



SASKATCHEWAN Snowmobiler

www.sasksnow.com



A SIGN OF THE TIMES

A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO SNOWMOBILE TRAIL SIGNAGE

BY BARRY BRADSHAW, Chairman

I want to once again stress the importance of proper trail signing so all clubs can receive top marks when their trail evaluation is done by our inspectors.

Here is the trail signing guideline form that the inspectors will be using this season.

POST TRAIL EVALUATION - SIGNING EXPLANATIONS FOR INSPECTORS AND CLUBS

Section 1

1. Are trails signed by trail number?

Over the years, the SSA has sent out enough of these Blue Diamond signs to put one up every four to five kilometres. They should be used at the start of all marked trails. Then they must be put up on either side of each junction. They can also be used on the back side of Stop signs at road crossings to show the direction that trail is going. If there are any other side trails (that aren't registered snowmobile trails but are used by snowmobiles) veering off the marked trail the Blue Diamonds can be installed on either side on the marked trail to show the proper way to go. They should also be installed leaving communities and warm-up shelters. Any leftovers can then be placed at strategic places on the trail.

2. Are Speed Limit signs posted?

Speed Limit signs should be at the trailheads and warm-up shelters.

3. Are Distance and Kilometre signs posted?

They should be at all major intersections, leaving communities and warm-up shelters, showing distances to the next community or warm-up shelter.

4. Reflective signage

All important signs—warning, information, field staking, etc.—should be reflective.

5. Does the club post updated (current) trail maps in their shelters?

Self-explanatory—don't mount the You Are Here (black holders) at shelters unless it is a junction. The map still has to be mounted back side facing north if on a shelter at a junction.

6. Are TCST signs installed in the right direction (east or west) at all junctions (one on each side)?

Signs must be installed at the start of every

trail, leaving communities and warm-up shelters. Signing is much the same as the Blue Diamond signs and can be used in conjunction with Blue Diamonds.

Section 2

7. Are Arrow and Curve signs far enough back from the corners?

This is a judgment call, as per the chart in the signing guidelines book—the sharper the curve, the farther back the arrow should be as you have to slow down to a slower speed to make the corner or turn. Also, Chevrons work very well on the far side of the curve.

On winding bush trails, a Winding Trail sign at each end of the winding section works very well—no need to mark every curve with an arrow.

Gateposts on farm and pasture land that the trail runs between must be marked with reflective material—small arrows (if the trail changes direction), field stakes or the leftover reflective pieces that I believe everyone gets from Mancor (Milner Ridge Correctional Centre) when they receive an order of signs. These reflective pieces are also very handy to put on field stakes and the back side of any sign. All signs should have some sort of reflective material on the back side.

8. Are Slow and Caution signs properly installed?

These should be installed well back from the hazard, approximately 100 metres. The hazard (e.g. rock) can then be marked with ribbon or field stakes in the form of an X. Either of these signs (Slow or Caution) should also be used ahead of a dangerous corner.

9. Are road approaches in ditches marked?

When a snowmobile trail crosses a maintained plowed road, Stop Ahead and Stop signs should be installed. Farm approaches not plowed in the winter should have Slow or Caution signs posted on each side.

All signs in ditches should be installed at the bottom of the ditch next to the fence line.

Do not install on the shoulder of the road as the snowplow will knock them down.

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>> EVENTS

Provincial Snowmobile Safety Week

January 15 - 21, 2012

Snowarama

February 11, 2012

Yorkton, SK

Provincial Take a Friend Snowmobiling Week

February 19 - 25, 2012

Provincial Snowmobile Festival

February 24 - 26, 2012

Brooks Hall, Hudson Bay, SK

Zone 1, 4 Meeting

April 14, 2012

Community Hall, Shellbrook, SK

Zone 2 Meeting

April 15, 2012

Evergreen Centre, Nipawin, SK

Zone 3 Meeting

April 21, 2012

Sask Abilities Building, Yorkton, SK

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

>> CLUB NEWS

The SSA wishes everyone a safe holiday season and remember—don't drink and ride!

Snowmobile safety courses

Contact the Saskatchewan Safety Council at 306-757-3197 for a course in your area or visit the SSC website at www.sasksafety.org or email ssc@sasksafety.org.





SSA makes history

SNOWMOBILE REGISTRATIONS HAVE HIT A RECORD HIGH
BY CHRIS BREWER, President/CEO

This summer saw a day when history was made for the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association and our member clubs. I can tell you it has been a long time coming.

