

Benton County Snowmobile Club

Newsletter



GREETINGS AND SALUTATIONS FELLOW SNOWMOBILING ENTHUSIASTS!

It's DECEMBER! Happy trail opener to you! Christmas comes early for snowmobilers. If Santa were real, he'd come on a snowmobile, not a sleigh. The Landowner's Dinner was once again a success. Naturally, I didn't win any prize or raffle or drawing, but I was lucky with supper, I am always lucky with that. A great big thank you to all who helped, and volunteered, and brought door prizes, and sold tickets. The December meeting is election-of-officers meeting and is being held at the VFW in East St. Cloud. There is an ugly sweater contest. I've heard the winner will receive at least \$40!! Who knows, it may go up. There is talk of forming some group trips. It can be tricky to do, because you never know what kind of snowfall we will get. However, it looks like an overnight Sauk Rapids to Brainerd trip is in the works. Also, I am planning on a Lake-of-the Woods excursion for a few days after February 15th, 2022. They set up a bar way out on the ice on the lake and it's heated. Even the bathroom is heated. Gotta see that, it's a worthy "bucket list" item. There's talk of Grand Marais too. The best way to do this is pick a date and a place. Then, if you want it more public than just a couple or a few friends, let people know. It's up to them if they want to go and make it happen. That involves getting a hotel room and doing a little re-search. It really can be fairly easy once you have a place and a date, it just takes someone to take the lead and get the information out. You should have emails at the top of your page of the club members. Don't abuse that list. If you've got a trip planned, go ahead and announce it. If you have something to sell that is snowmobile related, use it. Title it "FOR SALE" and people can read it or ignore it at their choosing. See you at our December meeting & wear dem ugly sweaters!

[Benton County Snowmobile Club](https://www.bentoncountysnowmobileclub.com)



AL'S CORNER:

"One bad apple don't spoil the whole bunch, girl." Most of you are old enough to probably remember those lyrics in a song by the Osmond's. Unfortunately, they're simply not true. It might make for a catchy tune, but in reality, one bad "anything" or "anyone" can wreck it for the rest of us. It's very important to obey the rules. I'm actually a rebel at heart, and so "rule keeping" is something i have to force myself to do. Snowmobiling has rules; we must obey them, or we could lose our funding, and perhaps even our trails. Do you remember 3 wheelers? Those were the machines that pre-dated our 4-wheelers of today. Do you know why the government outlawed them? Because too many people were getting hurt. I don't blame the 3-wheelers at all, it was the drivers that caused their demise. I have a cousin who would drive his 3-wheeler full bore down a trail or through the ditch, and he never looked up; he just kept his head down and rocketed. We all thought he was crazy and was going to get hurt one day. Well, that day happened. He was flying down a narrow road through the woods that lead to a cabin by a lake, owned by another cousin of mine. Rocketing along, looking down like normal, his leg caught the cabin's foundation and the entire cabin MOVED several inches. It was now kittywampus. His entire leg was now kittywampus too. He had casts and other various devices on his leg for several YEARS. I'm thinking that probably hurt. You can be assured that his statistics were added to other idiot's statistics, finally getting some government bureaucrats attention. Bye-bye 3 wheelers. "But Al, 4-wheelers are safer and better!" Maybe, but the important moral of the story is that we lost a choice. I don't like losing choices, especially decided by someone else who doesn't represent me, or takes into consideration that not everybody is "crazy," or careless, or has no regard for the law. Stay on the trail, don't cut corners, be considerate of landowners, their property, and other riders. Help someone out on the trail if you can. A few years back, I was riding in the U.P., and up there, they have several "One Way" trails. Now, you're not thinking that you're going to meet anyone on the trail, so it's all "yours". I was in what could be considered a field, just about to enter the woods, when another rider comes barreling out of the trees heading right at me, going the wrong way on a one way trail. Luckily I was able to swerve out of the way, as I veered right. I was lucky he veered to my left or it would have been a head-on collision with a combined speed of about 90 miles per hour. Obey the rules, you'll still have fun, it's snowmobiling!