

ROUGH RIDER SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION HISTORY

A group of snowmobilers began to talk about a snowmobile club back in 1967. This group consisted of Bob Aberle, Jim Dybadal, Norm Tietz, Jerry & Peggy Kville, Jack Ellingson, & Mell Ball all from the Bismarck area. Since snowmobiles were just becoming a new form of transportation and a recreation source it made sense to organize a club of people with similar interests. On January 25, 1968 24 people decided to form a club. A meeting was held at the Capital Electric Building and dues were set at \$1.00 per member, later it was raised to \$3.00 as they figured it was require more funds to operate a club, Wives were consider members. A embroider patch was designed and ordered. The main objective was to promote snowmobiling for families and to hold charities fun runs, the first being for the School of Hope (twenty dollars was raised)and Snowmobile races were promoted. The first Trail Ride from Ft. Lincoln to Cannon Ball was held with help from ND Parks. The name for the club was chosen: **ROUGH RIDERS SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION**, the name association was felt it represented a organization that would have better support when dealing with state issues and Legislator's.

At later meetings the idea of have a state wide organization was talked about, and the club joined the ASA- American Snowmobile Association which was a national to help support the sport. A meeting at Apple Creek Country Club was set for December and letters were sent to one hundred fifty (150) snowmobile dealers around the state to attend. During the peak of manufacturing there were over 115 different snowmobile brands.

The seeds were sown for the start of SND -Snowmobile North Dakota which would become a reality a few years later. Statewide meeting of clubs was held in Bismarck for several years with seventeen to thirty-four clubs attending. It won't be till 1974 that the idea would be final set to organize and establish a State organization.

In 1969 the start of a race season was set at Dakota Speedway, to hold classes in Cross country and Flat races, different horsepower classes were set, since these sled were all powerhouses, 10 – 12 HP – 160-200cc. Ski-doo would change that when they came out with a 699cc later. School of Hope fun run raised \$54.00 this year, Santa Claus made his first appearance delivering presents by snowmobile. The first legislation for registration of sleds was with House Bill 163, set at \$10.00 for 2 years, approved at \$3.00 for two years.

1970--The club established a Code of Ethic's for during this time snowmobilers were not looked upon very favorable. Farmers & ranchers complied of cut fences, running wildlife, noise and trespassing. The School of Hope was again fun event, a \$100.00 in gifts were purchased for children and passed out by Santa Claus.

The Spring banquet in 1971 was with four hours of band music (\$33.00) a Prime Rib dinner at \$2.50 a plate. A high light of this year would be a planned trip to West Yellowstone with semi-truck hauling 45 sleds and coach bus taken the riders. This group of riders hosted many rides or safari's as some were called to Lake Metigoshe, Park River, Medora just to mention a few. The School of Hope was given gifts in amount of \$100.00.

1972---A March of Dimes snowmobile marathon ride with trophies for riders raising most funds was given out. This would be a 100 mile ride and CB Patrol would flag riders across roads and were donated \$25.00 for their help. Twenty-nine couples would travel to Lake Metigoshe for weekend ride. The Little Oly 100 Race from Minot to Bismarck would be held and would become the Governor's Cup race in the future. School of Hope was visited again by Santa with \$100.00 in gifts.

1973----Highway Commissioner Walter Hjelle would rescind regulations requiring a permit to operate snowmobiles in highway right away. A new snowmobile club was formed in Mandan. Mail box rent for a year would be \$10.80. The bylaws would be amended to change that officers would start new terms as of April 1st. Dues were increased from \$7.50 to \$15.00 family; \$5.00 to \$10.00 for single and \$10.00 to 20.00 for Associate; there were 71 members's this year. School of Hope \$100.00 and club held a rummage sale to raise funds and give members a chance to sell unneeded gear and a hay ride for children from area was supported.

1974—March of Dimes ride from Bismarck-Underwood and return would be held, Motto: "**DRIVE A MILE for the LIFE OF A CHILD**" raised \$3,500.00. School of Hope given \$100.00. A newsletter was started for bring snowmobile news to members, it was called: "**ROUGH RIDER READER**" and published for couple of years. The articles were from local to state wide with several good cartoons.

The North Dakota Confederation of Snowmobile clubs held its first organizational meeting with 97 clubs attending, the first president was **Bob Petty from Bottineau**. A contest was held to select a name, which was submitted by a lady from Minot Air Force base, **SNOWMOBILE NORTH DAKOTA**, she won a Arctic Cat Kitty cat; a drawing for a logo was submitted by a 14 year old boy from Minot, he won a weekend at Lake Metigoshe. The first order of business was the work on establishing legislation for snowmobile operation and establishing trails.

1975---The Governors Trophy Run will ride from Bismarck to Grand Forks this year. The School of Hope donation is \$100.00 and Easter Seals will furnish 5 gallons of gas to each participant in this event. The club held several rides to local towns.

1976-77. The Heart River Stampede was made a annual event with lunch and drinks provided by club. Ride for funds for Cancer Society saw 17 riders making the trip raising \$1,321.55. The School of Hope donation was \$100.00. Displays on snowmobiling and sleds were setup at Northbrook Mall to obtain new members.