I can remember way back to the days of meeting in Davidson every month and talking about hosting snowmobile trails. I attended my first ISC Congress in Vermont (1988) and got my eyes opened to what was going on in places like Vermont, Quebec, Ontario, South Dakota and other states. I came home wondering how the SSA could move to open snowmobile trails.

Over the next few years many folks from our clubs, who had received SSA awards, attended ISC and they also saw the bigger picture. These folks returned home with a new respect for the snowmobile industry. They got involved at the local level; several started an organization in 1997—an organization called the Porcupine Forest Snowmobile Association (PFSA). They applied to the province for funding to purchase equipment and signs, and they engaged a labour force to clear trails, sign trails and groom our first network of snowmobile trails. This all took place over the winter of 1999/2000. I was approached by an individual from PFSA and asked if the SSA would try to find some funds to help with the cost of operating the equipment. I started to write letters to government—I wrote a letter every day non-stop for a year to bring attention to the funding needs of the clubs.

Well, the day arrived that our voice was being heard and we thought our prayers were answered—we were approved for trail permits. We thought we had died and gone to heaven!

Well, you all know where this left us—volunteers upset with snowmobilers for not purchasing a trail pass, volunteers upset at the RCMP for not enforcing trail permits. Then we started the process over, but this time we had some members of government that listened and talked and cared. They approved a lower fee than we have today; this provided some funding but it still made it very hard for the clubs to maintain the trails. Then in 2004 we worked with the present government to see the fee increase to today's level of \$70. This started with the province hiring a consultant to look at the snowmobile industry in Saskatchewan. This opened a lot of eyes and doors. We then worked with the province to see the fee increased; this all took place in the fall of 2005. When the consultant's report was complete and presented to the province and the SSA, a comment was made by an individual from the province that snowmobiling in Saskatchewan is equal to half of what the Saskatchewan Roughriders contribute to the economy.

The increased fee has allowed for making improvements to safety programs, trail signage, improvements to warm-up shelters, improved grooming repetitions, trail inspection program

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► CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE *cont'd. from pg. 33*

In highway ditches, if permanent signposts are to be installed they must be at the bottom of the right-of-way, where the mowing stops, next to the back side of the ditch.

10. Are Junction Ahead signs installed before every important intersection?

These signs should be installed 150 metres back from the junction before Stop Ahead signs. T or Junction Ahead signs can be used. If a T sign is used, make sure it is turned the right way for the way the trails meet at the junction.

11. Are Stop Ahead signs installed at a minimum of 100 metres, or a maximum of 125 metres before every Stop sign?

These are one of the most important signs to be put up mainly because many Stop signs go missing. We are working on the premise that even though the posted speed limit is 80 kilometres per hour there are going to be speeders. So that's why we have the variance—if it's a long smooth straightaway before the Stop sign, the Stop

Ahead sign needs to be placed back farther than 100 metres from the Stop sign. Also if hills are involved, it must be placed before the crest of the hill.

12. Are Stop signs installed in the right places with no obstructions in the way (trees etc.) and are they highly visible to the snowmobiler?

These signs should be at a set distance from the corner. We know they have to be set back from the corners to try and keep them from getting stolen. We have noticed that a lot of Stop signs are getting placed too far back on the trail from the junction or road crossing. We are suggesting a minimum of five metres (five big paces) and a maximum of 15 metres. Sometimes on curving trails the Stop sign might have to be mounted on the left side of the trail. All trails crossing roads must be perpendicular.

13. Are You Are Here signs properly installed, the back side facing north and

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>> CLUB NEWS

► CHRIS BREWER *Continued from left*

and trail workshops; clubs are able to hire groomer operators and workers to install and remove trail signs. Clubs are still fundraising to assist with replacement/upgrading of grooming equipment. Your support is appreciated at all of these events.

We have seen a larger number of snowmobiles registered than ever before; the more snowmobiles that register the more fees are collected, resulting in more funding for the clubs to maintain snowmobile trails. When I look back from 1998 to today it has been a long trail, but the best has been the last few years. To see increased funding getting to the clubs is important, the improvements on the snowmobile trails continue and we look forward to your support when you choose to register your snowmobile.

This past September we had the privilege of providing funding to the snowmobile clubs from the Snowmobile Trail Fund (snowmobile registration fees) in excess of \$1.2 million. Your support when registering your snowmobile this past season was a record one and you should be proud that the funding is returned to the snowmobile trails and programs for snowmobilers here in Saskatchewan.

