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The official publication of the South Dakota Snowmobile Association

January 2025

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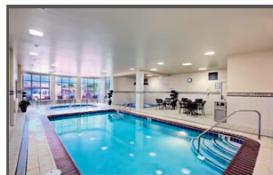
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Kelly Weaver, SDSA President



On my way home from the 55th Annual SDSA Convention in Brookings, my body is tired but my heart is full! In the words of Coach John Stiegelmeier, I can honestly say snowmobilers are truly MAD (Making A Difference)!

Not only do we raise money for SDSA, our generous snowmobilers raise money for great causes. Friday night featured a special gun raffle for the benefit of our Snowmobilers for Snowmobilers fund. The gun was donated by Charlie Fawcett and his family. Charlie, a cancer survivor from Miller, was the beneficiary of the Snowmobilers for Snowmobilers program, and this was his way to pay it forward. South Dakota Arms in Miller beautifully engraved the gun stock with SDSA and Snowmobilers for Snowmobilers logos. An embossed leather scabbard was also donated by Shamrock Holsters. A winning bid of \$2,700 from Kim Raap will allow more snowmobilers who experience hardships to receive assistance. An additional \$3,412 was contributed by the Aberdeen Drift Busters Snowmobile Club and Karen's Bar and Grill in Columbia, SD. The Town and Country Riders contributed another \$1,000. If you know of an SDSA member facing a hardship, you can find an application on the Forms page of the SDSA website.

Contributions made over the last year to fully fund the Jon LaFramboise YETIS Scholarship endowment have produced enough revenue to fund TWO \$1,000 scholarships for the program. Applications for this scholarship and the two \$500 SDSA scholarships are due on February 25th. The American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA) scholarship is due February 1. Applications for all three scholarships can be found on the Forms page of the SDSA website.

So many good things happened at this convention which was superbly executed by the Dakota Drifters! I can't thank the SDSA staff and board members enough for all they do to make the convention a success – before, during and after. If you think you are tired after the convention, I challenge you to follow Mary Anne around for a day during the weekend!

Thank you to each person or business who donated items, bid on the auctions and bought raffle tickets. The fundraisers were all successful and are the most significant source of revenue for SDSA. You will see a fundraising recap in this issue with all the details. If you are looking for a great fundraiser for your club, we are seeking bids by Feb. 1 for the 2026 Convention. SDSA other host clubs are ready to help you make it happen!

I hope to see many of you join us for the Governor's Ride and SDSA Membership Appreciation Ride on February 7-8th in the Black Hills (see details in this issue).

Wishing you all a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year and a safe and snowy season!
Kelly

P. S. Please consider supporting your state association by offering your financial skills as SDSA Treasurer. See details at www.snowmobilesd.com/employment or give me call.

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Mary Anne Grabow, Editor-Publisher

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http://www.snowmobilesd.com/

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District 1

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Sturgis Sno-Drifters

Darrell Vig
125 Pine Cone Crt Spearfish, SD 57783
605-347-1904 darrell_vig@yahoo.com

District 2

Director: Jackson Wenger

Black Hills Snowmobile Club

Brad Richey, President
3337 E Mall Drive Rapid City, SD 57701
bhsnowmobileclub@hotmail.com
Meetings on 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm
(come early for food!)
Meeting Place: Rice's Rapid Motorsports,
3337 E. Mall Drive, Rapid City. SD 57701

Mile High Snow Drifters

Duane Stanley, President
508 S 16th
Hot Springs, SD 57747
605-745-5626
2nd Monday of Oct, Dec, & Feb 7 p.m.
Lintz Brothers Pizza in Hermosa

District 3

Director :Lee Olson

Aberdeen Driftbusters

President Kelly Weismantel
caseyw@visitaberdeensd.com
Club address:
P O Box 204
Aberdeen, SD 57401
Meets 1st Thurs. 7:30 pm meeting place varies
www.aberdeendrftbusters.com

Day County Trailblazers

Matt Halbkat, President
309 W 6th Avenue
Webster SD 57274
Meeting 2nd & 4th Thurs 7:30 pm VFW

District 4

Director: Nathan VanZee

Hand County Sno-Goers

Nathan VanZee, President
club address: P O Box 153
St. Lawrence, SD 57373
1st Friday of each month at 8 p.m.
St Lawrence Fire Hall

Great Plains Snowtrailers

Vince Jager, President
605-350-8991
955 Montana Avenue SW
Huron, SD 57350
Meetings 1st Tuesday of Month - places vary.

Town & Country Riders

Jamie Hohm President
43048 186th St
Willow Lake SD 57278
Meets 3rd Wed 8 p.m.
Places to vary

District 5

Director: Caeden Bunde

James Valley Drift Skippers

P O Box 272
Mitchell SD 57301
Meets 2nd Thurs. 7:30 p.m. at Blarneys'
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Siouxland Sno-Trackers

President: Chad Schettler
P O Box 624
Brandon, SD 57005
605-728-2284
Meets 1st Thursday at 7 p.m., places vary
See website or Facebook for details

Trailbusters Snowmobile Club

Lyndon Luckasson, President
Meets 2nd Saturday 7:30 p.m.
Clubhouse
trailbusters. org

Dakota

Ditch

Rippers

David Scheetz,Jr, President
Club address:
P O Box 802
Parkston, SD 57366
2nd Thursday

District 6

Director:Jason Shepherd

Whetstone Valley Snowmobile Club

Roger Briggs, President
P O Box 543 Milbank SD 57252
wvsnowclub@gmail.com
wvsnowclub.com
Meets 1st Mon 7 pm VFW
Milbank

Watertown Snowmobile Club

James Bruns, President
club address:
114 18th St NE
Watertown, SD 57201
1st Sunday- Cloud 9 -5 pm

Northeast Trail Blazers Club

Brian Steen, President
Sisseton, SD 57262
meetings held 2nd Tues Places vary
www.netrailblazers.com

District 7

Director :Trace Damm

Dakota Trail Blazers

Brent Jeppesen, President
P O Box 43 Clear Lake, SD 57226
Meets 3rd Friday 7 pm Places vary

Poinsett Pounders

Josh Raw, President
45486 194th st, Lake Norden, SD 57248
612-616-1972
www.poinsettpounders.com
poinsettpounders@gmail.com or
josh@rawfamily.net
Meets @ 7:30pm 1st Wed of the month

Valley Rough Riders

Julie Westberg, President
102 Complex
White SD 57276
690-0691
Meetings and times vary

Dakota Drifters Snowmobile Club

Lynn Nilsson, President
605-695-7182
Lnllsson01@Gmail.com
www.dakotadrifters.org
Meets 2nd Wed @ The Lodge Bar & Grill
Brookings 7 pm

Interlakes Snowroamers

Shawn Martin
24106 461st Ave
Chester SD
martinsj@itctel.com
Meets 1st Tuesday 7 p.m. Hillside Resort on Lake
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SDSA President-Elect

Mike Boock

Hello snowmobilers!

Will winter ever arrive? I sure hope so. Not that I can ride, but I'm here for you. I've seen a few people riding in parts of Wyoming and Colorado, but it's still a little thin there too. If the weather forecasters are correct, we should start seeing good snow in mid-January. Keeping the snow dances going and fingers crossed. Thank you to those that planned, organized, and attended the 55th Annual SDSA Convention in Brookings! With all the meetings, activities, and late nights hanging out, I am definitely tired as I type this, but I sure do enjoy seeing everyone and hearing what's going on with all the clubs. The Dakota Drifters did a great job hosting, and the Casino Night was a blast! I always enjoy playing with "House Money". I would never be able to bet \$150K per hand in Deadwood! Haha! Hopefully, everyone had a great time and learned something about SDSA as well. We have a great board, and I look forward to working with everyone again this next year. As I sat on stage looking at the crowd this year, I noticed a huge absence of our younger members. The youth are our future, and we want to support them as much as possible. If you are a YETIS member and have ideas on what type of activities we can provide throughout the year to better engage this age group, please contact me or anyone on the Board. The YETIS program is a vital part of our organization.

