

# Benton County Snowmobile Club

## Newsletter



GREETINGS AND SALUTATIONS FELLOW SNOWMOBILING ENTHUSIASTS!

**Welcome to WINTER. When life gives you lemons, make lemonade. (Or break out the tequila and salt if you're not driving anywhere) Snowmobiling is the lemonade to the lemon of winter. Nearly every thinking adult would rather be someplace warm. Tropical breezes, white sand, and palm trees....(admit it, you just imagined yourself there), but we're here where the air hurts your face, white....snow, and de-leaved non-palm trees. Sounds pretty lemon-like to me. Yet, there is that bright morning star, that great hope, the stuff that dreams are made of, and that is the great lemonade antidote to winter, our dear sport of snowmobiling. Yes, it is that fun. Of all the people that try snowmobiling and don't like it, their number one reason (and usually ONLY reason) is that it's too cold. Snowmobiling clothes are very special. We in the snowmobiling world just take them for granted. They work, and they work well. It is almost counter-intuitive to let someone who has never been on a snowmobile before to tootle around your private property to "let them see how much fun it is". Yes, it is fun, but they are going to get really COLD, really quickly. Their North Face coat or Eddie Bauer or big box store coat, or even a ski jacket, just isn't going to work at keeping them warm, not to mention, no snow pants. Once they're cold, it's over. They then imagine going on a long trip somewhere and think "oh hell no!" Resist the urge to do that to someone unless the weather is VERY favorable, and don't go more than a few minutes. Make sure you COME TO THE JANUARY MEETING!! We have some big trips planned, and you need to be there. Trip Planners: Bring INFO!!**



## AL'S CORNER:

**BETTER RED THAN DEAD.** No, i'm not advocating for communism here, i'm giving you a pearl of wisdom. Moisture in the gas has always, and probably will always be a problem. The trick to NOT getting a frozen gas line is to keep up on your ISO-HEET fuel additive. That is the one in the RED bottle. You can do everything perfect in storing your sled over summer, but condensation will always find a way in your tank. Even if it doesn't, the tanks underneath the ground at gas stations start running low on gas before they are filled again, and those tanks will procure condensation. You fill your tank on your sled thinking everything is fine, and just like that, your sled quits in the middle of nowhere. Once there's ice in the line, you'll have to be towed somewhere warm. Put a bottle of Iso-heet in your sled's tank on your first fill of the season. Water is heavier than gas, and therefore sinks to the bottom of your gas tank. Guess where your pick up tube is sitting, (the tube that sucks up gas to your engine?) At the bottom also. The water sucks into your fuel system. The water now turns to ice. The ice blocks the flow of fuel and you come to a stop. Not good. The Iso-heet is also heavier than the gas. It mingles with the water and keeps the water in liquid form, preventing it from freezing. Your engine can handle small amounts of water, and during combustion, the water turns to steam and out it goes in the exhaust. So, after your first tank of gas for the season, when do you use more Iso-heet? Some people use it at 20 degrees or colder. I have found personally, that the 5° temp is the magic number. If the temp dips down to 5° and then back up, you're probably going to be O.K. If the high temp for the day is only 5°, you'd better be adding your Heet. That goes for your vehicle too that runs on gas. The yellow bottle of Heet is usually a little cheaper and will work fine in your vehicle, however, you can use the red bottle in anything gas powered and it will work fine. What if you have a 4 stroke sled and are running 10% ethanol, do you still need to use Heet? The answer is YES!! Why? Because the two are not the same. While ethanol does provide a slight amount of protection, enough water in your gas tank will overpower the ethanol. (That is why beer freezes). However, Heet is Isopropanol, not Ethanol. They are chemically different. Heet in the yellow bottle is Methanol, which is again chemically different than ethanol or Isopropanol. So, if you get someone that says "putting Heet in your car or sled is dumb, as the gas already has 10% ethanol, it's a waste of time and money", well, they maybe need to take 8th grade chemistry all over again. Use your Heet folks, and feel confident. It'll be one less thing in life to worry about, as there's plenty of stuff to worry about already.

**Thanks for reading folks!**