



# SASKATCHEWAN Snowmobiler

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## JOIN YOUR LOCAL CLUB

CLUB VOLUNTEERS ARE THE BACKBONE OF THE SYSTEM  
**BY BARRY BRADSHAW, Chairman**

I'm writing this article just to remind everyone about their local snowmobile club. I believe there are still people out there that don't understand how the snowmobile trails show up every winter. The members of local snowmobile clubs put in countless hours cleaning trails, signing all the trails and, last but not least, the grooming and maintenance of the trails.

There is no government agency that makes these trails or keeps up with the signing and grooming of these trails. Sure, the \$70 that comes from snowmobile registrations goes back into the trails to help with the maintenance. This figure still falls short of the required financing. Clubs still have to fundraise to purchase newer grooming equipment.

It's really amazing when you sit down and think about it. It's still all done by club volunteers. All the 9,000 kilometres in the province were developed by volunteers and have linked together most of the province's grooming clubs and their communities. The clubs still have to maintain the trails and every year change the routing to get around beaver floods, crops left out in the fields, etc. There is always something every year to deal with in keeping the trails in place. Just keeping up with all the land permission forms every year is a job in itself.

What's really amazing is how small the number of club members are; the number of registered sleds last year in the province was around

20,000. This works out to around 15 to 20 per cent being members of snowmobile clubs. My own Yorkton Sno-Riders club is probably one of the more successful clubs in the province, the main reason being that we try to have fun with any task that the club has to do. The members all work very well together and have been very successful in doing whatever task comes up, whether it be working on the trail groomers, clearing and signing the trails or doing security for the Santa Claus parade that the city of Yorkton puts on every year.

The Yorkton club has always helped out with our Snowarama fundraiser for Easter Seals with the grooming and signing of the 200 kilometres of trail. All this little extra effort and public relations has made our club well respected in our community and this is reflected in the fundraising as we have more and more corporate sponsors every year supporting our Yorkton Sno-Riders club.

Let's face it snowmobilers, we wouldn't have any trails anywhere and the sport would be suffering if there were no volunteers and snowmobile clubs. I know that most of you read *SnoRiders* magazine and those who are reading this article are club members—you all deserve a pat on the back. For those that don't belong to a club—shame on you. Join your local club, get out and have some fun as the great sport of snowmobiling depends on you.

## Countless jobs to be done

**BY BILL THIBODEAU, Zone 1 & 4**

Temperatures in our area have been quite warm so, needless to say, there is not much snowmobiling going on. The last snowfall we had was the weekend of the SSA snowmobile trade show, which was held in our zone again this year. The show was widely attended this year and a big thank you to all who attended. It looked then like we were going to have a good snowfall year, but all is melting fast at these temperatures.

Well, if you can't ride I am sure your local club can use some volunteers throughout the season. There are always countless jobs to be done, some of which are preparing trail signs, marking trails, clearing trails, planning for rallies, cleaning warm-up shelters, splitting wood and many more activities that need to be done to have a safe and enjoyable season. Clubs only thrive with the help of volunteers.

## >> EVENTS

**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

**2012 Snowmobile Show**  
 November 9 - 11, 2012  
 Prairieland Exhibition Park,  
 Saskatoon, SK

## >> CLUB NEWS

### Use caution on ice

Extreme caution must be taken this snowmobile season when travelling by snowmobile on any and all waterways, rivers, ponds or sloughs. With the warm temperatures we have seen all season, good ice has not formed and this makes crossing ice dangerous. Please take caution and avoid crossing ice. If You Don't Know Don't Go.

—A safety message from the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association





## A day in the life

DAYS ARE LONG BUT REWARDING FOR TRAIL GROOMERS  
BY CHRIS BREWER, President/CEO

A day in the life of a snowmobile trail groomer begins at 4:30 a.m. when your alarm goes off. You get yourself out of bed with a plan in place, but first you head to the kitchen to hit the On button on the coffee maker. You get your lunch kit out and prepare three meals for the day; you know you are getting ready for a 12- to 14-hour day in the cab grooming snowmobile trails.

