

Klondike SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION

Strong start to the season

Goal to break 1,000 members is a done deal

by MARK DANIELS

The KSA held our annual general meeting on November 5 this year. Like usual, the meeting wasn't widely attended but those who did attend were enthusiastic about helping the association and we recruited two new directors. It was my pleasure once again to present the annual summary of our activities to the membership at the AGM.

While we didn't take on any major builds in the past year, we did work on a number of trail maintenance projects. Much of our equipment is aging but, because we procured the Kubota grooming package this past year, we put far fewer hours on the older equipment so it should last several more years. The Kubota has proven itself more than capable. It's safer, warmer and more effective than grooming with snowmobiles.

In addition to trail work, we engaged in consultation on the City of Whitehorse Trail Development Policy, trail designation within the City and the Government of Yukon Off-Highway Vehicle regulations, and we renewed the Trans Canada Trail highway right-of-way agreement with the Government of Yukon. We also took our first foray into political circles during the municipal

election in Whitehorse. We stopped short of endorsing any particular candidate but we did issue all of them a survey regarding their views on snowmobiling and multi-use trail management and published the results for your consideration. Please let us know if you'd like to see us continue this type of activity or expand it to territorial and/or federal elections.

I told you last year that our goal was to break 1,000 members this year and we did. We gained over 120 members and ended the year at 1,037. I know that this increase is due mainly to current members promoting the KSA on our behalf. Thank you for being such great ambassadors. Our generous corporate members and sponsors continue to provide our membership with discounts on everything from meals and hotel rooms to fuel and riding gear. Check out the current list at ksa.yk.ca/membership/membership-benefits. We tried to make membership renewal easier this year by offering an improved online application form and e-payments (ksa.yk.ca/membership/membership-form). Please let us know how that's working for you.

Building on requests from the members, we increased the number of group rides and



Nita Daniels photo

A view of the Whitehorse valley from Haeckel Hill

activities over previous years. We also sent out a survey asking the membership about their preferences for group activities and heard that we should keep doing what we've been doing and do more of it. That's encouraging news for our directors who organize these events. Check out our website at ksa.yk.ca/coming-events to see what's planned for this season and please let us know if there's an event you'd like to work on with us.

All told, our volunteers accomplished an incredible amount of good work this past year: grooming, brushing, general office work, membership services, meetings, consultations and project manage-

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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.



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► STRONG START

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ment. We did all this on a shoestring budget so we managed to keep the KSA membership the best deal out there.

The AGM wrapped with elections, the results being:

President - Mark Daniels

Vice-president - Jim Connor

Secretary - James Connor

Treasurer - Brad Milligan

Directors: Harris Cox, Jeff Marynowski, Dale Brown and Jean-Pascal Ladroue

This represents a strong core of veteran directors with some additions to bring new ideas and energy to the board.

I'm looking forward to another great year of providing service to the membership with this group of dedicated volunteers. ■

All trail users can do their part

by MARK DANIELS

People often ask me, "Mark, what can I do to help the KSA?" I tell them, "Other than paying your dues and helping us recruit more members, everyone can help out with trail maintenance."

"But," I hear, "what if I can't make it out to one of the KSA work parties?" Well, whether you ride, jog, ski, bike or walk the trail you can always contribute to trail maintenance. Our 1,000-plus members collectively do more ad hoc trail maintenance in a given year than we could ever accomplish with organized work parties.

Every trail user can do their part if they just stop every now and then to break off a hanging branch, push back a leaning ►

tree, throw a rock off the trail or pick up a bit of trash.

Motorized users can do even more. In the summer, ride your ATV, UTV, dirt bike or Argo to reduce or avoid rutting the trail. Avoid times when, or places where, your machine will damage the trail surface. The organized trail system is not your personal mud bog so think twice before heading out during spring thaw or after heavy rains. When possible and safe given the circumstances, ride on top of or straddle existing ruts rather than running your wheels through the trenches. Riding the ridges allows your tires to push dirt into the ruts instead of making them deeper. Ride to the right as much as possible—not just because it's safer, but to avoid deepening ruts in the middle of the trail. Riding to the right also packs the dirt on the edges of the trail to slow the progress of second-growth vegetation (willows). Otherwise, the willows will eventually narrow the trail, forcing riders into the same rutted trough.

A wide, packed summer trail without ruts is far easier to groom in winter than one that's deeply rutted or choked with brush. From a winter maintenance perspective, ride your sled as far as possible to the right to avoid creating a single bumpy track down the middle of the trail, especially when you're the first one breaking trail after a snowfall. Riders tend to follow where the trail is broken and, once a trail is deeply dished, we have a hard time making it level again.

Despite what you may have heard, mountain sleds are not the cause of bumpy trails. The long, deep lug tracks agitate the snow and bridge the bumps so they tend to fill in, rather than deepen, trail irregularities. It's actually the short, low-profile tracks that fall



Nita Daniels photo

Enjoying a spring ride in Whitehorse

into every dip and pack the moguls into concrete waves. Either style of sled can cause trail damage if the operator is braking or accelerating too abruptly. Please exercise moderation, particularly when the trail is soft during warm weather, immediately after grooming or when covered in fresh snow.

