



# The Drifter

Ray and Donna Gibson, Editors

February 2009 Issue

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Website: [www.wb7okx.com/snowdrifters](http://www.wb7okx.com/snowdrifters)

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PRAY FOR SNOW!

## LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Well, here it is the beginning of February already and I have only ridden three times this winter. The Medicine Lake area still hasn't received any snow to speak of. There was only 2' at the snow marker but a group of club members rode down there last Saturday and they said the trails and snow conditions were good. Hopefully will get some snow soon so we can still have a few months of good riding!

Bruce Cullen, Jeff Ranger and I volunteered to help with the Cub Scout Jamboree at Lake of the Woods this past Saturday. The weather was perfect and the kids and parents all had a great time. Boy did they keep us busy! (Since we're over 50 now, we need to try to re-live our childhood somehow!) Thank you to our other club members who have volunteered to help them on other weekends. From my understanding, Ed Fenner, Scott Blower and Dan Ribblett have all helped. Sorry if I missed anybody else that has helped them. It is such a worthy cause and I hope our club members can continue to help in the future since they sure definitely need the help, and they appreciate it.

Hats off to Scott Blower and the Grooming crew! They had the trails in top notch shape even though the snow conditions are extremely hard to work with.

The Chiloquin Ridge Riders Playday is coming up on Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>. I urge all club members to attend if they can. It should be fun!

The Burnt River Snowmobile Club sent a letter to me letting us know that one of their club members made the top 5 in the Miss Extreme Contest. The letter had the following information: "Nicole Sullivan is the only woman from Oregon in a contest that was created to showcase the top woman snowmachiners in the world. The winner will receive over \$1000 in prizes plus be featured in the next Sled Head DVD. Top five essays, as scored by a panel of judges, went on to on-line voting will determine the winner. Let's help our Oregon representative become the next "Miss Extreme" by submitting your vote at [www.tahoefilms.com](http://www.tahoefilms.com). Deadline is 5pm MST, Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009." If you have an opportunity to vote for her, please do so right away. The letter indicated that you can vote more than once.

There's a Club member survey included with this newsletter that we are urging our members to complete. You can e-mail it to me at [Kandbblackman@aol.com](mailto:Kandbblackman@aol.com) or bring it to a meeting. Your feedback will enable our Board and Officers to make sure our members are getting what they want from our club.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm at the Fairgrounds Meeting Room B. It will be a potluck. This is an important meeting to attend because it is the nomination of officers and there are positions available if anybody is interested. Hope to see you there!

**Keith Blackman**  
President/Klamath Basin Snowdrifters

# ***STOLEN SLEDS***

The following items were stolen from RPM. Please keep your eyes open for these items:

Stolen from Rotax Performance Machines in Medford, OR, sometime between Saturday night and Monday morning.

2006 - Outlander 800 Max XT - Green -Vin # 2BVEPHS126V000655 - w/aluminum feather-lite trailer

2007 - Outlander 800 XT - Camo - Vin# 2BVEKPH107V000070

2001 - DS650 - Black - Vin # 2BVBBCB171V0003401 - Big bore kit w/extended swing-arms, flames on seat, alba front steering stabilizer & alba exhaust system. Douglas aluminum wheels w/maxxis off road tires.

2006 - Flat-bed car trailer - Vin #4PSUT182162087379 - Loaded with 4 snowmobiles listed below:

2003 - Skidoo 550 Fan - Black - Vin # 2BPS245033V000370

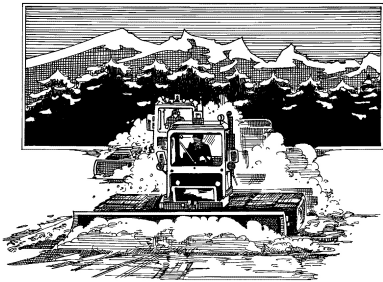
1999 - Yamaha Phaser - Vin # 802004937 - White w/orange graphics, red hoops, red wheels and high faxes

1997 - Skidoo - Summit 583 - Vin # 11600357 - Blue w/rev & electric start

1999 - Skidoo - Summit 600 - Vin # 134600839 - Blue w/rev & electric start

Please send any information or leads to [shopmechanic@aol.com](mailto:shopmechanic@aol.com) or 541-770-5177.

## ***GROOMER'S REPORT - Scott Blower***



Well, I just read the newspaper and it was describing the fact that January has been one of the driest January's on record. We can sure see it on the mountain. I was out grooming on Saturday and was amazed how little snow we have. But I will say that the snow pack that we do have is some of the best grooming snow that I've seen all winter. The trails are laid out in great shape. The guys have been working hard.

