs have donated far more in the past. So how do we surpass our mark of \$45,000 from last year and present an even larger cheque for this coming season? There are many easy ways to get involved and I

encourage all of you to make a difference in some small way. Every dollar counts towards making a difference in a young person's life.

To get all the information you need and to get involved, simply go to the BCSF website at www.bcsf.org and click on the Snowarama logo on the home page. That link will guide you through the process and show you how easy it is to get involved. I personally thank you in advance.

So, what else has the BCSF been up to? Good question. On December 28 we held Sledfest Whistler 2011 in the Brandywine parking lot, home of the Powder Mountain Snowmobile Club. It was a little soggy but everyone still had a good time. Again, find the video of that event on the BCSF website as well as our Facebook site. The 2012 Okanagan Sled Fest also happened on Sunday, February 19, at Graystokes near Kelowna. Check our BCSF Events page for upcoming events around the province.

In the next issue of *SnoRiders*, I will bring you up to date on everything the BCSF has been working on. Until next time, stay safe out there!

>> CLUB NEWS

Arrow Lakes Ridge Riders Poker Run February 25, 2012 & April 14, 2012

The Arrow Lakes Ridge Riders hold two poker runs annually. The first is at Harlow Mountain on February 25 and the second is at Ingersoll Mountain on April 14. For more information contact Mark Aeichele, vice-president of Arrow Lakes Ridge Riders, at 250-265-4684 or at aeichele@telus.net.



Snowarama February 25, 2012 Revelstoke, BC

On February 25, the Revelstoke Snowmobile Club, the Snowmobile Revelstoke Society and the Revelstoke Lions Club will be hosting Snowarama. This is a charity event to raise money for Easter Seals House. This event will take place at the Boulder parking lot starting at 5 p.m. and will include a bonfire, hot chocolate, hotdogs, and a toboggan party for the kids. Come on out and help us raise money for kids with disabilities. Donations will be accepted at this event. We will be looking for your support as you come down off the mountain after a day of sledding and every donation will be greatly appreciated. For more information, contact Paul Olsen at 250-837-9328.



Enjoy a guided snowmobile tour

by SCOTT BARSBY, BCCSOA President

The British Columbia Commercial Snowmobile Operators Association (BCCSOA) is a mouthful, but the premise behind this fairly new organization is simple: to promote and enhance professional commercial snowmobiling in B.C. Comprised of more than 10 different snowmobile tour operators throughout British Columbia, this active membership works together to tackle issues pertaining to snowmobiling in our regions.

The BCCSOA has a few important mandates. It represents the industry as a collective voice in co-operation with government and non-government agencies, and serves to strengthen and promote working relations between members and sponsors. It promotes safety operating methods, procedures and protocols for the commercial snowmobiling industry and promotes backcountry ethics and awareness. It also acts as a governing body to ensure that everyone within the association conducts themselves within the standards set out. Working actively with various user groups to discuss conflicts and environmentally sensitive areas, off-road vehicle registration issues and more, commercial operators are at the hub of the snowmobile industry.

Sounds great, but snowmobile enthusiasts will wonder, what can the BCCSOA do for ME? The answer? Quite a lot!

Partnering with Tourism BC and the B.C. Snowmobile Federation (BCSF), the commercial sector is aiming to make B.C. snowmobiling a world-class destination holiday for snowmobilers everywhere. With the help of these partners, a new website, www.letsridebc.com, is being launched, with up-to-date listings and links to commercial operators, avalanche conditions, trail information and more. The ultimate goal of this site is to attract both tourists and B.C. residents to snowmobiling in B.C. Not only does this bring a more unified front to the activity of snowmobiling in B.C., it will increase user awareness and promote winter tourism, which equals more tourism dollars for B.C.

For thousands of sledders, British Columbia is the perfect destination for a mountain sledding holiday. The promise of high alpine, deep powder mountain riding is the allure most can't wait to experience. But how do you access the most popular riding areas? What about trail and avalanche conditions? A commercial snowmobile operator might be your best bet. Guided snowmobile tours are the perfect way to safely enjoy the mountains of B.C. Looking to tackle the pow-

der on your own sled? The tag-along option is available with most companies that offer guided snowmobile tours. This allows the individual to bring and ride their own machine but still be a part of a guided tour, benefiting from the guide's local and historical knowledge of the riding area while enjoying a worry-free day.

