

# AWSC directors meeting was busy

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As all my snowmobile friends were enjoying our beautiful Sawyer County trails this weekend, Jan. 6-8, I was at the Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Club's (AWSC) winter directors meeting in Siren, hosted by the Burnett County AWSC members.

This group knows how to combine fun with business. They put together a busy weekend of sledding the Burnett country trails, visiting the quaint shops and businesses of Siren, a Saturday night dinner and finishing with the Sunday directors meeting.

Burnett County snowmobile clubs offered guided rides on Saturday, with each group exploring a different area of the Burnett County trail system. It was a favorite activity, of course, with each rider glowing about the great trail conditions, beautiful weather and the clubs' choices for lunch stops during the ride.

The Saturday night banquet is a social event that gives us all a chance to talk with directors and reps from other counties in a relaxed, informal setting.

I am impressed by how dedicated these fellow members are and sharing ideas and stories with them helps build unity among our counties.

I learned that only about a third of the state suffered damage from the December storm — of course our county, along with surrounding counties, suffered some of the worst damage. Counties further south were pounded by the same storm, but a lot of their trails run through open fields and farmland, so they didn't experience the tree damage as we did in the northwest region.

A variety of guests can be expected at any of our meetings. We were visited by newly elected 25th District State Senator Romaine Quinn of Rice Lake and Sawyer County Supervisor Stacey Hessel!. It is always satisfying to see our elected officials attending events and learning more about the people and activities that help drive our economy.

"Roll up your sleeves and get to work" is what Sunday's directors meeting was all about. This is where we discussed everything that affects Wisconsin snowmobiling.

After the officer reports, we broke into our respective committees. I'm on the Legislative Committee, and our representative, Don Mrotek, is on the Multi-Use Trails Committee. These smaller groups allow us to work more effectively on specific issues.

Currently, my committee is working on legislation to increase law enforcement funding from the current \$395,000 to \$800,000 and to increase supplemental trail funding.

Both of the committees Don and I are on are also working together on improving signage on public lands for safety reason.

Now that the Winter AWSC meeting is over, I can finally get out there and ride this week. I'm determined to find a little fun, especially for next week's snowmobile story.

Maybe I'll see you out on the trails and just maybe you'll be part of my next story.