I would like to also thank Pat Hanten-Duerr for her time as District 5 Director. Caeden Bunde with the Siouxland SnoTrackers was voted in to replace Pat. Welcome to the Board Caeden!

Our next big event is the Snocross races in Deadwood and then the Governor's Ride and SDSA Membership Appreciation Ride at Hardy Camp. I hope to see you all there! Make sure to sell those raffle tickets for the Ski Doo MXZ 200 snowmobile. We hope to give it away in Deadwood.

I hope everyone has an amazing Christmas and New Years Eve! Make time for your families and friends. Start a new family tradition this year. Maybe go sledding or tubing together, decorate the tree together, or go for a ride around town and look at Christmas lights. Spend some time together and make some memories.

Lastly, I appreciate everyone's kind words of support and helpfulness to me after my neck surgery. Thank you! Make a Difference... Be the difference! Mike Boock



Photo from annual meeting 12-7-2024

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2 scholarships awarded

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We are searching for the next SDSA treasurer.
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SDSA Past President

Duane Duerr

Great Job Dakota Drifters with the 55 annual SDSA Convention. I really enjoyed the casino night, but probably should keep my day job to pay bills, I never had to sing but did dance for some Chips.



The Governor's Advisory Council meeting on Friday morning at 10am had some great information to share.

- We will gather nonresident survey information for another year before moving forward with possible legislation.
- We are moving forward in setting an Economic Impact Study.
- Side by Sides are causing many issues with trail damage that snowmobile funding is needing to fix.
- It will take a lot of funding to establish trail easements to keep trails open in the future.
- Winter logging will affect trails in the hills.
- State Trail maps were provided by GFP for the 2024-25 season.

The Groomer Session in the Afternoon was well attended with great ideas for future grooming operators.

Saturday's annual meeting was well attended with nearly all clubs represented.

- Legacy memberships were increased from \$500 to \$750.
- Caden Bunde was elected as a new director in District 5 and has a lot to offer for SDSA's future.
- Kelly Weaver was reelected to continue doing the outstanding job she has done in her first year.
- Business Builders were kicked off available thru Octane Ink.
- Big Wins Tickets were sold and Ski Doo 200 tickets were provided to sell with more available from Mary Anne.

I had the chance to compete in the puzzle race Saturday afternoon but lost to a much younger and better organized team that did a great job.

I took time to watch SDSU wins their game and move forward in the Football Playoffs.

The Awards Banquet was well attended, Great food and Awards and the Speaker was Awesome. If you were not at the Convention, you missed a great one!!


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Let's meet our newest Board Member!

Name: Caeden Bunde

Hometown: Garretson, SD

What made you decide to become an SDSA board member?

I decided to become an SDSA board member because I wanted to help promote and protect snowmobiling in South Dakota. I enjoy snowmobiling and want to be part of the voice that ensures that it will flourish in the state of South Dakota.

How long have you been an SDSA member?

I have been a member of the SDSA since 2016 when my dad and I first got involved in snowmobiling.

Which club do you belong to?

I belong to the Siouxland Snotrackers. As district 5 director I represent the Siouxland Snotrackers, the James Valley Drift Skippers, The Trailbusters, and the Dakota Ditch Rippers.

What brand of snowmobile do you ride?

I currently ride a Ski-doo Summit. This has been my best sled so far.

Have you always owned that brand?

I started out with a Yamaha Vmax when I was in 8th grade. After that I moved on to an Arctic Cat Firecat for a while. After a year or two I moved on to a Polaris Switchback. After a few years of the Polaris, I decided to switch over to a Ski-doo.

Do you do your own mechanic work on your sled?

Yes, my dad and I work on our sleds ourselves to save some money. We have rebuilt the engines on our sleds and done other kinds of minor repairs.

Where is your favorite place to snowmobile?

My favorite place to ride would be the trails in northern Wisconsin by Iron River. They have a nice network of trails and offer plenty of stops along the trail. They offer a combination of wide straight aways, and winding trails all tucked away in the woods of Wisconsin.

Do you help sign the trail for your snowmobile club?

Yes, we have our trail put in and ready for the 2024-2025 season. It was tough getting the posts into the ground this year with it being so dry. I am hoping we get some good snow this year for our trails. We have a good group of trail groomers in our club that helps keep our trail maintained.

Do you have a favorite person to take a snowmobile trip with?

My favorite person to take a snowmobile trip with would be my girlfriend of three years. She doesn't have a snowmobile for herself but borrows my dad's sled when she can. Her first time riding a sled was two years ago when I took her on our local trails.

What's your favorite food?

My favorite food would have to be a nice juicy steak. Second would be a classic pepperoni pizza.

What was your first job, ever?

I got my first job working as a sales associate at Brandon Ace Hardware. I worked there from 2018 to 2021. This was a great opportunity for me to learn good work ethics and interpersonal skills while I was in high school.

What is your current job?

I currently work for CHS as an Agronomy Sales Representative (ASR). CHS is a global agribusiness cooperative that provides products and services to farmers and ranchers.

RECAP OF CONVENTION FUNDRAISING

Preliminary Figures as of 12-08-2024

Just a quick recap of the convention fundraising. These are Preliminary figures as of 12-08-2024 and may change slightly as we get through processing all the activity.

SDSA Live Auction - \$17,645.00 from 121 auction items with 82 bid numbers given out.

SDSA Silent Auction - \$5,850.00 from 117 auction items

Total SDSA Live and Silent Combined - \$23,495.00

Pro-rated Distributions

SDSA @ 65% = \$15,271.75

Host Club @ 35% = \$ 8,223.25

YETIS Silent Action - \$555.00 from 13 auction items

Pro-rated Distributions

YETIS @ 50% = \$302.50

SDSA @ 25% = \$151.25

Host Club @ 25% = \$151.25

John Green Painting auctioned for \$3,250.00

\$1,625.00 to John Green

\$1,625.00 to SDSA

Total combined Live Auction, Silent Auction, John Green Painting, YETIS Auction and the Special Snowmobilers for Snowmobilers Live Auction raised **\$30,320.00!! HOW COOL IS THAT!!!** Both the Live and Silent auctions offered a great variety of helmets, gear of all sorts, vacation packages, signs, handmade items, baskets and of course Apple Pie, Orange Dreamsicle and Red Eye! Items went for and above value and yet there were still several bargains to be had. Looking at the history of Live and Silent Auctions since 2015, this year's Convention now holds the highest amount raised in the Live Auction, in the Silent Auction, in the combined Auction Total, along with the highest record of Grand Total of the Live, Silent, John Green Painting and the YETIS Auctions. And then add in the Special Snowmobilers for Snowmobilers Gun Raffle and it made for a Fantastic Fundraising Convention!

Snowmobilers for Snowmobilers

A 17-gauge Henry HMR was donated by Charlie Fawcett to be auctioned for a fundraiser, specifically designated for Snowmobilers for Snowmobilers. The gun raised \$2,700.00. The Snowmobilers for Snowmobilers fund has also received donations from the Aberdeen Driftbusters (\$3,412.00) and from Town & Country Riders (\$1,000.00).

