



**Spring 2012
Edition**

An honorary society dedicated to the fun of snowmobiling

Dogs to assemble at Massachusetts ISC

By-Law revisions to high-light IDB Annual Meeting

The International Snowmobile Congress returns to a five-day schedule this year. Starting on Tuesday, June 5, the ISC will be hosted by the Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts (SAM) in the resort town of Sturbridge, Massachusetts.

For the Iron Dogs, our Annual Meeting is on Wednesday starting at 10:00 AM and continuing after lunch if necessary. The review and revision of our By-Laws is the major topic for discussion.

Since Massachusetts is steeped in history of the founding our country, the off-site function for this year is titled "A 1776 Experience" which should be both an educational and fun evening on Wednesday.

Our Iron Dog banquet and new pup induction will be on Thursday evening at 6:00 PM.

Throughout the Congress, the Dogs will again be collecting tickets for the various functions and handing out the daily newspaper. Dogs doing this are reminded to bring their blue blazers, grey slacks and name tags.



*"Tell me
and I forget.
Teach me
and I remember.
Involve me
and I learn."*

Benjamin Franklin

More than 400 snowmobile leaders from the United States, Canada, Russia and Sweden are expected to attend the ISC. In addition there will be representatives from Arctic Cat, Polaris, Ski-Doo and Yamaha, grooming equipment manufacturers, state and federal trail administrators, national snowmobile organizations, state and provincial snowmobile associations, clubs, recreational enforcement agencies, tourism and the media.

Each morning session will open with a keynote speaker followed by 19 educational workshops during the four days of meetings. Each workshop addresses concerns and opportunities for snowmobilers to grow their clubs and organizations, react to public opinion, trail signing, getting youth involved, groomer operation and funding and other topics of interest to those attending.

Fun has not been left out of the event with many sightseeing trips available, area shopping destinations, historic places to visit and, best of all, the opportunity for snowmobilers to re-unite with other snowmobilers at this once-a-year gathering.

See registration form inserts.

Executive Secretary speaks:**John Mitchell**

I would like to thank the Alberta Snowmobile Association for a great Congress that was well planned and the facilities were top notch. Even though it was a small group the Congress went well and the events were well attended.

At the Iron Dog Annual Meeting many items were discussed and committees were assigned to look into setting up a web page as well as a face book page. A committee is also working on updating the by-laws and the membership will be notified of any changes that need to be made.

Two new Dogs were accepted, Clayton Prince from Kelowna, British Columbia and Dave Robertson from Custer, Washington with both being inducted on Friday at the banquet.

A change this year saw the Iron Dogs wearing our golf shirts for activities and a different color for each day which stood out quite well.

At the Saturday night banquet the

George A. Eisenhower Award for Distinguished Service to Snowmobiling was presented to Edward J. Klim, President, International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association for his work the past sixteen years promoting the sport of snowmobiling worldwide.

This year we have lost two of our Iron Dog members, Ron Ruediger and Catherine Dickson, both of whom who have been long time members and contributors to the Iron Dogs. Catherine was inducted into the Iron Dogs in 1979, elected to the Board in 1981 and served as President 1987-1989 and continued to be active as much as her health allowed. Ron was inducted into the Iron Dogs in 1994 and was quite active in snowmobile activities to the extent that his health permitted. They both will be missed and we send out our condolences to the families.

As we look ahead to the 44th International Snowmobile Congress in Sturbridge, MA I would like to remind the members that this is a four day congress and our meeting will take place on Wednesday morning and Wednesday afternoon, June 6th. Our annual banquet will be on Thursday evening, June 7th starting at 6:00 PM instead of the usual Friday evening due to conflicts with other activities planned at the Congress. I hope to see a large attendance this year and if you have any questions please contact me at my home (307-674-7297) or else by e-mail, jmitchel@fiberpipe.net.

Heavenly Trails for Catherine Dickson Iron Dog Brigade's "Queen Mum"

Long revered as our "Queen Mum", Catherine Dickson passed away on March 11 with her loving family by her side at the age of 93.

