

Sno-Riders News

Another season is underway and, hopefully, everyone has been out when the weather has cooperated.

Before we start, let's go back to our annual Landowner Appreciation and Member Awards Banquet held in April, 2008 where we announced our award winners:

- Sno-Rider Member of the Year, Brent Moore - Brent is a founding member and has continued to contribute every year. He spends hours marking and cleaning trail in the Good Spirit area every year. He regularly attends meetings and, on numerous occasions, has spent hours selling raffle tickets at Wal-Mart. Brent is the type of guy in the Club you can count on for anything, and he still manages to put a high number of miles on his sled each season. He has also become a taxi driver for one of our groomer operators, his brother Ralph, whenever he needs a ride after a day of grooming far away from home.
- Sno-Rider Executive Member of the Year, Darrell Mirva - Darrell has been active on the executive for the last few years, most recently as Club President. One would think he would slow down a bit once he become past president. He has become chair of the annual Dealer Tour, and the Corporate Sponsorship Committee, a very important fundraiser for the club. He also arranged and helped to build a website for the club, www.yorktonsnoriders.com, and has remained as the SSA club rep.
- Sno-Rider Family of the Year, the Rick and Teresa Bilous Family - Both Rick and Teresa have actively cleaned and marked the two trails north of Yorkton that lead to Lakanooki, Eagle Peak and Southern Comfort warm up shelters. They also volunteer selling raffle tickets each year and are active in many club activities.
- Sno-Rider Snowmobile Related Business of the Year, Harvest Meats - They have been gold level sponsors for many years, providing not only financial support but also product for use at many fundraisers. A lot of their management and staff are avid snowmobilers and have become active members of the club, with some serving at the executive level. The staff at Harvest Meats have also volunteered their personal time at Club fundraisers and work projects.

On Aug 14th, the Sno-Riders held their annual Golf Tourney at Cherry Dale Golf Course. This year's event was probably the most popular yet. Everyone enjoyed a great steak supper.

- 1st flight winners - Bob Thompson, Janet Holowatuik, Mavis Lutz, Phil Lane;
- 2nd flight winners - Ernie Lutz, Terry Seib, Geno Holowatuik, Ivan Sharp, Ron Blommaert;
- 3rd flight winners - Nola Walsh, Rick Bilous, Jerry Holowatuik, Darrel Petrowski, Dennis Kryski;
- 4th Flight winners - Brenda Blommaert, Darrell Thompson, Clare Walsh;
- 5th flight winners - Gilbert Kryski, Verena Popowich, Jason Popowich, Joann Seib.

Ron Blommaert, event chair, overheard Dale Cherry, the owner of the golf course, say "no other member-club has had as much fun as the Sno-Riders do at this golf course." Throughout the tournament golfers could be heard laughing and cheering their teammates on. Special thanks to Ron, who chaired this fun event!

Special thanks to Larry Hilworth, Murray Yung and John Stamatinos for allowing us to store our groomers in their Quonset this past summer. Very Much Appreciated!

Sno-Riders were also busy this past fall setting up a 30x72 coverall building to store our groomers over the future summer months. We have to again thank Art Bilous for allowing us to set the building up on his property, and for transporting the materials for the project; Brian Ford for surveying the site; Ray Bilous and Jarrett Pepler of Outdoor Sporting and Construction for preparing the site. We also have to thank Maple Farm Equipment, Yorkton Distributors and Yorkton Welding for use of their equipment; Neil Devries and Home Hardware for supplying the wood materials at a discounted price as well as the air nailers; and the volunteer members who helped build the shelter.

Dealer Tour was again a success this year. Thanks to our dealers for participating. Special thanks to our Tour co- chairs Darrel Mirva and Rick Bradshaw; Supper/Social co-chairs Gerald Muzyka and Ron Blommaert; and Silent Auction chair Dean Sully. Special thanks to Murray Yung who donated the use of his sound system for the event. Thanks also to Phil Lane who organized the breakfast.

We can't help but recognize "Ski-Doo" for their support through their promotion "Ski-Doo Million Dollar Club Support Program." Every club member who completed and dropped off a certificate at our local Ski-Doo dealer before the deadline of Nov 15th entitled the Sno-Riders Club to a \$10 donation, to a maximum of \$1500. Also, the clubs who had the most members signed up were eligible to win some promotional items valued at over \$1000. The club with the highest percentage of members signed up was eligible to win a new Rev snowmobile. As an added incentive, all certificates were entered to win a snowmobile helmet donated by King's Sport. Kevin Mooney was the lucky winner. At the time of writing this article, we do not know if we have won any promotional items but, as far as we are concerned, our Club has already won. To our Club, it meant kick-starting our membership drive a lot earlier than normal, which translates into more dollars in our account and more volunteers to help mark trail and work at other club functions. On behalf of the Sno-Riders we cannot thank enough our local dealer, Paul @ King's Sport & Leisure, for helping us with our membership blitz, and Ski-Doo for initiating and promoting such a great program. We also have to thank and recognize our Membership chair, Larry Wilson, who originally planned to step down after several years on the committee, but stayed on for another year because of the importance of our membership drive this fall. We also would like to recognize Janet Holowatuik and Bonnie Mirva, as they took time out of their busy Sunday afternoon to stuff envelopes containing membership letters for mailing to our general members.

