

## YELLOWSTONE SNOWMOBILE ADVENTURE

By Ellen Johnson

Talk about fun! The Monaco's in Motion people really know how to do it up right. In February, twenty nine of us under the outstanding leadership of John Ham (Snowmobiling Hall of Fame), met at Togwotee Mountain Lodge out of Jackson Hole, Wyoming, for five glorious days. Lodging, meals, gear and individual snowmobiles were included in the package. We were divided into three groups, beginner, intermediate, and steep & deep. Each day we headed out with our prospective groups meeting for lunch in different places to share experiences or should I say mishaps of various forms; i.e. cartwheels, getting lost, getting buried and being thrown off. We stopped at Brooks Lake Lodge, Goosewing Ranch via the Wildlife Preserve to view elk, moose, big horn sheep, eagles, foxes, rabbits, and coyotes, and Line Shack within the Togwotee snowmobiling area covering over 600 miles of trails.



One of the days, we drove north to Yellowstone National Park. We met at Flagg Ranch, just south of the park, to board our 4 stroke Arctic Cat 660 snowmobiles with automatic starters, comfortable back rests, and rear view mirrors. Staying within the 45mph park speed limit, we followed our very knowledgeable guides into the park heading toward Old Faithful. We barely got there when the old gal blew. In the winter, lots of steam is visible from the numerous geysers in the area. We had lunch at Grizzly Grill and had a chance to explore for a while. Many of us went into the Visitor Center, gift shop, and hiked around checking out the glorious

scenery. After lunch, the groups headed out seeing slightly different areas to the northwest of Old Faithful. One group went out on a boardwalk to view an area with all four types of thermal activities; including, hot springs, mud pots, fumerals, and geysers. While they were walking, they observed many bison in the area. Actually the walk was aborted as the bison wanted to use the boardwalk and who were they to argue with them. It was a real up close and personal experience. The guide said it was the first time he had ever been chased out of an area by bison. The winter is a spectacular time of year to visit Yellowstone. The scenery is awesome with its blanket of snow, barren trees, snow laden conifers, icicles, with many waterfalls and streams frozen in time while others continued to flow at a reduced rate compared to summer.



Many times the group had to stop for wildlife viewing and actually had to wait for the majestic elk to walk across the road.

The evening Happy Hour was a great time for



comradery and sharing of the days activities. Everyone improved greatly putting on over 350 miles during the four days of snowmobiling on trails and deep powder. On our last evening together, John shared his slide show of the great adventure we all enjoyed so much, helping us to implant that fabulous venture in our memory. All those ready to go again, raise your hand, ^!

