Snow Days

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Snow days as a kid used to be a source of great fun when we were kids, getting all bundled up and romping around through the fresh snow, ignoring the cold and not having a care in the world.

For many of us, those days are over, but they do not have to be. Taking a snowmobile out on the trail could be the adult equivalent of a snow day.

When the winter humdrum gets to be too much, why not go out and enjoy the beauty of a winter wonderland around Lewis and Clark Lake from the back of a motorized sled?

“The parks around the lake are a very nice place to ride, because the snow lies in there. Because of all the trees, it lies in there nice and thick,” said Ted Lancaster, owner of All Seasons Powersports in Yankton.

“People ride around a lot by the dam area and, up in the park area where the ditches are pretty wide, they ride up around Highway 50 towards Springfield. Most people ride around the park by Lewis and Clark Lake, and down by Lake Yankton,” said Ross Lindquist from Yankton Motorsports.

“A lot of people come to our shop and leave their trailers here,” he added. “Then they take off from here and go riding around the lake. There are places to stop and get food and gas around the lake area.”

The parks around Lewis and Clark Lake are just one draw for snowmobilers to the area. Many people like to go out and ride ditches along the highways and ride from one small town to another.

“People ride along many of the highway ditches up by Utica or by Tyndall or Tabor,” said Lancaster. “Up north of Irene there are some groom trails. That is as far as the groom trails get down to, and from there you can go all the way to Canada on groom trails.”

Groom trails are a popular draw for many snowmobilers. The trails are made by a machine that levels out the snow to give a nice smooth ride. The groom trails are marked and usually mapped.

Lewis and Clark Winter Wheelers is a snowmobiling club around the Yankton Area. They hold a poker run during January every year and go on other rides around the area.

“There is a poker run that travels east of town, by Meckling and up by Volin, and down by the Jim River,” said Lindquist.

The main draw for people to come to Yankton to snowmobile is the lake area and the campgrounds around the lake.

“Our park area is a big draw, because you can just ride through it. There are no restrictions on that really. There is also Lewis and Clark Lake that you can go out and ride on. That is kind of a big thing. It makes it nice that there is some ground to go out and ride on,” said Lindquist.

“Sometimes just riding ditches gets boring for a lot of people.”

The parks are open for riding, but at times there are some areas that are closed.

Anyone who would like to ride through the parks should get in contact with the Lewis and Clark Recreation Area. The contact information can be found at the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks website, http://gfsp.sd.gov/.

Snowmobiling can be a fun activity to be involved with in the Yankton area. There is usually snow on the ground four or five months out of the year, and fun can be found on the back of a sled.