

SNORIDERS

SPECIAL KLONDIKE SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION REPORT

Klondike SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

New bylaw is a done deal

DISCUSSIONS ON MULTI-USE TRAILS ARE ONGOING

Well, it's done. The new City of Whitehorse snowmobile bylaw was passed on February 27. You can find it on the city's website at <http://www.whitehorse.ca/index.aspx?page=297>. We'll also post it on the KSA website. The bylaw is a piece of compromise legislation that seeks to find a balance between the true multi-use crowd and the exclusionists (those who want to exclude others or have exclusive use). Notice I didn't mention snowmobilers? Many have spoken up in support of snowmobiling and they don't all own snowmobiles. Rather, they acknowledge that this is Yukon and that our conflicts are manageable. Exclusionists make reference to problems elsewhere and either forget that they live in Yukon or intentionally attempt to import solutions that address someone else's problems. Whitehorse, with a population density of 55 people per square kilometre (km²), doesn't need a Calgary solution (1,300 people/km²) or a Vancouver solution (5,200 people/km²). Many of the unpopular provisions in the new bylaw,



Mark Daniels
KSA President

such as age restrictions, are reflections of the territorial Motor Vehicle Act. My next task is to address those provisions with the Yukon Government. Other contentious measures are the outrageously expensive fines and the requirement for an operators permit. While we man-

aged to negotiate other concessions, our protest on these items fell on deaf ears. Trail infrastructure is an integral part of any discussion about snowmobiling in Whitehorse and was part of the last round of public input at City Hall. The general mood at the hearing was strong support for the principles of multi-use trails. When someone at the microphone praised the values of the multi-use trail system or said, "Why can't we just share?," the gallery cheered and clapped. When one of the exclusionists spoke at the microphone, all was silent. One such person asked, "Since snowmobiles can go anywhere, why do they need to go on OUR trails?" This question reflects a funda-

Continued on page 2 ►



Zane with a rainbow trout at the annual KSA ice-fishing day. Nothing tastes better than fresh-caught fish!

Nita Daniels photo

KSA hosts family ice-fishing day

by MARK DANIELS

February 5 marked the annual KSA ice-fishing day at Hidden Lake behind Riverdale. The weather was clear and a balmy -10° C but felt colder on the lake. We made sure to schedule the event with plenty of time to get home prior to the Superbowl pre-game festivities, hoping people would get in a bit of family time before the big game.

I was a bit late to the event after coaching hockey in the morning so I expected to see a group of sleds out on the lake when I arrived. When we rode in from the dam, I was surprised to see that nobody else brought a snowmobile. They all parked on Chadburn Lake Road and

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.

Before you head out into the backcountry, pick up your free **MULTI-USE TRAIL GUIDE**. It will help you see wildlife while minimizing disturbance. Available from the Klondike Snowmobile Association, Environment Yukon, and snowmobile service businesses.

Yukon
Environment



SNORIDERS

SPECIAL KLONDIKE SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION REPORT

► ICE FISHING *Continued from page 1*

walked in to the lake. I was a bit grumpy about this but soon got over it when I saw that Phil Perrin had the holes drilled and the bait ready to go. The kids got to test out some new rods that they got for Christmas presents. While it was sparsely attended with only about 10 jiggers, we all had fun and we caught some fish. We ate our catch for dinner that night. You can't get a better-tasting fish than one that just came out of ice-cold water.

The big laugh of the day came at the end of the event when I pulled Phil's skimmer up the steep hill off the lake with my sled to give him a head start on the walk back to his truck. When I left the lake, all of his stuff was in the skimmer and secured with bungee cords. When I crested the hill, all I had left was the skimmer and one bungee cord. Phil's gear was spread fairly evenly over the length of the hill. We had a good laugh as we gathered it up and sent Phil on his way. A hearty thanks goes out to Phil for organizing this annual event and for being good-natured about the skimmer incident. ■

► NEW BYLAW *Continued from page 1*

mental misunderstanding of how the system works. People can't simply annex existing trails from general usage because they choose to. There is a sad history of efforts, both successful and unsuccessful, to annex the public trail system from multi-use access in this city. Whitehorse cannot and should not have a separate trail system for every mode of outdoor recreation because there are not enough resources to make this happen. Believe me when I tell you that trail work is not ►

► cheap. The KSA has managed millions of dollars worth of maintenance and upgrades on the multi-use trail system over the past several years to the benefit of all users. There are not millions more available for each exclusive group to have their own network.

