



54th Annual International Snowmobile Congress

Thursday, June 9, 2022 | Grand River Center | Dubuque, IA



Forty-five early bird arrivals to ISC 2022 participated in an 'Iowa Road Trip' through northeast Iowa Tuesday. Above, participants pose for a group photo outside of Rod and Cal's restaurant in Strawberry Point. The dinner stop opened especially for the event.

Tradition Continues for Pre-Congress Activity

A pre-Congress tradition continued Tuesday as 45 early bird arrivals to ISC 2022 participated in an 'Iowa Road Trip'. Similar to other years, the tour featured classic cars and plenty of motorcycles as they made a 200-mile loop around northeast Iowa.

Iowa's Chris Willey and Mark Kuennen guided the group through two state parks and meandered through bluff country, stopping for sightseeing opportunities along the scenic Mississippi River valley. The caravan lasted close to eight hours, ending around suppertime back at the hotel.



"This is a just a reason for everybody to get together early if they want to," Willey said during a lunch break in Strawberry Point. "They've done it at past Congresses, and we wanted to

keep the tradition going here in Iowa. We wanted to show everyone a little different scenery than what they might expect to see in our state."

In addition to Iowans, the ride drew participants

Turnout Exceeds Expectations for Planning Staff

The International Snowmobile Congress returned to Iowa for the third time in 54 years this week with the 2022 event held here at the Grand River Center in Dubuque. The previous two venues were Coralville in 2010 and Cedar Rapids in 1995. Each event was hosted by the Iowa State Snowmobile Association.

As of Wednesday morning, 325 snowmobilers, vendors and industry leaders from across North America were registered for this prestigious event, situated along the banks of the Mississippi River. ISC 2022 Planning Committee Chair Andrea Willey said she was thrilled with the response.

"We are really, really pleased with the turnout this year," she said. "We originally planned for 250, hoped for 300 and finished way above those expectations. We kind of had to scramble a little bit for some of the late additions to make sure they were covered, but that was a good problem to have."

In addition to Willey, 23 members of the Iowa State Snowmobile Association helped to organize ISC 2022



activities. Willey said it was a group effort and is grateful for the help she received over the last two years.

"We have had an excellent planning committee," she said. "We have been meeting for quite a while now to get everything worked

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Stan and Kate Stutheit from Syracuse, Neb., motor north towards Elkader.



Iowa Road Trip

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from Nebraska, Washington, Wisconsin, Canada and elsewhere. Among those joining the trip were Hugh Cummins from Ontario and Greg Sorenson from Minnesota. This pair rode down together from Duluth on Monday, after Cummins arrived at Sorenson's home on Sunday.

The two have been riding together since meeting for the first time at the early bird event at Winnipeg in 2017. Their friendship has evolved ever



Cruising through the Yellow River State Forest near Harper's Ferry. This state park is home to Iowa's only fire tower (inset) and offers snowmobile trails in the winter.

since, riding motorcycles in the summer and snowmobiles in the winter.

"To me, snowmobiling and motorcycling is all about building friendships," explained Sorenson, who has been involved in organized snowmobiling since 1988 and has twice served as president of the Minnesota United Snowmobilers Association.

"You get to meet some amazing people out there, especially at these Congresses," he continued. "You get to talk about different issues that you may not talk about at your local club or state meetings. You may find out that other states may be dealing with the same issues you may have."

Unlike Sorenson, Cummins is fairly new to snowmobiling and motorcycling. After his career started to wind down, he said he wanted to get into both hobbies and now finds



Ontario's Hugh Cummins (left) and Minnesota's Greg Sorenson have bonded over a mutual interest in snowmobiling and motorcycling.

himself riding a Ski-Doo in the winter and a Spyder in the summer. Both men enjoy long-distance riding, which was an adjustment for Cummins, he said.

"I only started riding sleds about seven years ago," Cummins explained. "My work life started to wrap up, and I decided I wanted to do some more fun stuff. I had met a guy through work who introduced me to trail riding. Before that, the only snowmobiling I had ever done was ice fishing. Back then, 25 miles on a sled ice fishing was a long day."

Cummins now enjoys backpacking across Canada and has helped to raise funds for diabetes research through organized rides. Sorenson also works closely with charities and has helped coordinate a ride to benefit ALS for the past 22 years in northern Minnesota.

