

Benton County Snowmobile Club

Newsletter



GREETINGS AND SALUTATIONS FELLOW SNOWMOBILING ENTHUSIASTS!

It's April and the end of another season. The trails are officially closed, but some freak weather phenomenon may present itself, and there could be some ditch riding; anything is possible. It's just strange when you get to fall, and you have all winter to look forward to, and you make plans and about 2/3 of them seem to fall through. I've planned a trip to Brainerd, stay overnight, and come back the next day. Planned it TWICE actually; you'd think with 8 months of winter over two years, it would have come to fruition, but no cigar. I even realize how fast winter goes, and take that into consideration, and still can't make it happen. Something always seems to come up, or juuust not quite enough snow to ride from the house. We ordered all four of the Tucker's tracks in order to be able to get a discount. The original plan was to pay for two and finance the other two, but some adjustments had to be made. We will talk about this at the April meeting. Also, it's that time of year where we set up the committee to organize the Landowner's dinner and raffle. "many hands make light work" No one should ever get burned out volunteering at any club, that doesn't do anyone any good. Let's see some people step up and take one small task, and so it won't be some overwhelming burden on one or two people. I have faith in our group; we're here to serve our fellow snowmobilers and friends. Also, remember to drain the gas out of your sleds and summer-ize them. Take your spare belt out of the holder and let it unfold back into a more normal round-ish shape, they'll last a whole lot longer. April 12th is our next meeting. Be there, or be square!



AL'S CORNER:

As you are probably aware that gas prices, along with everything is is going up. Inflation is not your friend. This is an issue because snowmobiling is already an expensive sport. Sleds generally only get between 10 and 25 miles per gallon. If your sledding budget gets eaten up because of higher prices, that would be lame. So, my next few newsletters, whenever they may get to you, will deal with ways to save money. I'm super frugal (my friends say cheap), but that is not necessarily a bad thing. Perspective is everything. I can save you a boatload of cash by implementing a few simple things. First, let's touch on CARS. We love them, we hate them. They are a giant money vacuum either way. The number one thing you can do is keep the tire pressure adequate. Remember when you were a kid, and you would ride your bike, and if the tires were low, it was a real pain. Your car is no different. It uses WAY more gas when your tires are low, and ALL tires leak some. If you have aluminum rims, the tires probably leak a lot. Make this investment: buy yourself a 12 volt air pump (preferably a two cylinder model vs. a one cylinder) and use it monthly on all your vehicles. Most people have more than one vehicle, plus a garden tractor, a snowmobile trailer, and various other things. Pennies on the dollar, as they are usually around \$50-\$80. Use. It. Every. Month. It will pay for itself. Change your air filter on your car if it's dirty. Replace your spark plugs if they are due for replacement. Examine them if they are readily accessible. GAP THEM. If you have one of those cars where, when it's time for new plugs, and you have to basically pull the motor to reach them, put the best possible plug they make that fits that engine. (I'm cheap, not dumb.) Buy yourself TWO bottles of Techron fuel system cleaner, and put them in your gas tank. That stuff is magic and will solve problems before they start, possibly saving you a trip to the shop. Don't forget to change your fuel filter either if it's easily accessible. These things do cost money, but are a small investment compared to what you will save on fuel and tires, and fuel and tire prices are on their way UP.

Thanks for reading folks!