



ROUGH RIDER SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION HISTORY

A group of snowmobilers began to talk about a snowmobile club back in **1967**. This group consisted of Bob Aberle, Jim Dybadal, Norm Tietz, Jerry & Peggy Kville, Jack Ellingson, & Mell Ball, all from the Bismarck area. Since snowmobiles were just becoming a new form of transportation and a recreation source it made sense to organize a club of people with similar interests. On **January 25, 1968**, 24 people decided to form a club. A meeting was held at the Capital Electric Building and dues were set at \$1.00 per member, later it was raised to \$3.00 as they figured it would require more funds to operate a club. Wives were considered members. An embroidered patch was designed and ordered. The main objective was to promote snowmobiling for families and to hold charity fun runs, the first being for the School of Hope (twenty dollars was raised) and snowmobile races were promoted. The first Trail Ride from Ft. Lincoln to Cannon Ball was held with help from ND Parks. The name for the club was chosen: **ROUGH RIDER SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION**. It was felt that the name "association" represented an organization that would have better support when dealing with state issues and Legislators.

At later meetings, the idea of having a statewide organization was talked about, and the club joined the ASA- American Snowmobile Association which was a national organization to help support the sport. A meeting at Apple Creek Country Club was set for December and letters were sent to one hundred fifty (150) snowmobile dealers around the state to attend. During the peak of manufacturing there were over 115 different snowmobile brands.

The seeds were sown for the start of SND -Snowmobile North Dakota which would become a reality a few years later. A statewide meeting of clubs was held in Bismarck for several years with seventeen to thirty-four clubs attending. It won't be till 1974 that the idea would be finally set to organize and establish a State organization.

In **1969**, the start of a race season was set at Dakota Speedway, to hold classes in Cross country and Flat races, different horsepower classes were set, since these sleds were all powerhouses, 10 – 12 HP – 160-200cc. Ski-doo would change that when they came out with a 699cc later. School of Hope fun run raised \$54.00 this year, Santa Claus made his first appearance delivering presents by snowmobile.

The first legislation for registration of sleds was with House Bill 163, set at \$10.00 for 2 years, approved at \$3.00 for two years.

1970. The club established a Code of Ethics, for during this time, snowmobilers were not looked upon very favorably. Farmers & ranchers complained of cut fences, running wildlife,

noise and trespassing. The School of Hope was again a fun run event, \$100 in gifts were purchased for children and passed out by Santa Claus.

The Spring banquet in **1971** was with four hours of band music (\$33), a Prime Rib dinner at \$2.50 a plate. A high light of this year would be a planned trip to West Yellowstone with semi-truck hauling 45 sleds and coach bus taking the riders. This group of riders hosted many rides or safari's, as some were called, to Lake Metigoshe, Park River, Medora...just to mention a few. The School of Hope was given gifts in amount of \$100.

1972. A March of Dimes snowmobile marathon ride with trophies for riders raising the most funds were given out. This would be a 100 mile ride and CB Patrol would flag riders across roads and were donated \$25.00 for their help. Twenty-nine couples would travel to Lake Metigoshe for weekend ride. The Little Oly 100 Race from Minot to Bismarck would be held and would become the Governor's Cup race in the future. School of Hope was visited again by Santa with \$100 in gifts.

1973. Highway Commissioner, Walter Hjelle, would rescind regulations requiring a permit to operate snowmobiles in the highway right-of-way. A new snowmobile club was formed in Mandan. Mail box rent for a year would be \$10.80. The bylaws would be amended to change that officers would start new terms as of April 1st. Dues were increased from \$7.50 to \$15.00 family; \$5.00 to \$10.00 for single and \$10.00 to 20.00 for Associate; there were 71 members this year. School of Hope \$100 and club held a rummage sale to raise funds and give members a chance to sell unneeded gear and a hay ride for children from the area was supported.

1974. March of Dimes ride from Bismarck-Underwood and return would be held, Motto: "**DRIVE A MILE for the LIFE OF A CHILD**" raised \$3,500. School of Hope given \$100. A newsletter was started to bring snowmobile news to members, it was called: "**ROUGH RIDER READER**" and published for couple of years. The articles were from local to statewide with several good cartoons.