Once you have your lunch packed you make sure to take along lots of water as well as two thermoses of coffee and hope that's enough for the day. You step out of your warm house into the brisk early-morning air, get into your cold truck and head to the club's shop.

There you check the groomer's oil levels, fill the fuel tank, do the safety walk around the groomer, then start it and let it warm up. Once the groomer has warmed up you climb into the cab, loosen the hydraulics, manoeuvre the machine back and forth, and then head out onto the trail. You set the dozer blade and the drag to operate at maximum performance without operating the machine too fast as this will not provide a quality snowmobile trail. You set your speed at 10 to 14 kilometres per hour and try to keep it at this pace while you manoeuvre the dozer blade full of snow to insure you keep the snow drag full of snow, all the while cutting the moguls out that

snowmobiles have left in the trail.

Your route is planned out to maximize the trip. To avoid having to backtrack over a snowmobile trail that you have just groomed, you create a plan that includes loops to be sure you're operating as efficiently as possible. Along the trail you encounter a variety of issues, from large snowdrifts to areas that require a second pass or corners where the sleds have pushed all the snow to the outside of the corner—all this while you watch for oncoming snowmobile traffic.

Every groomer operator enjoys the waves of thanks from all the snowmobilers that pass by; maybe that's what keeps us coming back. As the day goes by you have enjoyed the outing, knowing the snowmobilers are happy until the wind blows or Mother Nature has dropped more of the white stuff from the skies.

You head back to the club's shop after a long day of grooming snowmobile trails. You clean all the snow that has accumulated from the snow dust, shovel out the packer pan of the snow drag, plug in the block heater, start up your cold truck and drive home, all the time thinking of the grooming plan for tomorrow and what's in the fridge for tomorrow's lunch kit. You get home and put your feet up, sigh the big sigh and hope the snowmobilers are safe while out on the trails.

## Hudson Bay Trail Riders

BY KAREN DOLEZSAR

I was just thinking why our club volunteers do what they do for the club. For the most part, the majority of us do not earn our livelihoods from the snowmobile industry. We work like everyone else at various careers, yet we find the time to go out and enjoy the great outdoors in our own backyards. Hours are spent with fellow club members, running a chainsaw, clearing brush, putting up signs, maintaining shelters and staking fields—somehow turning the work into fun.

Let's try covering the reasons why an otherwise sane person might volunteer to work harder than they work at their regular jobs. Is it caring for their community? Is it pride in our area of the province? Is it because you might see three moose or a lynx on the trail watching you with bewilderment? Is it because it starts out as fun in the beginning and then a job started cannot be left unfinished?

In considering the above it is probably a combi-

nation of all these things. Seriously, the work in itself can't be that much fun. After all, who in their right mind would build a huge trail infrastructure every December and tear it down every spring only to start over the next year to do it all over again, year after year after year.

Somehow we forget falling through a beaver run up to our waists, pounding 3,000 stakes, tipping the club wide-track over on its side because of the ATV ruts and, of course, the wind howling in your face as the temperature drops after sunset.

The greatest compliment is we know that our work does not go unnoticed. All we have to do is read the sign-in books at one of our 11 shelters to know our club is doing something right.

Hope to see you at the 2012 Provincial Festival in Hudson Bay or meet you on the trails another day.

Ride safely!

## >> CLUB NEWS

### Cupar Snowmobile Club —by Terry Lipinski

This year we have had two snowmobile derbies in Cupar. The Sled Ride for Hope was held on January 21, 2012. It was a family ride of approximately 50 miles with some great prizes. A wiener roast and refreshments were available at the half-way point. Riders were back to the hall by 4 p.m., prizes were drawn at 4:30, and the derby was finished by 5:30. All proceeds go to the Hospitals of Regina Foundation Prostate Assessment Centre.

