

Rice lake Sno-Birds (Snow & Dirt Club) History Highlights

The Rice Lake Sno-Birds snowmobile club was formed in 1972 and continued until 1979. The club then reorganized in 1987 and continued until June, 2014, when the Rice Lake Area ATV Club and Sno-Birds joined together to become The Rice Lake Snow & Dirt Club. Few records remain from the club's early years, however the following are highlights derived from existing club documents.



1972 officers: Aldy Knutson, President; Bill Freeman, Vice Pres.; Doris Enquist, Sec./Treas.; Board Members: Fred Rhode, Larry Wiese, Leonard Wilson, Don Roux & Bob Weisel.

1984 Rice Lake hosts the Int'l. Snowmobile Racing Assoc.'s (ISRA) World Series of Drag Racing on Rice Lake's north side lake ice.

1989 Participated in Badger State Winter Games' Torch Run. Silver Medal winner for promotion of the games.

33 students completed the Sno-Birds' Snowmobile Safety Course.

1990 Rice Lake hosts the Int'l. Snowmobile Racing Assoc.'s (ISRA) World Series of Drag Racing on Rice Lake's north side lake ice.

Participated in Badger State Winter Games' Torch Run. Gold Medal winner for promotion of the games.

1991 Participated in Badger State Winter Games' Torch Run. Gold Medal winner for promotion of the games.

1992 Participated in Rice Lake's 1st annual Holiday Parade.

1994 Membership drive resulted in growth to 75 club members.

60 Students completed the Sno-Birds' Snowmobile Safety Course.

Participated in Badger State Winter Games' Torch Run.

1995 Purchased 1st trail groomer to maintain the new (proposed) Wild Rivers Trail:



1996 Wild Rivers Trail opens (Rice Lake to Superior).

Over 100 students complete Sno-Birds Snowmobile Safety Course.

Over 60 participants attend the club's land owner appreciation dinner held at the Country Inn Supper Club.

1st annual Indianhead Shrine/Sno-Birds Snowmobile Ride to Benefit Shriners Hospitals for Children raised \$7,000.

1st annual Sno-Birds' *Snowmobiler of the Year* award was presented to Paul Buesser.

1997 Participated in the Barron County trail signage project to honor/recognize the county's dairy farmers & land owners.

2nd annual Shriners/Sno-Birds Benefit Ride raised \$11,000 for Shriners Hospitals for Children.

2nd annual Sno-Birds' *Snowmobiler of the Year* was presented to Dan Thole.

1998 Over 40 riders participated in the 3rd annual Shriners/Sno-Birds Benefit Ride, raising over \$18,000.

3rd annual Sno-Birds' *Snowmobiler of the Year* was presented to Pete Schneider.

1999 1st annual Vintage Pride Ride and Show was held at the Rainbow/Ace Home Center in Rice Lake.

4th annual Shriners/Sno-Birds Benefit Ride raised \$17,000 for Shriners Hospitals for Children.

4th annual Sno-Birds' *Snowmobiler of the Year* was presented to Brian Rezac.

2000 5th annual Sno-Birds' *Snowmobiler of the Year* was presented to Bruce Thunberg.

2001 6th annual Shriners/Sno-Birds Benefit Ride raised over \$17,000 for Shriners Hospitals for Children.

6th annual Sno-Birds' *Snowmobiler of the Year* was presented to Jacqui Schneider:



2002 7th annual Shriners/Sno-Birds Benefit Ride raised \$17,150 for Shriners Hospitals for Children.

7th annual Sno-Birds' *Snowmobiler of the Year* was presented to Ken Schneider.

2003 Sno-Birds members Paul and Deloris Buesser were named AWSC's *Snowmobile Family of the Year*.

Sno-Birds member Markie Schneider was crowned AWSC's *Miss Snowflake*.

Sno-Birds hosted a Season Kick-off/Open House event at the Barron County Fairgrounds.

8th annual Shriners/Sno-Birds Benefit Ride raised \$12,650 for Shriners Hospitals for Children.

8th annual Sno-Birds' *Snowmobiler of the Year* was presented to Jim Ebner.