1978-79. The Rough Riders were host guides to bring snowmobilers to Holiday Inn for annual Easter Seal Ride. BECEP-Bismarck Early Child Education Program was selected as a charity ride and \$5,283.00 was pledged. The first annual SND convention was hosted by Rough Riders at Holiday Inn. A snowmobile trail from Ft. Lincoln to Ft. Rice was proposed via old railroad bed, \$2,000.00 was obtained, with request for \$50,000.00 made to Corp of Engineers to support signing, repair of bridges and install culverts. A used Bombardier groomer is found and overhaul to provided trail grooming. The club had a float in the 4th July parade. The School of Hope was again selected for gifts of \$150.00. A Gas bill was introduced to ND Legislature, but it would take several years to convince them that it was needed to support our being trail systems.

1980-81. Governor Art Link cut the ribbon to open the new 35 mile one-way snowmobile trail at Ft. Lincoln, which was part of three trails that became part of National Trail System, other new trails were at Lake Metigoshe, Bottineau 50 miles; Ft Ransom-Enderlin; Pembina Hills-Langdon; and Charbonneau-Garrison Dam-Riverdale. A snowmobile club was started at Lincoln.

1981-82. The second annual SND snowmobile convention was being planned and will be at Kirkwood Motor Inn, the four snowmobile manufactures will be displaying new sleds. Other displays will show the Boss CAT II, which has set a speed record of over 130 miles per hour and several Sno-Pro race sleds. In attendance were 176 members for 34 clubs around the state. Even after all the planning and hard work the club realized a profit of \$800.00. One of our club members Dan Sweeny was elected president of SND and during his term made the organization well known within the snowmobile sector.

1983-84 The club meetings are being held at Riverwood Golf club house, money was donated for a fireplace at club house. Rod Seibel was elected President of Snowmobile North Dakota. The club had bake sale and snowmobile displays at Gateway Shopping Center. Club jackets were available for purchase at \$30.00. The purchased a telephone recorder to attach to **Snow Hot Line 255-9999** to get updates on club activities. A most successful charity ride for BECEP was held and raised \$11,445.50.

1985-86 The club entered new waters this year-**Water Skipping!** This would be a never done before event done on snowmobile, to make this a success the club hired a an professional from Alexander, MN Brian --- who had competed in many races before. This event was held at McDowell Dam, on August 24, the racers were required to travel 250 feet across open water without sinking. Several club members setup their sleds to compete, along several out of drivers from Minot. Two pontoon boats were setup with winches to recover drowned sleds, which happened many times. The highlight of the show was when Brian pulled Tracy Eslinger around the lake on one water ski. The club deemed this event a major spectator event and scheduled again the next year. A June campout at Sugarloaf bottoms was a family event with many members brings a dish to share for Beef barbecue and camp fire guitar music. The club hosted the 7th annual SND convention at Holiday Inn. Vendor displays came from six states and Saskatchewan offering clothes, snowmobile gear, parts and sleds, along with giant swap area.

In 1985-86 the club was third place winner in the **Skidoo New Generation's award for United States and Canada.**

1987-88 The club was successful in having 9th annual SND convention in Bismarck at Kirkwood Motor Inn in the fall of 1984. This would bring in many vendors with snowmobile products and several race sleds, along with Deckers, PSI and several other major vendors. Marv Jorgenson ,Chopper City, Minneapolis, Budweiser Sno-King -twin tracker, had set an world record of 168. 093 mile per hour record on ice was on display, it was seven feet wide , twenty-two feet long, weighted 1902 pounds, was powered by big block Chevy engine producing 1400 horsepower.

1989-90 Club information was not found for these years.

1991-92

1993-94

1995-96

1997-98

1999-2000

2001-2002-

2003-2004 Snowmobile/ATV safety courses were held this year for seventeen young people . The club received a Tucker snow groomer for maintaining the trails. An effort was made to find a location for club house in Menoken or McKenzie. The Beaver Valley Snow Goers and Rough Riders formed the Missouri Valley Trail Association to manage the trails from Bismarck and Linton.

2005-2006 The main events for this snow year will be the Huff Hill's Challenge (Hill Climb) on April 2, 2005. The club had the Groomer in the Lights on Broadway festival this fall. A new trailhead sign and parking area were setup at the fairgrounds.

2007-2008 The Snowmobile North Dakota state wide convention will be hosted by club at Ramkota Hotel at end of October. The club made two donation this year in the amount of \$400.00 The final event of the year was the Spring banquet at the Pier Restaurant & Bar on April 5th.

2009- The year of the big SNOW! This season has been great as we were able to start grooming in December and finished in March, a hundred inches of snow finally made this season the best in ten years. A Charity Fun Run in February going from Bismarck-Sterling-Wing-Wilton-Bismarck was a great success, rising over \$1,200.00 which was donated to local charities. The final event of the year in March was a Radar Run on North 26th Street, which saw about two dozen sleds trying to set the high mark of Hundred plus miles per hour, with Gary Markward piloting a aged 1000cc Arctic to 102.4 mph.