An average snowmobile guide spends more than 100 days out in the most coveted riding areas in the B.C. backcountry; the expertise of these guides is a valuable resource. These professionals have many qualifications such as avalanche safety and first aid training, as well as extensive mechanical knowledge of the machinery. The perfect complement to a destination snowmobile holiday would be to hire one of these knowledgeable members to guide you in the mountains. Most commercial outfits have a rent-a-guide program in place to ensure that you get the most out of your riding experience and return safely at the end of the day.

Don't forget the rental option. If a snowmobile holiday sounds like the ticket but the price tag for hauling your machine for hundreds of miles doesn't entice you, rent from a commercial operator. More often than not, the fleets consist of newer snowmobiles with associated equipment that can easily be rented by the hour, day or week. Complementing this with a rent-a-guide or a tag-along option is a great, safe way to explore the mountains.

Are you thinking about purchasing a new sled? Glitzy showrooms and glossy catalogues are surely a feast for the eyes, but for such an important purchase, you're probably wishing you could try before you buy. When it comes to snowmobile shopping, commercial operators offer tremendous benefits to both the consumer and the manufacturer. Commercial operators typically have a variety of modern machines in their fleet, so taking a tour or renting a sled from a commercial operator allows you to actually test drive the sled of your dreams. Manufacturers call on commercial operators for product testing, demo days and general information with regards to the machinery they use, which is used daily, clocking thousands of kilometres a year.

Next time you are planning a getaway, consider visiting a commercial operator for all of your needs. Check out www.bccsoa.com where you will find a list of our valued members, helpful industry links, events and more. Happy and safe sledding!



>> CLUB NEWS

New project aims at avalanche education

Three levels of government support for the Canadian Avalanche Centre (CAC) were represented as B.C. MLA Bill Bennett (MLA for East Kootenay) announced a three-year program aimed at lowering the rate of avalanche deaths within the mountain snowmobiling community. Joining MLA Bennett in the announcement was Kootenay-Columbia MP David Wilks and Fernie Mayor Mary Giuliano.

"The Mountain Snowmobile Education Project will help prepare snowmobilers with knowledge that could save their lives," Bennett said. "British Columbia's world-class winter tourism includes snowmobiling as a major attraction. The safety of our residents and visitors is a priority for our province and a commitment we take seriously."

The Mountain Snowmobile Education Project is funded by a grant from the National Search and Rescue Secretariat (NSS), a department of National Defence.

"NSS grants are just one way that the Government of Canada has made its contributions to public avalanche safety," said Wilks. "Environment Canada—through Parks Canada and the Meteorological Service of Canada—is also a long-time supporter of the CAC. We are pleased to support programs and services that provide a public safety net and enrich the lives of Canadians and our visitors."

This project has special meaning for the Fernie area, one of the province's hotspots for mountain snowmobiling. Speaking for the municipal government of Fernie, Mayor Giuliano said her community is proud to support the CAC.

"The CAC's avalanche fore-
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Ski-Doo Western Demo Tour

by GERRY DUSESSOY

We are very pleased to announce that we have launched another demo tour supporting Ski-Doo dealers during the 2011-2012 season. The Ski-Doo VIP Demo Tour began in Western markets in January and runs through to April 2012.

Our objectives for these tours are to build appreciation for our latest sleds and technology, support sales during the current season and generate momentum heading into the 2013 spring order period. Some dealers, recommended by the regional sales district and district sales manager, have been selected as "dealers of choice" to work with us to make this new tour a success.

Western VIP Demo Tour concept:

This tour provides a unique and exciting experience for consumers; it's more than just a short little out-and-back ride. Participants will spend three to four hours with two Ski-Doo specialists, including a full training session on Ski-Doo mountain snowmobiles, a complete benefits story on Rotax ETEC 800R technology, and a three-hour demo ride on the sled. They will also be able to try the Ski-Doo Helium 30 jacket, the most advanced mountain riding jacket we offer. Each day we will conduct rides for two groups of six consumers. Also, various Summit Freeriders might attend some of the events.

Last year our Ski-Doo Western Demo Tour had five-day stops at 15 different locations spread across British Columbia. This year we're repeating these events and adding two new locations for a total of 17 locations.

How to participate?

It's easy. All participants need to be pre-registered—simply call our call centre hotline, 1-855-2-SKI-DOO (1-855-275-4366) or online at www.skidoodemo.com. Appointment cards can also be filled out at your participating Ski-Doo dealer. There is limited space so please hurry and reserve your spot. If you want to be a group and ride with us—bonus!

The objective is for you to try one of our Summit units and one of our Freeride machines, all powered by our 800 ETEC engine.