2004 Jacqui Schneider received a 10 year Snowmobile Safety Instructor Award from the WI DNR.

9th annual Shriners/Sno-Birds Benefit Ride raised \$14,725 for Shriners Hospitals for Children.

9th annual Sno-Birds' *Snowmobiler of the Year* was presented to Deloris Buesser.

2005 10th annual Sno-Birds' *Snowmobiler of the Year* was presented to John Miller.

2006 Barron County Snowmobile Assoc. hosted the AWSC's Winter Directors' Meeting in Rice Lake.

11th annual Shriners/Sno-Birds Benefit Ride raised \$13,000 for Shriners Hospitals for Children.

11th annual Sno-Birds' *Snowmobiler of the Year* was presented to Ray Roubal.

2007 12th annual Shriners/Sno-Birds Benefit Ride raised \$11,000 for Shriners Hospitals for Children.

12th annual Sno-Birds' *Snowmobiler of the Year* was presented to Myron Anderson.

2008 13th annual Shriners/Sno-Birds Benefit Ride raised \$11,800 for Shriners Hospitals for Children.

A landowner appreciation dinner was held at Hanson's Hideaway in Haugen with guest speakers Senator Bob Jaunch and Rep. Mary Huebler.

13th annual Sno-Birds' *Snowmobiler of the Year* was presented to Lawrence Prock.

2009 Sno-Birds members Pete & Jacqui Schneider (and family) were named AWSC's *Snowmobile Family of the Year*.

Sno-Birds are the only organization to have participated in every Rice Lake Holiday Parade (17 consecutive years).

14th annual Shriner/Sno-Birds Benefit Ride raised \$12,000 for Shrine Hospitals for Children.

14th annual Sno-Birds' *Snowmobiler of the Year* was presented to Russell Schneider.

The club held its 11th annual Vintage Pride Ride and Show at Rainbow Home Center in Rice Lake.

2010 Early snow allowed Barron County trails to open Dec. 26th ('09).

Participated in 18th annual Rice Lake Holiday Parade:

Sno-Birds hosted AWSC's *Winter Directors' Meeting* and Banquet which received rave reviews by attendees from across the state.

15th annual *Shriner/Sno-Birds Benefit Ride* raised \$12,000 for Shrine Hospitals for Children.

12th annual *Vintage Pride Ride* and Show was again held at Rainbow Home Center.

A landowners' appreciation dinner was held at Hanson's Hideaway in Haugen.

15th annual Sno-Birds' *Snowmobiler of the Year Award* was presented to Dennis Crawford.

2011 Early snow allowed trails to open in December, but warm wet weather in Jan. forced them to reclose for a couple of weeks.

2011 (Cont'd) Sno-Birds participated in the 19th annual *Rice Lake Holiday Parade* for the 19th consecutive year.



A new 3 point brush saw was built by/for the club.

In January, 18 riders braved sub-zero temps to participate in the club's 16th annual *Shrine Benefit ride*, for which over \$10,300 in pledges was raised:



2011 Cont'd: The 13th annual *Vintage Pride Ride and Show* held at Rainbow Home Center drew 43 vintage sleds:



The club sold its BR160 Bombardier groomer and drag to the Mineral Point Snow Riders Snowmobile Club.

On March 27th, our landowner's appreciation dinner was held at *The Country Inn* & the 16th annual *Sno-Birds' Snowmobiler of the Year Award* was presented to Brian Rezac:

2012 A nearly snowless winter resulted in Barron County trails being open for a total of just 5 days in early March.

The club again participated in Rice Lake's *Holiday Parade* for the 20th consecutive year.

This year's *Snowmobile Safety Course* was held at Tainter School and graduated 22 students.

The State Parks Commission approved the club's bid to groom the Tuscobia trail between the Wild Rivers Trail and Birchwood.

17 participants attended the annual Shrine Benefit Ride which was confined to the South end of the Lake (Rice Lake) due to the lack of snow and closed trails. Over \$10,000 was again raised for *Shrine Children's' Hospitals*.