The Cupar Snowmobile Club also held its annual derby on February 11, 2012. The ride was the rider's choice, up to 100 miles. Riders were back at the hall by 5:30 p.m. for the supper, prizes and a 50/50 draw. A great time was had by all.

### Lakeland Snowmobile Club —by Abbie Roth

At the time of this writing we have very little snow but our lakes and rivers have about 16 inches of ice.

All our trails have been cleared and are in good shape. We had some hurricane-type winds this summer—hats off to our trail maintenance people for a big job well done.

Our groomer has had a thorough going over and replacements and tune-ups done as required. All systems go.

We had our annual Christmas party on Saturday, December 10, 2011, and about 50 of us gathered together for a fun time with gift exchanges and lots of good food. Thanks to all the organizers.

Let's hope for a good year ahead with lots of snow in 2012 and a few rider miles by

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# Esker Bear Trails Snowmobile Club

BY JEAN MILOWSKI

After the plow winds this summer, we were fortunate to have Garry Newton clear some of our trails with his equipment as it was too much for a club of mostly older members to clear.

The Esker by Lower Fishing Lake remains closed as Parks could not get contracts out because of the election.

There was much excitement on November 5, 2011, when we got an area cleared for our new warm-up shelter. Memorial Ridge is about 2½ to three kilometres south of Little Bear Lake Resort at the corner of 208B (Little Bear Lake Trail) and TC 208A, which goes to Piprell Lake. The stove was installed as well as a table and some chairs, an outside firepit, a biffy and a solar panel for lights. A big thank you to all members and non-members who helped set up the shelter.

All riders please enjoy—pack in, pack out and

leave us only your comments, footprints and ski pants. This shelter was possible due to a large donation from the Saskatoon Stonebridge Wal-Mart and Old Dutch Potato Chips courtesy of Trevor Schell.

We had 25 for our Christmas party at Narrow Hills Place. A potluck supper was followed by a noisy gift exchange and much trading, and a good time was had by all.

We have almost enough snow to trail ride—lake riding is fine—but go to the sides at the narrows and Little Bear Lake. Phone ahead for gas at Moose Horn, Little Bear and Piprell as they need to travel for supplies.

Everyone enjoyed our rally on Saturday, February 18, 2012, which was based at Narrow Hills Place Hall on Lower Fishing Lake.

Have a safe season and enjoy the scenery.

# Moose Mountain Snowmobile Club

BY TROY FOSTER

Greetings from the Moose Mountain Snowmobile Club. After the great winter of 2010/11 we were kind of disappointed that this season started off so late, but with all the flooding in the southeast many people needed the extra snow-free days to repair the damage to their homes caused by the floods.

Our last snowfall was over 40 centimetres on April 30, 2011. For those who went out riding it was a great time, but for many this was the beginning of all the flooding.

Last year Corning got a new shelter and if any of you were out there for a visit, you would usually run into Norm Gentes looking after things in the shelter. Norm is a local veteran snowmobiler from Corning who has many great stories of the area and of snowmobiling. He has helped do so many things for the club for many years including marking trails, painting, signing, operating the groomer and maintenance. Because of all the years of great service to the club we have changed the name from Corning Shelter to Norm's Palace. When travelling northwest of the park on 311A stop in for a visit.

I would like to thank the volunteers who spent two days in December removing the old track belts from the blue groomer BR400 and replacing them with new belts, some cleats, tires and five hours of welding on the orange drag. Both of the club groomers are serviced and ready for winter. One groomer is stored at Nankivells in Kisbey for the south run along the hills and the

other groomer is in Kipling to cover the west trails around Corning and the north route up to the Silver Bullet shelter.

Because of all the flooding north of Kipling this spring and summer, we were not able to get the new larger shelter built and into place at the Silver Bullet, so that project is now slated for the summer of 2012, weather permitting.