Renewed enthusiasm for snowmobiling, record snowmobile registrations and increased snowmobile sales is driving the snowmobile industry in Saskatchewan. Saskatchewan is more prosperous than ever before. We are growing and we are moving forward—we see this firsthand in the snowmobile industry.

I can say I am very proud to be from Saskatchewan because we are a "have" province in Canada.



► **CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE cont'd. from pg. 34 at every intersection?**

They must be updated every year with new maps. As of last season the SSA is making them in-house and they do not fade like the first-year ones that we jobbed out. These have been personally tested by leaving them in the sun all summer and they have stood up very well with very little to no fading of the ink. The SSA will not be supplying new maps after the 2011/2012 season unless the club has changes to its trails.

Section 3

14. Does the club post signage going in, through and out of communities?

These areas should be signed like a regular trail so the snowmobiler will have no problem getting to the trail or trails on the other side of the community. Stop Ahead signs are not needed on a community trail.

15. Condition of signs

All signs must be in good condition.

16. Staking in open areas, lake and field crossings:

Double staking is the preferred method and the only method that will get a full matrix score. Single staking may be used under special circumstances but will be penalized with a reduced matrix score. When the trail runs over a steep hill, three stakes should be used as well as Keep Right signs (one on each side of the hill).

17. Staking on highway and grid road ditches:

Single staking is the preferred method here and stakes are to be installed at the bottom of the right-of-way next to the fence and/or treeline, not on the shoulder of the road. They are to be installed at the discretion of the club, with three per kilometre being used to fill in long spaces between the other necessary signs used in the ditch. Stakes with Blue Trail # Diamonds, Small Arrows and Slow or Caution would count. The idea is to avoid having long sections of the trail in ►

►► **CLUB NEWS**

► **CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE Continued from left**

the ditch without any signage; a few extra reflective signs would help the groomer operator or snowmobiler to stay on the trail if caught in a snowstorm at night. Where drifts can build up in the ditch, longer stakes may have to be used or non-permanent stakes should be pulled up as the snow gets deeper so they do not get buried. Permanent metal stakes may be used if approved by your local department of highways.

18. Field staking preparation on 1" x 2" wood, 4-foot long stakes:

If painted, paint approximately 24 inches down from the top and then put the reflective material on top. If flagging is used, make sure the flagging material does not break off and blow all over the farmer's fields. Do not use rebar or metal posts for any field signs—the only metal posts that may be used are for Stop and possibly You Are Here signs. Rebar is not only dangerous for the snowmobiler but also to the farmer if it gets left in his field over the summer. Rebar could go through a tractor or implement tire.

19. Warm-up shelters:

All shelters must be in good condition with the name posted on them. Shelters must also have wood, axe and lights in each building.

Some extra signage that clubs use:

1. Ride at Your Own Risk
2. Yield
3. Road Crossing—can be used on approaches in ditches
4. Stay on Trail—some clubs put these up at the start of every trail—good idea. It is at the club's discretion as to where they are needed.

*Note: Danger signs should not be used.

Hudson Bay Trail Riders

BY KAREN DOLEZSAR

Everyone is thankful for the great harvest weather this year. It really was a great summer!

There is nothing better in the summer than being at the lake with our kids—watching them water-ski on one foot, or try to throw their new brother-in-law off the tube or watching Rick water-ski while, yes, Karen is driving the boat in circles, killing herself laughing.

But, alas, more fun is to follow. I even hate to say it—snow, cleaning trails, signing, cutting firewood, grooming and, of course, being out with your favourite riding buddies, enjoying a burnt hotdog and your favourite hot bevy. Yes, it is true, it's fall time.

This year will be no different for us and many

other clubs—getting ready to ride and enjoy the outdoors with family and friends or new friends we haven't met yet, once the work is all done. This year, in addition to getting all our 660 kilometres of trail and 11 warm-up shelters up and running, we are also hosting the SSA Provincial Festival in Hudson Bay, February 24 to 26, 2012, and plans are underway. We hope to see you all up here sometime this winter.

Just a note: our club has decided to have a fundraiser this year. We are raffling your choice of a 2012 600 Polaris Switchback snowmobile, a Polaris 500 Ranger ATV or \$10,000 cash. Only 1,000 tickets are being sold at \$20 a ticket. Draw date is February 25, 2012. Happy trails!