2012 Cont'd: The 14th annual *Vintage Pride Ride and Show* was held at our new location in the Kmart parking lot on the South end of town. Unfortunately the ride portion of the event had to be cancelled due to closed trails and the day's sub-zero wind chills contributed to a sparse turn-out:



On March 14th, the club's tractor loan was paid off in full.

Our landowner's appreciation dinner was held on March 25th at *Dobies BWR* & the 17th annual *Sno-Birds' Snowmobiler of the Year Award* was presented to Steve Saffert.

2013 saw another winter with minimal snowfall, however the trails were open and groomed for the entire month of Feb. and lasting to late March.

The Sno-Birds again participated in the 21st annual *Rice Lake Holiday Parade* and won the "Most Uniquely Lighted Entry" trophy. This was the club's first award in all of its 21 years of participation:



2013 Cont'd: The Sno-Birds graduated 11 Students during the clubs' Snowmobile Safety Training Class this year and Ray Roubal was presented his 20 year instructor certificate.

Although there wasn't enough snow to open the trails for the annual *Shrine Benefit Ride* again this year, the club still managed to raise over \$12,000 for *Shrine Children's Hospitals*.

The weather cooperated for this year's *Vintage Pride Ride and Show* with 48 sleds registered:



22 land owners and several club members attended this year's annual *Land Owner Appreciation Banquet* which was held on March 24th at the "Wagon Wheel" in Brill. The club's annual "Snowmobiler of the Year" award was presented to Pete Schneider.

Although the 2012-'13 season got off to a very slow start weather wise, it made up for it at the end of the season as trails remained open until March 26th.

2014: After months of planning, the Sno-Birds club officially combined with the Rice Lake Area ATV Club to become ***The Rice Lake Snow & Dirt Club***. New by-laws were written, both former clubs were dissolved and the new Snow & Dirt Club was incorporated on June 26, 2014.



Also in 2014, the new club replaced its underpowered 2003 Case groomer with a 2009 New Holland T6070 Elite Tractor with Soucy Tracks . In the fall of that year, the club initiated a lease for its own clubhouse building located at 2251 Co. Rd. SS and sponsored its 1st annual Power Sports EXPO at the Barron County Fairgrounds.

2015-2018: The club added a Dairyland Lawntractor pulling event to the club's annual Expo and began charging a \$2 admission fee.

The club also undertook a number major Wild River Trail maintenance projects, including re-decking several bridges, repaving the trail with rosestone and erecting a new "Welcome to Barron County" sign.



The club also purchased several additional large pieces of equipment including a new BRP "Defender" & trailer and a John Deere Tractor w/boom & brush cutter. We also refurbished and repainted our trail drag. We're now equipped and relied on by the county, to be a key asset in the development of Barron County recreational trails.

In 2018 we began thanking our landowners with annual gift certificates, redeemable at either Cousin's Hide-a-Way or Lona's Corner Cafe.

2019: Completed the 2 year long Cedar ATV Trail development project.

During the 4th Annual Twin Cities Shriners Gala, the Snow & Dirt Club and Indianhead Shriners were recognized as "Silver Contributors" for our significant contributions to Shriners Hospitals for Children, which were raised solely through our annual "Snowmobile Ride for Shriners Hospitals".

2109 Cont'd:

In the fall of 2019 the club replaced its aging grader with a used John Deere 570A and also purchased a used snow drag to be repurposed for gravel leveling.

Early (Late November) heavy snow caused difficulty in getting the trails ready due to standing crops and unfrozen ponds & swamps. Despite the 1 ½ feet of early snow, trails remain closed until Dec. 21.

Our club is the first in the county to utilize GPS tracking for SNARS groomer reporting.

2020: The club's 2009 New Holland T6070 Elite Tractor was sold in the Spring of the year and a brand new Case IH Puma 165 unit with Zuidberg tracks was ordered, to be ready for the 2020-2021 snowmobiling season.

Sunday ATV rides became a frequent club event throughout the summer.

The club began developing the "Narrow Gauge" ATV trail, located SE of Barronett.