Another area that flooded badly was south and west of Kisbey along Moose Mountain Creek, so please watch for signs as the trail will be a bit different as compared to last winter. Because of the high water last winter we were able to purchase a third groomer that went through a slough in the Redvers area.

A third groomer unit will be kept in Stoughton to look after the trails that are daily being pushed in and dug up by all the oil activity.

If you are a snowmobiling enthusiast and new to the Moose Mountain area, the club would like to welcome you to join the club or if you have any questions please contact us. Our 311 trail system encompasses the towns of Stoughton, Corning, Windthorst, Kipling, Kenosee Lake, Carlyle, Arcola and Kisbey. Please check out our website, [www.mmsnowmobilingclub.com](http://www.mmsnowmobilingclub.com), for all the latest club information, pictures of the region and local accommodations.

Our club meetings run from October to April and take place the first Wednesday of each month so come out and see what's happening. Come Ride the Moose.

## >> CLUB NEWS

### ► LAKELAND SNOWMOBILE CLUB *Cont'd. from pg. 26 sidebar*

the next issue.

Do all the right things into 2012 and beyond. License your machines, follow the rules of the trails, drink sensibly after your ride and let's get together for the big bash in Hudson Bay in February 2012.

### Prairie Women on Snowmobiles —by Carol McKnight

Thanks to all of you who welcomed Prairie Women on Snowmobiles into your community from January 27 to February 3. Without you our Mission would not have been a success!

Thank you to everyone who bought tickets for the 1974 340 Roll-o-Flex, which was totally restored and donated by Louis Sigouin.

Please feel free to check out our new website at [www.prairiewomen.ca](http://www.prairiewomen.ca) for more information about our club.

We wish everyone all the best in 2012 and have a safe snowmobiling season.

### Porcupine Trail Blasters —by Kelly Dahroug

We have some news on our shelter project at Cougar Canyon—it looks like we have approval for the area that it is to be built on, so now we are waiting for the go-ahead to build it. It will be a beautiful place for a shelter.

We have finished cleaning trails; now all we need is some snow so we can get out grooming. We would also like to thank everyone who participated in our rally on February 18, 2012. We hope everyone had a good time.

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# Pasquia Snow Goers Club

BY KATHY LINDSAY

Get ready, aim and shoot! Yes, the Sled 'n Snap program put on by the SSA is once again underway. We certainly hope you have been taking your camera along with you on your scenic rides through our many trails. We know how beautiful this area is and we are willing to share.

Thanks goes out to Louis Sigouin of Arborfield who has restored a Saskatchewan-built Roll-o-Flex snowmobile and has donated it to the Prairie Women on Snowmobiles. Based on the sales volume of these tickets, I believe this is a very coveted piece of snowmobiling history.

The Roll-o-Flex company was based in Saskatchewan from 1969 to 1974. It was started by a group of young men in their 20s and 30s who had a passion for snowmobiling.

This sled has been totally restored from the smallest bolt to the rubber flap on the back, which was unavailable for purchase so Louis built a mould and proceeded to pour the needed rubber flap according to spec.

Louis has obtained the signatures of all the original manufacturers of this sled who were in attendance at the Roll-o-Flex reunion. You will find their signatures under layers of clear coat on the restored hood. It's one thing to have an autographed book or sports jersey but how many peo-



ple have an autographed antique sled?

The Pasquia Snow Goers were very pleased to have once again welcomed the Prairie Women on Snowmobiles into our town. These women have made a magnificent commitment to help raise funds and awareness for breast cancer research.

As our winters tend to be long with lots of snow, snowmobiling has continued to be one of the most popular family winter sports. It doesn't matter your age, you can still participate. Young and old can get together snowmobiling, with the young people testing their skills while others slow down to enjoy the scenery, checking out how much wildlife they are finding along the trail. And hopefully they are snapping many pictures along the way. I have seen a range of photos, from people playing in the deep, powdery snow to pictures of the beauty found along the trails.