2024 SDSA Big Payout!

Total Raffle Sales \$25,500.00 - 1275 tickets sold

Prizes

Grand Prize \$ 7,500.00 - Ronnie Grajczyk, Sisseton

www.snowmobilesd.com Sno Plainsman January 2025 Page 10

Second Ticket Drawn \$ 1,000.00 - Day County Trailblazers Club Sold Most Tickets \$ 500.00 - Black Hills Snowmobile Club

Net Proceeds to SDSA \$16,500.00

The goal was to sell at least 1250 tickets to make the budget figures, and that goal was met!!!

SnoCross Sled Raffle

SDSA will be raffling a MXZ 200 Skidoo Snowmobile at the Deadwood SnoCross January 24-25. Tickets (\$10.00 each) are now available to purchase and if clubs want to help sell tickets, contact Mary Anne to have tickets sent out to you.

2024-2025 Back the Ride Donor Program

Gold Donor Sponsor Level (2023-2024) - Town & Country Riders

Copper Donor Sponsor Level - Earl Klersey, Rogers, MN

Platinum Donor Sponsor Level - 2024-2025 -Town & County Riders

New Legacy Memberships (established thus far this fiscal year)

Nordstrom, Greg, Sioux Falls, Established by Siouxland Sno Trackers

Kornmann, Richard, Sioux Falls, Established by Siouxland Sno Trackers

Vandenoever, Robert, Sioux Falls, Established by Siouxland Sno Trackers

Lamp, Scott, Brookings, Established by Dakota Drifters

Spiering, Walter, Brookings, Established by Dakota Drifters

Marvin Keimig, Sr., Clear Lake, Established by Dakota Trail Blazers

Jessi Jeppesen, Canby, MN, Established by Dakota Trail Blazers

Brent Jeppesen, Canby, MN, Established by Dakota Trail Blazers

Dennis Gelling, Aberdeen, Established by Aberdeen Driftbusters

Wanda Gelling, Aberdeen, Established by Aberdeen Driftbusters

Thank you to all who donated auction items, who purchased auction items, who sold fundraising tickets, who bought fundraising tickets, who donated to the various causes and who accepted the challenges to donate as well. Snowmobilers are a very generous and genuine group of people!!

It was a great weekend for SDSA, financially as well as the organization as a whole, with good meetings and valuable discussions, a heartfelt message and challenge from SDSU Football Coach John Stiegelmeier, great entertainment and overall, just plain fun!! Great Job Dakota Drifters on bringing us together so we could all "Experience the Rush"!

Diane Hiles

Interim Treasurer



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SDSA 2024 convention.
Left to right Roger Briggs
Sandy Briggs Linda and
Calvin Moser and Dylan
Bagaus.

Interlakes Snowroamers of Madison, SD sponsored a vintage snowmobile show & membership drive on Nov. 16, 2024. Calvin & Linda Moser were there representing the ASCOA selling raffle tickets for the Lil Andy giveaway. Old and future snowmobilers all came together for a great day. Think snow!



L to R: Lance Nordstrom, Dallas Steinhauer, Jeff Blankespoor, Davis Blankespoor, Doug Koch & Calvin Moser



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Ryan Raynor, Trails Specialist

I don't know how we got to December but here we are. This is always a busy time of year preparing for the state snowmobile convention in Brookings, groomer school in the Black Hills, season opening date right around the corner, trail signing and trail signing corrections on both sides of that state, getting equipment ready to roll and the list goes on. While snow conditions at this time aren't what we would like to see, we have had some snow on both sides of the state that we can build from.

This is also a time where club meetings really ramp up. It's important to keep the face-to-face relationships with snowmobilers in South Dakota, and club meetings are a great way of keeping everyone on the same page. Let me know when your next meeting is, and I'd be happy to attend to discuss any issues with you. If you feel you or your club members need further training or clarity about the trail signing guidelines, Grant in Aid program, or just the snowmobile program, a club meeting would be a great opportunity to get a clear message across to all members in attendance.

Since December 1st, the crew in the Black Hills is busy placing signs, warming shelters, finish establishing new trails and wrapping a bow on the final product that is the best trail system in the country. Shannon along with his other fulltime staff and seasonal staff do a great job getting the trail system ready for snowmobilers across the country.

I wanted to say Thank You to all the volunteers who helped put just under 1,000 miles of trails in the ground this year and your on-going efforts in maintaining those trails throughout the season. This year was not easy placing signs anywhere. Ground was dry but I have heard some positive news that after a late rain and some minimal snow that melted, it finally created some better conditions for sticking a post into the ground.

In closing, I look forward to seeing everyone at convention this year in Brookings. Shannon and I along with some help from Track Inc will be hosting a groomer presentation that we hope you were able to attend. If you didn't get maps picked up at convention, please call me. Make sure to drop maps off to all of your trailside businesses and Chambers of Commerce.

Thanks!

Bids for 2026 Convention will be accepted through February 1! Check with Mary Anne at the office or Kelly to find out more information.





Hard to believe it is already December. The Siouxland Trail installed, and our groomer is ready to hit the trail. The past months has been busy for our club. We had a membership picnic and drive on October 12th. There was plenty of delicious food and fun games.

On October 17th our youth members had a 50/50 raffle at the Vern Eide Motoplex open house. They had fun interacting with customers, giving hats to youth interested in joining us, and selling a "wingspan" of tickets for the drawing. They were able to raise \$355 plus received a donation from Vern Eide Motoplex to put towards future youth events. Thank you to Vern Eide Motoplex for the event and supporting our youth in snowmobiling! Our November club meeting was held on November 7th at The Gulch in Garretson. Our club got in the holiday sprit and had a float in the Brandon Parade of Lights on November 30th.

Our December meeting was held on December 5th at Prohibition Pub in Dell Rapids. We are made plans for club rides in January and February. We will hold out hope that the snow is good this year to allow us to take these trips and even have a few good weekend rides on our local Siouxland Trail.

Our members had an excellent time at Convention in Brookings. It was great to see friends from other clubs and making new connections. During the annual meeting our local club member Canden Bunde was elected as District 5 Director. This was previously held by club member Pat Hanten-Duerr. We thank Pat for her years of service and support for snowmobiling. We also had a group from our club win the puzzle race. This team of four was able to piece together a 300-piece puzzle in 52 minutes and 49 seconds to take first place.

Our January club meeting is January 9th at Tailgators in Brandon at 7 pm



to the left: Siouxland Sno-tracker float in Brandon Parade of Lights

Our youth members at Vern Eide Motoplex Open House





As I sit here on this Sunday afternoon after the 55th Annual SDSA Convention has officially come and gone, the first thing that comes to mind is...WOW. After more than a year of planning, countless meetings, tons of phone calls, face-to-face contacts, messages and connections with new/old friends, and help from a massive number of local and regional businesses - it all came together for a memorable and successful weekend at the SDSA Convention!

