

Benton County Snowmobile Club



GREETINGS AND SALUTATIONS FELLOW SNOWMOBILING ENTHUSIASTS!

I hate that our snowmobiling season went out with a whimper. I guess the old saying that “hope, is simply delayed disappointment “ was spot on. However, if you had your health, and a trailer, (or someone you know had a trailer), there was plenty of riding to be had. The East coast got the glory this La Niña, as my en route late mortgage payment would testify. One could only ‘hope’ for a snowstorm like that here. The trail signs are coming out quickly, as the volunteers aka “rockstars” are diligently working at it. Come to think of it, volunteering for your fellow man is one of the greatest things you can do, imo. Although covid has really put a damper on moving things along in the club, it hasn’t stopped it completely. Four of the greatest minds known to man (in addition to me) convened to produce a new set of by-laws for our club. The original ones from 1984, were literally drafted from something that existed in the late 1950’s. Our club had moved on from them quite some time ago. However, if you haven’t received a copy of them yet, you soon will. They will come in your email. PLEASE read through this regardless of how boring it may seem. We need your help. First, go through and find any kind of typos. Second, if something isn’t correctly, or you think it could be done better, make a note of it. We are having a meeting in April. Bring your concerns up at the meeting. There won’t be enough time to distribute a copy to everyone, have everyone read it, and submit input the meeting. Please read it ahead of time and be prepared to express your thoughts. Word has it there maybe outside hotdogs in lieu of a potluck. See you



AL'S CORNER:

BATTERIES> First a little something on car batteries, then snowmobile batteries. You will get 5 worry free years out of a new battery unless you leave your dome light on and kill it early. Awhile back, I was talking to a co-worker and got on the subject of batteries for some reason. I told him the same thing I'm telling you. He was bragging about his battery being 7 years old. I told him that he was now in the gambling phase, and that at any moment, he may lose. 2 days later he comes up to me all in a flurry "you jinxed me! you jinxed me!" I did not jinx him in any way. He was gambling every day after 5 years of battery life, and that particular morning, he lost. A battery has rectangular lead (the metal) plates sitting side by side, inside the battery. The battery "uses" the lead during its lifetime, causing those lead plates to get thinner and thinner. One minute your car starts fine, you hit a bump on your way to work, one of the lead plates snaps off, and falls against a neighboring lead plate and the battery short circuits. You come out to go home, and you hear the dreaded "click-click" as your car refuses to start. If you let your battery drain dead in the summer, you've damaged it, but you could still get some life out of it. If you let your battery drain dead in winter, go buy a new one right away as your old one is not reliable any longer. A battery is a wear item just like brake pads, belts, and tires, and needs to be treated as such. Which battery should you get? The short answer is the physically largest battery that will fit where your battery goes in your car. Auto parts stores try pushing the largest cold cranking amps (cca) but, you want the largest 'reserve capacity' that you can find which is generally, the biggest physically. THAT is where the starting power matters. **SLED BATTERIES>** A snowmobile battery will die very quickly if it's not getting a charge or if it's being overcharged. A trickle charger will inevitably overcharge your battery and wreck it. Not charging your battery for 8 months will also wreck it. What's the answer? May I recommend 'Battery Tender Jr'. This battery charger has a computer chip inside which measures how much power is actually in the battery, and won't allow an overcharge. They are about \$35 and work wonderfully. They are also small enough, that if you plug it in to the lower electrical plug on an outlet, the upper plug is still open for extension cords or what-have-you. May I also suggest attaching the permanent electrical connector that comes with the charger? There are two styles that come with it, a permanent battery connector, and a set of jumper cable leads. The permanent connector will be far less work in the long run.

Meeting at the groomer shed April 13th to discuss the new by-laws, please try to attend.

Thanks for reading folks!