I hope all the children who were born after January 1, 1989, have taken their snowmobile safety course. Not only is it a legal requirement but teaches you the correct rules and regulations. We hope you were one of the young people who took the snowmobile safety course held in Carrot River.

*Continued on sidebar ►*

## >> CLUB NEWS

### ► PORCUPINE TRAIL BLASTERS *Cont'd. from pg. 27 sidebar*

The Porcupine area offers approximately 230 kilometres of some of the most scenic groomed trails in the province and our town offers everything you need for a weekend getaway.

So let's hope for lots of snow and we invite everyone to come and enjoy our scenic trails!

### ► PASQUIA SNOW GOERS *Continued from left*

Time is ticking on your chance to purchase one of the Four-Sled raffle tickets being sold. This is a great fundraiser for the clubs and an excellent chance for you to win a new sled or perhaps the cash prize would be of more interest. The draw is being made at the Provincial Festival taking place in Hudson Bay, Saskatchewan, on February 24, 25 and 26.

Sign up early for the festival. It is sure to be a great time for everyone!

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## 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](http://www.sasksnow.com) and click on membership!

# Yorkton Sno-Riders

BY SANDY KONKEL

The open house on November 19, 2011, was a great success. There was an excellent turnout at the sausage and pancake breakfast hosted at Schrader's and the barbecued hamburgers for lunch at King's Sport Leisure & Marine. The steak supper was a success, as well as the live auction of several items including the new Ski-Doo TNT snowmobile donated by BRP through their Million Dollar Club Support Program. Thanks BRP for this fantastic program supporting snowmobile clubs across Canada. Proceeds for the supper were donated to the Prairie Women on Snowmobiles.

Hats off to all the volunteers who did a great job of cooking and organizing for this function! Special thanks to Schrader's and King's Sport

and Leisure as they decided to continue the long tradition of having their open house together during that weekend.

On December 7, 2011, at Hooters Clubhouse, a session was held by Barry Bradshaw and Don Thompson with regard to signing trails. The session was attended by 26 people—a great turnout and lots of interest was shown.

The John Deere groomer has the tracks on it and has been tried out on the trails. Hopefully more grooming will be done shortly but we really need some snow. Cleaning trails is still being done and some rerouting will have to be done due to the busy little beavers here and warm weather conditions that have contributed to the lack of frost in some areas.

## >> CLUB NEWS

### Last Mountain Lake Drifters —by Bonnie Barber

Well, I have an interesting message for everyone because it doesn't involve snowmobiling—could it be because we have no snow?!

There has been some ATV traffic around the warm-up shack and the landowner has reminded us that our agreement with him specifies only snowmobiles are allowed to access his land to the shack. We have a lot invested in the new shack—deck, firepit, etc., etc.—so we really don't want anything to upset the landowner that may result in losing our privileges to his land.

Please spread the word and let's hope it's not non-members that are using the shack.

Also, Andrea Belof has designed terrific (and fancy) new posters and application forms for us to begin using. Our dilemma is that we don't have a website set up to receive incoming questions and applications, and we don't want to put out the new posters without having some way of being contacted. Is anyone out there able (and willing) to make us a web page so we could put the email address on the posters and applications? I don't mind being the one who checks it and responds to the emails that come in, but I have no skills for creating websites/pages. We could use some of the great graphics that Andrea has already created for us if it helps.

Still hoping to see you all soon!

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



## In memory of Darren Dagg

It was a beautiful day in March of 2011 when members and friends of the Tisdale Snowmobile Club, along with the family of Darren Dagg, gathered together to celebrate the opening of the club's newest warm-up shelter, Darren's Den. The shelter is dedicated in memory of Darren, an avid snowmobiler, who passed away in June of 2010.