To maintain the multi-use trail system and reduce the level of conflict, I've been meeting with the City and other groups to identify preferred routes for snowmobile traffic. We plan to improve the mapping and signage on these preferred routes and educate users about the benefits of keeping the majority of travel on these trails. If most snowmobilers travelling from A to B use the main trails, non-motorized users who want to avoid snowmobiles can use other trails. By voluntarily using designated routes most of the time we can reduce user conflicts without restricting where snowmobiles are permitted to travel. At no time will I agree to restrict snowmobile use beyond what is currently mandated by law. But, if the conflicts continue or increase, the City may take action to further separate user groups and everyone will feel the effects from loss of access and deterioration of infrastructure. ■

Poker run benefits Boys and Girls Club

by MARK DANIELS

We held the annual KSA Charity Poker Run on February 19. We couldn't have asked for better weather for trail set-up on Saturday or for the run on Sunday. On Saturday, the temperature hovered just below freezing as Harris, Zane and I set up the 56-kilometre route. Harris spent the better part of the previous four days trying to fix up the terrible mess some yahoo made of the haul road from the Mount Sima Road to the Mount



Mark Daniels photo

Start of the 2012 KSA annual charity poker run.

McIntyre Road with a truck. The truck rutted several kilometres of the trail and left pits where it got stuck a couple of times. It appears that it finally got terminally stuck and was towed out with a Snowcat. Harris groomed back and forth to pull snow into the ruts and pits that were deep enough to cause serious damage and injury if someone had run into them. If anyone has information about this damage, we'd love to hear from you. I'm not looking to get anybody into trouble; I just want them to understand how their actions affect the rest of us.

Sunday dawned bright and clear. Registration was set to begin at 11 a.m. but when I got to Keith's at 10:30, there were riders waiting for us to open the doors. The Boys and Girls Club arrived and fired up the barbecue in time to get the riders fed and coffee up prior to the launch at noon. Once the horde of about 50 riders left the venue, we got the prizes arranged, had some great barbecued smokies donated by the Deli, and kicked back in the sun. I was out in the parking lot for over an hour in a T-shirt. Pretty nice for mid-February.

Harris had everyone herded back to Keith's by 3:30 with the exception of one young couple who got waylaid on the trail. They showed up by 4 o'clock and we got ►

Proud Sponsor of the KSA



CF CANADA FLOORING ENTERPRISES LIMITED
9049 Quartz Road, Whitehorse, YT Y1A 4Z5
Ph: 867-667-7290 or 867-667-7291 • Fax: 867-667-4619

DON'T TAKE OUR WORD FOR IT LISTEN TO THE EXPERTS

BETTER ENGINE
BETTER CLIMBING
BETTER HANDLING
BETTER RIDE

2013 MODEL

800 PRO-RMK

TERRAIN DOMINATION
POLARIS

Rider pictured is a professional on a closed course. Polaris recommends that all snowmobile riders take a training course. Do not attempt maneuvers beyond your capability. Always wear a helmet and other safety apparel. Never drink and ride. ©2011 Polaris Industries Inc.

SNORIDERS

SPECIAL KLONDIKE SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION REPORT

Harris Cox photo



Jim Connor (left) and Mark Daniels (right) present Rowan Hall of the Boys and Girls Club in Whitehorse with a cheque for \$1,500 from the charity poker run.

► on with the prizes. We gave prize packages worth about \$500 each for the top four hands. Youngest and oldest riders got gift certificates. We then pulled the door prizes and everyone got something to take home.