An avid snowmobiler, she received numerous state and national honors and awards for her dedication to the promotion of the sport.

She was inducted into the International Snowmobile Hall of Fame in 1992 and also received the IDB Distinguished Service Award that same year. .

In 2003 Catherine was named as "One Who Made A Difference" by Snowmobile Magazine.

Her unofficial title of "Queen Mum" of the Dogs was given to her many years ago in recognition of her dedication to the Brigade.

On June 3rd there will be another celebration of her life with her snowmobiling friends at the Ridge Runners Clubhouse in Pittsburg, NH at 2PM. This is the Sunday prior to the ISC in Sturbridge, MA.

Rest well Catherine.

Top Dog speaks:**Roger Pillman, President**

Spring is upon us again. I do not know where the time goes.

The Calgary ISC provided great networking and the opportunity to see many old friends and meet new ones. The Iron Dogs were definitely visible taking tickets at the ISC venues and supervising the ACSA and CCSO silent auctions. This year we wore blue, red or white polo shirts on different days. The iron Dogs were asked to participate in the opening ceremonies of the Congress. As President I felt honored to be able to carry the Iron Dog flag behind the American, Canadian and Swedish flags.

We welcomed two new pups into the Brigade: Dave Robertson from Bellingham Washington and Clayton Prince from Kelowna B.C. These two gentlemen bring a wealth of snowmobiling experience to the Brigade. There were 26 Iron Dogs at our annual meeting and at the banquet. Discussions at our meeting were

in keeping with making the Iron Dog Brigade more visible. Committees were struck to review and update the bylaws, set up an Iron Dog website and take advantage of other social media such as Facebook to facilitate better communication of Iron Dog activities.

The group of 26 Iron Dogs rode a total of 16,971 miles last year on sled, or an average of 652.71 miles/Iron Dog. Even though we are maturing we are still pursuing the sport we love and which brought us all together.

Speaking of maturing, many of the Brigade members have been spending long hours at health care facilities caring for their loved ones. Our prayers and warm thoughts extend out to the Hollbrook, Dickson, Ruediger, Carmichael, Sheets, and Melick families who have had loved ones pass away. The Oakes, Lampitt (broken hip) and Skomoroh (poor lad can't talk) families are busy nursing their loved ones to better health. (My apologies if I have missed anybody.) I had a total knee replacement on 22 February but am recuperating well at home.

Over the summer, the Bylaws committee asked for input on the bylaws from all Brigade members. Thank you to all of you who responded. I also received feedback from some of you about other suggestions or changes you would like to see. I am looking forward to getting some direction on some of the suggestions in June at the annual meeting of the Iron Dog Brigade.

Jack Sheets has been working hard at setting up the Iron Dog Brigade website. Check it out at www.irondogbrigade.com. We still have a ways to go to get it populated with information about each of the Brigade members. The password for this page is pups. Hopefully there will be enough information available in June to provide direction whether or not the members think this is a worthwhile project. If you have any concerns about any of the information from your Iron Dog application form being put on the members only page please let me know. If you have not migrated to email yet or don't have a computer the Brigade secretary will still be responsible for keeping you up to date on things.

Lorraine and I spent a month sledding in West Yellowstone and South Dakota. We took in both Iron Dog rides in the west. Look forward to a new site for the Midwest ride next year and maybe other rides! Dave Robertson and I had the pleasure of touring our Swedish Iron Dog Per-Olav to sledding in the Yellowstone area. Then driving over to Lead, South Dakota to take the ride in there and driving him back to Bozeman again. Attendance at the West Yellowstone ride was small but we took in the usual sites with young Hunter Howell helping dad Jason with the hosting and touring. Duane and crew once again outdid themselves in getting sponsorship from local businesses promoting the high quality tourism of the Black Hills but keeping a very reasonable cost ride to the Brigade members and their guests.

