

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MINNESOTA UNITED SNOWMOBLERS  
ASSOCIATION (MnUSA)**

**Presents the:**

**UNSUNG HERO OF THE YEAR AWARD**

**February 2011**

Unsung Heroes are usually people that do things just because they love to do them, and because they have a strong passion, and belief in what they are doing. Recognition for what they do is far from their minds. The MnUSA 2010 "Unsung Hero" award was presented to Jerry Cruikshank of Faribault, MN.



Pictured L to R, Janet Widness, Charity & Awards Chairperson, Jerry Cruikshank and Keith Twombly, MnUSA President

Jerry has been a member of the Faribo Sno-Go Club since 1969, just two years after the club's inception, and has been an integral part of both the club and the local trail system ever since. When the club established the officer position of "Trails Administrator", Jerry was appointed and immediately began working with the DNR and local government officials to keep snowmobiling fun and safe in the area.

In 1984, Jerry began mapping the club's first trail. It ran from Faribault to Medford, and connected with the trail system in Owatonna. He worked closely with landowners and the DNR to establish this trail, and the next year the club received their first DNR trail grant. Today, they boast over 70 miles of trail and a grant triple the size of their first, all thanks to Jerry's determination and hard work during each step of the process. He also ensured that the club's paperwork was in order with the county and DNR's Grant-in-Aid program, working closely with others to make the process as easy for the club as possible. They were able to pass their first DNR Audit with no deficiencies because of Jerry's hard work.

Working with people one on one is Jerry's specialty. He has long been an advocate for positive and respectful Landowner relations, and organized the Faribo Sno-Go Club's annual "Landowner's Appreciation Dinner", which is still held annually. He also helped recruit new people to do their part in making snowmobiling in Rice county legal, safe, and fun.

Jerry became a MnUSA Member in 1982. He helped promote MnUSA from within the Faribo Sno-Go Club and was instrumental in getting the club to integrate MnUSA membership into their membership.

Even though he has recently retired, Jerry has not stopped working for snowmobiling. He was elected to the club's Board of Directors for the past two years, and has been busy training in a new Trails Administrator and grooming trails in his spare time. Despite no longer owning a snowmobile, he is still very dedicated to the sport.

Jerry Cruikshank is a member of MnUSA which works closely with the legislature, state, local and national organizations, such as the Department of Natural Resources and Explore Minnesota Tourism, to promote favorable snowmobile legislation, regulations and funding. The association and its volunteers have worked extensively to help develop Minnesota's snowmobile trail system – one of the most comprehensive systems in the country. Visit [www.mnsnowmobiler.org](http://www.mnsnowmobiler.org) for additional information.