

AWSC General Session

October 22, 2022

Rothschild, WI

Meeting called to order by President Dave Newman.

If anyone wants to purchase a raffle ticket, they are available in the back until the drawing at 10:30.

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Military personnel and veterans recognized.

Moment of silence for Paul Statz (1990-1993) and Bill Pfaff (1995-2000 and 2006-2008), Past AWSC Presidents that passed away since we last met

Head table introduced.

Directors and reps recognized

Snowmobile Rec Council members present were recognized

Miss Snowflake AJ Kreager - introduced the Miss Snowflake contestants and had them each respond to a question they were provided last night. "Other than youth involvement, what would you do to promote the sport of snowmobiling."

Current registration is 586, 393 signed up for the banquet.

Trail passes - 7,398 sold so far

Membership - 20,109 so far

CAM's up 100 from this point last year, 1,443

Jillian Steffes, DNR Off Road Motorized Recreational Grant Manager provided a power point report which will be available on the AWSC Website.

Lt. Jacob Holsclaw, Conservation Warden/Off Highway Vehicle Administrator provided a power point report and expanded on the items. Our past administrator, Marty Stone, has retired. Dave Newman and Sue Smedegard have his contact information if you have questions after today. His PowerPoint will be available on the AWSC website.

Asked for a show of hands of safety instructors. Went over numbers on safety classes. Encourage other club members to become instructors.

As a rec warden, he has responded to serious and fatal incident. They investigate to see if a change can be made. They will begin doing trail surveys, mapping, checking signage, working with club members to be sure it's a safe trail.

Drew Nussbaum, Regional Tourism Specialist, Wisconsin Department of Tourism provided a PowerPoint on how snowmobile affects tourism. He discussed the dedication of the Snowmobile Rec Council, the AWSC, gave kudos to the Snowmobile Friendly Community committee, it's a great program. Kudos to the Badger State Games program. Great program, enjoyed very much being involved in

this. Understand the importance of legislators in our program. Thank them for their support. Trespassing - coax them back onto the trails, don't scare them off the trails. Thank and reward those that do stay on the trails and follow the rules.

Nathan Matter, Groomer Tracking Systems - most of this is in the Wisconsin Snowmobile News coming out soon. If you have new equipment, be sure we know about it. Put the trackers in the right groomer if you removed them from the equipment over the summer. Power them up early, make sure they're working properly. GTS trails report works all summer and fall, you can check it out. Do it again when you have groomed a couple times, be sure it's reporting correctly, going into SNARS. Data comes in at club level, club manager needs to approve and send to the county. Make sure you let it finish before you close it. Adding an email system for the clubs this year, as well. The club manager will get an email if there's an entry waiting to be approved.

Trail changes/map changes - be sure to let them know. Clubs and counties are looking for data for their maps - let them know what kind of file your printer wants and they will get it to you.

If you have a cell phone shaped unit, you are due to get a replacement, a little larger. Should be sent out by the first week of November if you have the older style. Will need a new wiring harness, or you can splice it into the old one. They would like the old boxes back, you can mail them back or bring them to Convention.

Integral road routes will be recoded on SNARS as non-grooming maintenance. Let them know if any were missed. Working on finishing up a new GTS app, hope to release around December 1. New features added throughout the winter. Always welcome feedback.

Chris Gamache, Trails Manager, Polaris Ride Command - explains the app, free for anyone to download - Ride Command. Baffling how many people ride that have no idea how trails are created and maintained. Their app has a layer you can turn on to see who owns the land you're riding on, will tell you when you're off the trail. Clubs can add business sponsors, can charge or not, you keep the money. Ride Command doesn't need to know. 20 spots, some clubs give it to the first 20 that pay their dues, some charge the same as a map ad. Only clubs can add. Club and Trail manager is free for clubs - create an account, you can update, move trails, indicate trails closed, etc. on a daily basis Paper maps will always be valuable, but they don't often stay valid for 2 years. KAOS kids are the future of our sport - they all said they prefer the digital maps. His presentation will be available on the AWSC website.

Marty Iverson, Multiple Sclerosis Society - 40th anniversary 2023 - raised over \$9.6 million. Randy Murdock has been on the tour for 37 years. He's the only one in the room that's done it longer than Marty. \$750 minimum pledge amount to ride, free lodging 3 nights, some meals. 8 riding groups, 15-23 riders, as well as a bus tour. This helps with research to find a cure for MS. Snowmobiling community has been great support.

Jeff Schwaller, ISHOF Vice President, Marinette County Director - Main focus is inductions, they get nominations, 15 member board chooses the winners and puts together the ceremony and banquet in September. This is international. There's a "pirate ship" on the Eagle River Chain of Lakes, broke up the ceremony a bit, did some inductions on Friday night at the Fish Fry, open house at Headquarters Saturday, the others were inducted at the banquet on Saturday evening. There are tours to the area snowmobile museums.

Besides the 4 hall of fame induction categories, there is the Edgar Hetteen Memorial Award of Merit. There are "of the year" awards also.

Rome Sno Bandits are the 4th Wisconsin club in a row to win the Club of the Year Award. Trackside of Wisconsin is the international dealer of the year this year.

This costs about \$10,000 to put together. They are looking for donations. Friends of ISHOF was formed to ask for financial assistance. They asked the states and provinces to donate \$250 each year. The AWSC has donated this. They're asking the clubs to consider donate \$50, or the county clubs/alliances. Can donate on the website at www.ISHOF.com/donate. Donors will be listed on the contributors page and a sticker for your clubhouse or groomer.

They have a 1978 Yamaha Exciter donated, they are raffling it off as another fundraiser. \$5 or 3 for \$10 - Jeff has tickets.

