

# Klondike SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# The year in review

The KSA has a split personality and wears many toques

The recent annual general meeting of the KSA gave us reason to look back at the accomplishments of the past year.

Thanks to the excellent financial management skills of the KSA executive and the generous support of our numerous corporate supporters, the association

maintains a positive bank balance. Much of our operating expenses are related to the equipment that we use for trail work. This equipment is run and, for the most part, maintained by KSA volunteers with support from the local dealerships in the form of discounted parts and labour. Trail grooming, in particular, is tough work that requires a rigorous equipment maintenance schedule. We're planning to do the bulk of the work now with the new groomer. Running our old equipment fewer hours and only on secondary trails with less snowmobile traffic will extend its serviceable lifespan for several more years.

By now, you're probably getting the sense that I'm excited about this new grooming



**Mark Daniels**  
KSA President

unit. We got it back from Total-trac Yukon in mid-November completely set up for winter grooming operations and Harris says it works great. This acquisition is a major milestone for the KSA and marks the end of a very long list of major capital projects that the board of directors

had set out to accomplish. The KSA has accomplished so much in the past few years that we got a little introspective this spring and undertook a deeper-than-usual approach to corporate planning. In past years, our planning consisted of reviewing the requests we received from the membership and making a list of trail projects and other initiatives prioritized from one to five years out. Recently, we spent an extraordinary amount of effort doing our part to achieve goals set by other agencies, including a Trans Canada Trail (TCT) connection and regional planning within the City of Whitehorse.

This latest planning session went so deep as to examine our corporate mission state-▶



Harris Cox photo

The KSA's groomer is outfitted for winter work.

▶ ment to "protect, develop and enhance the sport and recreation of snowmobiling in the Yukon" to see if it was still relevant to our wide-ranging business. And the consensus is that the mission statement is accurate as long as it's interpreted liberally. Much of what we do does not have obvious direct links to snowmobiling. For example:

- We constantly advocate for reasonable access to and use of public lands—not necessarily because a particular snowmobile trail or riding area is threatened, but because erosion of our rights to use public land will eventually lead to all snowmobile trails and riding areas being threatened.
- We are advocates for and stewards of the multi-use trail system—not because we need other user groups to help us manage a snowmobile trail system but because we believe strongly that shared use makes for a more robust trail system

**Continued on page 2 ▶**



YG photo

## Caribou share their home with you. Be a respectful guest.

At the end of a great day of sledding in the backcountry, you get to return home. Caribou don't—the wilderness is their home. As a guest, you should be on your best behaviour. Stay on designated trails when travelling through caribou country.

Give caribou a wide berth—at least 500 metres. When you see caribou on the trail, stop and turn off your machine. Take the opportunity to view the caribou and wait until they move on.



# SNORIDERS

## SPECIAL KLONDIKE SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION REPORT

### ► THE YEAR IN REVIEW *Continued from page 1*

for all users, including snowmobilers, and bolsters community building. In fact, we believe that a multi-use trail management model is the only sustainable way to manage a large trail system with low usage density.

- We assist with non-snowmobile activities such as Sourdough Rendezvous, Yukon Quest and others upon request—not because we earn any compensation for this work but because organized snowmobiling across Canada supports grassroots community activities and those communities support snowmobiling.

We spurned a couple of opportunities for another major trail project this past summer to concentrate our efforts on getting the new groomer. However, James and Brad led numerous trail brushing work parties and all of us do ad hoc trail clearing when we run across or are advised of a problem.

Jeff took the lead on a Firesmart project that began this fall and will run into winter. The Firesmart program has two major benefits to the KSA: we can earn revenue by using volunteer project managers to administer brushing contracts on behalf of the government and Firesmaring thin standing timber and underbrush, allowing for better sight lines on winding snowmobile trails. We'll do a post-project review on this initial contract to see if Firesmart will become a regular line of business for the KSA.

All this hard work is attracting a following. KSA membership last year was at a record high of 911. We maintain some of the best member benefits of any snow-

mobile organization in the country, thanks to generous support from our many corporate members and sponsors. Check out the current list at <http://ksa.yk.ca/member-ship/membership-benefits>. Our goal is to break 1,000 members this year, so please promote the value of a KSA membership within your contacts. The benefits of membership are obvious to snowmobilers but may not be so apparent for non-snowmobilers. For example, most Yukon residents use and enjoy the Trans Canada Trail and we're the local agents. Support for the KSA means support for the TCT. Every membership dollar we get goes back into the trail system.