I would like to thank each and every Dakota Drifters Club member who contributed to this process. The Convention Committee team of Gayle and Dwaine Chapel, Bonnie and Aaron Tonsager, Gena Hult and Brian Melchert, Tonia and Ron Benthin, Julie Westburg, Bob Weisbeck, and Lisa Cain tackled the huge task of planning and running our Convention. I know you all put in countless hours and should be proud - you knocked it out of the park! The Convention ran smoothly from the vendor displays, Dave Koch's awesome Arctic Cat Race Sled display, Beer and Bull with the Live Auction, meetings and seminars, wonderful food from La Cantina and Midwest Fresh, donated Silent and Live Auction items, banquet and awards ceremony, and topped off by a fun evening at Casino Night. The one-of-a-kind rifle with custom-made scabbard was beautiful and the money raised will help a great cause in Snowmobilers for Snowmobilers. Thank you to John Greene for the original painting he created for the 55th Annual Convention, it is amazing and went to a good home. If you would like a print of the painting, please reach out to Dwaine and Gayle Chapel. We also thank Coach Stiegelmeier for being our friend and speaker at the banquet, we were all moved and inspired by his stories. Thank you to Bob Weisbeck for acting as our Emcee - Bob you are the hardest working guy in showbiz. Thank you to Scott Peterson and crew from Burlage/Peterson Auction for doing a great job with our live auction. I can still hear "The winning bidder is number 69" ringing over the room! Thank you to JER Events (Tea, SD) for the Casino Night, it was a great way to top off the convention. And, thank you to the Black Hills Club for hosting a killer Hospitality Room, it was a good time!

Final tally numbers for the weekend include: 167 – Friday Beer & Bull, 129 - Saturday lunch, and 143 - Saturday banquet; Auction items included: 116 silent auction, 13 YETI auction, 117 live auction, add in the John Greene painting and Snowmobilers for Snowmobiles gun auction, that adds up to - AWESOME!

Huge thank you to all of the business sponsors, vendors, donators, South Dakota snowmobile clubs, SDSA officers, and everyone who had a hand in making this convention possible! Special thanks to Kelly, Mary Anne, Pat, Duane, and Dianne from SDSA for your guidance on all things convention. Thank you to all of our club volunteers who worked at the convention, from manning the registration table, to answering questions, directing traffic, set up/tear down, and just doing every job needed in between. We are very grateful to everyone who attended the 55th Annual SDSA Convention in Brookings, and hope you "Experienced the Rush"! We look forward to 2025 convention in Rapid City!

Dakota Drifters next big event will be the Annual Dan Lamp Memorial Charity/Poker Ride on February 1, 2025, in Brookings, SD. This year's charity ride will support Rolling Thunder and D.A.V. – mark your calendars to join us!

Lynn Nilsson & Gena Hult

Dwaine Chapel & John Green with the painting John created for convention.





Another busy month has passed for the Aberdeen Drift Busters! By the time you read this, the 2024 State Convention will have come and gone, and I know many members were excited to reconnect and celebrate our shared love for snowmobiling.

As we eagerly await snow, we're busy planning exciting events and rides. Our goal is to ensure everyone has the opportunity to enjoy the thrill of the trails, whether you're cruising across open fields or relaxing at one of our sponsor locations. Our volunteers are hard at work keeping the trails safe and clear, and we're hopeful the snow

will arrive soon to kick off a fantastic season.

While we wait, we've been keeping active with several community events. We participated in NSU's Gypsy Day Parade with a float and hosted a Show and Shine event in celebration of International Snowmobile Day.

*We were also lucky to partner with Karen's Bar and Grill in Columbia, SD, which hosted a weekly "Ace of Hearts" drawing. From the \$13,644 in proceeds, half was donated to the Aberdeen Drift Busters. The club chose to donate \$3,411 to the SDSA Snowmobilers for Snowmobiler Cause, with the other \$3,411 returned to Karen's Bar and Grill to help with much-needed repairs. These weekly gatherings were a great way for club members and the community to come together and enjoy some of the best hamburgers around. *(Photo Credit –*



Aberdeen Drift Buster Snowmobile Club President and Karen from Karen's Bar and Grill)

The Drift Busters are more than just a snowmobile club—we're a family of passionate snowmobiling enthusiasts who love the outdoors and adventure. With well-maintained trails, group rides, and a focus on fun and safety, there's something for everyone, no matter your skill level. We pride ourselves on being a welcoming group, always happy to help newcomers get started in the sport.

As always, stay updated by following our Facebook page and website for event details and meeting times. In the meantime, we encourage you to connect with fellow members, keep an eye on snow conditions, and join us at upcoming meetings and events. Let's look forward to an unforgettable snowmobile season ahead! Stay hopeful for good snow, and we can't wait to see you on the trails. Happy riding!

Aberdeen Drift Buster Snowmobile Club President Kelly Weismantel



Hello again!

We just said our goodbyes after attending the 55th Annual SDSA Convention in Brookings which was as always a great time. I will start by thanking the hosting club Dakota Drifters for putting on a great event. I would encourage everyone who loves our sport to try and attend one. It is always a learning experience for me and beyond that a great time to get out and talk with other club members across the state and make new acquaintances. The casino was enjoyed by many of our club members. Even though I came up short on the "winning" side –the club won \$500.00 for selling the most SDSA BIG PAYOUT tickets so way to go team great job all your hard work paid off.

Bill Sumners and his son Aaron also had some convention luck– winning casino prizes at the end of the night and Aaron Sumners won the 50/50 drawing we did from our club's hospitality room. THANK YOU to EVERYONE who bought squares and supported our club and enjoyed a few refreshments.

With this said THE BLACK HILLS SNOWMOBILE CLUB WOULD LIKE TO INVITE EVERYONE to the 56th Annual SDSA Convention next year December 5& 6 2025 at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel 2111 North LaCrosse Street, Rapid City. Our club is still working on a few things, but we will be sure to keep you well informed. Remember to keep those poker chips you received and bring them with you next year to be entered into a drawing for \$500.00 good any of the 3 Rice's Motorsports locations.

Our club would also like to share the date of our club RADAR RUN – THUNDER ON ICE. We have set the date for February 1st, 2025, with a backup date for March 1st if we do not have good ice and safe conditions in time. Please follow our club Facebook page for more information.

We will also continue our efforts to help give back to our community. The club will volunteer a night on Sunday December 15th at Storybook Island's CHRISTMAS NIGHT OF LIGHT. If anyone is visiting the area this holiday season, we encourage you to stop and visit the park.

We will also be helping with the Governor's Ride brunch/ breakfast on February 8th, 2025. This is also the time frame for the Take A Friend Snowmobiling Week. This is an event open to club members as well as the public. If you would like to attend the Governor's Ride the registration fee is \$15.00 for SDSA members and \$20.00 for nonmembers.

Other events in the Black Hills will be the ISOC Amsoil Snow cross in Deadwood, South Dakota January 24th -25th 2025.

Scholarships reminders, as the time is going to fly by fast, so I want to put this on your radar. There are 3 scholarships available. ACSA offers one with a deadline of February 1st and forms are available on their website. SDSA offers a scholarship and if you are an SDSA YETIS- Jon Laframboise YETIS Scholarship. Forms also available on the SDSA website with a deadline of February 25th, 2025.

Until next month- **KNOW YOUR LIMITS..... and RIDE BEYOND!**

C L U B N E W S

CLUB NEWS



November and early December have been busy months for the Town & Country Riders. As many clubs do, we completed putting in our trail system which is a total of 58 miles running from Iroquois to Arlington along Hwy 14 and from DeSmet to Willow Lake up Hwy 25 and Hwy 28. Thank you to our families that volunteer to put in the trail system. Now all we need is some snow

so our groomer operators (Mark Hojer, Brian Erickson, Jay Hojer, Jamie Hohm and Greg Hiles) can get busy, and we can ride that trail!

Next club members were off to our state convention hosted by the Dakota Drifters in Brookings, SD. It was a great convention, and a lot of fun was had by attendees. Everyone enjoyed the evening casino night entertainment and stuck around to the end to see if they were the big prize winners. Hats off to the Dakota Drifters for a job well done!