Pasquia Snow Goers

BY KATHY LINDSAY

Snowmobiling is what we wait for all year long and another winter of wonderful sledding is upon us! It was definitely helpful to order and work on the signs and stakes earlier this fall. Now that winter is here, we are ready to mark those trails with all the necessary signage to keep our riders safe on their travels. It is truly incredible the amount of stakes and signs it takes to sign the Pasquia Snow Goers Trails from A to Z and everything in between.

This fall we were pleased to invite all of the people who graciously allow us to use their land for our many snowmobile trails to an apprecia-

tion evening. It was a great evening allowing us to acknowledge our many landowners for the huge part they play in making snowmobiling in northeastern Saskatchewan so successful. Without their permission to utilize their land, our trails would not exist. Once again, we thank you for granting us your permission.

With all the landowner's permission slips signed and on file, we can once again feel comfortable marking the trails ready to be used by our many snowmobilers, knowing the legal end of snowmobile trails has been looked after.

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► **PASQUIA SNOW GOERS** *cont'd. from pg. 35*

We would like to welcome Pembina Valley Snowkickers and Yorkton Sno-Riders to our family of Soucy Tracks users. We are sure you will find Soucy Tracks will take you comfortably and safely wherever you need to go. We know they will be a positive acquisition for your club. They are great in any of the winter conditions Saskatchewan or Manitoba wants to throw at us.

Unfortunately, we were not able to attend the 2011 Saskatoon Snowmobile Show. It was a great show and a totally different experience for us to go and not be an exhibitor. Our groomers were very disappointed they were not able to share the many benefits of owning a set of Soucy Tracks. However, they are happy to answer any questions you might have—you just need to give them a call. Dwight Thesen can be reached at

(306) 769-8673 and would be happy to answer any questions you have about Soucy Tracks.

While you were at the show, did you get your Four-Sled raffle tickets or your Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association membership? If you didn't get your tickets or membership, please call one of your local snowmobile club members. We all have tickets or memberships to sell.

Thank you once again to the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association for organizing this raffle. It's a great fundraiser for our clubs with great prizes for you to win. Without continued membership support, snowmobiling in Saskatchewan would not have such an extensive network of trails—please support the SSA by purchasing a membership.

Let the fun begin with a great winter of snowmobiling!

>> **CLUB NEWS**

► **TWIN LAKES TRAIL BLAZERS** *cont'd. from left*

good social committee in our club, and they are able to organize fun family rides in between all the work bees scheduled.

This past June we attended the SSA AGM and awards banquet in Saskatoon. Mervin and I were very proud and honoured to be nominated by our fellow club members for Family of the Year. Our club also received Club of the Year; Snowmobile Dealer of the Year - Nipawin Chrysler Dodge Yamaha; Business Contribution - Kevin's Custom Ag; and Junior Achiever of the Year - Carter Palidwar.

Our club will be hosting the Provincial Festival in 2013. The committee is set up already and will have a busy year ahead of them.

This is my first time submitting an article and I would like to thank Don Gurski for his contribution. He was very sorry to have to hand this over to me but given time he will recover I'm sure!

Twin Lakes Trail Blazers

BY MAE PATERSON

Our first meeting of the season was held on October 12. Over the summer a few of our members took their campers and quads as far as the road would allow and set up camp to cut trees off the trail, fix up shelters and cut firewood. It was on one such occasion I was honoured with a birthday cake and a beautiful bouquet of wildflowers, even though the girls didn't think Kelly's stinging nettle was a good option!

On October 15 a crew of fellows took their quads and saws and headed north to clear more trees after a plow wind created more work for us.

We have decided to wait for snow to start our

staking but once it comes we will all be busy with that.

Our home opener was on November 18. We invited all our landowners for a free meal and an entertaining evening in appreciation for letting us cross their land each winter.

Our annual vintage drags will take place March 3, 2012. Last year we hosted 312 racers so our members are kept very busy on race day.

The Peace 100 Rally will be held February 18, 2012, in Nipawin and our club will be assisting the local Elks club for this event. We have a very

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35th ANNUAL EASTER SEALS SNOWARAMA

RIDERS WANTED!
Rev Up Your Engines – Make a difference to children with disabilities!

Saturday, February 11, 2012
Gallagher Centre
Yorkton, SK

To Register:
Saskatchewan toll free
1-866-301-0031

Easter Seals Saskatchewan programs are offered and operated by the Saskatchewan Abilities Council.
www.abilitiescouncil.sk.ca

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or
The Grand Prize, a NashCar Enclosed Stealth
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Win Me!

Contest opens when the snow hits the ground!