When: from January 11 to April 15

How to register: through skidoodemo.com or 1-855-2-SKI-DOO (1-855-275-4366)

How many units: 7

How many rides per day: 2

Minimum age: 18

Duration of ride: 4+ hours including paperwork and explanation

Gear: Please bring your own, but there will be jackets available to try out.

Each participating customer will receive a \$300 certificate to be applied to the purchase of their next Ski-Doo, MY2011, 2012 and 2013. The cer-

tificate will be valid to April 16, 2012.

Last year we had a blast and this year will be even better—customers will be able to go in a heated truck after the ride and enjoy some hot chocolate and complete a quick survey, where last year everything was done in the cold. The explanations and signing of waivers will be done inside. Dealers will be present; the district sales managers will be present at some stops.

Dates and locations:

February 25 & 26

Toll Booth, Coquihalla Lakes Lodge
Highway 1, Chilliwack, B.C.

February 29 to March 4

Toll Booth, Coquihalla Lakes Lodge
Highway 1, Tulameen, B.C.

March 7 to 11

Brandywine at Trailhead
Brandywine Trailhead
Squamish (Whistler), B.C.

March 14 to 18

Pemberton
Rutherford Trailhead, Pemberton, B.C.

March 21 to 25

Mount Washington - Vancouver Island
Courtenay, B.C.

March 28 to April 1

Frisby Mountain
Glacier House Resort Lodge, Revelstoke, B.C.

April 4 to 8

Corbin
Highway 3, Corbin, B.C.

April 13 to 15

Sun Peaks
Sun Peaks Resort, Kamloops, B.C.

Units:

Model:	Engine:
Freeride 137",	
PowderMax 2.25", E.S.	800R ETEC
Freeride 146", PowderMax 2.25"	800R ETEC
Freeride 154",	
PowderMax 2.5", E.S.	800R ETEC
Summit X 163 E.S.	800R ETEC
Summit X 154 E.S.	800R ETEC
Summit X 154 E.S.	800R ETEC
Summit SP 163 E.S.	800R ETEC
Summit SP 146 E.S.	800R ETEC

Tours are 3.5 to 4+ hours long; customers and your members will be able to trade units once we get to the riding area. I, being an enthusiast, saw first-hand the positive feedback received from the consumers who were on the tour last year. Whether you're a performance seeker and/or a recreational rider, this demo tour is for you.

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>> CLUB NEWS

► DEMO TOUR

Continued from left

Come and share the fun and the good times in our Canadian Rockies.

The participation and help of local clubs is important for the success of these events. I count on your usual collaboration and your members' participation to make this once again a huge hit and welcome any of you to attend at your convenience.

► AVALANCHE EDUCATION

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cast for this region is a highly valued product for many of our residents as well as our visitors," she said. "Public avalanche safety affects all of us who live in B.C."

The Mountain Snowmobile Education Project will build on an already promising foundation, said CAC executive director Ian Tomm.

"Last year we saw a big jump in training among mountain sledders, along with a tremendous shift in attitude towards avalanche safety," Tomm explained. "We look forward to continuing to work closely with clubs and organizations to increase the avalanche knowledge base and skill level within this community."

Avalanche transceivers versus SPOT beacons

We're hearing of backcountry users who have made the assumption that a locator beacon (such as the SPOT product) can do the same things as an avalanche transceiver. This is not the case and is a very dangerous mistake to make. An avalanche transceiver is a highly specialized device, designed for one purpose—avalanche rescue. A transceiver is one of the essential three pieces of avalanche safety

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Coast to Coast by Dennis Burns

Make smart choices in 2012

February is **National Snowmobiling Environment Month** and the Canadian Council of Snowmobile Organizations (CCSO) celebrates quieter snowmobiling and advocates strong enforcement of existing laws against muffler modification for snowmobiles.

Powered by cleaner-burning, advanced four-stroke and next generation two-stroke engines, today's snowmobiles help keep nature beautiful by operating with significantly reduced sound levels. Many commonplace items such as car horns, snowblowers, lawn mowers, chainsaws, leaf blowers and vacuum cleaners are rated at 80 decibels (A) or more. Remember that, according to legislated approval levels for a stock snowmobile, operated in the most extreme conditions at wide-open throttle, the sound level must not exceed 78 decibels (plus or minus 2).

Zero Alcohol - Your Smart Choice: Organized snowmobiling advocates that every snowmobiler take the personal responsibility of choosing to ride impairment free. By making the

Smart Choice all participants can choose not to have any impairments prior to going snowmobiling or during any ride.