You can also find information on past inductions.

2022 Miss Snowflake - AJ Kreager - this is her 100th event. She thanks all the clubs and enjoyed all the events.

Officer Reports

President Dave Newman - Had the trailer at Hay Days, Wausau Grass Drags, was at Milwaukee Snow Show.

Legal/lobbying issues - Blue Mounds State Park - lawsuit, AWSC is not named, some individuals in the DNR. There is an injunction. We're following that. We expect a decision sometime in the spring. Road route will be available for this year to get through the park.

Stower/7 lakes - Friends group filed a lawsuit against the DNR and Polk County, no injunction, open to snowmobiling. Expect a decision soon.

Once new legislators are sworn in, we will meet with Joint Finance to see where they're going with the state budget, be sure our program is protected. We hope to increase county law enforcement by \$400,000, as voted by the SRC. Will discuss recommendation by SRC to increase the CAP, once directors approve, we will work with Joint Finance to see if that can be handled within the budget. Looking into legislation on NR 45.04 regarding business signs on state property. Looking for a lot of changes in the legislature, lot of changes in assembly and senate. Get out and vote. It is a privilege to serve as your president, contact him any time.

Vice President Lori Heideman - of the year awards - applications go to specific committee, committees make the decisions, chosen at July Directors meetings. Our winners are then sent to ACSA for scoring and voting at the national level. ACSA notifies us, and we notify the winners. If you're standing on the stage accepting a national award and see JoAnn Smith standing at the side, you have won the international "of the year" award.

The executive board does not vote on the awards.

Snowmobile Friendly Awards go through the SFC committee, who makes recommendations to the executive board who makes the ultimate decision.

KAOS camping weekends - usually at Grangers Campground in Oakdale, would like to see many of you there, at least for the pot luck on Saturday night. It's a fun weekend for the kids, families, and you are all welcome to join us.

Get out and vote. Go home and share the knowledge you get this weekend with your clubs.

Secretary Sue Smedegard — Show of hands of first time attendees, new directors and reps. Also membership chairs - remind your members that you, too, are a volunteer and have other things to do when they want to pay dues late and get their trail pass that day.

Presidents and membership chairs receive information from the office, imperative that you share this information with your members.

ISMA grant information went out to the clubs, opportunity to apply for a \$400 grant for "Snowmobile Day - October 29, 2022" to enhance your membership, treat your clubs to food after trail work, etc. 52 clubs took advantage of this offer internationally. Show of hands of clubs that received the grant, there were several in Wisconsin

Travel Wisconsin reporters - don't exaggerate, be honest in your reports about snow conditions.

Reminder to trail workers, "call before you dig"

Research the candidates, know what they stand for. Vote!

Snow Goer participation was up this year, still only 31 clubs in Wisconsin take advantage of the offer.

Treasurer Lauren Levey - will always be an advocate of KAOS, of which she is a "graduate"

MISSION : The purpose of the AWSC KAOS Youth Program is two-fold. First it is to give the youth an in-depth understanding of how the total snowmobile program is organized, starting from the local clubs up to and including International. Secondly, KAOS is considered a leadership training program for young snowmobilers. As dedicated volunteers are getting older, our goal is to train the younger members to take over leadership roles in order to keep our organizations as strong as they currently are

Expectations and responsibilities - attend fall workshop, directors meetings, convention, meet and discuss how they can get involved, plan for future projects. Join various adult committees to gather more knowledge and give input to those committees.

They attend alliance and club meetings when possible to provide input.

Stay involved with other youth in their communities. 30 youth reps, 3 advisors from 24 counties. Encourage 14-18 year olds to get involved - each county has 2 reps, would like to have each county represented. Awsckaos@gmail.com

We have a "square" card reader, will test it out at scholarship silent auction, you can bid on more items now! There is a 3% convenience fee to use it to cover our charge. She will report tomorrow at the Directors Meeting on how it went using it.

ACSA Calendars - sold 535 last year, Michigan sold 302. We made 2,675 profit for the sales, which is almost what ACSA made. We don't have them yet, hope to have them by the January Directors meeting, have a sign-up sheet to reserve them.

Executive Director Mike Holden - election season, anyone considering running for AWSC officer position at convention should contact the nominating committee - Dave Newman, Orv Langhor, Wally Thill or Mike Holden.

Counties having an issue with maintenance disappearing in SNARS, don't close your browser until your done. Double check your entries often, make sure there aren't any that weren't approved. Contact Nathan or anyone on the executive board if you have issues.

Silent auction has great items, bid early, bid often.
Scholarship applications will be on the website soon, due in January.

Presentation of Plaques for Past/Retiring Director & Reps 2022
Steve Bethke - Sawyer County Director 2015-2022
Jim Chambers - Juneau County Director 1998-2021
Jim Drmolka - Portage County Rep 2002-2022
Rick Fetkenheuer - Washburn County Director 2016-2022
John Putz - Buffalo County Director 2010-2022

Dave recognizes the "of the year" winners, will be awarded this evening.
Snowmobiler of the Year Larry Rietbrock
Young Snowmobiler of the Year Madisyn Gates-Roehl
Family of the Year Rob & Jerri Strauss Family
Groomer of the Year - Frank Dusek
Club of the Year -Mercer Snow Goers
Dealer of the Year Sport O Motive

Thanks to Stormy and the office staff for getting everything set up for this weekend.

Ron Kucera thanks Jay and CJ Thompson for doing a great job with the costume contest and as a DJ last night.

We're always looking for ideas for workshops, contact anyone on the executive board if you have suggestions.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Smedegard, Secretary