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Brought to you by:

Thickwood Trails Snowmobile Club

BY DAVE BILANSKI

Greetings from Thickwood Trails. With the weather getting colder, one of the thoughts running through everyone's mind is when is the snow coming. Hey, if the temperature is going to be cold we may as well have snow so we can have some fun.

As with all clubs, summer means groomer repairs. This is no exception for us. Although we purchased a new-to-us groomer, as with any equipment, repairs and maintenance are a must. This year our focus has been on hydraulic hoses. Many of you out there will agree there's nothing worse than having to work on a broken hose on the middle of the trail. So this year we went from

nose to tail—if the hose is not in use, remove it; if it is in use, replace it.

Something we introduced last year while grooming was a Spot GPS system. The operator activates the unit prior to going out grooming and it notifies specified members via cell text message and email that the operator is on the trail. If the operator has a breakdown or an emergency he can relay this message through Spot to the specified members even though there is no cellphone coverage. This adds a measure of safety and comfort for the operator knowing he can get help anywhere on the trail. We look forward to the riding season and hope to see you on the trails.

>> CLUB NEWS

Tisdale Snowmobile Club —by Cindy Beck

Winter is upon us and we have to admit we are anxious to hit the trails.

We held our first club meeting and organized some work to be done to get ready for the season—wood was cut and stacked at the shelters, stakes were acquired and painted, signs were checked and repaired—and the list goes on as every club out there knows.

Now that the smaller items of the season have been taken care of, we have begun making plans for our fourth annual major fundraiser supper of the year, which we typically hold in January.

We are selling Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association Four-Sled tickets again. The funds we receive from these sales definitely help out the club. Hopefully we will be able to sell them at a few more venues around town this year.

A couple of our club members have been diligently working on fabricating a new drag for behind our new-to-us Cat Challenger. It is coming along great and should be ready for paint soon. If anyone is interested, we still have our 1973 Bombardier power unit for sale. Please contact Tom Beck at (306) 873-3191 after 5 p.m. for further information. Until our next article, ride safe and happy trails!

Broadview Snow Busters —by Joyce Richter

The Snow Busters are preparing for the new snowmobile season and hope to see some snow soon. We have moved our old shack and will be moving the new shack into its home shortly.

The Prairie Women on
Cont'd. on pg. 38 sidebar ►

Sled 'n Snap photo contest winners

Congratulations to the winners of the 2010/2011 Sled 'n Snap Photo Contest. Thank you all for submitting your pictures. All of our winners received \$250 cash. Enjoy your prizes!



SNOWMOBILING OFF TRAIL IN SASKATCHEWAN
—Stacey Fortner of Kronau, SK



SNOWMOBILING ON TRAIL IN SASKATCHEWAN
—Peter Kirychuk of Weyakwin, SK



WARM-UP SHELTERS IN SASKATCHEWAN
—Gerald Serson of Regina, SK



YOUTH IN A SASKATCHEWAN ENVIRONMENT
—Kathy Mooney of Yorkton, SK



Prairie Women on Snowmobiles

BY CAROL McKNIGHT

It is that time of year again, where Prairie Women on Snowmobiles are preparing to embark on the 12th annual Mission Ride. They ride every year to increase awareness by promoting early detection of breast cancer with self breast exams, as well as to raise the much needed funds for research. To date, in the past 11 missions, Prairie Women on Snowmobiles have raised more than \$1.6 million for breast cancer research.

This year the ride will see them travel approximately 1,800 kilometres starting in Humboldt on January 27, 2012, and ending up eight days later in Warman.

The route is as follows:

Day 1: Humboldt, Lanigan, Wynyard, Kelliher, Fort Qu'Appelle

Day 2: Fort Qu'Appelle, Indian Head, Broadview, Esterhazy, Langenburg

Day 3: Langenburg, Kamsack, Canora, Kelvington, Preeceville

Day 4: Preeceville, Porcupine Plain, Tisdale, Arborfield, Nipawin

Day 5: Nipawin, Choiceland, Smeaton, Meath Park, Christopher Lake

Day 6: Christopher Lake, Shellbrook,

Big River, Chitek Lake, Meadow Lake

Day 7: Meadow Lake, St. Walburg, Turtleford, Edam, North Battleford

Day 8: North Battleford, Wilkie, Landis, Asquith, Warman.

The 10 core riders for Mission 2012 are from Warman, Humboldt, Englefeld, Emma Lake, Meadow Lake, Landis, Wilkie, Wadena and Saskatoon. We also have two alternate core riders from Star City and Martensville. Prairie Women on Snowmobiles encourages anyone who is wishing to find out more about the group to ride along with the ladies during any leg of this Mission, or by visiting www.prairiewomen.ca.