Make the Smart Choice in other areas of your decision making as well—reduce your speed at night or at times of poor visibility and always remember to stay to the right side of the trail as there are no centre lines marked in the snow.

The CCSO is very pleased to bring you this message in partnership with Victory Resources and Sierra Iron Ore corporations—both are growth-focused mineral exploration companies.

Take a Friend Snowmobiling Week was held the week of February 11 to 20, 2012. This special week encouraged all of us to take our non-snowmobiling friends out snowmobiling. We have heard many stories

about how much fun it was to take people snowmobiling for the first time, and many of us have a lot of non-snowmobiling friends to take snowmobiling.

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A record number of teams are expected to participate in the **SAE 2012 Snowmobile Challenge**, sponsored by the snowmobile manufacturers along with other supporting businesses, set for March 5 to 10, 2012, at Michigan Technological University.

More information is available from the Society of Automotive Engineers, the Michigan Tech Clan Snowmobile Challenge site and the Keeweenaw Research Center; check out www.mtukrc.org.

► TRANSCIVERS VERSUS SPOT from pg. 27 sidebar

equipment, along with a shovel and probe.

Transceiver

- Sends and receives an electronic signal to other transceivers
- In the backcountry, everyone in the group has their transceivers on send

• When a person is buried, companions turn their transceivers to receive and home in on the send signal from the buried person.

SPOT beacon

- Sends a signal to a satellite, which notifies a central system based in Texas, which then alerts local RCMP
- Can also be used to send an "OK" signal, or to summon non-emergency help
- For more information on features, check findmespot.ca.

Five minutes after an avalanche, you've got an 80 per cent chance of recovering a buried victim alive. After 20 minutes, there's only a 35 per cent chance of a live recovery. If your group is involved in an avalanche, you don't have time to send a signal to Texas. Make sure everyone you ride

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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

It seems like someone in the snowmobile world must have been a horrible and naughty snowmobiler last year. The gift of snow for the 2012 season seems like the Christmas gift you have waited years for but it just never arrived under the tree—no matter how much you begged, no matter how much you believed you would get it, that box just never showed up. Your parents certainly asked you what you wanted, they certainly perused the Sears Wish Book with you, your instructions were clear, your hopes were built up—but alas, the gift turned out to be socks, or worse yet, that infamous soap on a rope. To a snowmobiler, getting no snow for Christmas is like getting dress pants and a tie as a present.

I live on the hill overlooking Dawson Creek. Every day I get to watch the weather patterns blow in across Bear Mountain or in from the north. In the summer when it's raining, my eyes search for blue sky; it means I may get a couple hours of fishing in. But in winter I love watching the clouds roll in, while the mountain disappears behind the wall of snow as it descends on Dawson Creek. But not today.

Yesterday, as I stood on my brown lawn, the west wind pushing me backwards, my son

Jonathan walked slowly up beside me. He reached up gently as if to comfort this weary, lonely snowmobiler and grabbed my hand. I am comforted by his act of compassion; it means a lot to me. My wife would never show such care. As my gaze turns from the cloudless sky, I look down at the son I love. "Dad," he says, "can you get my roller blades out of the shed?" As I stared down at him in disbelief I replied, "Roller blades, my son, are not allowed out of the shed in January."



There just is no comfort from others who don't understand. Hundreds of people write on their Facebook status things like "enjoying the spring-like weather" or "we're going to pay for this weather later on."

I must confess, I am not interested in paying for this warm weather at a later time; I want to go ride in the deep white powder, blow through pristine white snowdrifts, cruise trails and explore wilderness. This really is our time, what we long for during those warm days of summer. Winter is supposed to be cold and miserable—we live for that and we love it. Blizzards are the equal to plus 25, sunshine and clear blue sky.

So what does a snowmobiler do who has no

>> CLUB NEWS

► TRANSCIVERS VERSUS SPOT

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with an avalanche transceiver, and knows how to use it. For more information on avalanche safety equipment please check avalanche.ca/cac/gear/overview.

Have a great, safe winter.

► FROSTBITTEN RIDER

Continued from left

snow to ride on? Well, they get busy doing things like vacuuming the house or doing the dishes. And they even do it without being asked. They take out the garbage, and they might even start on a section of home renos from that growing honey-do list. We have to do something because the snow dance is not working this year.

Somehow us snowmobilers have made the Naughty List, and we might as well embrace the need to make amends. It's time to earn those "atta boy" points with our wives and families.