Next up our club will be holding our Christmas party on Saturday, January 4th at the Brian and Tracey Erickson shop in the afternoon. Games will be played and if the weather is willing, maybe even some fun on the ice and hills along with a Potluck hors d'oeuvres. We look forward to celebrating the Holidays and bringing in the new year with our members.

Lane "Bubba" Hildebrandt putting in Trail for the Four Lakes / Town & Country Riders Trail System



Snowmobile Safety Course:

<https://www.snowmobile-ed.com/>

Contact:

Ryan.Raynor@state.sd.us

for a code to take the course free!

SDSA Big Payout winners
\$7500 Ronnie Grajczyk Sisseton, SD
\$1000 to second ticket drawn Day County Trail Blazers
Club who sold the most - Black Hills Snowmobile club



At the convention this year there weren't many YETIS in attendance, and I hope that in the future there will be more participation. For the few of us that were in attendance we discussed how to make the YETIS a more efficient and worthwhile entity.

We are trying to plan some fun activities over the holiday breaks. We want as many participants as possible. Be sure to watch the social media pages and the YETIS group chat.

I encourage all YETIS to attend and participate in any and all activities in the upcoming year. Everything will be more enjoyable with more participation.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year!

Christopher VanDenHemel - - - - -

Hello from the Great Plains Snowtrailers,



Merry Christmas!!! To me it doesn't really seem like Christmas season without snow on the ground. We are just a few weeks away from Christmas and we have no snow to ride yet.

We held our December meeting with 8 members in attendance at Ryan's Hanger on Tuesday, December 3rd. We have extended the trail on the west edge of Huron to the south edge of Wolsey. The trail now connects to the

Hand County Trail north of Wolsey. We are all looking forward to riding the new trail. The groomer is ready to go as soon as it snows and we can groom.

Some of us will be attending the 2024 SDSA Convention in Brookings. We are looking forward to a good time and an opportunity to visit with other snowmobilers from across the state.

We are still hoping that we will be able to do our annual club ride in the hills on January 18th. We are hopeful that we will have enough snow to ride.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 7th at the Scoreboard in Huron.

Brenda Jager
Great Plains Snowtrailers

C L U B N E W S



Happy Holidays from the Watertown Snowmobile Club! We hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving! We had our monthly meeting Dec 8th so that those who attended the Convention could fill us in on the events and news!

Our club was busy working on our float for the Holiday Parade held in Watertown. We received the Watertown Business Association Award. We did something different this year and took the Groomer thru the parade!

Thank you to everyone who helped work on it! We also made plans for our club Christmas party. Our trail is ready to ride so now we wait for snow! Til next year (Jan 2025) hope to see you all on the trails soon! Merry Christmas!

Reporting
Amy Sowers



Hello from the Northeast Corner of the State.



As our life is full of Christmas lights, wrapping paper, Christmas programs it's nice to stop and reflect on the past year. Our Snowmobile family was busy with kicking off 2024 Poker Run in January. We did not receive enough snow to snowmobile but we still got together. We enter in our hometown parades and donate to local charities. We help out our local horse-riding club with helping take admissions at their events. We finished out our year with a few members attending the SDSA Convention. A big thank you for a great event. It was fun to have one of our own members win the raffle.

Our club is gearing up for our Northeast Trailblazers Poker Run, January 25th. Starts at 12:00 Noon, traveling to 7 stops ending at Lake Traverse Resort. We hope to get enough snow to ride the trails this year. Next meeting will be January 9th at Deano's in Claire City. Till next time, stay warm and ride safe.

As I am sitting here typing, it is hard to believe that the 55th Annual SDSA Convention is in the books. Have to say it was a great time! It ended up being a highlight for our club when we received the South Dakota Snowmobile Association Largest % of Increase in Membership. Nathan did a good job of keeping that a secret. It was also good to see the gun donated by Charlie Fawcett go to a great program of Snowmobilers for Snowmobilers. Now it is time to start thinking about next year's convention out west to Rapid City and looking forward to seeing everyone again for a fun time!



Our club was busy from the end of October into November putting in signs for the trail system. It took us all a little longer than normal because every sign needed to be drilled because of the very dry ground. Some of our younger members got to experience putting in signs for the first time. They did a great job along with everyone else that was able to help. Now it is time for the weather to cooperate and mother nature to bring us some or even lots of snow for the season.

Looking at the trail maps for this season, it is nice to see that east river has so many communities now connected with the trail system. Let's say "when" the snow comes our club will be looking at trying to put on some poker runs, going on our club trip to the hills and just getting out and riding sleds!! If mother nature decides to hold onto our portion of snow for us east river, let's hope she will drop it off out west instead so that the Sno Cross in January and the Governor's Ride in February will have a great experience.

In closing for now.... *"Twas the night before trail opening, when all through the land, not a snowmobiler was stirring, not one single man; the sleds were waiting in the trailers with care, in hopes that snow would soon be there; their riders were nestled all snug in their beds, while visions of snowflakes danced in their heads."*

By the time you all receive this edition, from our club to all, we wish and hope everyone had a safe and wonderful Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!



The 2024-25 season is off to a great start in Whetstone Valley. In cooperation with our neighbors across the border, we've connected our trail system to the Big Stone Lake Sno Riders (Clinton, MN) trail south of Ortonville, MN. We're excited to have this route especially when crossing the lake isn't safe or practical. We'll also be hosting our annual Poker Ride February 8th (weather permitting, but I've got a good feeling about this year!). See our Facebook page for more details.

<https://facebook.com/whetstonevalleysnowmobileclub/>

Thanks!

- Russ Jury
WVSA Secretary 2024-25



Darin Cooper, District 1 Director

The Dakota Drifters did an excellent job from start to finish on the convention, thank you! The casino night was a hit, even though I didn't win any of the prizes. Thank you to the Black Hills Snowmobile Club for the hospitality room. Also a huge thanks to Iverson Power Sports in Mitchell for the Ski Doo 200 Snowmobile and delivery to Brookings.

This Ski doo was a very successful fundraiser for SDSA last year. We only have one sno cross to sell tickets at this time around, so if any club is having a function, let your director know and we will try to accommodate

having the sled there to get more tickets sold.

Make sure to turn in your volunteer hours to your club. We only had 7 out of 21 clubs reporting for 2024. I would like to see atleast 15 clubs reporting their volunteer hours and financial donations this year.

By the time you receive this Sno-plainsman, the ground should be snow covered!!
Darin.

Jackson Wenger, District 2 Director

Good morning, good afternoon and good evening from District #2. I was unable to attend the convention this year, but it sounds like it was a success so great job by all those involved. It is currently snowing in Rapid City. As a club, we have been active going to our local dealers for membership drives. Thank you to our local dealers for putting on those membership drives and open houses. Don't see much moisture in the forecast so hopefully that will change and we can get some snowmobiling in. Take care and be safe out there until next time.



Lee Olson, District 3 Director

Hello everyone, how's your winter going so far?

Dakota Midland trail is in and ready to go, once I go out and replace markers that someone removed, then just need it to snow this year. We have a little on the ground right now, feels like winter today, -7 this morning.

International snowmobile day show went over well, had a decent attendance. We had the simulator there, some young people gave it a try.

Deadwood snocross will be January 24th and 25th. This will be the only snocross in South Dakota this winter. If you plan on traveling out to the event, book your rooms soon, if you haven't already.