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Massachusetts have plans well under way for the Congress next year in Sturbridge June 5 – 9, 2012. The ISC has gone back to a 4 day congress. Of course, there will be another colored shirt to add to your wardrobe. Look for updated order forms in the Dog Tags and our new website!

Color scheme for 2012 will be Wednesday red shirts, Thursday yellow shirts, Friday blue shirts and Saturday white shirts. Please order your shirts by May 1st for Congress delivery. If you want your shirt delivered to Congress please just email (or snail mail) me your order form and you can pay

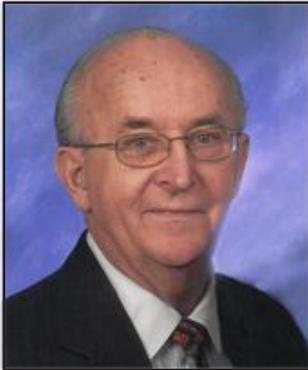
for the shirts in Massachusetts.

Looking forward to seeing you in Massachusetts.

Roger Pillman President, Iron Dog Brigade

Email Address:
president@irondogbrigade.org

Heavenly Trails for Ron Rudiger: ISHOF and IDB



Snowmobiling and South Dakota lost one of it greatest promotors and developers in the passing of Ron Rudiger on February 1. He was 76.

Ron spent 44 years involved on all phases of the sport founding and serving on the South Dakota Snowmobile Association's every office. He also served on the Governor's Advisory Board and the Black Hills Regional

Multiple Use Coalition and assistant editor of the Sno-Plainsman.

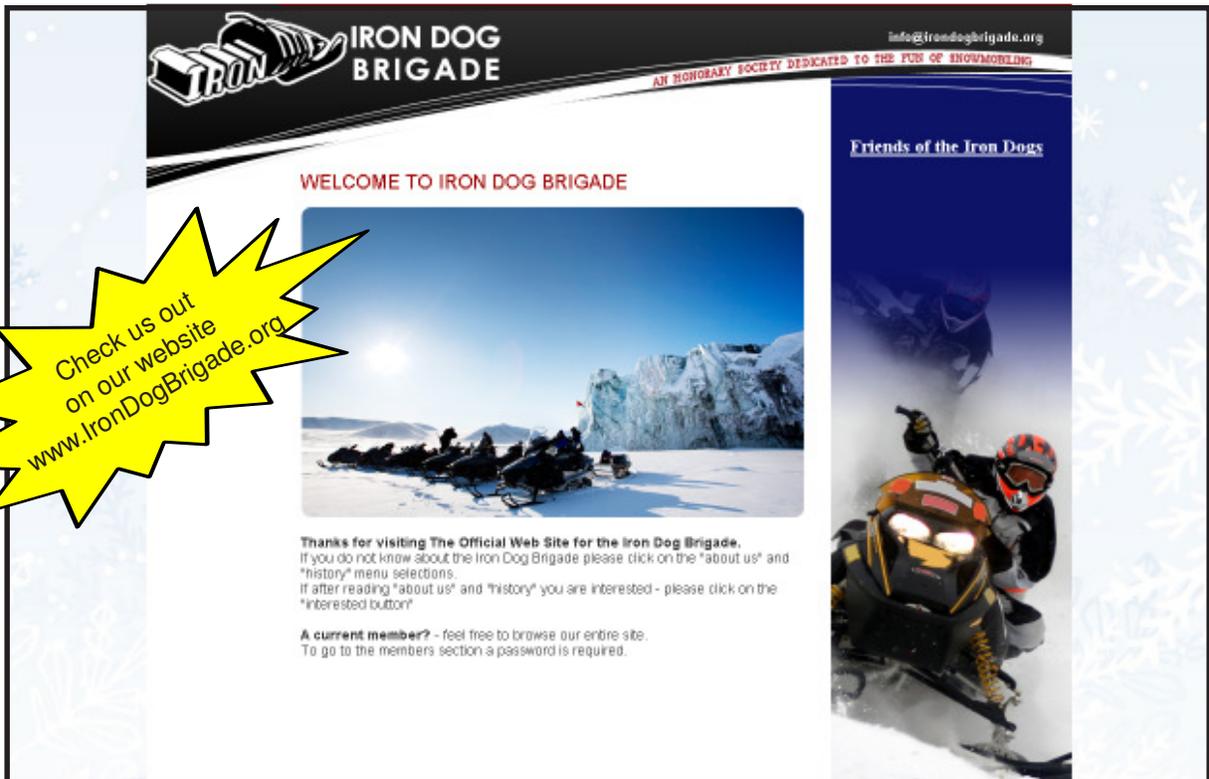
Even when stricken with a massive stroke in 1984, Ron fought back and through determination and therapy he was able to ride again. And ride he did in Idaho, Wyoming, Montana, Quebec and even Alaska. But he loved his beloved Black Hills best.

