

# Klondike SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Tough times

IF IT ISN'T ONE THING, IT'S ANOTHER THIS YEAR



**Mark Daniels**  
**KSA President**

Well, we had a bit of misfortune with the two work sleds this winter. First, the Skandic made some awful grinding noises out on the trail, then it became selective in which direction it would choose to travel. Thankfully, it found its way home and onto the trailer for a

trip down to Yukon Honda before it entirely gave up the ghost. The tranny is now somewhere between Valcourt, QC, and Timbuktu en route to a rebuild. Even the best equipment will fail eventually when you work it as hard as we do day after day, and that thing has pulled hard for over 12,000 kilometres. We're hoping to get it back into service before the season closes.

With the Super Wide Track out of commission, Harris switched to the Polaris and was running just south of Wolf Creek a week later on a reconnaissance mission when he heard a snap and a zing. He called me on his cellphone for a rescue and I was able to tow Harris, the Wide Track and the skimmer out in one shot with my wife's touring sled.

Thankfully, he was pulling the skimmer at the time and not the groomer. Those suckers are heavy.

Checkered Flag confirmed our suspicions that the driveshaft coupler had snapped. But they had even more good news; the driveshaft was worn to the point

of failure and needed replacement. Did I mention we work these machines hard? Bada bing, bada boom—new driveshaft ordered and we were back in business a week or two later.

So, now you know why it may have looked like we weren't grooming as much as usual this winter. The KSA can't say enough good things about the support we get from all four local snowmobile dealers. We particularly appreciate the service we get from Checkered Flag and Yukon Honda to keep those two sleds on the trail. Whether it's donated labour, discounted parts or rush orders, they do all they can to get us back on the trail ASAP and working to keep it smooth for you.

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Nita Daniels photo

Mark Daniels' new RMK appears to be watching Mark and his family tobogganing down the hill.

### Avalanche safety means practising

by MARK DANIELS

What if the unimaginable happened . . . you just rode out what seemed to be the biggest avalanche ever to come thundering down a mountain. You turn to your riding buddy, who was right above you a second ago on that epic highmark run, to ask if he has a clean pair of shorts he can lend you. But your buddy's nowhere to be found. You think, "Maybe he turned the other way." But you look all around and still nothing. Then you see it: a glove sticking out of the snow 50 metres downhill in the jumble of snow chunks in the run-out zone from the avy you just barely dodged. You race over and grab the glove

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expecting to see his hand beneath but you find the glove is empty. You're breathing hard and you can feel the adrenalin pumping through you. What now? Your buddy is somewhere under that pile of snow and you're the only one who can save him.

Barring any serious trauma inflicted by bouncing off of rocks and trees, a person has about an 80 per cent chance of surviving if dug out within 10 minutes of being buried. This drops to 20 per cent if they're still buried after 30 minutes. Unless you have a probe, transceiver and shovel—and know how to use them—and your buddy has a functioning transceiver, his goose is cooked. I hope by now that everyone who rides the steep has these basic survival tools and that you refuse to ride with anyone who doesn't.

Research has shown that a tremendous amount of time is wasted with equipment issues during rescues. People are not familiar enough with their stuff to perform an efficient search with their transceiver, get their shovel and probe out of their packs, assemble them and do the work necessary to find and excavate a person buried in the snow. The motto here is: practise, practise, practise. Practice allows you to get familiar with your equipment. Regular use will bring any issues, such as damage or wear, to your attention so the likelihood of a failure in the field is reduced. Practice also helps you function efficiently when the real deal hits, you're full of adrenalin, and not really thinking straight. Practise avalanche rescues with your riding buddies like your life depends

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### ► TOUGH TIMES *Continued from page 1*

If you think we've had a tough winter, you should talk to the folks at Parks Canada. We had our annual Chilkoot Trail National Historic Site user group meeting with them in late November. This is the opportunity for user groups to meet with each other and Parks Canada to work out things like the shared-use schedule and deal with any lingering issues that can affect user safety and enjoyment. Normally, the meeting is pretty upbeat because we're all looking forward to another season of recreation in one of the most beautiful places on earth.

This year, the meeting felt more like a funeral than anything. With their budget slashed, Parks literally doesn't have the ability to keep the outhouse at Log Cabin open. The cabin at Bennett will be closed for the season, though the one at Lindeman will be open until further notice. You'll need to bring your own firewood if you plan on using the wood stove. The enforcement branch is reduced to two officers for the entire territory and they lost their Yukon-based backcountry emergency response capacity entirely. That service is now based out of their Jasper office.

It looks as though the Log Cabin outhouse will remain open with support from the Log Cabin Ski Trail Society in Skagway, and Yukon Highways will still plow the parking lot and pull-outs. So things should appear pretty much like they were before minus some familiar faces doing their usual outreach work. Faced with a reduced budget, Parks decided to focus their resources on the summer tourist season so some of their full-time staff be-

came seasonal summer workers.