See you in Brookings or Deadwood Lee Olson District 3 Director

Nathan Van Zee, District 4 Director

Hello everyone

What a great convention that Brookings put on. I hope everyone had a great time. They set the bar pretty high I can't wait to see what Rapid City has in store for next year. We had just under half of our club make it this year which is the best turnout our club has had for years. I'm glad everyone got to come. There's never a dull moment and lots of good laughs at convention. I always enjoy meeting new people within 2 days you go from never seeing them before to sitting down talking to them sharing stories like you were old friends. I would encourage anyone that has never been to convention to put it on your calendar for next year. I promise you won't be disappointed. What a great speech John Stiegelmeier had as well. Really makes you think about life and how one small gesture can "make a difference" in someone else's life. So be that role model to someone you never know when someone is down about work, family, money, appearance or whatever. Something that you think might mean nothing might be there turning point.



Trace Damm, District 7 Director

Hello Everyone,

What a great event held by the Dakota Drifters, great food, great auctions items, and Casino night was a hit, thank you for hosting! As always it was great to get everyone back together and reminisce. With all the great items we hit a personal record of the highest live auction money raised with 121 items hitting \$17,645. The pool area was a hit with my girls, maybe even too much, as we had to tell them it was broke down Sunday morning so we could make it to Sunday school on time! The music on casino night was perfect for them as they were able to dance off some more energy.

I also want to thank everyone for helping with the Big Payout tickets as that is a vital part of our fundraising. Congratulations to the winners! Also as mentioned in the annual meeting we have the 200 Ski-doo ticket available to sell. If you are having a poker run or event and would like to have that there to help, let me know and we can figure out a way to get it to you. It is with mike currently in the hills as it will be at the snocross. Don't forget to book your rooms for the Governors Ride Feb 8th at the Spearfish Canyon Lodge. Don't forget that scholarships are due February 25th, you can find the applications online on our website under "Forms". Once again thanks for making the convention a great time and thank you for re-electing me as your District 7 Director.

-Trace Damm





Jason Shepherd, District 6 Director

Hello to everyone again this month. Wow what a great convention in Brookings this year. It was great fun playing the casino games and seeing everyone again. This month I was asked to do something a little different for the article. I was asked to answer some random questions. This should be fun.

1st. *What made me decide to become a sdsa board member?*

- The biggest reason I wanted to be on the SDSA board is I wanted to give back to help the sport that I love. As many people have done before me so hopefully I can do the same and give back so hopefully the many young snowmobilers can enjoy the sport as I did when I was younger.

2nd. *Which club do I belong to?* - I belong to the Watertown snowmobile club.

3rd. *Have I ever attended a isc event?* - no I have not yet. I do want to in the future.

4th. *Where was my first convention.* - my first convention was when it was held in Watertown and since then I haven't missed one. They are fun and it is always great seeing everyone.

5th. *What brand of snowmobile do I ride?* - skidoo.

6th. *Have I always rode SkiDoo?* - no. My very first snowmobile was a 1972

Arctic Cat Panther. After the first winter on that it has been Skidoo since.

7th. *Do I do my own mechanic work?* - yes I do pretty much all of my mechanic work along with helping some of my friends also.

8th. *Where is my favorite place to ride?* - pretty much wherever the snow is at.

9th. *Do I help sign the trail for my club.* - yes I do. The clubs are always needing

extra help to put the trail in. It is part of the way I look at giving back to the sport.

10th. *Do I have a favorite person to take on a snowmobile trip.*

- yes I do. I love going on trips with my nephew and dad and son. Just spending time on the snow together and just the adventures getting there is always fun.

11th. *Do I have a favorite food?* - bacon cheese burger and fries are my go to.

12th. *If I could stay at any age the rest of my life what would it be?*

- I would have to say it would be age 25.

13th *Last but not least the last question is do I like answering random questions like compared to a normal article?*

- I do enjoy it. It lets everyone know a little bit more about me and you never know what questions will be asked. I hope you all enjoyed this type of article this month.

Until next month we can all hope the snow starts to come.

SkiDoo 200 MXZ that we are raffling off this year \$10 per ticket.

This will be at Sno Cross this year if you want to see it in person!



WANTED...

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Back the Ride Donor

About Us...

We are an organization of Snowmobilers working to promote and protect snowmobiling in South Dakota and throughout the country. We work closely with South Dakota GF&P, local federal forest managers and many State and local legislators to keep the outdoor recreation of Snowmobiling alive and well in our State for generations to come. SDSA also partners with the American Council of Snowmobile Associations. ACSA works on a more national level and brings the state associations together as a single stronger voice for Snowmobiling.

- Your tax deductible donation will continue to enable the positive work that the South Dakota Snowmobile Association does throughout South Dakota and nationwide. Such as...
 - ◆ Supporting the sport of snowmobiling and motorized recreation through continued access to trails and public lands.
 - ◆ Networking opportunities with fellow snowmobile enthusiasts.
 - ◆ Offering safety courses, basic riding courses, and avalanche training.
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- We hope you will consider becoming a ***SDSA Back the Ride Donor Today***
- Your donation can be made either on-line through the website at <https://snowmobilesd.com/> or by check made to SDSA ~ % Back the Ride.

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and become a donor
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- In exchange you will be listed annually as a SDSA Back the Ride Sponsor in the last issue of the SnoPlainsman along with being listed on the SDSA Webpage as a Back the Ride Donor.
- For more information contact a South Dakota Snowmobile Association Board Director or the SDSA Secretary.