When the Tisdale Snowmobile Club re-opened their trails in the fall of 2007, Darren was instrumental in helping to forge a path south of Tisdale to Kipabiskau Lake where the trail joins those of the Naicam and Melfort clubs.

The Tisdale Snowmobile Club is proud to dedicate this new shelter in Darren's memory.



# Twin Lakes Trail Blazers Club

BY MAE PATERSON

We held our home opener on November 18, 2011, at the Fish and Game Hall; we had one of our best turnouts. We had 19 cardholders attend, which was really nice to see, with a potluck supper and lots of games. Everyone really enjoyed themselves.

Of course, we held our annual Christmas party at our clubhouse with a potluck again and a recycled gift exchange—you can all imagine the thought that went into those gifts.

We are all patiently waiting for snow so we can get started on marking and grooming our trails.

Some members are already packing the track

for our races on March 3. It takes a lot of work and planning to make a good safe track for these races.

On February 11 everyone met in town and then sledded to Aylsham for our Valentines Steak Night. This can be a very cold ride but the end results are very good. We also enjoyed the Peace 100 on Saturday, February 18. We hosted a snowmobile rally along with a dinner and dance.

Once we get some snow—and I am sure we will—all will be very busy. I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and all the best in the New Year!

# Tisdale Snowmobile Club

BY SHANE BECKER

The Tisdale Snowmobile Club is excited about the 2012 season. The club purchased a new Cat Challenger 45 power unit and built a new drag to be pulled also. The multi-blade 12-foot-wide unit will make for huge improvements in the trail conditions.

With a long dry fall, the farmers were able to get all the crops off and do lots of fall work. This made trail marking much easier and allowed for less detours, unlike last year. But, be cautious and stay on the trail, as there was a lot of ditching done this fall. Getting off the trail could cause serious damage to your sled or even worse—yourself.

Thank you to all the landowners for allowing the trail to go across their property and also to those that allow us to put shelters on their property. If it wasn't for your generosity, this wouldn't be possible. The club had a couple of work bees last fall and cleaned all three shelters, cut firewood and cleaned up the trails/shelter yards. All

three shelters are in excellent condition with solar lighting and lots of wood. We also had a work bee and painted more signing stakes and installed reflectors on these stakes.

We would like to thank Handi-works in Nipawin for the wonderful trail-marking stakes that they make and sell. The club purchased some of these new stakes to aid in the trail marking. They do a great job and the stakes are very well built. So if any other club is needing signing stakes, please give them a call in Nipawin and they would be more than happy to help you out.

The club's annual fundraising supper was held on February 4, 2012, at the Tisdale Hotel. Everyone who came out enjoyed a great supper and fun evening.

All signs and stakes have been gone through and are ready to put up. Hopefully by the time you are reading this, the trails are in full swing.

Remember to ride safely and enjoy our great Saskatchewan outdoors.

# Northern Lights Snowmobile Assoc.

BY RHONDA COOPER

The Northern Lights Snowmobile Club is ready and anxiously awaiting snow. The extended fall weather allowed club members to check off a number of jobs on the to-do list. Major work was done by Jim and Holly on two of the club's shelters and a third one was found after being misplaced for a couple of years. It has now been returned to the trail system for fellow snowmobilers to enjoy.

Members Clayton, Calvin and Cindy spent a

number of hours installing the new orange posts, required by the SSA. Some trail signs were replaced, but most of them survived and are ready for the season of sledging. In fact, in an area where trees were removed, the crew left a lone tree, minus its top, where signs were posted. We appreciate the fact that this natural signpost was left intact.

Despite the severe windstorms and flooding ex-

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## >> CLUB NEWS

### Saskatoon Snowmobile Club —by Gerri Sametts

The Saskatoon Snowmobile Club (SSC) held its annual general meeting on Friday, November 18, 2011. There were many topics of discussion that evening: past meeting minutes, financial reports, the 2011/12 budget, committee reports, the proposed purchase of a new groomer and possible trail changes.