Last season went well according to Parks enforcement staff. They attended to 32 enforcement incidents. Most were related to alcohol use, litter and loose dogs in the Log Cabin parking lot.

There were two incidents of snowmobilers using the Log Cabin parking lot on non-motorized weekends. Both cases were due to lack of familiarity with the rules and the sledders moved on when advised by Parks staff. The schedule is posted on the Parks Canada website, the KSA website, on our billboard at the Carcross Cut-Off and various other places. Please make sure you're familiar with the schedule.

Other users groups at the table brought some concerns to my attention. Apparently, some sledders are riding cross-slope above non-motorized adventurers. This is unsafe for everyone involved because of the risk of an avalanche. If at all possible, please avoid cutting across the slope above others. Also, I received some complaints about snowboarders riding up the mountain, then letting their sleds coast back downhill riderless while they follow behind on their boards. We used to call this "ghostriding." Hey, it's your sled so it's your loss if it flies over a cliff. I wouldn't even want to imagine the liability incurred if your riderless sled hit and injured or killed someone else so please don't do this if other people are in the area.

With the reduced presence by Parks staff this year it's up to the users to make sure the shared winter use agreement works. Two separate surveys have demonstrated over 95 per cent satisfaction with the agreement across all user groups. We have such a good thing going right now. Let's make sure we keep it that way by respecting all users in the area. ■

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on it—because it does.

The International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association has the following advice:

1. Take an Avalanche Skills Training (AST) course.
2. Carry avalanche safety equipment: transceiver (beacon), shovel and probe. Know how to use them.
3. Check the avalanche bulletin (plan your trip according to current conditions).
4. Don't group up in terrain that is threatened from above; allow a wide margin of safety around avalanche run-out zones.
5. Speak up when you see others grouping together in avalanche-threatened areas.
6. Don't tolerate fellow riders not being prepared with rescue gear.
7. Practise with your own rescue gear at least once a month. Good search and rescue technique saves lives. Focus on quick transceiver search, effective probing and efficient shovelling.
8. Match terrain selection to what the avalanche danger will allow. Read the bulletin and plan your day to avoid the avalanche problems that are highlighted.
9. Understanding the type of avalanche problem is as important as knowing the danger rating.  
Example: managing Considerable Danger due to a deep slab requires a different technique than managing Considerable Danger due to a wind slab.
10. Strategic shovelling saves valuable

minutes. Learn the best shovelling techniques and carry a strong shovel that you have tested on hard-packed snow.

11. Post the avalanche bulletins on your Facebook page or garage door. Make sure your dealer and friends get the bulletins.

12. Know the terrain rating with the current danger rating. This provides you with good decision-making guidance.

13. For current class offerings, other tips and snow condition bulletins, review these two websites:

- United States: [www.avalanche.org](http://www.avalanche.org)
- Canada: [www.avalanche.ca](http://www.avalanche.ca)

We have a local group of experts affiliated with the Canadian Avalanche Centre. The Yukon Avalanche Association, formed in 2010, is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting avalanche safety and awareness and facilitating the development of risk management tools for backcountry users. It is their goal to ensure that anyone using avalanche terrain is informed, aware and prepared for the risk.

Their main activities include:

- Promoting avalanche awareness with yearly outreach activities, events and information;
- Working with local companies and the Canadian Avalanche Centre to ensure that courses and training are on offer in Yukon;
- Working with partners to provide avalanche risk assessment tools.

This year they successfully launched the Yukon Regional Report for the White Pass

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## Membership Form

Time to renew your KSA membership. Do you know someone who should become a member?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Membership dues for the 2012/2013 season:

Single \$20  Family \$30

Corporate \$100  Gold Corporate \$300

Please make cheques payable to:

**Klondike Snowmobile Association,  
4061 - 4th Ave., Whitehorse, YT Y1A 4H1**

## Membership Benefits

- KSA membership card
- KSA newsletters (four per year)
- KSA licence plate and decals
- Input into the development of KSA policy
- Assistance with problems, projects and trail development initiatives in your area
- A strong, unified voice with government and other agencies
- A guarantee that volunteers are working on your behalf to enhance and promote trails in the Yukon Territory
- Five free issues of *SnoRiders* magazine
- 5% discount on Airport Chalet rooms
- 6% off gas at Tags 4th Ave. Whitehorse (not valid during gas wars)
- 10% off at Mark's Work Wearhouse on regularly priced merchandise; separate card required, which is issued with membership
- 10% off at Mt. Lorne Bed and Breakfast - [www.klondike.rv.com](http://www.klondike.rv.com)
- 10% off at Klondike RV Rentals - [www.klondikerv.com](http://www.klondikerv.com)
- 20% discount at McDonald's restaurants - Whitehorse (not valid with other offers)
- 20% off at Sandor's (Chilkoot Mall) on regularly priced goggles, gloves, toques, snowpants, jackets and snowboards
- NEW special rates at Choice Hotels - see [www.choicehotels.ca/ccso](http://www.choicehotels.ca/ccso) for details; only available for online bookings
- NEW special prices on Haber Vision sunglasses and goggles - see [www.habervision.com](http://www.habervision.com) for details; member code is "CCSO"
- Corporate Members can link to our website
- Gold Corporate Members get two free single-issue 1/8-page ads per year in our newsletters.