O U R L E G A C Y M E M B E R S



1. Donald R. Larson
Milbank, SD
Whetstone Valley Snowmobile Association
11/2013



2. Jack Colwell
DeSmet, SD
Town & Country Snow-drifters 1/2014



3. LeRoy Erickson
Ramona, SD
Town & Country Snow-drifters 1/2014



4. Duane Hojer
Oldham, SD
Town & Country Snow-drifters 1/2014



5. Thomas C. Keimig
Gary, SD
Dakota Trailblazers 1/2015



6. Todd Wilkinson
DeSmet, SD
Town & Country Snow-drifters 11/2015



7. Greg Hiles
DeSmet, SD
Town & Country Snow-drifters 11/2015



8. Russell Johnson
Beresford, SD
Trailbusters 12/2015



9. Lisa Johnson
Beresford, SD
Trailbusters 12/2015



10. Mick Hehn
Clear Lake, SD
Dakota Trail Blazers
12/2015



11. Neal Boeke
Clear Lake, SD
Dakota Trail Blazers
12/2015



12. Courtney Livingston
Watertown, SD
Watertown Snowmobile Club 01/2016



13. Neal Grabow
Silver City, IA
Dakota Trail Blazers
3/2016



14. Jakob Hohm-
Willow Lake, SD
Town & Country Snow-drifters 3/2017



15. Brian Erickson
Arlington, SD
Town & Country Snow-drifters 11/2017



16. Jay Hojer
Oldham, SD
Town & Country Snow-drifters 1/2018



17. Steve Wess
Watertown, SD
Watertown Snowmobile Club 3/2018



18. Jay Schilling
Rapid City, SD
Black Hills Snowmobile Club 3/2018



19. Rich Nelson
Miller, SD
SDSA member 3/2018



20. Marty Grabow
Gary, SD
Dakota Trail Blazers
10/2018



21. Mary Anne Grabow
Gary, SD
Dakota Trail Blazers
10/2018



22. Dan Boone
Watertown, SD
Watertown Club 12/2018



23. Carey Holt
Clear Lake, SD
Dakota Trailblazers-
03/2019



24. Dean Austad-
Sioux Falls, SD
Sioux Falls Sno Trackers
09/2019



25. Bob Wuertz
Aberdeen, SD
Aberdeen Driftbusters
12/2019



26. Hazel Seloover
Sioux Falls, SD
Sioux Falls Sno Trackers
12/2019



27. Virginia Hojer
Oldham, SD
Town & Country Snow-drifters 02/2020



28. Randy Knadle
Desmet, SD
Town & Country Snow-drifters 10/2020



29. Myrna Knadle
DeSmet, SD
Town & Country Snow-drifters 10/2020



30. Preston Fischer
Milbank, SD
Whetstone Valley Snowmobile Association 10/2020



O U R L E G A C Y M E M B E R S



31. **Scott Erstad**
Badger, SD
Poinsett Pounders 12/2020



32. **Judy Nelson**
Sisseton, SD
North East Trailblazers
1/2021



33. **Dennis Nelson**
Sisseton, SD
North East Trailblazers
1/2021



34. **Jordan Hinsvark**
Gary, SD
Dakota Trail Blazers 7/2021



35. **Wayne Boeke**
Clear Lake, SD
Dakota Trail Blazers 7/2021



36. **Jean Wilkinson**
DeSmet, SD
Town & Country Snowdrifters
10/2021



37. **Roger Seloover**
Sioux Falls, SD
by his daughter Char 10/2021



38. **Kim Raap**
Sioux Falls, SD
Sioux Falls SnoTrackers
11/2021



39. **Sara Shepherd**
Watertown, SD
Watertown Snowmobile Club
11/2021



40. **Nathan Lakness**
Hayti, SD
Poinsett Pounders
11/2021



41. **Jody Lemme**
Arlington, SD
Poinsett Pounders 11/2021



42. **Jim LeTendre**
Sioux Falls SD
combined effort:
5 clubs
11/2021



43. **Richard Berens**
Milbank, SD
Whetstone Valley Snow-
mobile Association 8/2022



44. **Dave Hammer**
Milbank, SD
Whetstone Valley Snowmo-
bile Association 8/2022



45. **Jon LaFramboise**
Rapid City SD
Black Hills Snowmobile
Club
11/2022



46. **Sheridan LaFramboise**
Rapid City SD
Black Hills Snowmobile
Club
11/2022



47. **Marvin Keimig Jr**
Clear Lake, SD
Dakota Trail Blazers
03/2023



48. **Kim Hehn**
Clear Lake, SD
Dakota Trail Blazers
03/2023



49. **Marty Keimig**
Clear Lake, SD
Dakota Trail Blazers
06/2023



50. **Doug Moeller**
Bryant, SD
Poinsett Pounders
12/2023



51. **Bonnie Moeller**
Bryant, SD
Poinsett Pounders
12/2023



52. **Diane Jo Hiles**
DeSmet, SD
Town & Country Riders
12/2023



53. **Charlie Fawcett**
Ree Heights, SD
Hand County Snogoers
12/2023



54. **Greg Nordstrom**
Sioux Falls, SD
Siouxland SnoTrackers
10/2024



55. **Richard Kornmann**
Sioux Falls, SD
Siouxland SnoTrackers
10/2024



56. **Robert VanDenOever**
Sioux Falls, SD
Siouxland SnoTrackers
10/2024



57. **Scott Lamp**
Brookings, SD
Dakota Drifters 11/2024



58. **Walt Spiering**
Brookings, SD
Dakota Drifters 11/2024



59. **Marvin Keimig Sr**
Clear Lake, SD
Dakota Trail Blazers
11/2024



60. **Brent Jeppesen**
Canby MN
Dakota Trail Blazers
11/2024

OUR LEGACY MEMBERS



61. Jessi Jeppesen
Canby MN
Dakota Trail Blazers
11/2024



62. Dennis Gelling
Aberdeen SD
Aberdeen Driftbusters
12/2024



63. Wanda Gelling
Aberdeen SD
Aberdeen Driftbusters
12/2024

Legacy Membership \$500

(1) Any individual active member is eligible for legacy membership, who has an interest in snowmobiling and is willing to pay current legacy membership dues. Dues must be paid prior to granting a legacy membership. A legacy member maintains the same privileges as an active member.

(2) To honor the dedicated interest in snowmobiling and in club activities, a snowmobile club in good standing with SDSA, may sponsor an individual club member for a Legacy Membership by making an application and paying, on behalf of the individual, the current legacy membership dues

Current Committees

Government Relations

1. Duane Duerr
2. Kelly Weaver
3. Mike Boock

Scholarship

1. Trace Damm
2. Lee Olson
3. Nathan VanZee

By Laws & Right to Ride

1. Duane Duerr
2. Kelly Weaver
3. Mike Boock

Safety

1. Lee Olson
2. Jason Shepherd
3. Nathan VanZee

Grants

1. Kelly Weaver
2. Trace Damm

Snocross

1. Jason Shepherd
2. Lee Olson
3. Darin Cooper

Charities

1. SDSA Treasurer
2. Darin Cooper

Membership/Website

1. Mike Boock
2. Mary Anne Grabow
3. Caeden Bunde

Awards

1. Duane Duerr
2. Kelly Weaver

Convention

1. Jackson Wenger
2. Trace Damm
3. Caeden Bunde

Fundraiser/Raffle

1. Darin Cooper
2. Trace Damm
3. Caeden Bunde

SnoPlainsman Committee

1. Mary Anne Grabow
2. Caeden Bunde
3. Nathan Vanzee
4. Kelly Weaver

Investments

1. SDSA Treasurer
2. Jackson Wenger

Governors Ride

1. Mike Boock
2. Jason Shepherd
3. Jackson Wenger

Snowmobilers for Snowmobilers

1. SDSA President
2. Jason Shepherd
3. Sheridan LaFramboise
4. Mike Boock
5. Mary Anne Grabow

Nominating committee

1. All SDSA club Presidents
2. Hall of fame members
3. Board of directors

Yetis Advisors

1. Lee Olson
2. Kirsten VanDenHemel
3. Audrey Rider
4. Tracey Erickson

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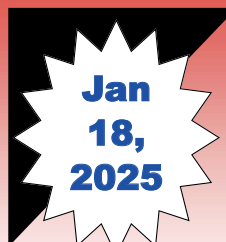
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Deadwood SD 57732

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Lead, SD 57754

The Lodge at Deadwood

Deadwood, SD

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Rapid City SD 57703

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Rapid City, SD 57701

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Rapid City, SD 57703

Bennett Transportation

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Black Hawk SD 57718

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Rapid City, SD 57703

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Aberdeen SD 57401

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Warner SD 57479

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Herreid SD 57632

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hepperssportcenter.com

Aberdeen Convention & Visitors

Aberdeen SD 57401

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Gellings Auto

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Mack's Auto Body

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Westport SD

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Lynn Nilsson named Snowmobiler of the Year

Lynn Nilsson of the Dakota Drifters is pictured to the left with SDSA President, Kelly Weaver receiving his award after being named Man Snowmobiler of the Year.

Lynn is currently the President of his club and was heavily involved in putting on the 55th SDSA Convention recently in Brookings, SD.

Congratulations, Lynn.

***Photo to the right:
Past President,
Duane Duerr; Bonnie
Tonsager, and SDSA
President,
Kelly Weaver.***



Bonnie Tonsager named Snowmobiler of the Year

Bonnie Tonsager of the Dakota Drifters was named Snowmobiler of the Year at the 55th Annual SDSA Convention held at the Brookings Inn in Brookings, SD recently. Congratulations, Bonnie!