In the end, we had another safe and successful run and we made \$1,500 to donate to the Boys and Girls Club. They pulled about \$250 more off food sales.

This run is our signature annual event. We couldn't do it without help from the dozens of local businesses that donate merchandise and money to the cause. Special thanks to Keith Taggart at Keith's Plumbing and Heating for letting us take over his shop for the weekend. Also, to Matt Power at Environmental Dynamics Inc. (EDI) for producing the route maps. Anyone who has navigated a previous run with my kindergarten-quality free-hand maps can appreciate the difference a professional quality map makes.

Thanks also to Joe Wall, Roch Fraser, Nita,

Natalie and Zane Daniels, Phil and Janice Perrin, Jim Connor, Harris Cox, and Rowan Hall and the crew from the Boys and Girls Club. Lastly, thanks to all the participants who made the event fun and safe, and who opened their wallets for charity. ■

Destination: Keno City by way of Elsa

by PHIL PERRIN

Most people enjoy a good adventure and snowmobilers are no exception to this. If you're really looking for a Yukon adventure in an out-of-the-way spot, then I would like to suggest a trip to the Keno City and Elsa area in central Yukon. Although most people think of this area as the silver capital of Canada, it's also a large tract of pristine beauty from the mountaintop vistas to the river valleys that run as far as you can see. The extensive mining exploration in the area has left hundreds of miles of abandoned roads that allow for great snowmobiling into some really awesome spots. I have also found that the higher altitude helps to moderate the temperature during the colder days, although many of my friends say that it's probably the altitude sickness that makes me think this way.

It takes about five hours to get to Keno from Whitehorse but it's well worth it with the great views and the chance to see wildlife along the way. You start by taking the Alaska Highway north of Whitehorse to

Continued on page 4 ►

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 2011/2012 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
- 10% off at Klondike RV Rentals - www.klondikerv.com
- 10% off snowmobile rentals at Klugane Ridin' - Haines Junction
- 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 for details; only available for online bookings
- NEW special prices on Haber Vision sunglasses and goggles - see 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@yknet.ca



SNOWMOBILE OPERATOR COURSES AND ATV & UTV RIDER COURSES

- 3 certified instructors
- Nationally recognized by the Canada Safety Council
- All courses WCB approved

MAIN STREET DRIVING SCHOOL

7213 - 7th Ave., Whitehorse, YT
 867-633-2355 • ravens@klondiker.com

KSA Members receive
20% OFF
 YOUR MEAL
 when you present your membership card



i'm lovin' it™



4227 4th Ave., Whitehorse • 867-668-3502

This offer is only valid at participating McDonald's Restaurants in Whitehorse and subject to change at any time.

SNORIDERS

SPECIAL KLONDIKE SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION REPORT

KSA corporate members

Alpine Aviation - Whitehorse
 Alsek Valley Contracting - Whitehorse
 Arctic Response - Whitehorse
 Atlin Inn - Atlin, BC
 Braeburn Lodge - Braeburn
 Brewery Bay Chalet - Atlin, BC
 Capital Helicopters - Whitehorse
 Centennial Motors - Whitehorse
 Challenger Construction - Whitehorse
 Checkered Flag Recreation - Whitehorse
 Choko Design - St. Leonard, Quebec
 City of Whitehorse
 Clear Communications - Whitehorse
 Fireweed Helicopters - Whitehorse
 Heritage North Funeral Home - Whitehorse
 Kanoe 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
 Quest Engineering Group - Whitehorse
 SnoRiders Magazine - Cranbrook, BC
 Tourist Industry Association - Whitehorse
 U-Brew Yukon - Whitehorse
 Up North Adventures - Whitehorse
 Village of Mayo
 Wilderness Tourism Association - Whitehorse
 Yamaha Motor Canada
 Yukon Avalanche Association
 Yukon Meat and Sausage - Whitehorse
 Yukon Trappers Association - Whitehorse
 Yukon Quest
 Yukon Wide Adventures - Whitehorse