We would also like to thank Louis Sigouin from Arborfield who has generously donated a 1974 Roll-o-Flex Wild One with a 340 fan-cooled Kohler engine, which he has restored from top to bottom. If you would like to purchase a ticket on this sled contact Carol McKnight at 961-1994 or by email at cmcknight@sasktel.net. Prairie Women on Snowmobiles would like to thank all of our corporate sponsors as well as our supporters out there. We look forward to your continued support to ensure that one day breast cancer will become a disease of the past.

Moose Mountain Snowmobile Club

BY TROY FOSTER

Greetings again from the Moose Mountain Snowmobile Club (MMSC). Well, we did it—our club has finally replaced the last two remaining old shelters. The snowmobile club got another old shelter replaced in the Stoughton area. Scott and Curtis spent a good part of their free time installing the wood stove, and painting and wiring the new Blue Line Shelter. This shelter is located at the same spot on the map as the old shelter. The fellows also set up a new woodshed and biffy, all with solar-powered LED lights for your pleasure.

Brian and Bert in the Windthorst area also had a new shelter set up called Lil Red; it is located north of Windthorst at the original site, also on the maps. Our club puts together a local map with all the 311 trails highlighted. These maps are free and can be found in all seven MMSC shelters, and at most local gas stations and snowmobile dealers. We use local advertisers to sponsor the maps so please say thank you to any sponsors when you are in their businesses.

The MMSC is helping the Arcola Optimist Club with their snowmobile rally. It will take

place on Saturday, January 28, 2012, starting at 9 a.m. at the Prairie Place Hall in Arcola. Starting this year the club will be taking over as the coordinators of the trail and route that the rally will take along the club trails, through the hills and Moose Mountain Provincial Park. This one-day rally has had as many as 500 snowmobiles register. My advice is to arrive early as 500 sleds over the snow can make things a little rough unless you are riding a Rush. OK, sorry fellas, but that's my opinion.

This year after the rally there will be many draws for the riders and the grand prize draw of your choice of a Yamaha side-by-side ATV or a Yamaha snowmobile if you buy a ticket. We welcome everyone in the province or wherever you are from to attend. For more information on the Optimist rally see our website.

There are two new large hotels under construction within 15 feet of our trail along Highway 9 and 13 through the town of Carlyle. This year the club found it necessary to add an alternate route around Carlyle for everyone's safety. This new

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>> CLUB NEWS

► BROADVIEW

Cont'd. from pg. 37 sidebar

Snowmobiles (PWOS) will be in Broadview on January 28th, 2012. Our club will be serving chili with a bun and dessert at noon. All proceeds from the luncheon will go to the PWOS. We have set our derby for February 4, 2012, so come and enjoy our trails, and end the day having a steak supper at the hotel.

Have a safe and enjoyable snowmobile season.

Porcupine Trail Blasters

—by Kelly Dahroug

The 2011/2012 year is looking good, so as long as we get some snow we will have some awesome trails to offer this year.

The snowmobile trails in the Porcupine Plain area offer a beautiful scenic wonderland of trails from the forest to trails across country. We have some great places to stay, from accommodation in town to beautiful cabins along the trails.

We offer approximately 230 kilometres of some of the most scenic groomed trails in the province. Our town offers everything you need for a weekend getaway. You don't need to go to the mountains for beautiful scenery and great trail riding—it is all right here. With great places to rent, some right along the trails, and great trails to ride, this is a snowmobile-friendly community.

Let's hope for lots of snow so we can enjoy some of the best trails in the province. On behalf of the Porcupine Trail Blasters, we hope to see you on the trails this winter!

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



► **MOOSE MOUNTAIN cont'd. from pg. 38**
trail will connect the Stubble Jumpers Trail on the east side of Carlyle and take you 3.5 miles northeast, then three miles west to Highway No. 9, intersecting with 311F north of Carlyle.
With all the new families moving into our area

of the province we welcome you to contact the Moose Mountain Snowmobile Club if you have any questions about snowmobiling in the south-east or anywhere in Saskatchewan.

Please check out our website, www.mmsnowmobilingclub.com, for all the latest information.

Lakeland Snowmobile Club

BY ABBIE ROTH

What a beautiful fall we had! Our first snowfall was on October 27, but it was gone by noon. So much for an early start. Last summer our club arranged to purchase and erect a Coverall shelter for our groomer and drag, which will be certain to extend the life of our equipment and maintenance crews. It also gives us a place to store our inventory of signs and junk.