This season brings about a change in the SSC board of directors. A thank you must be extended to Bill Thibodeau, past SSC president, and Eric Foster, past SSC director, for their devotion to the club. All SSC members are thankful for the time that both men have put forth over the previous years.

The new SSC president is Cley Sametts, the new vice-president is Wes Cole, and we also need to welcome two new SSC directors, Chris Barnardo and Paul Webb. A full contact list for the SSC board of directors can be found on the SSC website: [www.saskatoonsnowmobileclub.com](http://www.saskatoonsnowmobileclub.com).

Marcel Voyer, SSC director, just completed the fifth safety course for the season. These courses have resulted in the certification of just over 105 participants.

Even though we are currently experiencing a lack of snow, the Saskatoon Snowmobile Club is still optimistic and it's business as usual. The trails have been assessed for debris cleanup and everything is underway to ensure that the trail system is ready for 2012.

We can offer one of the best riding trails in the Saskatoon area with a mixture of flat land and coulees. Let's also not forget that the end of the SSC trail leads you into the Nisbet Provincial Forest, with all that

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► **NORTHERN LIGHTS SNOWMOBILE ASSOC.**  
*Continued from page 30*

perienced in our area over the summer, most of the trails went relatively unscathed, although there were a few miles that required clearing. This year the opportunity presented itself to clear some of the deadfall that was away from the trails. Cliff, Calvin, Clayton and Ken volunteered numerous hours to get our trail system in tip-top shape for the snowmobiling season.

Wood, kindling and newspapers have been delivered to each warm-up shelter so there will be plenty for when the snow and riders make their appearance on our 290 kilometres of trails.

Meadow Lake was once again on the Prairie Women on Snowmobiles' itinerary this year and

club members eagerly guided the ladies on their trip from our community. Once again, we had a Meadow Lake participant, Andrea Lehoux, who was riding to raise funds for breast cancer research. A new fundraising effort is being tried this year, with the sale of spots on club signs outside of the city of Meadow Lake. Jim is also seeking fuel sponsors for the club's groomer.

We held a very successful snowmobile safety class in November with 19 young riders earning their certificates. Our next safety course will be early in the new year and will be instructed by some of our own members.

Hopefully the Old Farmer's Almanac prediction of more than average snowfall will be realized sooner rather than later.

>> **CLUB NEWS**

► **SASKATOON SNOWMOBILE CLUB**  
*Cont'd. from pg. 30 sidebar*

it has to offer riders regardless of their age or skills.

Be sure to check us out—we know you will love it!

**Whiteswan Snow Hawks**  
—by *Chris James*

Unfortunately we still have very little snow. There are zero places to ride and riding on the lake is poor with lots of ice and no snow. Most of the ice fishermen are riding quads or driving their trucks out to fish.

Talking about quads—maybe we could be a little easier on the trails as they are getting very beat up. It is getting tougher and tougher to fill in the deep ruts early in the season when the snow is not yet deep enough to fill them.

Our area is fortunate to have two resorts close by. East Trout Lake (Eagle Bay Resort), which has fuel, a restaurant and rental cabins, is hosted by Greg and Roxy Newfield. The other is Piprell Lake (Rainbow Lodge), which has fuel, rental cabins and counter snacks and is hosted by Richard and Shelly Lawrence.

All of our trails have been gone over with mowers. The willows on the sides have been cut back to widen the trails back to their original widths and they are looking very good. Our trail washouts have all been filled and returned to a nice smooth surface. Now hopefully the snow comes sooner than last year.

Also the trappers in our area would like to thank the snowmobilers for staying off their traplines and ask them to continue doing so.

Enjoy the upcoming season and ride smart.

**PLEASE**  
**NO TRESPASSING**  
**NO ATVs ON SSA**  
**SNOWMOBILE TRAILS**



[www.sasksnow.com](http://www.sasksnow.com)

**ATVs are not allowed on SSA snowmobile trails on private land in any season.**

Unfortunately, unauthorized use of SSA snowmobile trails often results in trail closure for everyone.

