

Benton County Snowmobile Club

Newsletter



GREETINGS AND SALUTATIONS FELLOW SNOWMOBILING ENTHUSIASTS!

It's hard to believe it's already March. Winter seems SOOOO long when it first starts, and you think you'll have plenty of time to plan and execute rides, but then life happens and the weekends start filling up with other things. Sled not running quite right this weekend, not feeling well another weekend, other plans and family commitments start adding up, and by the time you know it, winter's almost over. You might get some good snow in March, yet you might not too. This happens to me every year. I've got big plans, and only follow through on half of them. I do have good intentions for sure, but as they say, the path to hell is paved with them, and all that heat melts our snow. I hope you all can get a couple of runs in yet, and that the weather holds out. Soon we will be putting our sleds away and wonder what happened to the time. I think everyone enjoyed the Rendezvous this year. Although lacking a high powered guest speaker, we got to eat prime rib and walleye for dinner. Parking was adequate this year, and the trail ran right in front of the hotel; it's hard to beat that for sure. Trails were well groomed and you could zip pretty quick through the twisties in the woods. Stopped at the Mississippi headwaters and got some great pictures. It's easy to see it in the summer, but seeing it in winter is pretty rare unless you're on a snowmobile. I hope the venue next year will be as good as it was this year. As soon as the venue and time are known, get yourself a room!

Thanks to all who attended the Rendezvous this year, and a special thanks to the Mud Dogs who put in all that effort!

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AL'S CORNER:

Our season is winding down, and I hope your snowmobile has been good to you. I might as well continue on with my clothing expose' and move into the realm of the bala clava. Even my Word Correct thinks it should be "lava" instead of clava; so what exactly is a bala clava? It is the thin facemask that goes over your head and under your helmet. Most of the time they're black, but you can get them in several colors and thicknesses. Some have a completely open face, while others look like you could rob a bank at any moment. These are critical to your snowmobile ensemble. Most of the time they are in the \$20-\$40 dollar range so it won't quite break the bank. First, you need it to fit properly. They're pretty stretchy, but if you're wearing one that is too tight, it can get quite uncomfortable. A bala clava should stretch just a tiny, tiny bit when you put it on. You don't want it to be baggy, but too tight can be worse, as it reduces the amount of heat it traps. The colder the days of riding, the more face mask-y you want it, covering up everything but your eyes. This Rendezvous was cold enough I had on two of them and was very grateful that I did. I don't think there's a way around it, you just have to buy a bunch of different ones, wear those that are appropriate, and throw the rest of them in a compartment on your sled, or on your person in a pocket somewhere. If the weather changes, you'll be ready for whatever comes your way. Some bala clavas even have a built in No-Fog manatee/sea cow-looking breath exhaust port on them. I think that is going to be my next investment in snowmobile clothing, they look really functional, and who doesn't want to look like a sea cow anyway?

Thanks for reading folks!