The number one request from members is that we hold more events, and we stepped up last year. We hosted group rides and an ice fishing day. We introduced multiple people to snowmobiling for the first time. Surveys of the public show that most people who have never snowmobiled would like to try it. This sport will only flourish if we keep bringing people into it. Try asking your non-riding friends if they're interested in sledding. You never know; one of them may become your best riding buddy. And if not, you may just give them an experience of a lifetime.

You heard me say it before—snowmobil-

ing is all about relationships: you and your significant other deciding to lay out hard-earned cash for a sled; you and that same person taking time away from other responsibilities to go riding; you and the dealership working out sleds, parts, accessories and service; you and your riding buddies deciding when and where to ride and who's turn it is to dig you out this time; the list goes on.

For the KSA to operate, we must maintain good working relationships with federal, territorial, municipal and First Nation governments; other service organizations like the Contagious Mountain Bike Club, Trans Canada Trail, Canadian Council of Snowmobile Organizations, Yukon

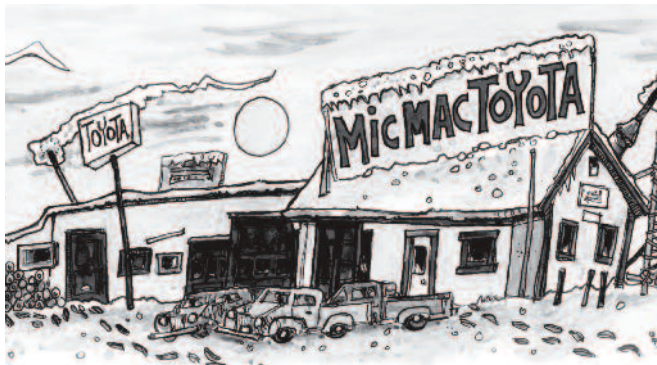
Sourdough Rendezvous Association, Yukon Avalanche Association, Whitehorse Cross Country Ski Club and others; and businesses such as the local snowmobile dealers and our corporate sponsors ([ksa.yk.ca/about-us/corporate-members](http://ksa.yk.ca/about-us/corporate-members)).

The KSA has a split personality. As the Yukon agent for the Trans Canada Trail, we're the umbrella organization for the territory-wide all-season multi-use Canadian icon. As the territorial snowmobile association, we're responsible for internal governance and external relations on all matters related to snowmobiling in the Yukon. In ►



Harris Cox photo

Bigger, stronger and warmer—the new groomer is ready to hit the trails.



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## YAMAHA



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Harris Cox photo

Beavers flood one of the trails.

► the absence of a Whitehorse snowmobile club, we're the group that does multi-use trail stewardship and snowmobile event management in this area.

There's never a dull moment, and we need to make conscious decisions about where to focus our limited resources. A handful of dedicated volunteers did an incredible amount of good work this past year (grooming, brushing, administrative tasks, membership services, meetings and consultations, project management and planning). I commend not only their efforts but also the results.

The KSA board for 2017/18 looks much the same as it did last year with one addition: president - Mark Daniels; vice-president - Jim Connor; secretary - James Connor; treasurer - Brad Milligan; directors - Harris Cox, Jeff Marynowski and Terry Horsman.

I'm looking forward to working on your behalf with this experienced group. ■

## An introduction to snowmobiling

by MARK DANIELS

Many of us have friends, family or co-workers who would love to try snowmobiling. They're just waiting for someone to ask them. I took eight people from my workplace out sledding in singles or pairs over the course of last winter and they all had a great time. I plan to make the offer again this winter as there's still a bunch of interest. These folks ranged in abilities and experience from complete motorsport newbies to talented dirt bikers but no experienced sledders.

Start with the proper equipment. Make sure your guests have warm clothing suitable to riding and a well-fitting, functional helmet. Nothing kills the fun like frozen body parts or a frosted shield. If you're providing the snowmobile, give them the most comfortable one in the fleet—even if it's your favourite. Riding an old piece of crap or your temperamental race sled is no way to attract someone new to the sport.