Doing your part also means contacting the KSA when you see a problem with the trail that you can't easily fix yourself. We have the people, equipment and experience to manage the multi-use trail system. Whether it's a bumpy trail, fallen tree or missing sign, we're here to help. Call (867) 667-7680 or find us on the web at ksa.yk.ca.

The Merriam-Webster online dictionary defines stewardship as: the conducting, supervising or managing of something; especially the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care. We've all been entrusted with the care of the multi-use trail system. Let's all try to be careful and responsible in our management of it. ■



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Nilta Daniels photo



A panoramic view of Fish Lake attracts Yukon snowmobilers.

Gem of an adventure from a northern leader

by MARK DANIELS

Ruby Range Adventure just signed on as a new KSA Gold Corporate Member for this year. With over 30 years experience providing outstanding all-season wilderness experiences, Ruby Range Adventure is a northern leader. Based in Whitehorse and Anchorage, they offer a wide variety of canoeing, trekking, fishing, camping and sightseeing tours across Yukon, Alaska, British Columbia and the Canadian Rockies. Their expert guides and helpful staff are fluent in English, French and German.

This year, Ruby Range is launching its new line of winter products. From guided snowmobile day trips to week-long adventures in the backcountry, the company has built tours to satisfy anyone wishing to experi-

ence and enjoy winter in the Yukon. You can learn more about the new products with the following links.

Multi-day tours:

- www.rubyrange.com/product-category/comfort-tours/winter-tours/

Day tours:

- www.rubyrange.com/snowmobile-day-trips/

Other services range from comfortable small group vehicle and hotel-based excursions and individual charter tours to full-on backcountry adventures on whitewater rivers or challenging hikes in famous spots like Tombstone Park or the Chilkoot Trail. They have a detailed itinerary for each trip and assign each trip a difficulty rating, so you know what you're getting into long before you get there. Guided trips range from one to 22 days.

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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: klnsnow@yknnet.ca

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

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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
- Canada Flooring
- Capital Helicopters - Whitehorse
- Checkered 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
- Tourist Industry Association - Whitehorse
- Up North Adventures
- Wilderness Tourism Association of the Yukon
- Yukon Avalanche Association
- Yukon Honda - Whitehorse
- Yukon Quest
- Yukon Trappers Association - Whitehorse
- Yukon Wide Adventures - Whitehorse

Corporate Gold members:

- Main Street Driving School - Whitehorse
- McDonald's Restaurants - Whitehorse
- Recreational Powersports and Marine Repairs - Whitehorse
- Ruby Range Adventure - Whitehorse, YT & Anchorage, AK
- Safe Trails North Training Services - Whitehorse
- Triggs Family - Whitehorse
- Whitehorse Toyota - Whitehorse
- Yukon Yamaha - Whitehorse



Nita Daniels photos

(L) Snowmobilers pause for a Golden Horn lunch stop; (R) sledders yield for groomers like this one.

► GEM OF AN ADVENTURE *Continued from page 3*

You can make contact locally at (867) 322-8600 or toll free at 1-888-667-2209. Their email address is info@rubyrange.com; website is www.rubyrange.com. They're also on Facebook at www.facebook.com/RubyRangeAdventure and you can follow them on Instagram ([RubyRangeAdventure Yukon](https://www.instagram.com/RubyRangeAdventure)).

Need some more RPM? Visit RPM

by MARK DANIELS

Recreational Powersports and Marine (RPM) Repairs is another new Gold Corporate Member with the KSA. Patrick and Christine run their small engine shop in the Whitehorse area just 10 minutes west of Porter Creek. Patrick is a qualified journeyman marine and small engine mechanic with 15 years experience.

In its five years in operation, RPM Repairs has developed a reputation for prompt and

personalized customer service and for having some of the most reasonable shop rates in town. They can repair or service the full range of your motorized goodies: from the boring, but necessary, things like generators, chainsaws, water pumps and mowers to more life-affirming gear like boats (inboard, outboard, prop and jet), motorcycles, snowmobiles and ATVs/UTVs.

They'll work on just about every make and model. They recently got the licensed diagnostic software tool for Ski-Doo, Can-Am, Sea-Doo, Spyder and Evinrude, so give them a call if you're having an issue with any of your modern BRP products.

Not just an OEM repair garage, RPM Repairs is also an authorized Amsoil dealer and a burgeoning custom fab shop. Have you seen Patrick's Banshee/Timbersled hybrid project? Check it out at www.youtube.com/watch?v=FWo7xLOE1m4&feature=share.

RPM Repairs can be found at Mile 930 Old Alaska Highway. Give them a call at (867) 335-4181 or find them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/RPMYukon.

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