If you have comments, photos or story ideas for the Klondike Report send them to:  
**Mark Daniels, Klondike Snowmobile Association**  
4061 - 4th Ave., Whitehorse, YT Y1A 4H1  
Phone 867-667-7680 • Email: [klonsnow@ykn.net](mailto:klonsnow@ykn.net)

### KSA corporate members

Alesk Valley Contracting - Whitehorse  
 Atlin Inn - Atlin, BC  
 Bombardier Recreational Products - Sherbrooke, QC  
 Braeburn Lodge - Braeburn  
 Brewery Bay Chalet - Atlin, BC  
 Capital Helicopters - Whitehorse  
 Centennial Motors - Whitehorse  
 Checkered Flag Recreation - Whitehorse  
 Choko Design - St. Leonard, Quebec  
 City of Whitehorse  
 Clear Communications - Whitehorse  
 Fireweed Helicopters - Whitehorse  
 Heritage North Funeral Home - Whitehorse  
 Kanoë People - Whitehorse  
 Keno Community Club - Keno  
 Klondike Visitors Association - Dawson City  
 Lister's Motor Sports - Whitehorse  
 Locksmith Services - Whitehorse  
 Nomad Air - Whitehorse  
 Philmar RV Services - Whitehorse  
 Quality Bearing - Whitehorse  
 SnoRiders Magazine - Cranbrook, BC  
 Tourist Industry Association - Whitehorse  
 U-Brew Yukon - Whitehorse  
 Village of Mayo  
 Wilderness Tourism Association - Whitehorse  
 Yukon Alpine Association  
 Yukon Avalanche Association  
 Yukon Honda - Whitehorse  
 Yukon Meat and Sausage - Whitehorse  
 Yukon Motorcycle Centre - Whitehorse  
 Yukon Trappers Association - Whitehorse  
 Yukon Quest  
 Yukon Wide Adventures - Whitehorse  
**Corporate Gold:**  
 Canada Flooring - Whitehorse  
 Main Street Driving School - Whitehorse  
 McDonald's - Whitehorse  
 Polaris Industries - Winnipeg, Manitoba  
 Safe Trails North Training Services - Whitehorse  
 Yukon Yamaha - Whitehorse

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and Wheaton Valley in partnership with the Canadian Avalanche Centre. They're also working to develop terrain maps for Yukon for next season. They continue to increase local avalanche capacity and partner with others to make avalanche safety a priority for all backcountry users. Check out their website (<http://www.yukonavalanche.ca>) for information about training and events or get in touch with them. The KSA supports this organization and the work they do to keep backcountry users safe. ■

### 'Yes, we do' is the YMC motto

by MARK DANIELS

Yukon Motorcycle Centre (YMC), a recent addition to our growing list of corporate members, is Whitehorse's one-stop small engine shop. They can fix and service almost anything with a small engine. Snowmobiles, quads, generators, chainsaws and, of course, motorcycles are just some of the equipment covered by their "Yes, we do!" approach.

Owners Dean Philpott and Greg Irvine had originally moved the offices of Tri Omni Property Management into the building formerly known as Yukon Harley-Davidson. Soon, people were knocking on the door to buy shirts and get a bike repaired. It quickly became apparent that there was a need for a small engine shop and Yukon Motorcycle Centre was born. Greg and Dean have been Whitehorse residents and involved with our local community for decades.

Matt McClain, general manager of YMC

and Tri Omni, has been in the business for over 20 years and is dedicated to great customer service. YMC is committed to small engine repair and maintenance for the entire Yukon area. They can do everything from change and balance tires on virtually any motorcycle to fixing a sled that was just dragged home off the summit. They even fix skid-steer loaders.

YMC will pick up and drop off your tools and toys. They also offer a towing service for all snowmobiles, motorcycles and ATVs. Just give them a call at 867-633-1903 to make arrangements.

Dean and Matt have created a new advertising campaign called "Yes, we do!" It can be heard on The Rush radio station and seen weekly in the *Whitehorse Star* newspaper. The question is, "Do you fix and maintain motorcycles, sleds, quads, etc...?" And the reply is, "Yes, we do!"

YMC has a great team of mechanics and staff from around the world, including a German, an American, and Canadians from coast to coast. Combined, they represent more than 100 years of experience in retail sales and equipment repair.

Located at 21 Waterfront Place, they're open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from noon to 5 p.m. They're on the web at <http://yukonmotorcycle.com> and they also have a Facebook page.

Matt and company welcome you to stop by the shop for a visit. Let them know what you need and they would love the opportunity to help you out. Or just drop by for a coffee and check out their great shirt assortment. Remember, their business motto is "Yes, we do!" Come in and say this and they'll give you 10 per cent off your shop labour bill. ■