When taking people out, assume they know nothing about sledding. Take them to an open area such as a field or frozen pond where you can instruct and observe them prior to heading down the trail. This means going out during daylight hours that are severely limited in the Yukon winter. Demonstrate the essentials: throttle, braking, proper body positioning, safe speeds and ►

## 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 2017/2018 season:  
 Single \$20  Family \$30  Corporate \$105  
 Gold Corporate \$315 including GST

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 a team of volunteers are working year-round to enhance and promote multi-use trails throughout the Yukon Territory
- Four free issues of *SnoRiders* magazine
- 6% off gas at Tags 4th Ave. Whitehorse (not valid during gas wars)
- 10% off food at Trails North (excluding alcohol)
- 10% discount at McDonald's Restaurants Whitehorse (not valid with other offers)
- Access to Last Run Lounge at Mount Sima (please, no drinking and sledding)
- 10% off at Klondike RV Rentals - [www.klondikerv.com](http://www.klondikerv.com)
- 10% off at Mark's on regularly priced merchandise (separate card required, which is issued with membership)
- 20% off at Sandor's (Chilkoot Mall) on regularly priced goggles, gloves, toques, snowpants, jackets and snowboards
- Special prices on Haber Vision sunglasses and goggles - see [www.habervision.com](http://www.habervision.com) for details. Member code is "CCSO"
- 10% off at Mt. Lorne Bed and Breakfast - [www.klondikerv.com](http://www.klondikerv.com)
- Special rates at Choice Hotels - see [www.choicehotels.ca/ccso](http://www.choicehotels.ca/ccso) for details. Only available for online bookings.
- Special snowmobiler rates at the Atlin Inn
- Corporate Members get a link on our website
- Gold Corporate Members - 2 free ads in KSA newsletters
- 10% off snowmobile rentals at Yukon Wide Adventures



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  
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# SNORIDERS

## SPECIAL KLONDIKE SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION REPORT

### KSA corporate members

A special thank you goes out to all the businesses that help support the Klondike Snowmobile Association via corporate memberships! For more info on becoming a corporate member, please see the Become a Member page on our website: [ksa.yk.ca](http://ksa.yk.ca).

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Klondike Visitors Association - Dawson City

Nomad Air - Whitehorse

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▶ following distances, and keeping to the right side of the trail.

Keep the first ride on smooth, well-established trails and under two hours in length. I like to head out for a bit then loop back to the truck. If everyone is willing, we can head out in the opposite direction for another short ride then back to the truck again. It's best if you have a second experienced rider with you so one of you can lead the newbies and the other can follow. Lead slowly and stop often. Bring snacks and warm drinks. Talk about where you're going and where you've been, and show them some of the scenic attractions in the area. Be ready to answer silly questions and to end things early if anyone is cold or uncomfortable.

The key to an enjoyable ride is to make everything be about your guest(s). When I take people out, I tell them that I can ride whenever I want, but this ride is all about them. ■

### Bringing back the events

by JAMES CONNOR

In recent years I think we've all noticed there seems to be fewer and fewer organized snowmobile outings around the Yukon. When we first came to the Yukon in 1999, it seemed the KSA was always hosting get-togethers; however, in more recent years when I edit our Coming Events page on the KSA website I'll ask around about events to post and often, to borrow a phrase from a co-worker, "all I hear is crickets."

I know I'm not the only one who feels this way because each year our mail-in membership form includes the question, "What would you like to see the KSA do this year?" And, for the 2016-2017 membership season,



Harris Cox photo

Rodent clear-cutters have been busy.

more events and family outings easily topped the list of responses. Armed with these feelings and backed by this information, I chose to do something about it and set to work organizing a pair of group rides as well as helping to organize the family ice fishing day.

In early February we had several KSA members gather on Fish Lake for a Family Ice Fishing Day, and then the following weekend we had our Take a Friend Snowmobiling group ride, which saw 11 sleds partake in a round-trip ride from the Copper Haul Road/Fish Lake Road staging area to the Annie Lake Road and back. In March, we hosted another group ride on the historic Dawson Overland Trail to Braeburn and back.

All three rides were a revival of what used to be regular annual events for the KSA, and all three were successful rides with several riders saying we should do it again. With that in mind, I look forward to organizing them again in the 2017-2018 riding season, as well as adding few new rides.

I would like to thank all of the riders who came out for our group rides last season, and I encourage all of our members to check out our events page at [www.ksa.yk.ca/coming-events](http://www.ksa.yk.ca/coming-events) for more group rides coming up this season! ■

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