Santa Claus came to town on Nov 29th, and the Sno-Riders were again running the security, ensuring the streets were blocked off for the parade and that children did not get too close to the floats. Thanks to Gerald Muzyka for chairing this community event.

On Jan 18th a Snowmobile Safety course was put on by the Sask Safety Council and one of our members, Greg Litvanyi, taught the class. For more information on any upcoming classes, please call one of the instructors, Greg Litvanyi at 621-6696. Did you know that it's the law that all snowmobilers who were born on or after Jan. 1, 1989 must complete a snowmobile safety course? Also, for Sno-Rider club members only, if any family member completes the snowmobile safety course, then attends the next general meeting and submits a receipt from the course, you will be reimbursed for ½ the cost - another good reason for becoming a member of the Sno-Riders! Greg has also mentioned he is willing to

teach an adult class or a ladies only class as well - a great idea for anyone who is new to the sport or would like to brush up on their skills.

On Jan 26th, Phil Lane, Bob Thompson, Larry Wintonyk, Rick Bradshaw, Jerry Holowatuik, Jerry Jemief, Jason Popowich and Larry Hilworth braved the cold weather and assisted the MC Knoll School wake-a-thon by giving snowmobile rides for 2 hrs. The students really enjoyed the rides, even though it was so cold and windy. Thanks to Phil Lane for organizing these rides. The Sno-Riders have participated for the last few years and this is, by far, the most popular activity for the kids.

On Jan 31st, Dean Sully and Linda Terlesky were married at our Eagle Peak warm up shelter. Everyone was welcome and several Sno-Rider members were in attendance. In the history of the Sno-Riders Club, this was the first wedding ceremony, or the first legal one with a Justice of the Peace in attendance, that was ever held in one of our warm up shelters.

Do you have your pledge forms for Snowarama yet? It is never too early to start collecting pledges for this worthy cause taking place on February 21st. This year the minimum pledge is \$150. Where else can you enjoy a delicious breakfast and dinner, ride on a smooth groomed trail, fill your sled full of fuel at the half-way point, and at the end of the day attend a wonderful banquet and dance where you have a chance to win some fabulous prizes, including a brand new snowmobile. Make sure you remember to enter the Sno-Riders Derby to be held in conjunction with Snowarama as there will be some great prizes to win. The Snowarama Committee is looking for volunteers to help work registration Fri. and Sat. a.m. Please call John Denysek at the Sask Abilities Council if you can help.

Want to become more involved? Why not attend a Sno-Riders meeting. They are held on the second Wed. of every month during the winter months beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Hooter's Clubhouse located behind Art Bilous' farm. Future meetings are Mar 11th and April 8th. Why not invite a friend and ride out on your snowmobiles? See you there!

On February 5th, the Prairie Women on Snowmobiles are coming to Yorkton. They are hosting a fundraising supper at the Painted Hand Casino at 6 p.m. Please contact Jolene Kindiak at 782-0714 for advance tickets.

Attention all club racers! Think your sled is fast? Tune up your sled, as the Sno-Riders Drags are scheduled for Sunday, Feb 15th. The races will be held in front of our club house at Art Bilous' farm, beginning at 1:30 p.m. The races are for fun but are open to club members only. The Supertrax Museum will be opened following the races for everyone to check out all the legend race sleds. You won't be disappointed!

Feb 16th, the "Family Day" stat holiday, is also the date for the Sno-Riders Family Fun day. Bring the whole family to the Eagle Peak warm up shelter to enjoy down-hill tobogganing, hot dogs and hot chocolate. Promises to be fun for the whole family!

A big thank you to Ralph Moore and his crew for selling SSA sled raffle tickets at Wal-Mart throughout December. This is a good no-risk fundraiser as we do not have to buy the sled for the raffle, just sell tickets - and we have sold the lucky ticket 4 times in the last 8 years. Anyone who has taken raffle books to sell, please ensure that they are in to Ralph before the February meeting.

That wraps up another edition of the newsletter.

Have a safe and joyous New Year!

Upcoming Calendar of Events:

- Feb 4th - Sno-Riders General Meeting
- Feb 15th - Sno-Riders Fun Drags
- Feb 16th - Family Fun Day
- Feb 21st - Yorkton Snowarama
- March 11th - General Meeting
- April 8th - Annual General Meeting
- April (??) – Landowner Appreciation and Member Awards Banquet and Social (Date and location to be announced later)