The North Dakota Confederation of Snowmobile clubs held its first organizational meeting with 97 clubs attending, the first president was **Bob Petty from Bottineau**. A contest was held to select a name, which was submitted by a lady from Minot Air Force base, **SNOWMOBILE NORTH DAKOTA**, she won an Arctic Cat Kitty Cat; a drawing for a logo was submitted by a 14 year old boy from Minot, he won a weekend at Lake Metigoshe. The first order of business was to work on establishing legislation for snowmobile operation and establishing trails.

1975. The Governors Trophy Run will ride from Bismarck to Grand Forks this year. The School of Hope donation is \$100 and Easter Seals will furnish 5 gallons of gas to each participant in this event. The club held several rides to local towns.

1976-77. The Heart River Stampede was made an annual event with lunch and drinks provided by the club. Ride for funds for the Cancer Society saw 17 riders making the trip raising \$1,321.55. The School of Hope donation was \$100. Displays on snowmobiling and sleds were setup at Northbrook Mall to obtain new members.

1978-79. The Rough Riders were host guides to bring snowmobilers to the Holiday Inn for the annual Easter Seal Ride. BECEP-Bismarck Early Child Education Program was selected as a charity ride and \$5,283 was pledged. A snowmobile trail from Ft. Lincoln to Ft. Rice was proposed via old railroad bed, \$2,000.00 was obtained, with request for \$50,000.00 made to Corp of Engineers to support signing, repair of bridges and install culverts. A used Bombardier groomer is found and overhauled to provided trail grooming. The club had a float in the 4th July parade. The School of Hope was again selected for gifts of \$150. A Gas bill was introduced to ND Legislature, but it would take several years to convince them that it was needed to support our beginning trail systems.

1979-80. No snow. The **1st Annual SND Convention** was hosted by Rough Riders at Holiday Inn.

1980-81. No snow. Governor Art Link cut the ribbon to open the new 35 mile one-way snowmobile trail at Ft. Lincoln, which was part of three trails that became part of National Trail System, other new trails were at Lake Metigoshe, Bottineau 50 miles; Ft Ransom-Enderlin; Pembina Hills-Langdon; and Charbonneau-Garrison Dam-Riverdale. A snowmobile club was started at Lincoln. The 2nd Annual SND Snowmobile Convention was hosted by Rough Riders at Kirkwood Motor Inn. The four snowmobile manufactures displayed new sleds. Other displays will show the Boss CAT II, which has set a speed record of over 130 miles per hour and several Sno-Pro race sleds. In attendance were 176 members from 34 clubs around the state. Even after all the planning and hard work, the club realized a profit of \$800. One of our club members, Dan Sweeny, was elected president of SND and during his term made the organization well known within the snowmobile sector.

1981-82. Good snow, but very cold.

1982-83.

1983-84. The club meetings are being held at Riverwood Golf club house, money was donated for a fireplace at club house. Rod Seibel was elected President of Snowmobile North Dakota. The club had a bake sale and snowmobile displays at Gateway Shopping Center. Club jackets were available for purchase at \$30.00. They purchased a telephone recorder to attach to **Snow Hot Line 255-9999** to get updates on club activities. A most successful charity ride for BECEP was held and raised \$11,445.50.

1984-85. On January 18, 1985, the first **State Ride** began with a pre-ride party at the Holiday Inn in Minot.

1985-86. The club entered new waters this year - **Water Skipping!** This would be a never done before event done on snowmobile, to make this a success the club hired a professional from Alexander, MN, Brian --- who had competed in many races before. This event was held at McDowell Dam, on August 24, the racers were required to travel 250 feet across open water without sinking. Several club members setup their sleds to compete, along with several other drivers from Minot. Two pontoon boats were setup with winches to recover drowned sleds, which happened many times. The highlight of the show was when Brian pulled Tracy Eslinger

around the lake on one water ski. The club deemed this event a major spectator event and scheduled again the next year. A June campout at Sugarloaf bottoms was a family event with many members bringing a dish to share for Beef barbecue and camp fire guitar music. The club hosted the 7th Annual SND Convention at Holiday Inn. Vendor displays came from six states and Saskatchewan offering clothes, snowmobile gear, parts and sleds, along with giant swap area. This season, the club was third place winner in the **Skidoo New Generation's award for United States and Canada.**

1986-87.