Our first general meeting was held on October 25, 2011, in the new building which, thanks to our resident electrician, is now wired and heated. Executive for the 2011/2012 season are: president - Marg Clair; secretary - Lori Fehr; treasurer - Charlene Goodwin; past president - Jackie Toggweiler. Directors are Terry Sylvester, Ray Krawczyk, Doug Kerley, Chris Wald, Cory Quick, Rusty Watt, Leroy Evenson, Lance Fehr, Les Gust, Kim Anderson, Ed Harty, Peter Kalyn and Abbie Roth.

We are waiting patiently for some changes to the trail inspection program and are finding it is difficult to determine why our inspection in 2011 was so much worse than 2010, even though we had added substantially more signing and lake staking for the 2011 season. Good signing is def-

initely required but we need a better system for inspection.

This season we are putting in an extra effort to re-route our trail system in an effort to eliminate as much water as possible. A lot of our trails are still over water and with the unpredictable freezing conditions experienced in the past, and a couple of dunkings with grooming equipment, we have become a bit water shy.

Also some discussion has taken place amongst our members about trying to invent a mower-type sickle-operated knife to trim the overhanging branches on our trails. The drag-type knife we purchased a few years ago doesn't quite cut it, and to clear our number of trails with a machete or chainsaw is a bit intimidating. Any ideas out there, fellows? Give us a call.

Here's hoping for a snowfall similar to last year and we will have some beautiful trails to ride. Tourists—check your websites as some new businesses opened up this year in the Lakeland area. The Lakeland area encompasses Emma Lake, Christopher Lake, Anglin Lake, McPhee Lake, Northside, Paddockwood and Wasquesiu National Park. See you on the trails!

>> CLUB NEWS

Yorkton Sno-Riders —by Sandy Konkel

After a beautiful summer and fall, meetings are underway in anticipation of a great snowmobile season. The club is busy with memberships and stocking the shelters for the upcoming season.

We have purchased a new John Deere tractor from Maple Farm Equipment.

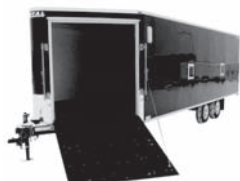
The Soucy Tracks kit has not arrived yet, so once that arrives we will be on our way.

The Yorkton Trade Show was held November 19, 2011. Proceeds from the steak supper were donated to the Prairie Women on Snowmobiles. We also auctioned off the new TNT Ace four-stroke from the Bombardier Million Dollar program and we thank them for their contributions with this generous program.

The club would also like to pay tribute to Phil Lane, a fellow member and groomer operator who passed away on September 29, 2011. Phil will be thoroughly missed by everyone.

SSA MEMBERSHIP JOIN TODAY!

All 2011/2012 family/individual SSA memberships are entered to win a free "Rental of Trailer Coupon" from any Flaman location in Saskatchewan for a weekend (pick up Friday before 6:00 p.m. and return Monday morning) valued at approximately \$200.



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Group of Companies

Your membership ensures that the SSA can deliver snowmobile safety, provincial/national and international representation, accessibility to land access for trails, a strong government partnership, insurance for trails and long-term planning to keep snowmobiling alive and well in Saskatchewan. For only \$25 you receive an entry for the 2011/2012 membership draw, Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association fridge magnet, four issues of *SnoRiders* magazine, snowmobile information, two reflective helmet decals, and snow/trail conditions and event information on the SSA website. Purchase your SSA membership by visiting the SSA website at www.sasksnow.com and click on membership!

WIN A 2012 SLED!



Sponsored by Saskatchewan LOTTERIES

WIN YOUR CHOICE OF
ONE OF THESE 2012 SLEDS
or \$9,000 CASH!

TICKETS ONLY
\$2.00

Club Name: _____

In co-operation with The Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association Inc.
Box 533, Regina Beach, Sask. S0G 4C0 Ph. 729-3500

Draw Date:
February 25, 2012
at Brooks Hall,
Hudson Bay, Saskatchewan



(prizes may not be exactly as shown)

75% of proceeds goes to local clubs to promote trail development and safe snowmobiling in Saskatchewan

Lic. No. RR10-0229 • Must be 14 years or older to win.
81,174 tickets to be sold

№ 00001

Contact your local snowmobile club to purchase a \$2.00 ticket.
Contact the SSA @ 1-800-499-7533 and purchase your tickets using Visa, MasterCard or American Express!