Ride the soft clouds, Ron.

Website in progress for Iron Dogs

Following our annual meeting last year, a committee headed by Jack Sheets has been working on developing a website for the Iron Dogs.

Preliminary designs are complete. Details will be added following review and final decision at the annual meeting at the ISC this June.



Dogs enjoy annual West Yellowstone Winter Ride



Annual pilgrimage to the beauty of Yellowstone once again enjoyed by Iron Dogs

Dogs came by car, truck and even airplane to once again gather at West Yellowstone for our annual Winter Ride. Joining the group this year, all the way from Sweden, was one of the newest Dogs, Per-Olov Girhagen (shown right with Roger Pillman).

The event is designed and operated by Bill and Carole Howell and features the combination of mountain riding, trail riding, trips into the Yellowstone National Park, good food and, best of all, great times with fellow Dogs.

The 2013 ride will be in mid- January with more details available after the Congress. Its a great way to experience the wonders of the Yellowstone Country and enjoy the camaraderie of other Iron Dogs.



Honors to several Iron Dogs

Professional Excellence Award bestowed on Les Ollila

On June 5, 2011, during the evening awards banquet at the International Snowmobile Congress, members of the International Association of Snowmobile Administrators recognized Ollila's countless accomplishments by presenting him with their Professional Excellence Award.

His career has spanned over 20 years in working with the snowmobile community to implement and improve snowmobiling in Minnesota.

Bill Manson inducted in ISHOF

Michigan's "main man", Bill Manson was inducted into the International Snowmobile Hall of Fame located in Eagle River, WI last September.

In 1982 Manson was instrumental in the formation of the Michigan Snowmobile Association and now serves as their Executive Director.

In addition, Manson also serves on several boards and committees on the state and national levels of organized snowmobiling.

Sutton, Smith, Holbrook & King serving offices on national levels

Serving offices on national organizations this year are these Iron Dogs:

Duane Sutton - Chairman of Midwest Chapter and Secretary Treasurer of International Snowmobile Council.

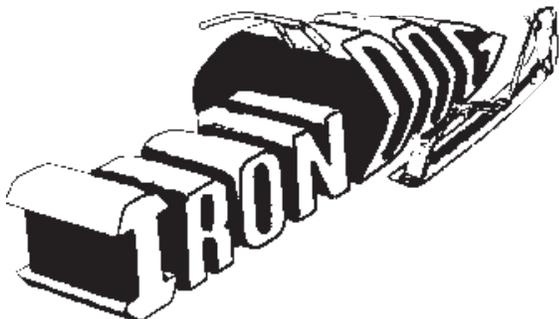
Joann Smith - Secretary Treasurer of Midwest Chapter of International Snowmobile Council.

Bonnie Holbrook - Secretary of International Snowmobile Media Council.

Judy King - Secretary Treasurer of American Council of Snowmobile Associations.

Congratulations to these Dogs. They keep on promoting and improving the sport.

*Congratulations & Best of Luck
to the following
Les, Bill, Duane, Joann,
Bonnie & Judy*



See you at Congress!

Due to the ISC Inserts, this Dog Tag was mailed, instead of emailed.