

Klondike SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION

Events survey results

Data will help us plan this season's events

by JAMES CONNOR

First of all, a big “thank you” goes out to everyone who took the time to complete our events survey. Your feedback is always important to us as it gives us a much better idea of what we need to keep doing and what we need to change to continue our success at serving Yukon snowmobilers.

During the 2017/2018 snowmobiling season, the Klondike Snowmobile Association (KSA) hosted a variety of group snowmobile events. While they were successful overall, we couldn't help but notice that despite being a record year for membership numbers, attendance numbers at our events had declined versus previous years. To help us understand why and to help us come up with more popular event ideas for future seasons, the KSA board decided to put out an events survey to our membership.

Our events survey was a free online survey consisting of 10 multiple choice questions that we ran for approximately six months. We invited all KSA members to complete it. We received 30 responses; we listened to each and every one of them and we'll be using that information to better plan our events for the 2018/2019 season.

Here are some highlights:

- Of the 30 respondents, approximately 15 per cent were not interested in events, 21 per cent wanted to see lots of events, and 64 per cent thought that a few simple, inexpensive events are sufficient.

- About 10 per cent wanted rides within city limits, 28 per cent wanted rides starting in city limits but taking a quick route out and away, and just over 50 per cent would rather rides be entirely outside of city limits.

- Approximately 7 per cent of riders would rather snowmobile from home, another 7 per cent would rather haul their snowmobile to the event, and over 80 per cent indicated they could do either; it depends on the event.

- The most popular food and beverage option was to have coffee and hot dogs around a fire during the event, followed closely by a ride with no food and then meeting somewhere afterwards for food and beverage.

- The most popular ride types were short-distance local rides, followed by long-distance rides, followed by poker runs, followed by themed or educational rides.

- Saturdays and Sundays were by far the most popular days for snowmobile events. However, close to 30 per cent of respondents

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Multi-use bridge

Photo courtesy City of Whitehorse

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Let it snow!

by MARK DANIELS

Ah . . . another year. They seem to pass faster as I get older; or maybe my memory is starting to fog. The snow is just beginning to creep down the peaks and my mind is already turning to my next epic snowmobile ride. I kind of remember where I rode last year and I have faint recollections of some awesome moments with friends and family. Maybe I'm getting older . . . and maybe it's just my mind playing tricks on me: baiting me to find new places to ride, new people to ride with and fresh memories for the archives.

The coming season is full of potential for adventure. *The Old Farmer's Almanac* and other sources are predicting a cold and snowy winter. Whatever the season brings, I'm ready. Are you? ■



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.



► EVENTS SURVEY RESULTS

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were also interested in attending snowmobile events on Fridays.

- Mornings were by far the most popular time of day for snowmobile events to begin.

- Email, then website, then Facebook were the most popular methods of learning about our snowmobile events.

- Email, then Facebook, then website were the most preferred methods of contacting riders about last-minute changes to events.

- 40 per cent of respondents said they would like to attend snowmobile events but don't have time to volunteer at an event, and about 25 per cent of respondents indicated they would love to organize and/or help out with a KSA event.

Our KSA events are listed on our website at ksa.yk.ca/coming-events. We've already begun planning a few snowmobile events for the 2018/2019 season. Check them out! If you have an idea for a snowmobile-related event and would like to list it on our events page (it's free!), please do let us know. ■

City creates trail policies

by DEXTER KOTYLAK

It's been a busy summer for trails in the City of Whitehorse. There have been two major policy and planning initiatives, as well as several changes to trail designations.

Over the last winter, the City of Whitehorse consulted with trail stewards, user

groups and the public to create a Trail Development Policy that was adopted by city council this June. It can be found at www.whitehorse.ca/home/showdocument?id=10076. The need for this policy was identified in administration's work with the Whitehorse Trails and Greenways Committee. This operational policy will streamline the trail development application process for both applicants and city staff. It will allow the City of Whitehorse to enter into partnership agreements with stakeholders to develop and maintain new and existing trails and may permit individuals to do trail enhancement projects on city trails. The policy contains terms that enable the City to achieve its objectives regarding public safety, user conflict avoidance and environmental stewardship in the following ways:

Public safety

New trail construction will be required to follow best-practice standards and guidelines. Stakeholders will be responsible for trail maintenance and trail monitoring activities on new trails.

