

Saskatoon Snowmobile Club Newsletter December 2008

Hello!!! Long time no news!! It was sure nice to see snow out there, too bad that it didn't decide to stick around! We have heard of a few locations that have a decent amount of snow already, at least enough to test out the machines. Hopefully we will see more here in the next few weeks as well.

The Annual General Meeting was held on Friday, November 21, 2008 at the Penner School Clubhouse. There was approximately 45 people in attendance for the meeting and social that followed. It was great to see some new and old faces alike! The AGM consisted of a run down of the Club's financial status, old and new business, and ended with the election of officers.

The SSC had a profitable year in 2008. Our 'Total Revenue' increased \$4,873.00 over the previous year. This was, again, mostly due to an increase in the monies the SSC received from the Provincial Trail Fund and also, to a smaller extent, the increase in SSC members from the previous year.

Brutus ran for a total of 126 hours last season, travelling a total of 1,030 kms (as clocked by a GPS). The 2008 fuel cost was, on average, \$2.60/km. We must take a second to thank John Popoff and Jim Puckett, the two Directors who did all of the grooming this past season. The time spent in Brutus is a huge commitment and we are very lucky that these two gentleman volunteer their precious time to this need. Not to mention that these guys have a vast amount of knowledge, which really helps when Brutus is down and out!!!

To date the SSC has 25 brand new memberships!!! This is an amazing amount in one year so here is a shout out to all of those new members - Welcome Aboard!!!! The SSC has a grand total of 74 members for the 2009 season. This figure is already on par with last year's total of 75. This is an increase of 15 members since the 2007 season. Wow!!!

Marcel Voyer is again running the SSA Safety Courses out of the Penner School Clubhouse. This is a mandatory course for anyone that was born after January 1, 1989 in order to lawfully ride on public lands (you must be at least 12 years of age to take the class). The cost of this course is \$70.00/person or \$145.00/family including GST. If anyone is interested in attending one of these courses, please call Marcel at 384-2420 (after 4:00 pm) to register. There are classes scheduled for Friday/Saturday, December 5th and 6th, Friday/Saturday, December 12th and 13th, Monday, December 29th (one day course) and Friday/Saturday, January 16th and 17th. If you know of anyone needing or wanting to take this class outside of the Saskatoon area, they can contact the SSA directly for information on a course near them. Time sure flies. It has been three years since this became law in Saskatchewan, and yet there are a lot of people not aware of this requirement. If you know any young snowmobilers, please share this information with them.

As a side note, whenever there are SSA Safety Courses the entire Penner School facility is utilized and the members are not able to use the building or yard on those days. The classes take place within the school, but there is also a practical portion that requires the students to use a snowmobile in a course, which is set up in the Penner School yard. Please respect this requirement and give Marcel and these students the space that is needed. It will only effect four days and three evenings. Besides the classes wrap up by 4:00 p.m. so the yard is still available for those planning on an evening ride. Thank-you for your understanding.

The SSC would like to take this opportunity to thank Bob Nicol, one of the SSC Directors. Bob spent a great deal of time this summer painting sign pickets in his back yard. This is a time consuming task, but a much needed one, as we need to ensure that those pickets can be seen from a distance. So thank-you Bob, we are sure that you won't want to see another orange item again for some time!!!

The Club has already held some work bees in 2008 and a thank-you must be extended to all those who were able to lend a hand. Trees were planted around the outside parameter of the Penner School yard this summer. Most of these trees are doing well, and we hope that they weather the winter well. That same day the trail signs were sorted and stored in the shed for the summer season. A clean up day was scheduled for the North 40 Shelter and a whopping 14 members were able to attend. These members cleared trees that had fallen, cut fire wood and tidied up the Shelter itself. It looks like a million dollars out there!!! Besides these events, some members went out on two different days to place some permanent signs along the trail system. These signs will be added to, once there is some snow, to complete the trail signage for the season.