YOU COULD BE THE LUCKY WINNER!
Winners will be announced on www.sasksnow.com



Trail inspection program

BY DON THOMPSON, Chief Trail Instructor

We are about to embark on the fourth year of our SSA trail inspection program that has as our major objective the safety of every rider on our Saskatchewan snowmobile trails. This year our trail inspectors will do trail evaluations in co-operation with 34 of our registered snowmobile clubs. On November 5, 2011, our inspectors met for a morning meeting at our annual snowmobile trade show (held in Saskatoon this year). The intention of this meeting was to inform our inspectors of any changes that may have occurred and to make our inspections as consistent as possible from one inspector to another.

The continuing success of this program hinges on the co-operative effort between the SSA inspectors and the club riders who always accompany the inspectors on inspection rides. This practice allows for the exchange of local information, possible improvements and a shared responsibility to make our trails as safe as possible.

This year we are implementing a scoring system based on a quantitative measurement. On 15 of the 19 items checked, inspectors will be basing their scores on a percentage basis. An example would be: If trails are signed by trail numbers, at trailheads, junctions and shelters at 90 per cent or better of all possible locations then the club will be awarded one point. If only 75 to 89 per cent are done properly then the score is reduced to half a point. Anything less than 75 per cent will receive zero points.

The forms this year allow more room for better written explanations of any problems that might be apparent. Communication is the key factor in

improving our signage and keeping Saskatchewan as one of the leaders in proper trail signage. This year inspectors are being asked to complete the scoring process along with the club riders on the day of the inspection; that way, there won't be any surprises when the official score comes from the SSA office.

How does a club go about scoring a perfect matrix score? Obtain the Trail Evaluation Signing Explanations for Inspectors and Clubs document, along with the trail evaluation form from the SSA website. Make sure all of your signing captains are familiar with these documents and use them when setting up trails. Check the list of approved inspectors or have someone in your own club with a fresh set of eyes do a preliminary inspection of your trails prior to the provincial inspection.

A major factor in achieving a perfect score is pride in your club. The goal of my club is that our club will score a perfect matrix score every time we are inspected. The result is safer trails, being rewarded with the maximum amount of dollars secured from the trail fund to enable our club to do other projects as needed and enjoying the earned extra year free from inspections when you score a "four."

Inspector assignments have been made and it won't be long before your club will receive a call to arrange your inspection—be ready! We would like to reward every club with a perfect "four" matrix score as it would mean that every trail throughout the province of Saskatchewan is as safe as we as an organization can make them.

>> CLUB EVENTS

Contact the SSA at 1-800-499-7533 (SK only) or 306-729-3500 for more information:

January 7, 2012

Snowmobile Safety Course, White City, SK

January 11 & 12, 2012

Snowmobile Safety Course, Regina, SK

January 14, 2012

Snowmobile Safety Course, Davidson, SK

Snowmobile Safety Course, Yorkton, SK

Snowmobile Safety Course, Saskatoon, SK

6th Annual Vintage Snowmobile Race, Carnduff, SK

January 15 - 21, 2012

Provincial Snowmobile Safety Week

January 21, 2012

Grenfell Snowdrifters Rally, Grenfell, SK

Jan. 26 - Feb. 3, 2012

Mission 2012 Tour - Prairie Women on Snowmobiles.

Starts in Humboldt, SK

January 28, 2012

Moose Jaw Vintage Snowmobile Race, Moose Jaw, SK

Naicam Snowblasters 17th Annual Snowmobile Rally, Naicam, SK

February 1 & 2, 2012

Snowmobile Safety Course, Regina, SK

February 4, 2012

4th Annual Randy Shiplack Memorial Derby, Lebret, SK

Kelvington Trailblazers Winter Spirit, Kelvington, SK

Broadview Snow Busters Derby, Broadview, SK

February 11, 2012

Timber Trails Sno Riders

Annual Rally, Big River, SK

Snowarama, Yorkton, SK

February 18, 2012

Porcupine Snowmobile Rally, Porcupine Plain, SK

Tri-Lake Rally, Lower Fishing Lake - Narrow Hills Provincial Park

February 19 - 25, 2012

Take a Friend Snowmobiling Week

February 21 & 22, 2012

Snowmobile Safety Course, Regina, SK

February 24 - 26, 2012

Provincial Festival, Hudson, Bay, SK

February 25, 2012

Quill Lake Trail Twisters Rally, Quill Lake, SK

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