

## Saskatoon Snowmobile Club Newsletter January 2010

Woo Hoo!!!! There is finally some snow out there!!!! It may have taken half the winter to get here but the whopping 25 cms was worth the wait. There have been mixed reports on the local riding conditions. There are some very nice stubble fields and blown in ditches, but also reports of bare spots between here and the North 40 Shelter. The northern area of our trail did get decidedly less snow fall then the Saskatoon area did. I guess, overall, all we can do is plead with our members to please still ride with diligence and caution as it may not be as good as hoped.

For the lack of snow fall the SSC membership is holding strong at 84 members to date. This membership count does not include the new memberships which were given out by the local snowmobile dealers. As discussed in our November newsletter, Proline Motorsports & Custom Cycle had decided to give away a one year membership to each customer who purchased a new sled in the month of December. We were very happy to see Guertin Equipment also join in on this promotion and once the numbers were in they took the lead in this promotional event. Proline gave away six, Custom had eleven and Guertin had seventeen. Thank-you to these dealership for their ongoing assistance to bring awareness to the local riders of the presence of a local club.

Our club Rally is scheduled for February 6<sup>th</sup> - a mere eleven days away. The Directors have met and discussed this Rally in great detail. It has been decided, that even with this recent snowfall, the Rally will need to be cancelled. Our trail has not been signed nor groomed and the sheer amount of work that entails is more then we can accomplish in just eleven days. There is a small amount of volunteers that are able to assist with these tasks, and an even smaller percentage of them that can work on the trail during the week. With the days narrowed down to one week-end there is too much to accomplish to be able to provide the membership with a safe, groomed trail in time for this event. This is an unfortunate decision that had to be made, one that was not made lightly by the Directors involved in the decision. Mother Nature's cruel lack of snowfall early enough in the season in essence made the decision for us.

There has been some discussions, among some members, that the Directors are not putting forth the effort required of them in their elected positions. Some of this discord was centered around the rescheduling of the Christmas party, and I am certain that there will also be some talk of the same around the choice to cancel the Rally. Again, I must stress, that this is a volunteer organization. The Directors are honoured to be elected and we do strive to improve and provide for the club as much as we are able. One must remember that these positions are in addition to family commitments, and in most cases, a full time career. As always, we implore our members to assist with events, signing, grooming, ect to ease the burden on the twelve elected officials, which is also our main volunteer group. There is always work to be done, even if there is no pending rides or trail work. If you are able to lend a few minutes, please contact a Director, we would be happy to meet with you and accomplish a task - no matter how small that may be.

Each year the SSC donates money to the Prairie Women on Snowmobiles fundraiser. This is a group of women, who ride across our great province, to raise money and bring awareness to Breast Cancer. This is their 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and it has been decided that the SSC would donate \$500 to PWOS in honour of this milestone. John Popoff is attending the kick off banquet in Regina and he will present this cheque to the fundraising committee. If you get a chance to visit the PWOS website (<http://www.prairiewomen.ca>) you can learn about the cause, the women that make up this year's core group of riders, and the route which these riders will take. If possible, join these ladies on the trail or during a stop in a local town - it is an amazing experience that you won't soon forget!!!

The SSC has two members attending the Snowarama Ride in Yorkton this year. This event will be on February 20<sup>th</sup> this year. It raises money for Easter Seals, which in turn assists children with disabilities. The SSC will again pledge \$100.00 to each of these riders. Good luck, Bob and Vern, and

enjoy the ride!!!

The SSC is a strong supporter of these two charities, as they combine both a good cause and the sport that we all love!!!

The SSC has decided to host a Steak Night. This will take place on Saturday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at the Odeon Events Center. This Steak Night will replace the Wind Up Party on our calendar of events. This venue was chosen for numerous reasons, some of which was the cost per plate to the SSC and the fact that kids could also attend the event. This was an important reason as we are a family club and we wanted to use this event as a social outing to get to know each other and share stories of our riding season. Tickets will be \$15.00 per person and the net proceeds of the event will be donated to Prairie Women on Snowmobiles for their 2011 ride. PWOS was chosen as the charity for this event as it combines our favourite sport and a cause which has touched almost all of our lives in one way or another. We ask that our members consider attending this event, not only to socialize with other members but as a way to contribute to a great cause. Anyone needing tickets for themselves, or their friends and relatives, should contact any of the Directors. If anyone is able to donate an item to be used either as a door prize, or a silent auction item, please contact Gerri Sametts to arrange for pick up. Furthermore, the SSC would like to form an ad hoc committee to work with Erik Foster in organizing this event. If anyone is able to assist Erik, please call him at 262-6667. Thank-you, in advance, for your support of this event.

Our SSC Shirts have arrived and most of the members have been able to pick theirs up. There were 26 shirts purchased through the first round of orders. There has been a lot of positive feed back on the look and on the fit of the shirts. If anyone is interested in purchasing more, or your first one, please contact Gerri Sametts. If there is enough interest the SSC will place another order. The same company, which produced these shirts, is able to produce SSC Patches. These Patches are material patches, with the SSC Logo stitched on. These patches can then be attached, by the member, to any piece of clothing, hat, or snowmobile seat with a few simple stitches. These patches are \$7.50 each and can be pre-ordered and pre-paid through Gerri Sametts as well.

We must once again remind our members to NOT ride in the fields adjacent to the Penner School Clubhouse. These lands are OFF LIMITS to snowmobiles. Furthermore, the above seasonal weather in November and early December resulted in most crops being taken off this year, but we still must be diligent to watch for swathes laying or alfalfa crops. Our trails are dependent on farmers granting permission to cross their lands, and we must not cross them or these permissions will be lost. Please be a responsible rider!!!!

The west roof at the Penner School Clubhouse was in desperate need of repair this fall. We contracted a small company to repair a portion of the roof this fall, in order to get through the winter months. It was decided that this same company will return in the Spring and re-roof that entire west portion of the Clubhouse.

I guess that is all for now. If you do get out riding, and encounter some excellent conditions, do not hesitate to e-mail us to share the info. We will pass that info on to our members for all to enjoy your find!!!! Here's to fun, safe riding!!!!!!!!!!!!

Cley & Gerri Sametts