She, along with her husband Aaron & son are active members of the Dakota Drifters.

Bonnie was instrumental in planning the convention and organized the Entertainment for after Banquet which was a huge success. Everyone enjoyed Casino night.



Jadon Rohrbach named Teen Snowmobiler of the Year

Pictured to the left are Past President Duane Duerr, Jadon, & SDSA President, Kelly Weaver.

Jadon is a member of the Driftbusters Snowmobile Club and is the son of Jonathan & Sheena Rohrbach. Congratulations Jadon!

Sunny Pence named Groomer of the Year

Eugene "Sunny" Pence is pictured with SDSA President Kelly Weaver receiving his award for Groomer of the Year.



Sunny and his wife Stacey have been active members of the Driftbusters of Aberdeen since 1994. Sunny has been instrumental in developing, maintaining and grooming the Dakota Midland Trail which encompasses Aberdeen and the surrounding areas. Congratulations, Sunny!

Nathan Van Zee displays the 17-gauge Henry HMR that Charlie Fawcett donated to generate funds for Snowmobilers for Snowmobilers at the annual auction on Friday evening. Thank you Charlie! The gun generated \$2700 for the fund that evening!



To Blade or Not to Blade? (The answer is always to blade.)

Using the blade on a snowcat effectively is crucial for grooming, clearing trails, or leveling terrain. If you didn't learn how to groom by using the blade, don't worry – it's something everyone can pick up with just a few practice runs. Remember the old adage: practice makes perfect. Give yourself a chance, try it out, and you'll probably be surprised how much of a difference it really makes.

The first step is to understand the controls. This is typically a joystick or lever that raises or lowers the blade. A nice feature of all the Prinoth Stage V vehicles is that they all contain the same operating system, which makes going between models effortless, boosting operator confidence. The ergonomic joystick hand rest allows for hours of smooth, comfortable operation.

Here are some tips to keep in mind when using the blade and to help to increase your comfort level with the tool.

- The angle of the blade adjusts (side-to-side movement). Depending on that angle, you can push snow to the side of the trail or straight ahead.
 - o For general snow pushing, set the blade angle to direct the snow.
 - o For more precise grooming, adjust the angle as needed based on where you want the snow to end up.
- Adjust the blade angle to control the direction of the snow.
 - o For wider coverage, angle the blade slightly. This will push the snow to the outside of the blade making the trail a bit wider.
 - o For more precise control, keep it straight.
- Tilting the blade up or down allows you to change its pitch. This affects how the snow is cut and moved.
 - o Sometimes you'll want a higher angle, allowing the snow to roll inside the blade. Other times, in different snow conditions, you'll use a lower angle to get the snow to roll. This takes a bit of trial and error to figure out.
- Adjust the blade to the desired height, usually slightly above the ground. The blade should glide just over the snow to avoid unnecessary wear or snagging debris that is sticking up on the trail.
 - o Gradually lower the blade to make contact with the snow.
 - o Avoid dropping it too quickly to prevent sudden resistance or a divot in the trail.
- While grooming, lower the blade, flat position and move slowly to create an even surface.
 - o Make multiple passes if needed, adjusting the blade height for consistency.
 - o Remember, you can always back up and fix it.
- When clearing trails, adjust the blade angle to push snow to the sides.
 - o Ensure you cover the entire width of the trail with each pass.
 - o If you encounter rocks, stumps, or other obstacles, raise the blade to avoid damage. Adjust the blade position carefully when maneuvering around these obstacles.
 - o Use the tilt control to adjust how the blade interacts with uneven surfaces or obstacles.
- Use smooth and controlled movements to push snow allowing the blade to work efficiently. Let the machine do the work!

Spend time operating the blade in various snow conditions to understand how different settings affect performance. Adjust techniques as needed based on your experience, refine your techniques to improve efficiency and results. By mastering the use of the blade on your snowcat, you'll enhance your ability to manage snow and maintain trails effectively, whether you're operating in a recreational or professional setting.

If you want to learn more, reach out to your local Prinoth Sales Representative, Bob Wolf, at Bob.Wolf@prinoth.com or (612) 251-4094. He'll be happy to take a ride, provide training, and bring a demo to your club.





Hand County Sno Goers received the Largest % of Increase Award

Aberdeen Driftbusters were named the largest club in SDSA again this year. Pictured are Duane Duerr, SDSA Past President; Lee Olson, District 3 Director & Kelly Weaver, SDSA President. Lee & Kelly are both members of the Driftbusters.



*****+*****



Left to right: Past President Duane Duerr; Matt, Lee & Tracy Olson, with SDSA President Kelly Weaver.

Family of the Year

Lee, Tracy & Matt Olson were named Family of the Year at the 55th annual

SDSA convention in Brookings, SD.

The Olson's are from Frederick SD and are members of the Aberdeen Driftbusters. They have been active in organized snowmobiling for 30 years, but Lee has been involved in snowmobiling with his family as a youth so it's closer to 50 years that he's been involved. They have lots of great memories of snowmobile trips through the years.

PERKS for 2024~2025 season

By showing your valid SDSA membership card you can receive the following additional discounts/benefits from the following businesses:

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2695 Lazelle St
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10% off on Snowmobile parts
and accessories
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DEADLINES

February 1, 2025 - ACSA Scholarship

February 25 - SDSA Scholarship

Go to www.snowmobilesd.com and look under forms

February 25-Jon LaFramboise YETI scholarship

Go to www.snowmobilesd.com and look under forms

October 4 - ISMA Grant Applications

Members of the Dakota Drifters who pulled off a successful convention!



Calendar of Events

January 23 - 25, 2025
ACSA Trails Riding Winter Ride
Tower MN

Feb 1 Dan Lamp Memorial Charity/Poker Ride Brookings

February 8, 2025 Governor's Ride

Feb 19 -23, 2025

ACSA Mountain Riding Summit -
Big Horns

May 30,31 & June 1
Milbank Show

June 2025 ISC Charlottetown PEI

July 26, 2025 Jakob Hohm OffRoad Adventures

December 5 & 6, 2025 56th annual Convention Rapid City



Coach Stieglmeyer and Aaron Tonsager.

SDSA Business Builders



<https://octaneink.chipply.com/SDSA>

Store is only open until December 31, 2024.



**45th Annual Governor's Ride
&
SDSA Membership Appreciation Ride
February 7-8, 2025**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, February 7th, 2025

5:00pm—Governor's Snowmobile Advisory Council Meeting
6:00pm—Social with Hors d'oeuvres
7:00pm—SDSA Board Meeting

Saturday, February 8, 2025

The Ride will be headquartered from Hardy Camp, Lead, SD.

9:00am—Registration begins
9:30am—Brunch buffet opens
10:00am—Opening remarks with Instructions and Introductions
10:30am—Group photos and sled line-up with ride to follow

\$15.00 for SDSA members, \$20.00 for Non-members (Open to the Public)

Groups will depart about 10:45am, depending upon attendees and weather. Group rides will be anywhere from 3-5 hours so please dress appropriate for the weather.

Lodging Information:

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Spearfish Canyon Lodge, Savoy, SD for Thursday, February 6th through checkout on Monday, February 10th. Use Group Code **SDSA Group** to receive special discounted pricing.

Reservations may be made by calling 1-605-584-3435

Registration Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Adult Registration \$15 x _____ = \$_____

Youth (6-12yo) Registration: \$7.50 x _____ = \$_____ TOTAL PAID: _____

Children under 6 are FREE! Check #: _____

Make Checks Payable to: SDSA, PO Box 206, Gary, SD 57237



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