



Douglas Area Trails Association Snowmobile News

February 2024

DATA Awarded Minnesota DNR Parks and Trails Director's Award

The Douglas Area Trails Association (DATA) was awarded the Minnesota DNR Parks and Trails Director's Award during the recent MnUSA Rendezvous held on February 8 through February 11 in Ottertail, MN. The Director's Award is presented to an individual or group for significant contributions to snowmobiling in the state.

DATA was recognized for the exemplary efforts and commitment of the DATA Trails and Charities Teams who make snowmobiling successful in Douglas County. The DATA Trails team builds, maintains, and grooms over 360 miles of trails and preserves relationships with 700 land owners who allow the trails to traverse through their property, creating memorable experiences for snowmobilers. The DATA Trails team ensures appropriate signage marking trails and any hazards on the trails to ensure safety and reduce the possibility of trespass. This is critically important considering the trails exist on primarily private property.

The DATA Charities Team maintains the important relationship with the DATA Charities site to ensure financial success of the Douglas Area Trails Association. Also, the DATA Charities Team works tirelessly to ensure the state charities regulations are followed to the letter and stays up-to-date on any regulation changes.

A Word From The President

Randy Dertinger

As we continue to struggle with our snow depth issue this year, keep doing your best snow dance! In Michigan they do the Heikki Lunta dance. It was created by a radio personality in upper Michigan in 1970 when they didn't have any snow. That year, performing the Heikki Lunta dance produced more snow than they could handle. I think we need to do the Heikki Lunta dance in Douglas County.

Our trail team is staying busy with trimming out trails and shop projects. Our equipment has been ready for the several weeks, still hoping to get a few good weeks of grooming in yet! We'll see how that works out, right!

The board will be discussing how to keep members and the community involved. We've changed the "trails must be open" rule for our Find Little Big Ole contest. We are moving forward with the contest and will make sure his location is on walking trails or public common areas. Keep watch on our Facebook and website for updates and listen to Open Line on KXRA AM at 9:05 am on Tuesdays. Until next month, all I can say is, "hope the forecast turns to our favor!!!" Be safe out there!

Spectacular Ride for Charity 2024

The third annual Spectacular Ride for Charity event is scheduled for Saturday, March 2, 2024. Snow or no snow, this event will continue. Visit their [Facebook](#) page for more information, registration, and a list of charitable organizations.

DATA & MnUSA Memberships

Even though we haven't been able to enjoy a snowmobile riding season, DATA still needs your help and support. We encourage you to be a member of DATA and MnUSA. DATA builds and maintains 368 miles of trails in Douglas County and maintains relationships with 700 landowners. MnUSA was created 40 years ago so snowmobilers would have a voice at the state level.

Do you know someone who would like to become a member of DATA? Visit our website at douglasareatrails.com and click on the Membership link.

Find Little Big Ole is Back On The Trail



Take some time, enjoy the outdoors, and Find Little Big Ole. Check our website at douglasareatrails.com and [Facebook](#) page for clues. The contest runs from Wednesday

through Sunday, starting February 21, with the winner for the week announced on Mondays. We plan to run the program until we run out of prizes.

DATA Trails Flashback Moment

Back in the early 1970's, yes, that far back, Bernie Botner and Dee Normand started DATA in partnership with the Viking SnoFliers snowmobile club. Earl Anderson and Al Kvittek signed for a loan at the bank to buy the first groomer, a SnowTiger, to pull the drag and groom the trails. Hopefully this photo from 1978 will keep those memories fresh in your mind and serve as a reminder of what good snow looks like.



A Message from The Depot Smokehouse & Tavern

Support the Douglas Area Trails Association by purchasing charitable gambling pull tabs when you stop at The Depot Smokehouse & Tavern. There is plenty of parking and The Depot is located right on the Central Lakes Trail in beautiful downtown Alexandria.