1987-88. The club was successful in having 9th Annual SND Convention in Bismarck at Kirkwood Motor Inn in the fall of 1987. This would bring in many vendors with snowmobile products and several race sleds, along with Deckers, PSI and several other major vendors. Marv Jorgenson ,Chopper City, Minneapolis, Budweiser Sno-King -twin tracker, had set a world record of 168.093 miles per hour record on ice and was on display, it was seven feet wide , twenty-two feet long, weighed 1902 pounds, was powered by a big block Chevy engine producing 1400 horsepower.

1989-90. Club information was not found for these years.

1990-91.

1991-92. The 13th Annual SND Convention was hosted by Rough Riders.

1992-93.

1993-94.

1994-95.

1995-96.

1996-97. Lots of snow.

1997-98. El Niño hits us. A low snow year.

1998-1999. A low snow year.

1999-2000. A low snow year.

2000-2001. A low snow year.

2001-2002. A low snow year.

2002-2003. A low snow year.

2003-2004. A low snow year. Snowmobile/ATV safety courses were held this year for seventeen young people. The club received a Tucker snow groomer for maintaining the trails. An effort was made to find a location for a club house in Menoken or McKenzie. The Beaver

Valley Snow Goers and Rough Riders formed the Missouri Valley Trail Association to manage the trails from Bismarck and Linton. The 1st Annual Huff Hill's Challenge (Hill Climb) was held.

2004-2005. A low snow year. The main events for this snow year will be the 2nd Annual Huff Hill's Challenge (Hill Climb) on April 2, 2005. The club had the Groomer in the Lights on Broadway festival this fall. A new trailhead sign and parking area were setup at the fairgrounds.

2005-2006. A low snow year.

2006-2007. A low snow year.

2007-2008. A low snow year. The Snowmobile North Dakota statewide convention will be hosted by club at Ramkota Hotel at end of October. The club made two donations this year in the amount of \$400. The final event of the year was the Spring banquet at the Pier Restaurant & Bar on April 5th.

2008-2009. A low snow year.

2009-2010. The year of the big SNOW! This season has been great as we were able to start grooming in December and finished in March. A hundred inches of snow finally made this season the best in ten years. A Charity Fun Run in February going from Bismarck-Sterling-Wing-Wilton-Bismarck was a great success, raising over \$1,200, which was donated to local charities. The final event of the year in March was a Radar Run on North 26th Street, which saw about two dozen sleds trying to set the high mark of one hundred plus miles per hour, with Gary Markwart piloting an aged 1000cc Arctic to 102.4 mph.

2010-2011. Another year of big SNOW! This was another great season with another hundred inches of snow. A new event was held this year. A **Snow Scramble** took place on North 26th Street. There was a Fun Run going from Bismarck-Sterling-Wing-Wilton-Bismarck.

2011-2012. Rumors of a record setting two hundred inches of snow, then great disappointment when we ended up having one of the mildest winters on record. Most true North Dakotans say we didn't have a winter. A new event, the 1st Annual **Show n' Shine**, was held at the Gateway Mall. The 2nd Annual Snow Scramble was cancelled and there were no Fun Runs.

2012-2013. Becomes apparent that we are in another drought cycle. The 2nd Annual Show n' Shine was held at the Gateway Mall. The 1st Annual **Black Hills Club Ride** was organized. There were no other events.

2013-2014. Another low snow year. The 3rd Annual Show n' Shine was held at the Kirkwood Mall in October. A new event, the 1st Annual **Dealer Demo Day**, was held in December at the 4H building on the Missouri Valley Fairgrounds. The public was able to test ride new machines, both snowmobile and ATV, from all four manufacturers. There was a good turnout for the 2nd Annual Black Hills Club Ride.

2014-2015. A low snow year. The 4th Annual Show n' Shine was held at the Kirkwood Mall in October. The 2st Annual **Dealer Demo Day**, was held in December at the 4H building on the

Missouri Valley Fairgrounds. Due to lack of snow, the public was only able to test ride new ATVs/UTVs. There was another good turnout for the 3rd Annual Black Hills Club Ride.