We parked the cat for awhile this month as the snow turned to ice and it was too hard to groom. During this time, a number of us took the cat and performed some trail maintenance and have found that the new power inverter is one of the best additions to the cat. We plugged two electric pole saws in and attacked the tree limbs, and in no time at all, we opened the trail toward Buck Peak. This will help keep the lights and mirrors on the cat.

I'm about half done with my monthly paperwork at this point. It looks like we have groomed nearly 900 miles this season in the Lake of the Woods and Fish Lake areas. When I look at last years number, that is about half what we had at this time, but we also had twice the snow pack.

If the weather continues in this pattern, we will be doing more of this trail work. I hear from George that the water is starting to exit the lake and into the Great Meadow. This means that one needs to pay attention and watch for those water traps in the Meadow. The weather may look dry and cold, but that doesn't mean there are no hazards in that open meadow. Remember that ole saying, "looks are deceiving."

# ***KBSD SURVEY***

The Klamath Basin Snowdrifters Officers and Board would like to have feedback from our Club members to see what activities and events you would like to see our Club do. Please take time to complete this survey and return it to Keith Blackman or give Keith a call with your ideas at 884-4345 or 891-7544. We want to make the Club enjoyable for everybody so we need your feedback!

I enjoy the following:

- Club Dinners and Meetings
- Club Rides
- Club Playdays
- Any Type of Group Function
- Steak Feed/Playdays
- Crab Feeds
- Club Barbecues

Other functions or events that you would be interested in:

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If you have other ideas, would you be interested in assisting us?    Yes    No

Your name and phone number is optional. (If you would rather not let us know who you are but want to give us your feedback.)

Your Name:

Phone Number:

Thank you for supporting the Klamath Basin Snowdrifters!



**GENERAL MEETING** - Don't forget our General Meeting on February 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the Fairgrounds - This is a potluck. We will be nominating new officers; so please attend!

**CHILOQUIN RIDGE RIDERS** - Chiloquin Ridge Riders' Playday is this Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at the Annie Creek Snow Shelter. Our Club has been invited to join in the fun

## *MECHANIC'S CORNER - Dave Miller*



Here we are halfway through another riding year and mother nature hasn't been too kind to us. With the lack of new snow and the warm weather we have been getting, I am getting a lot of calls for overheating issues. So, let's talk about cooling systems.

First, we'll start at the coolant bottle. Most sleds these days have plastic coolant bottles. Over time, the bottle will become egg-shaped at the neck where the radiator cap seals. If your coolant bottle is egg-shaped, the radiator cap cannot seal properly and the cooling system won't hold pressure.

To test the coolant bottle, use a mity-vac connected to the overflow hose and pressurize the bottle to 8 or 10 pounds. If it will hold 8-10 pounds of pressure, your coolant bottle is ok; if not, you might want to replace it.

You will want to inspect all your hoses and clamps. It is also a good idea to inspect and test the thermostat if your sled is equipped with a thermostat. You can test the thermostat by removing it from the motor and place it in a pan of water. Heat the water until the thermostat opens and use a candy thermometer (wives love it when you do this!) to monitor the temperature. Most thermostats are engineered to open at 120 degrees to 130 degrees.

Most of today's sleds utilize a crankshaft driven water pump; so, there is no maintenance to worry about on the water pump. Some older Polaris models use a cog belt or V-belt to run the water pump. This belt is a service item that should be replaced every 2 years or 2,000 miles.

Today's mountain sleds are using taller lugged paddle tracks that can have a difficult time kicking snow up into the heat exchangers, especially on groomed, hard, or set-up snow. This is where a set of ice scratchers become very important. These mount to the rear suspension rails and when lowered will kick up snow and ice, and direct the snow into the track; where, it will cool the heat exchanger as well as lubricate the hyfax. When using scratchers, we have seen up to a 50 degree drop in water temperature. Hard to believe, but they DO work that good! When in deep snow where cooling and hyfax lubrication is not an issue, the scratchers clip on top of the suspension rails. One note to make, when using scratchers with a reverse equipped sled, do not forget to put the scratchers up before using reverse or damage to the scratchers will occur.

Remember, when adding coolant to your sled, always use a good quality antifreeze that is mixed 50/50 with antifreeze and distilled water.

With a little bit of maintenance and the use of scratchers, this should keep your sled running cool and not leave you stranded with an overheated sled!



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