

# Klondike SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# Trail upgrades are on track

PROMOTE THE BENEFITS OF A KSA MEMBERSHIP



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

Hello and welcome to the first edition of the KSA News for the 2012/13 season. The KSA board has been quite busy over the summer—and not just sipping mojitos in the campgrounds. We've been working diligently with the City of Whitehorse, the Yukon Government (YG), Trans Canada Trail, our consultant Yucan Environmental Planning, the Yukon Conservation Society and many other groups to ensure that you can continue to enjoy snowmobiling in the Yukon.

There are several ways you can help protect the future of snowmobiling. One of the most important ways is to make sure you renew your KSA membership. Memberships expire at the end of September each year and we begin our renewal drive each August with mail-outs. Inevitably, we end up sending two or three renewal reminders to some members. Every minute we spend licking stamps and stuffing envelopes could be spent maintaining trail, applying for project funding, or attending a community meeting

to make sure that snowmobilers have a voice when decisions are made about such things as trail usage designation.

So, if you haven't done so yet, please send in your renewal. Also, take the time to promote the benefits of a KSA membership to your friends and your

employer. Corporate membership is a great way for businesses to show support for the KSA, the Trans Canada Trail (TCT) and the recreational trail system in general. Gold Corporate membership also includes two ads in our KSA newsletter that is distributed directly to over 600 members and indirectly to thousands more.

I recently found out that I'm not the only one who gives memberships as presents. This is the deal of the century: you spend \$20 on the card and the recipient gets hundreds of dollars worth of savings in discounts on clothing, fuel, hotel rooms, food and more. It truly is the gift that keeps on giving. More information can be found on the Membership

**Continued on page 2 ►**



Mark Daniels is pictured with Currie Dixon at Sima Creek. Dixon, right, is Yukon's environment and economic development minister.

Yukon Government photo

## Alliance of groups promotes safety

by MARK DANIELS

One of our core mandates at the KSA is to promote safe and responsible riding in order to sustain the recreational activity. This past year we were invited by the Yukon Conservation Society to meet with them and other interest groups to review the recommendations from the 2011 Yukon Legislative Assembly report of the Select Committee on the safe operation and use of off-road vehicles. The other participants were the Trails Only Yukon Association (TOYA), the Wilderness Tourism Association of Yukon (WTAY), the Yukon Fish and Game Association (YFGA), Yukon Off-Road Riders Associa-

**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.



# SNORIDERS

## SPECIAL KLONDIKE SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION REPORT

### ► **ALLIANCE** *Continued from page 1*

tion (YORRA) and the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board (YFWMB). This committee made a set of recommen-



dations to the Yukon Government regarding safe and responsible off-road vehicle (ORV) use. We also collaborated on some public education materials including radio

and print ads, a set of brochures and a grade school curriculum. Details on this work can be found on the YCS website at [www.yukonconservation.org/orv.htm](http://www.yukonconservation.org/orv.htm).

The logo for the alliance shows tracks from hiking boots, an ATV, a snowmobile, a motorcycle and a caribou arranged in a continuous circle to illustrate how we constantly share use of the backcountry. This should remind us of our shared responsibility to lessen the environmental impact of our recreation.

We're sending out logo stickers with the KSA membership cards but won't likely have enough to go around. You can contact the YCS directly at 668-5678 if you would like more. ■

### ► **TRAIL UPGRADES** *Continued from page 1*

page of our website ([www.ksa.yk.ca](http://www.ksa.yk.ca)), at the local dealerships in Whitehorse, or from the Dawson City Sled Dawgs in Dawson. Feel free to contact us at 667-7680 or [klonsnow@yknet.ca](mailto:klonsnow@yknet.ca).

We got some funding from the Community Development Fund (CDF) of the Yukon government this summer to install a bridge at Sima Creek. Unfortunately, the Trans Canada Trail folks didn't have any money for bridges this year so we are ►

► very lucky and grateful that CDF came through with the majority of the funds for the project. The City and the KSA are paying for odds and ends and donating our time and expertise to the project. Projects such as this only happen because of strong commitments by all parties involved. The Yukon government is committed to improving the recreational trail system. They have been a reliable source of funds for our major projects through the CDF program.