We have no hope in the weatherman or his forecast and predictions of a blessed brutal winter with barrels of snow. I'd like to burn that Old Farmer's Almanac. They lied to us with empty promises.

On the positive side, I guess we are saving on the fuel bill, avoiding those costly repairs and getting some things done around the house. I hope if you're one of the few who do not like winter, you're enjoying your present this year. I guess you may have earned it after all the shovelling you did last year, but as for me, I'm still watching the sky, hoping for a massive dump of white gold.

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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B.C. Snowmobile Federation office
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Toll Free 1-877-537-8716 or 604-935-SNOW (7669)
Fax 604-932-6169

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604-935-SNOW (7669)

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Affinity members offer reduced rates to club members and clubs. They rebate a portion of BCSF member purchases to the BCSF Trails, Safety and Environment Enhancement Fund.

Amsoil

www.bcsnowmobile.wboil.com
Contact the office for your member discounts on all Amsoil products.

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Pemberton, BC V0N2L2

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Contest promotes Pemberton area

Tourism Pemberton BC is pleased to announce the organization's first major promotion.

Members of the public will have the opportunity to win a five-day/five-night snowmobiling adventure in Pemberton, B.C. The prize includes five nights' accommodation in Pemberton; three days guided snowmobiling in the Pemberton area including the chance to ride with a professional snowmobile rider; food and beverages at local restaurants; massage for two adults; and a private tour/tasting at the Pemberton Distillery.

The objective of the promotion is to increase awareness of world-class snowmobiling in the Pemberton area. Pemberton is an outstanding snowmobiling destination and is relatively undiscovered to people outside of the area. The Pemberton Ice Cap is rated one of the best snowmobiling areas in the world. This 650-square-mile ice cap offers an expanse of glaciers with wide open treeless riding. Other popular snowmobiling areas include the Hurley Road, Bralorne, Gold Bridge and Meager Creek. ▶

>> CLUB NEWS

► SNOWMOBILE CONTEST *Continued from left*

In addition to Pemberton offering outstanding snowmobiling terrain, the area is popular for sled skiing and riding. The Pemberton Ice Cap offers such an expansive area that there is plenty of room for sledders, skiers and riders. This is back-country skiing and riding at its best.

The contest will showcase Pemberton as a unique and exciting destination and uncover the culture of snowmobiling and mountain life in the Pemberton area.

Details about the contest will be featured on the tourism pembertonbc.com website. The contest will run directly through the Tourism Pemberton Facebook page found online at Facebook.com/TourismPembertonBC. The contest will be promoted through social media channels, email marketing and media partners.

There will be two to three video productions focusing on snowmobiling in the Pemberton area and a winter feature on other activities in Pemberton to promote the contest.

The Tourism Pemberton Snowmobile Contest opened in early February. Contest rules and conditions apply. The contest closes in late February with the randomly-selected finalists drawn at the end of February. The prize winner will be notified on March 1. Tourism Pemberton is very excited to be able to run this promotion and are hoping this will be the first of many contests to happen in the future. Tourism Pemberton has contracted Custom Fit Communication Group to oversee the promotion and contest. The winners' prize-winning stay in Pemberton will be documented through video, images, blog posts and social media channels.

**MY OUTDOOR
ACTIVITY PLANS AND
EQUIPMENT/SUPPLIES**

Complete this form prior to an outdoor adventure and leave it with a responsible person. Your life may depend on it!

Start:

Day of Week Date Month Time

Intended Return:

Day of Week Date Month Time

Purpose of Trip:

<input type="checkbox"/> Day Hike	<input type="checkbox"/> 1/2 Day Hike
<input type="checkbox"/> Overnight Hike	<input type="checkbox"/> Climbing
<input type="checkbox"/> Fishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Hunting
<input type="checkbox"/> Skiing	<input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobiling
<input type="checkbox"/> Canoeing/Kayaking	<input type="checkbox"/> Mushroom Picking
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	



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CODE OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES



TRIP PLAN

"It could never happen to me" is a common misconception when snowmobiling in the backcountry. Trip planning is critical to a safety plan and reminds everyone the importance of being prepared.

RCMP and search & rescue volunteers will refer to your trip plan, which informs them of your location, number of sledders in your group, training skills, gear carried, your experience and abilities.

Always complete a written trip plan before snowmobiling, leave it with a responsible person. Your life may depend on it!



Prevention

YOU can help reduce the number and severity of incidents in the province. Take the time to complete a trip plan 'every time' before you hit the snow. Leave your trip plan with someone responsible, ensure that you have the skills required and take the right equipment before heading out.