The SSC had two booths at the Annual SSA Snowmobile Show here in Saskatoon on November 7, 8, and 9th. This year was a very successful year for the SSA and the SSC both. The show itself had an attendance of 14,000 people, which was almost as many as the Edmonton show boasted. How great is that considering the population difference between these two locations!! It takes a lot of man power to work a three day show and the SSC members definitely came through for us!!! Thanks a million!! The SSC was able to sell 154 raffle books for the SSA that week-end alone. This is the highest number of books that our club has ever sold at this show. Just as an aside, the SSC is able to retain 75% of the proceeds from these tickets books. This is a lot of money for our club with zero risk or cost associated to it. Every SSC member would have received a book of tickets to sell from John Popoff. If you are able to sell more than the one book, please contact us and we will gladly provide you with more books. Every ticket counts!!!

As an incentive to purchase the SSA tickets from our booth, the SSC raffled off a snowmobile helmet. Every SSA ticket that was purchased was also entered into the draw for the helmet, which was made at the end of the show on Sunday. The very happy winner was Wayne Heaslip from Martensville.

The registration fee for each snowmobile, which is added to the cost of your SGI plate, will remain at the same \$40.00 per sled for this season. The SSA has requested an increase in this fee from the current \$40.00 to \$70.00 per sled, but this increase has not been approved by SGI at this time. Even at a cost of \$70.00 per sled Saskatchewan will still be one of the two lowest provinces in Canada for trail pass cost. Alberta currently is sitting at \$70.00 for the season as well. The NWT and Nunavut are the only provinces without a trail pass cost. The most expensive province is Quebec at \$250.00 per sled. <http://www.ccs0-ccom.ca:80/snowinfo3.html> is an excellent website that breaks down the costs and benefits by province. As an aside to those nay sayers out there, please keep in mind that these costs, added to our SGI plates, is what makes up the trail fund. This trail fund is administered by the SSA and is reimbursed back to all grooming clubs in Saskatchewan. Last year alone the SSC benefited by receiving \$15,146.00 from the trail fund.

There has been some construction along side the road accessing the Penner School Clubhouse. A water pump house will be erected along side the Clubhouse. As a result, the barb wire fence which used to run East and West from the Penner School to the corner of the highway has been removed. Please be very cautious not to ride North of the access road in the farmers field. Please stick to the ditch. The land owner has been very good to us and does not want anyone riding in that field. In other years the fence stopped this temptation, this year you will have to control yourselves on your own!!!

Thank-you to Proline Motor Sports for the new safety/sign sleigh which they donated to the club. This is a large sleigh which can easily be pulled behind any snowmobile. This will be put to good use by many members for many uses. Thank-you!!!

Our website (www.saskatoonsnowmobileclub.com) is in the process of being updated and revamped. This work is being done by Beth Campbell of Prairie Web Services. Beth is a professional web site designer and she has done an excellent job so far. Please take a second to take a peek. If you notice any errors or if you wish to see something added to the site, please let me know and we will share that information with Beth. Please remember that it is indeed a work in progress!!!

The SSC would also like to thank those individuals/businesses who donated door prizes for the AGM and Membership Social, as always it is greatly appreciated:

Dale and Janna Martin - Tim Horton's 51st Street, Saskatoon
Bob Nichol - Oakwood Nissan, Saskatoon
Jason Senko - CanPro Gator Centre, Warman

Some of you may or may not have heard of Blair Morgan from Prince Albert. Blair is a 33 year old motocross and snocross star. He has claimed the snocross title at the Winter X-Games five time and he has been inducted into the Guinness Book of Records for winning the most gold medals in the sport's history. Unfortunately, on September 20th Blair severed his spine in a motocross crash in Montreal. Thanks to Blair the world is more knowledgeable about our sport and the vehicles that we use to enjoy it. The Blair Morgan Racing Team website (<http://www.bmrt.com/>) is his official site and an excellent place to update yourself on his recovery. There are many fundraisers organized and a trust fund has also been set up since Blair has two small children. Let's all extend our best wishes to the Morgan family as they struggle through this difficult time.

The new Executive for the SSC for the 2009 season is as follows:

Bill Ziegler - President	Marcel Voyer
Cley Sametts - Vice President	Paul Webb
John Popoff - Secretary/Treasurer	Bob Nicol
Bill Thibodeau - Past President	Dave Grose
Gerri Sametts	Ernie Quintal
Jim Puckett	Erik Foster
Ryan Hagel	Dan Tremblay

That wraps it up for another month. From all of us to all of you, have a great holiday season and enjoy the trails safely!!!

Cley and Gerri Sametts