- All new trails will be adopted into the Trail Maintenance Policy 2016-04.

- In order to conduct trail development, stakeholders will be required to provide general liability insurance naming the City as an additional insured party.

- User conflict avoidance will be considered in all trail applications.

- Trail development applications can trigger a stakeholder review and/or a public consultation process depending on the scope of work.

- All new trails will be designated by Council resolution.

- Environmental Stewardship is paramount in considering the viability of new



Single-track trail

trails.

- Processing trail development applications will include an environmental review process commensurate with the nature and scope of the proposed works.

- The City and stakeholders will work collaboratively to monitor environmental impacts from trail development and use, and mitigate problems as they arise.

After a brief hiatus, the City reconvened the Whitehorse South Neighbourhood Trails Task Force to finalize the Whitehorse South Trail Plan. A Whitehorse Neighbourhood Trails Task Force is a group convened by the City of Whitehorse and is comprised of a Parks & Community Development Department representative, community associations, stakeholders and users of the Whitehorse trail system. A task force is convened on a short-term, as-needed basis to make recommendations on the achievement of the 2007 Trail Plan's guiding principles at the neighbourhood level, with particular focus on trail locations, designations, types of use and trail etiquette. The 2007 Trail Plan vision statement reads: "The citizens of Whitehorse will enjoy year-round access to a network of interconnected non-motorized and motorized trails, greenway corridors and cycling routes that will

Photo courtesy City of Whitehorse



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SPECIAL KLONDIKE SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION REPORT

► support the City's commitment to creating a livable, safe, attractive, healthy and sustainable Winter City community." Once the Whitehorse South Trail Plan is finalized by the City's task force, the proposed plan will be open for public comment before a final draft plan is taken to Council for approval. Stay tuned for opportunities to participate in the Whitehorse South Trail Planning process.

There have been several recent changes to trail designations affecting snowmobile and ATV users. Upon recommendations from city administration, city council designated the Inner Casca Loop in Whistle Bend as Motorized Multi-Use (MMU) in order to provide all Whistle Bend residents with safe access to nearby motorized trails. This action was initially suggested by the Whistle Bend Community Association as an alternative out-and-away to the Whistle Bend Paved Perimeter Trail. As a follow-up, Parks and Community Development conducted a resident trail designation survey. Polarized survey results led to the inner Casca Loop MMU designation and non-motorized summer and winter designation of the Whistle Bend Paved Perimeter trail. Look for MMU signage on the inner Casca Loop this fall!

Additionally, Parks and Community Development conducted a survey in Wolf Creek asking residents to select from a number of MMU trail options to enhance connectivity to the MMU trail network. As a result, an MMU exit was designated off of the north portion of Dawson Road. An MMU

route around the White Pass Yukon Route bridge was also designated.

Furthermore, please be advised that on the Pine Street extension trail, snowmobiles are permitted to use the paved path. However, in the summer, ATVs and dirt bikes are encouraged to use the road to the snow dump.

When using city trails, please remember that:

- No person shall drive an automobile on a city trail unless it was developed, designated and approved for such a purpose;
- No person shall make ruts or displace vegetation from its place of growth;
- ATV operations on city trails and open spaces are restricted from November 1 to March 31 of every year;
- Snowmobile operators, please check out our rider requirements and stay safe this season!

Gear Down in Town—some operating rules to remember:

- On the roadway, the maximum speed for snowmobiles and ATVs is 30 kilometres per hour;
- When operators are travelling on the roadway, it must only be for the purpose of travelling to a permitted area and must be the most direct route;
- Outside the roadway, the maximum speed for snowmobiles and ATVs is 50 kilometres per hour unless posted otherwise;
- When approaching or passing a pedestrian, skier or dog, snowmobile operators must reduce their speed to 15 kilometres per hour. Have fun and stay safe!

