

# Anchorage Snowmobile Club

## Guidelines for RIDE LEADERS

### Pre ride considerations

- Location, trail, groomed, cross country or river
- Parking
- Skill level
- Approximate mileage
- Anticipated group numbers
- Weather conditions normally expected at the time and place.
- Determine the departure and return times, consider the sunrise and sunset times, also the length of drive from Anchorage.
- Fuel, food, breaks
- Ride assistants, co leader, sign in, sweep...

### Notification to members

- Notify the Ride Leader coordinator soon as possible to post on the Web site
- Notify the Hot Line person by Wednesday for a Saturday ride with; location, parking, meeting time and ride departure time, special instructions, ride description, skill level, expected mileage, duration or expected return time.
- Monitor conditions at the selected location for variations. If weather, snow fall, avalanche danger or road condition warrant a modification or cancellation notify the Hot Line person.
- Update Hot Line if any conditions change at the earliest time.

**SAFETY** is the major goal of Anchorage Snowmobile Club. It is up to the ride leader to discuss and judge the current condition surrounding a ride. As mentioned; weather, avalanche danger, or road conditions could be reasons to cancel a ride. Most people are uncomfortable riding in conditions of temperatures of -20. If road conditions deteriorate; IE... ice rain, or a very heavy wet snow is falling it may require canceling the ride or rescheduling. The river ice may not be safe or a thaw has removed enough snow that ride conditions are sub par for the area. The Ride Leader may have to cancel a ride.

### Ride day

- At the parking area, it is wise to arrive early to direct traffic and answer questions.
- Pass out sign in sheet, **ONE** name per line for accurate count. Name, emergency contact, cell phone number, vehicle license.
- Pass out marking tape to attach to rear of sled for that days ride for the group
- Conduct Safety/Trail meeting 15 minutes prior to the departure time, cover trail conditions, destination, length, skill level, breaks, food and expected speed. Have sweep conduct a count to match sign in list. Go over "Rules of the trail" – see [RIDE PARTICIPANT guidelines](#).
- Once the ride is under way, do a group check within the first few miles. Allow people to adjust their helmets and clothing. This will also ensure all of the machines are still with you and the Sweep has a good count.
- Set a pace that is comfortable and everyone is keeping up. Slow the group down every now and then to group everyone up – continue when the sweep gives you the "thumbs up". If a section of "trail" warrants, pick up the pace to allow for some extra speed, but be prepared to slow the group down and allow everyone to catch up at the end. While the ride progresses, watch and judge everyone to establish the slowest or evaluate the skill level of all to adjust the ride to meet everyone's needs.
- Sometimes a group will want a slower speed set on the trail to allow for extra time to play along side of the main group.
- Intersections can be tricky. Either stop the group and proceed as a group or leave an assistant to direct traffic.
- When stopping for a break let everyone know and for how long.
- Prior to reaching the parking lot at the end of the ride, make another head count to ensure that all have returned from the ride.