Based out of Proctor, Minn., the Black Woods Blizzard Tour includes three days of riding and related events. More than 250 riders participate in the fundraiser, and each one

is expected to contribute \$2,000 in pledges and sponsors, though most do way more than that.

"Last winter was the fourth year in a row we raised more than \$1 million for ALS," Sorenson said, adding a few of those dollars came from his cross-border riding companion.



Mark and Chris decide which way to go after lunch.

Turnout

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out. Our volunteers have really stepped up and helped out everywhere and anywhere that they could. I couldn't have asked for anything better.

"It's been a lot of work, but we like to make it fun as well. We had a great time planning this event, and I hope everyone has a great time while they are here with us in Iowa."

The logo for the Field of Dreams Movie Site. It features a circular emblem with a baseball field and a baseball. Below the emblem, the text reads "FIELD OF DREAMS MOVIE SITE" in a stylized font. At the bottom, it says "TM & © Universal Studios".

Sport your favorite baseball team apparel and head to the ballpark tonight. Buses will depart the Grand River Center at 5 p.m. sharp for a special Thursday night Off-Site excursion to the nearby *Field of Dreams* film location.



The ISC 2022 Trade Show opens today and runs through Saturday. Be sure to check out all of the vendors and look for this display of vintage John Deere machines.

Celebrating 50th Anniversary of John Deere Snowmobiles

Evidenced by a strong presence of ag equipment in the fields and supported by a network of dealers across the state, Iowa boasts a deep-rooted connection to John Deere.

Tractors are produced in Waterloo, sprayers and planters are made in Ankeny and industrial equipment comes off the assembly line right here in Dubuque. Even corporate headquarters is located near the Quad Cities on the Iowa-Illinois border.

Rivalled only perhaps by snowmobilers, the brand loyalty shown to John Deere is multi-generational, and this week, we see that allegiance on display at the ISC 2022 Trade Show.

Just inside the showroom door is a collection of rare John Deere snowmobiles owned by a north central Iowa farm family. The four-sled display is just a small sampling of the personal collection curated by Mark and Tom Staudt of rural Dougherty.

This father-son team bleeds green and farms exclusively with John Deere equipment. The most notable sled in their stable is an original 1980 Sportfire with just six miles showing on the odometer.

"I was told the Sportfire has never even been sat on," noted Iowa's Seth Bram, who helped line up the display for this week.

Another noteworthy sled is a Liquidator. Only 600 were made, and this family owns three of them. Available through Saturday, the display is a nod to John Deere and the 50th Anniversary of its snowmobile line.

John Deere produced snowmobiles from 1972 to 1984 at its Horicon Works plant in Wisconsin. The line's marketing campaign launched the slogan, 'Nothing Runs Like a Deere,' which is still in use by the company today.

FOSPAC Fundraiser in Downtown Dubuque Wednesday afternoon

Morning rain yielded to comfortable sunshine Wednesday afternoon for the Friends of Snowmobiling annual fundraiser at ISC 2022.

This year's event included an afternoon Pub Crawl and Photo Scavenger Hunt with trolley transportation from the Grand River Center to downtown Dubuque.

Close to 100 snowmobilers boarded the buses and were tasked with patronizing five local watering holes and then getting various photo opportunities in the area.

The cost to participate was \$60 per person and included a commemorative T-shirt. The event was sponsored by the members of the International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association (ISMA): Arctic Cat, BRP, Polaris and Yamaha.

"This is a fun way to raise money for federal political candidates who are friends of snowmobiling and who are going to support us in legislation and support our access to the national parks and forests," ISMA President Ed Klim explained.

For the last 20 years, the Friends of Snowmobiling has organized fundraisers at ISC to raise money for candidates running for U.S. Congress. The money is contributed to candidates through the Friends of Snowmobiling Political Action Committee (FOSPAC).

"We had a great turnout today so we were able to raise some money and are going to be able to send some more checks," Klim said afterwards. "It's a big election year coming up, and we are going to be supporting our friends of snowmobiling."



Above, Pub Crawl participants enjoy the sun-bathed patio at Gary Dolphin's. At left, ACSA Executive Director Christine Jourdain hops off the trolley bus at one of the stops.



Utah's Adaline Taylor meets Iowa college rivals Herky the Hawk and Cy the Cyclone.



Wisconsin's Jay Thompson (left) and Rodney Burzinski attempt a snowdance with Utah's Cal Taylor.