

Safe snowmobiling starts with these tips

MOLINE, Ill. — After you've been snowmobiling for a few years, there's a tendency to ignore basic safety precautions and take shortcuts, say the people at John Deere who believe it's a good idea to review proper safety procedures every year to see how many you still follow...and how many you don't.

For example, do you check the throttle before taking off to make sure it's not stuck? When you're running here and there, stopping frequently, it's easy to become complacent about machine operation. Nevertheless, you should operate the throttle and the brake before you start the snowmobile...every time.

Some other checks to make frequently: Inspect the fuel tank to be sure you have enough fuel to get home, and to spot any cracks or leaks. Turn on the headlight and taillight to make sure they're in order. In fact, it's best to leave them on night or day as an extra margin of safety. Check the track for cuts, cracks, wear, tension and

alignment. Check the drive belt. See that there's no water in the fuel filter. Check the operation of the steering system.

By keeping a careful eye on your snowmobile, you not only help ensure a safe return to home base; you also help increase the life of your machine. Take good care of your sled and it will give you years of trouble-free operation.

Every week, or following 200 miles of operation, you should review the following checklist.

Spark plug gap and condition.

Battery electrolyte level (electric start).

Chaincase oil level.

Ski alignment and tightness of attaching bolts.

Tightness of capscrew on lower drive chain sprocket.

Tightness of capscrew on driven sheave.

Tightness of capscrews on bogie wheels and their attaching assemblies.

Slide-rail wear bars and tension bolts.

Ski springs.

For the proper way to service and adjust your



John Deere Safety Savvy

Use hand signals when traveling in groups

snowmobile, read the operator's manual. Keep it in the storage compartment of your sled for quick reference.

Planning a long trip? Tell a responsible person where you are going and when you expect to return. And most important, don't go alone. Use the "buddy" system to be sure you have assistance in case of an accident.

On any trip, long or short, be sure to carry an extra drive belt, extra spark plugs, and the tools to make minor repairs and adjustments. Some wooden kitchen matches and candy bars can be handy, too.

When the machine checks out and you have packed essentials, then you should review safe-driving procedures. Do you come to a complete stop at railroad and highway crossings? Do

you stay off railroad right-of-ways? Are you familiar with all state and local regulations? Do you obey them? If your honest answer to any of these questions is "no," then you may be headed for trouble.

Do you keep your feet on the footrests of your snowmobile? Dragging a foot when turning a corner can lead to injury. Do you watch for hidden logs, snow-covered rocks, fence posts, and tree stumps? Do you stay on established trails when possible? Groomed trails are free of fences, guy wires, thin ice, overhanging tree limbs, and other hazards.

Here's a list of places to avoid: ski slopes, precarious drifts, thin ice, steep sidehills, avalanche areas, and fields posted as "private property" — unless

you have permission. Avoid unnecessary jumping, passing on narrow trails, and intentional spins on ice. Never cut across another snowmobiler's path.

When traveling with a group of snowmobilers, use hand signals so the person behind you knows what you plan to do. If you want to turn right, point to the right several times. Point to the left for a left turn. And hold your hand straight up, arm bent at the elbow, for a stop. Stay a safe distance behind the sled in front of you in case the driver has to stop suddenly. Watch for his red brake-taillight to signal a stop.

And finally, dress right to keep warm. Wear multiple layers of clothing to trap air

inside for good insulation. Wear clothing specifically designed for snowmobiling. Always wear a safety helmet. Avoid scarves and loose belts that may be snagged by tree limbs or moving parts. Protect your face and eyes with a shield on your helmet or with goggles.

Heed these safety suggestions and you'll help prevent injury to yourself and others. Ignore them and you run the risk of causing a serious accident. Make the sport of snowmobiling fun for everyone by being safety-wise and cautious.

For a free copy of a snowmobile safety booklet, write John Deere, Department SSS, John Deere Road, Moline, Illinois 61265.

Shirk graduates as auctioneer

QUARRYVILLE — Gary Shirk, Quarryville R4, recently returned from Mason City, Iowa, where he completed a course at the Reisch World Wide College of Auctioneering. Shirk received training in all phases of auctioneering at the college, which is the largest auctioneering college in the world.

There were 131 students that graduated in his class. The graduates are now qualified to conduct any and all types of auction sales.

Shirk is a 1974 graduate of Solanco High School and Brownstown Vo-tech School.



Gary Shirk

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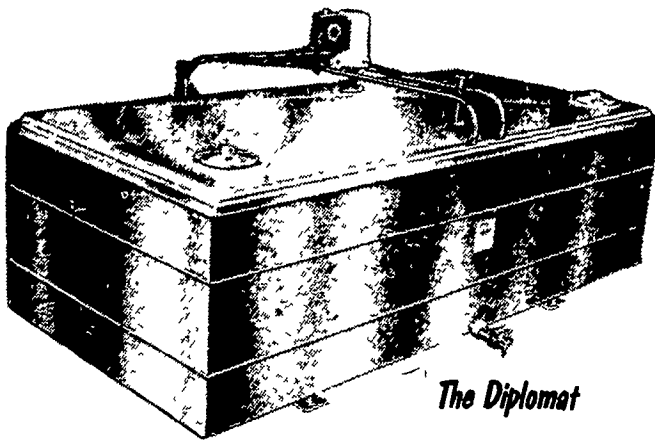


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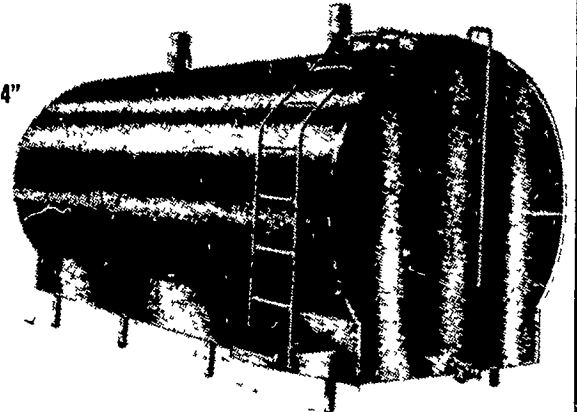
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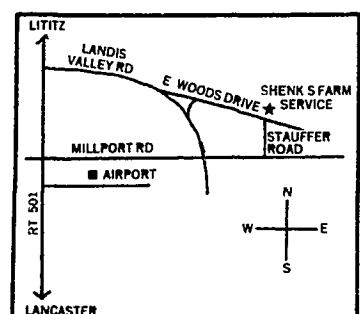
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