The old bridge has outlived its serviceable lifespan so I'm happy to see it go. During one site visit this past summer I stepped onto the wooden approach ramp while touring prospective bidders. A board broke loose and my ankle got stuck between the boards on either side of it. To avoid a bad sprain or a broken ankle I had to let myself twist around and fall over onto my back. A little embarrassing but it illustrated that we're doing the right thing by replacing the bridge.

The same contractor that built the Wolf Creek Bridge last year won the competitive process to build the Sima Creek Bridge and it's a similar-looking bailey bridge about 14 feet wide and 60 feet long. It's painted green and will have yellow access control gates on it just like at Wolf Creek.

A bridge engineer designed the bridge, the abutments and all the associated elements. The bridge is expected to last 50+ years with routine maintenance. We had the grand opening on the afternoon of October 10. The bridge is named after Rodney Cox, Harris and Linda's son who passed unexpectedly in December of 2010 at the age of 37. Rodney shared his dad's passion for snowmobiling and spent many hours on the trails with Harris.

We've also been working with government to fix the washout on the Coal Lake Road ►



Mark Daniels photo

**Use caution at the Coal Lake Road washout.**

caused by the collapse of the beaver dam and displacement of the culverts. I'm not sure if we'll get it done this fall so please be cautious if you're up that way. The creek crossing is about two kilometres past the caribou signs at the treeline. There's a detour to the right (north) prior to the washout. Follow the trail off the road and cross the creek downstream of the culverts. I marked where the road drops off but the wind up there tends to take away everything, including barricades and flagging.

We've been in contact with the folks in Dawson to get them connected to the Trans Canada Trail network. Dawson already has a couple of TCT-designated trails in the area but they're not officially connected to the main trunk, which follows the North Klondike Highway (Mayo Road) north as far as the Dempster corner then turns up the Dempster Highway to the Northwest Territories. The proposed TCT connector route will follow the Ridge Trail out of town into the goldfields, then use a section of the Upper Bonanza Creek Road and some old trail that follows the ridge above Allgold Creek to the Klondike Highway near Flat Creek. The entire route is on existing rights-of-way that require a bit of brushing and ►

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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.

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# SNORIDERS

## SPECIAL KLONDIKE SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION REPORT

► a lot of signs. Our consultant has spoken with local stakeholders, including trappers and miners, while we've been meeting with the Klondike Visitors Association and the Dawson City Sled Dawgs. The plan is almost complete. We'll apply for funding this winter and, if we're successful, we'll tender the project in the spring. The work should be completed next summer. ■

## Safe Snowmobiler Card: it's the law

by MARK DANIELS

Despite our efforts to avoid further regulation of snowmobiling, the new City of Whitehorse Snowmobile Bylaw contains the requirement for all operators on public lands within the city limits to have a valid Safe Snowmobiler Card by January 5, 2013. The fine for operating a snowmobile on public lands without a valid permit is \$150.

The City has contracted Fresh Air Educators (FAE) to provide the online training program, test and cards. FAE is a well-established online training company that has certified over a million enthusiasts in safe boating, snowmobiling, ATVing and hunting in the U.S.A. and Canada. FAE administered the safe boating training across Canada so anyone who has their boater's card will be familiar with the process. FAE is currently working with the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association on its provincial training program and has begun negotiations with the Canadian Council of Snow-

mobile Organizations (CCSO) to provide training across the country.

Anyone interested in getting the card can log in from their home computer starting on September 18. Bylaw Services tells me they'll also have a kiosk set up in the Public Safety Building for anyone without their own computer. The City will have a link to the FAE site on their snowmobile web page at [www.city.whitehorse.yk.ca](http://www.city.whitehorse.yk.ca). You should also be able to hit the FAE site directly at [www.snowmobilecourse.com/canada/Whitehorse](http://www.snowmobilecourse.com/canada/Whitehorse).