ATV riders can help keep snowmobile trails open by staying off private land trails at all times and by avoiding SSA public land trails during the snowmobile grooming season.



## Phil Lane: farewell good friend

It is with great sadness that we, the Yorkton Sno-Riders, announce the loss of one of our executive members and good friend, Phil Lane, after a lengthy battle with cancer. You could always count on Phil to attend meetings regularly and on occasion he would treat members to some homemade sausage after the meetings.

Phil served on the executive for many years as one of the club reps on the Snowarama committee and we could always depend on Phil to help out on various other club committees. You could always ask Phil for help and no was never an answer from him.

For years, Phil chaired the pancake breakfast during the annual dealer tour. No matter how cold or windy a day it was, Phil and his crew would cook a great meal and you would never hear him complain if he was cold or how cold it was outside. Phil also organized the annual snowmobile rides during the M.C. Knoll School Wake-a-Thon. Phil realized these rides were important to the schoolchildren as many had never had an opportunity to ride a snowmobile. He always made sure there were enough volunteers for the ride and some of us would tease him about scheduling the ride on the coldest night of the year. But no matter how cold it was, Phil was sure to be out with the volunteers.

Phil was also one of our groomer operators. He

took great pride in grooming the trail around the city and up to the Lakanooki warm-up shelter on the Massey groomer. He did a good job and most of the hours he spent on the groomer were after work in the evenings. Phil always made sure that when the Prairie Women on Snowmobiles ride for breast cancer research came to town, the trails around the city would be groomed smooth. In fact, one year he decided to groom a trail right up to the hotel door for the ladies.

Phil also enjoyed participating in the local Santa Claus parade when the Sno-Riders volunteered for security. Last year was a special treat as Mother Nature finally co-operated and dumped enough snow on the city streets so we could drive our groomers in the parade. You could tell by the expression on his face that he was proud to drive the Massey groomer down the street in the Santa Claus parade.

Phil was a kind-hearted person who was always willing to give a helping hand to others. He would always wave when he saw you or stop and talk if you were near. We will miss Phil, not only for all his hard work and dedication to our club, but more importantly, for his positive outlook on life and the enthusiasm he shared when he was with others. We enjoyed his company and all who knew him could call him a good friend. A service was held for Phil on October 4, 2011.

## >> CLUB EVENTS

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

### February 24 - 26, 2012

Provincial Festival,  
Hudson, Bay, SK  
Contact: Hudson Bay Tourism  
306-865-2263

### February 25, 2012

Quill Lake Trail Twisters Rally,  
Quill Lake, SK  
Contact: Aron Friesen  
306-383-7191

### March 3, 2012

Twin Lakes Vintage Days,  
Nipawin Regional Park  
Contact: Lynn at 306-862-6378

Esker Trek, Lower Fishing Lake -  
Narrow Hills Provincial Park  
Contact: Les Russell  
306-426-2124

Snowmobile Safety Course,  
Saskatoon Snowmobile  
Clubhouse

Contact: Marcel Voyer  
306-384-2420 after 4 p.m.

### March 6 - 7, 2012

Snowmobile Safety Course,  
Regina, SK  
Contact: Heather  
306-757-3197

### March 10, 2012

Nipawin Days, Nipawin  
Contact: Lynn at 306-862-6378

## 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](http://www.sasksafety.org) or email [ssc@sasksafety.org](mailto:ssc@sasksafety.org).

## A big thank you!

A big thank you goes out to the Federated Co-op for supporting the Provincial Festival that will be held from February 24 to 26. They donated 2,000 litres of diesel fuel/ gasoline that will be used by Hudson Bay's groomer, and a litre of Sonic XL-S oil that will be supplied to every participant of the festival!

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