

Benton County Snowmobile Club



GREETINGS AND SALUTATIONS FELLOW SNOWMOBILING ENTHUSIASTS

Winter marches on toward spring, but there still may be a storm out there with our name on it. Once again, the big storms all took an Easterly path and missed most of Minnesota. We still got some fairly decent riding in, and if you weren't too afraid to trailer them a little ways North, there was plenty of snow. People complain about winter, and how long it lasts, the cabin fever setting in, but winter goes by lickety-split when you want it to snow, and you're waiting for your days off so you can go riding. We have that going for us, and the rest of humanity just suffers along. We had the bonfire earlier in February. About 10 people showed up and battled a strong S.E wind. However, everyone had their share of hot dogs and camaraderie. The longer I'm in this club, the more I look at the people as family. Someone is always there to help you and vice versa; that sounds like family doesn't it?? The big club trips have all been executed as far as I know, so there's just on your own or phone a friend. Hats off to the map committee people for volunteering their time and energy in recruiting advertising space on the map and collecting the funds. We salute you. If everyone does a little work, no one has to do a lot. Too many organizations out there have just a couple of people doing EVERYTHING, and they eventually burn out. I think we do a good job of divvying up work and tasks. People who volunteer ROCK. I'm glad we have this good group of people. The more the merrier though. If you know of anyone looking for a good snowmobiling family, ours is it. Send 'em on over!



AL'S CORNER:

A little re-cap of the Lake of the Woods club trip. 6 brave club members along with two guests battled through a snowstorm on the way up. Two people mud-dogged it in from Bemidji. The cabin was great with a large common area and kitchen. Riders got up early and cooked breakfast. Of course, these trips always bring some sort of unexpected adventure, and part of the adventure was the front door not staying latched on the cabin we were in. A strong East wind, and the front door was wide open complete with a snow drift forming inside. Day 1, I was stuck most of the day. Day 2 we were driving across the lake up to the NW Angle. That was actually kind of eerie, as it wasn't very far and you couldn't see any shore, or any fish houses, just white sky meeting white snow. Miles and miles of tundra like driving. There were no real bumps to speak of, and so snow built up under my heat exchanger, and my sled started overheating. I still miss the sleds where the heat exchanger went through the running boards. NEVER had a problem with those, ever. We get to the NW Angle and find out the trails are CLOSED. Some nearby snow club was rude to the Native American owners of that particular piece of land, and when the club that grooms the Angle went to ask for permission, they were shot down. Not cool. Day 3 it was very cold, and we stuck mostly to the woods and swamps to avoid the wind, but still some very winding snowmobile trails. We did venture out on the lake to the Igloo Bar. Someone built a bar out on the lake that is heated and has lights. You can also fish through the floor of the bar. The air pressure was very high that day, and I've learned that fish particularly bite when the air pressure is low, as when a storm is coming in, so I didn't fish as I thought it was probably a waste of time. Most of the fisher persons must have thought the same thing, as the bar became packed. 50% of our group ended up stuck at some point on this trip. I think the clubs up there only used an 8 foot drag (that's all the wider it looked to me personally) and we had 4 inches of fresh fluffy snow, so actually driving on the trail was a bit of guess work. You knew you guessed wrong when you drove off of the trail. It's been a long time since I've seen 4 feet of snow, and with a new sled with the modern feel that I'm not used to, nor the aptitude for driving in deep snow, I got stuck TWICE. To add insult to injury, it was the same field I had gotten stuck in previously on day 1. Nope, stay on the trail, or try to. Day 4 was trying to get home.....in yet another blizzard. Sled troubles, tow-vehicle troubles, and two mud-doggers trying to find a trail with very low visibility was our adventure for that day. Who says drama isn't fun? it really was an overall good time though. If it wasn't for adventure and mishaps, you'd forget your experiences pretty quickly, but no-one will forget that trip. Happy riding.