Membership Form

Time to renew your KSA membership.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Membership dues for the 2018/2019 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 printed newsletters per year, plus a monthly highlights email)
- KSA licence plate and decals (available upon request)
- Input into the development of KSA policy
- Assistance with trail projects, problems and development initiatives in your area
- A strong, unified voice for snowmobilers 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 with other offers)
- 10% off food at Trails North (excluding alcohol)
- 10% discount at McDonald's Restaurants, Whitehorse (minimum \$10 purchase, not valid with other offers)
- Free access to the Last Run Lounge at Mt. Sima (please no drinking and sledding)
- 10% off snowmobile rentals at Yukon Wide Adventures
- 10% off at Mark's Work Wearhouse on a selection of regularly priced merchandise (separate card is required, issued with membership)
- Special rates at Choice Hotels (special rates from the Canadian Council of Snowmobile Organizations, please see www.choicehotels.ca/ccso for details, special rates are only available for online bookings)
- Special snowmobiler rates at the Atlin Inn
- Members can post free classified ads on our snowmobile buy and sell page
- Corporate Members get a link on our website
- Corporate Members can post free dealer/manufacture ads on our snowmobile buy and sell page
- Gold Corporate Members get a website link and 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@yknnet.ca



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KSA corporate members

A special thank you goes out to all the businesses that help support the Klondike Snowmobile Association! For more information about becoming a corporate member, please see our membership page.

- 46271 Yukon Inc.
- Alpine Aviation - Whitehorse
- Alpine Club Canada - Yukon
- Alsek Valley Contracting - Whitehorse
- Braeburn Lodge - Braeburn
- Brewery Bay Chalet - Atlin, BC
- Capital Helicopters - Whitehorse
- Checkeder Flag Recreation - Whitehorse
- City of Whitehorse
- Fireweed Helicopters - Whitehorse
- Klondike Visitors Association - Dawson City
- Nomad Air - Whitehorse
- Quality Bearing Supply - Whitehorse
- SnoRiders magazine - Cranbrook, BC
- Territorial Contracting - Whitehorse
- Tourist Industry Association - Whitehorse
- U-Brew Yukon - Whitehorse
- Village of Mayo
- Wilderness Tourism Association of the Yukon
- Yukon Alpine Heliski
- Yukon Avalanche Association
- Yukon Honda
- Yukon Quest
- Yukon Trappers Association - Whitehorse
- Yukon Wide Adventures - Whitehorse

Corporate Gold members:

- Main Street Driving School - Whitehorse
- McDonald's Restaurants - Whitehorse
- Mic Mac Toyota - Whitehorse
- Safe Trails North Training Services - Whitehorse
- Triggs Family - Whitehorse
- Yukon Yamaha - Whitehorse

New membership form, same benefits

by JAMES CONNOR

After setting yet another record for membership numbers in the 2017/2018 season, the Klondike Snowmobile Association is pleased to start off the 2018/2019 membership drive by making it faster and easier than ever for new members to join up and for our existing members to renew.

In the membership section on our website (www.ksa.yk.ca), you'll find a brand new online membership form. To sign up as a new member or to renew an existing membership, simply fill out the form, click the submit button and then e-transfer your membership fee to us at klonsnow@gmail.com. No longer do you need to print and mail or visit us; instead you can now do it all without leaving the comfort of your couch.

For anyone who either doesn't know or doesn't like all these newfangled technologies, you can of course continue to use regular mail or drop off a form in person. The new online form has a print button you can use, and we're still putting out our trusty old paper forms.

Increased membership numbers benefit us in a variety of ways, both directly through membership fees and indirectly by making our voice stronger when speaking and working on behalf of the snowmobile community.

In return for your support, we are continuing to offer a wide variety of benefits to all KSA members; and we're working to expand the benefits list even more. Your 2018/2019 KSA membership card will get you discounts on gas, food, rentals, clothing, hotels and more! You'll also receive four free issues of



Photo courtesy City of Whitehorse

Multi-use bridge

SnoRiders magazine plus our quarterly KSA newsletters and monthly update e-mails. Membership details and a full list of benefits are on our website. For businesses interested in supporting snowmobilers, we have two corporate membership options. Please see our website for details.

Our membership benefits are generously provided to us by local businesses that support snowmobiling and multi-use trail-based recreation. Our membership benefits apply year-round to all KSA members, regardless of whether or not you are actually snowmobiling.

All membership fees go directly to supporting Yukon snowmobiling and the multi-use trail system. Every trail we build and maintain is multi-use, and most are either a part of or directly connected to the Trans Canada Trail. Many user groups, both motorized and non-motorized, benefit from our work.

We are now accepting membership renewals for the 2018/2019 season. New members are always welcome too, so please tell your friends!

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