The web addresses are subject to change but the staff at Bylaw Services can point you in the right direction.

The training and exam sessions should take no more than three hours depending on your knowledge of snowmobiling and the speed of your trigger finger on the mouse. The exam portion consists of about 60 questions requiring a grade of 80 per cent to pass. If you don't make it the first time, you get to keep trying until you do at no additional fee. Once you pass the exam, the system will let you print a temporary permit and your hard card will follow in the mail. Like with the boater's card, you only need to take the course once and the certification is good for life.

The cost for all of this joy is about \$35 and is payable online to FAE. None of the fees for the program are going to the City or the KSA. As much as we disagree with the requirement, we can appreciate that the City of Whitehorse has taken the most economical

**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 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)
- 10% off snowmobile rentals at Klugene Ridin' - Haines Junction
- 20% discount at McDonald's restaurants - Whitehorse (not valid with other offers)
- 20% off at Sander'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@yknnet.ca](mailto:klonsnow@yknnet.ca)

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 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  
 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  
 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

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 Polaris Industries - Winnipeg, Manitoba  
 Safe Trails North Training Services - Whitehorse  
 Yukon Honda - Whitehorse  
 Yukon Yamaha - Whitehorse

### ► SAFE SNOWMOBILER CARD *Continued from page 3*

approach to the training that it can.

Speaking of Bylaw Services, they hired a new education constable by the name of Louis Martel. Louis replaces Dan Stack who has moved on to other duties with Bylaw Services. Louis will be out and about this season.

We've yet to see where on the education/enforcement continuum the City plans to exert its authority and I'd really like to hear from any riders who encounter bylaw officers on the trails. Still, Bylaw Services does the majority of their interventions on a complaint basis, meaning fewer complaints equals fewer run-ins with them, so treat your fellow community members with respect while you're out riding.

Recent complaint hotspots have been along the Millennium Trail, the trails around Riverdale, and the slope between Porter Creek and Whistle Bend (the utility right-of-way off of Larch Street). I believe the kids call this Jet Power Hill. You can bet that Bylaw Services will focus their resources on these areas where complaints are most frequent.

Have fun and ride safe.

### Local dealers offer plenty of expertise

by MARK DANIELS

It's no secret that my sleds are made by Polaris. In fact, so are my ATVs. I'm well known at Checkered Flag Recreation. I've been riding for almost 40 years so I understand brand loyalty, bragging rights and the good-natured teasing between buddies. I'm not here to tell you what brand of sled to buy or which is better. In fact, the four main manu-

facturers all make great products and you should ride whatever fits your riding style, needs and budget. But that doesn't mean that you have to avoid the other dealerships altogether or limit your purchases to snowmobiles. It's great to get out and see what all the shops have to offer in the full range of their product lines. The four local dealerships sell a variety of snowmobiles, ATVs, boats, generators, cars, automotive supplies, snowblowers and even farm tractors.

I try to get around to all of the local dealers at least once a month and I support them whenever I can. I used to own a couple of Arctic Cat sleds. I bought my current chainsaw from Lister's Motor Sports. I also run a Suzuki dirt bike and a number of OMC boat motors for which they are the dealer.

My kids each have a Yamaha dirt bike. I find Yukon Yamaha a good source for parts and accessories for many of my machines as well as having a comprehensive line of kid's-size protective clothing. Plus they have that cool soccer ball chair that the kids love.

Until recently, I had a Honda generator and we just sold my son's CRF 50 to a friend down the road. My favourite cold-weather helmet is still a Bombardier brand that I bought locally. I've also been eyeing up a KTM motocross bike at Yukon Honda when I've been feeling young and foolish.

The point is: in order to have a healthy snowmobile community we need to have healthy snowmobile dealerships. They have the local knowledge and expertise, as well as the parts and accessories to keep you on the snow. They also advocate for the sport because they've invested heavily into the future of snowmobiling. So don't let your snowmobile brand loyalty keep you from seeing what all the dealers have to offer in their other product lines.



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