

## THE DRIVING FORCE MOTORIZED REC SCOOP



More snow is on the way.

# Looks like snowmobile season is on its way!

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As I was driving to Colorado for my son's college graduation, I heard that the temperatures in Sawyer County dipped down to below zero ranges, and it excited me! "Those low temperatures are sure to freeze our lakes for a great snowmobile trail base this year" I thought to myself as I was approaching a balmy 50 degrees in Colorado.

I just returned to Hayward and found a nice start to our snow base — perhaps we will get the winter that we were robbed of last year.

Below is some information for folks who are not familiar with snowmobiling and where snowmobiles can ride, in addition to trails and routes:

Snowmobilers are allowed to ride from their homes or lodging to the nearest snowmobile trail or route- although they must stay off the road surface unless that road

is approved for snowmobile use. Many municipalities in Sawyer County have ordinances in place which allow snowmobilers to ride on the roadway instead of shoulders and/or ditches for this purpose.

This is different from ATVing — there is no state law that allows ATVers to ride from their homes or lodging to the nearest trail or route.

Then, snowmobilers can also ride road ditches, which confuses people who believe they 'own' the property in front of their home all the way to the road surface, when in fact, these are road rights-of-way, where snowmobilers can ride.

Most snowmobilers prefer not to ride on the shoulders of local roads or in the ditches along state and county highways, but sometimes it's the only way to get around if a trail is not nearby.

Here is an excerpt from the Wisconsin Statutes — Snowmobile

Chapter 350.02(2)(b):

(b) Snowmobiles may be operated adjacent to a roadway with due regard to safety in the following manner:

1. Along U.S. numbered highways, state and county highways at a distance of 10 or more feet from the roadway. Travel upon the median of a divided highway is prohibited except to cross.

2. Along town highways outside of the roadway.

3. During daylight hours travel may be in either direction regardless of the flow of vehicular traffic.

4. At night travel shall conform to the direction of vehicular traffic in the nearest lane unless the snowmobile is operated on a designated and marked snowmobile trail.

That's all I have for you on this busy holiday week- please spread love and acceptance to your family, friends, and neighbors — life is too short for anything else. Merry Christmas!