Corporate Gold:
 AFD (Alberta Fuel Distributors) - Whitehorse
 Canada Flooring - Whitehorse
 Main Street Driving School - Whitehorse
 McDonald's - Whitehorse
 Polaris Industries - Winnipeg, Manitoba
 Safe Trails North Training Services - Whitehorse
 Yukon Honda - Whitehorse
 Yukon Yamaha - Whitehorse

► KENO CITY from page 3

the North Klondike Highway (Mayo Road) out of the city and head north toward Dawson City. At Stewart Crossing, you turn right down the Silver Trail towards Mayo, which is just under an hour away. At Mayo, you turn left and you are on your way to Elsa. The paved road soon turns to dirt and, just before reaching Elsa, the surrounding forest turns to spectacular mountain and valley views. In winter, you need to be conscious that the road is slippery, not that wide, and still has traffic. My wife can tell you a good yarn about one of her trips along this section. It's about 35 minutes to Elsa from Mayo and another 25 minutes to Keno. The trip between Elsa and Keno takes you along the side of the mountains with great views of the McQuesten River Valley. Driving into Keno City always reminds me of the village of Brigadoon, nestled in a little valley, sometimes with a rainbow and a touch of fog.

There are a few locals who maintain some trails in and around Keno so it never hurts to chat to them about what might be a good ride. As with any trip, you should ensure a trip plan is completed and someone knows where you are going and for how long. The mountainous terrain is prone to avalanches, so be sure and pack the necessary equipment including a shovel, probe and beacon. It's also a good idea to bring along your GPS. Day trips are a lot of fun but if you are going to take an overnight ride towards Bonnet Plume I highly recommend you take someone knowledgeable with the area. The overnight trips can be a lot of fun and you often get spectacular northern lights.

One fun short ride is the trip to the top of Signpost Hill, which takes about an hour round trip. There are also good runs up the surrounding hills including Sourdough,

which can take a few hours if you're into going down all the side trails. A trip over to Dublin Gulch down the south McQuesten Road can also be a fun run and will take you a few hours to go to the end and back. Wherever you go you'll get to see a number of old miner's shacks and other evidence of the area's mining history.

There are no fuel stations in Keno so you will either need to stop in Mayo at one of the two fuel stations there or pick up fuel for your sled before you leave Whitehorse. The latter might be the better option for fuel for your sled especially if you have a high-performance machine that requires premium fuel as it may or may not be available in Mayo. There is a grocery store in Mayo but recently it has only been open certain days and be advised that the selection of items is limited. There is also a nursing station with a physician in Mayo should you require medical assistance.

Once you're in Keno there are a couple of spots you can eat depending on the time of year. My personal favourite is the Snack Bar owned by Mike Mancini, but I hear the food is also good at the new spot across from the hotel. For staying overnight in Keno there are a few cabin rental places such as Keno Cabins and a new facility recently built, or you can bring a camper or travel trailer and set up camp. Although there is a campground in Keno it is not open in the winter. There is a communal shower house and laundry, which is pay as you go, next to the recreation centre. There are also a couple of motels in Mayo, which run all year round and have reasonable rates. Mayo is not too far of a run for staying overnight. Regardless of how you camp I'm sure you'll have a great adventure and experience some of the best snowmobiling around. ■



AFD RACING
FUEL & LUBRICANTS

TrackTek
RACING FUELS

Mobil

AFD
QUALITY FUELS & LUBRICANTS

AFD Yukon - Your ESSO Bulk Reseller (867) 667-6211 • 44 MACDONALD RD., WHITEHORSE, YUKON Y1A 4L2



like **sledging?**
so do we.

More of what you love online. For snowmobilers in Western Canada. Sign up for a free email newsletter today. Log on and enjoy the ride.

www.snoriderswest.com

Don't forget to check out the digital edition of your favourite snowmobiling magazine at www.snoriderswest.com/emagazine