



Happy New Year! Mother Nature got off on the right foot earlier in the season, but then tripped over a rock, or something. Some trails opened briefly in our area, and many have opened up north, so hopefully, some of you got a chance to enjoy some riding over the holidays, somewhere. YT trails, groomers, and groomer operators are ready for more snow. Thank you to everyone who has renewed their membership with Yellow Thunder. Our current membership is at 180 (down from 195 this time last year).

**Snowmobile Safety Classes:** Yellow Thunder would like to thank our snowmobile safety instructors for holding another great class last month. The class consisted of 25 youth and 3 adults. One simulation scenario encouraged participants to gather "items" from the bottom of a cooler filled with ice water, but only after soaking one arm in the water for 60 seconds. All got a real appreciation for avoiding open water while sledding. Instructors kept all students engaged, and highlighted the most important points by saying, "You MIGHT see this again on the test!" A big **thank you** to the team of instructors, including Derald Stronach, Samantha Annen, and Jenny Rake, for representing Yellow Thunder and volunteering their time to conduct this important class. Also, thank you to Dean Clemens for the use of his shop to hold the class.

**January 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting:** The January meeting will be held at Sunset Harbor Bar & Grill, 9719 2103 WI-188, Lodi, starting at 7:00 pm. Come earlier to have dinner and socialize prior to the meeting.

**Yellow Thunder Scholarships – Reminder:** Applications are due by February 15, 2023. Two \$500 scholarships will be awarded in the spring. The Applications can be downloaded from YT's website ([Link: Scholarships - Yellow Thunder Snowmobile Club \(clubhosting.org\)](http://www.yellowthundersnowmobile.clubhosting.org)), or contact Jenny Rake at 608-698-4953 to send you a copy.

**Winter Raffle:** Yellow Thunder will be holding its annual winter/grooming raffle/banquet on April 1<sup>st</sup> at the Waddle Inn in Lodi. Tickets are \$100 each with only 300 sold, and include dinner for two people, four drink tickets, and one entry into the cash raffle, with a top prize of \$3,000. A dinner with all the fixings will be catered again by Torrey Latham. The event will also include side raffles and DJ, and will run from 5:00 pm until midnight. Please call or text Gail Krause at 608-575-7961 to check ticket availability.

**Groomer Fuel:** Once again this year, the fuel for our groomers is being donated to Yellow Thunder by Corey Oil of Beaver Dam and Midway Oil in Sauk City. Please support these local businesses who are vested in our communities and for their generosity to Yellow Thunder!

**Easter Seals:** The Blizzard Blast is no longer; however, Easter Seals is still accepting donations through the Dane County Council of Snowmobile Clubs. If you would like to donate, you can make your check payable to Dane County Council of Snowmobile Clubs (or Easter Seals, if required to be tax deductible); send it to Yellow Thunder; and Yellow Thunder's Dane County representative will get the donation to Easter Seals.

**Board of Directors:** Yellow Thunder is actively looking for three new Board of Directors to be elected at the annual meeting in March. If you are interested in bringing new ideas to Yellow Thunder, please contact President Alex Ballweg at 608-445-8484; any of the existing Board of Directors; or me at 608-592-3395.

**Trails:** Please remember that 95% of our trail system is farmland. Going off trail can result in crop damage and affects our farmers' livelihood. If you need trail access, please contact the landowner. If you don't know who the landowner is, contact the club; we're here to help. Failure to contact the landowner increases the risk of losing trails, and this impacts everyone who rides. Remember, riding is a privilege; not a right.

**Miscellaneous:** Jerry Wenger was drawn for attendance at the December meeting. He was not present, so the money carried over.

**Upcoming Events:**

- Jan 10 .....Monthly Meeting (7:00pm), Sunset Harbor Bar & Grill, N2103 Hwy. 188, Lodi
- Feb 14 .....Monthly Meeting (7:00pm), Schoepp's Resort, N586 Schoepp Rd, Sauk City
- Mar 14 .....Annual Meeting (7:00pm), Ben & Debbie Larrabee's Shed, N1172 Chrysler Road, Lodi
- Mar 24-26...AWSC Spring Convention, Radisson Hotel & Conf. Center, Green Bay
- Apr 1 .....Winter Grooming/Trail Maint. Raffle (5:00pm), Waddle Inn, Lodi

**To Check Trail Conditions**

WEATHER INFO., CAMS, SNOWCOVER,  
TRAIL OPEN/CLOSED STATUS, etc.:  
Columbia Co: 227-7433; Dane Co: 242-4576  
[www.yellowthundersnowmobile.clubhosting.org](http://www.yellowthundersnowmobile.clubhosting.org)  
[www.danecountycouncilsnowmobileclubs.com](http://www.danecountycouncilsnowmobileclubs.com)  
[www.travelwisconsin.com](http://www.travelwisconsin.com)

Please also note that surrounding County trails may be closed, even if Columbia and/or Dane County trails are open, so plan accordingly.