

<u>ANNUAL PSSA MEMBERSHIP MEETING</u> April 23, 2016 Ramada Golf and Conference Center, State College, PA *More info inside!*

PSSA DIRECTORS (Term Expires at Annual Spring Meeting) PRESIDENT: Liz Krug (2016, Erie Co.) 9820 Lake Pleasant Road Erie, PA 16509 Cell Phone: (814) 464-3971 ottilia@roadrunner.com VICE-PRESIDENT: James Wolfe (2017, Elk Co.) 1384 Route 66 DeYoung, PA 16728 Phone: (814) 968-5469 jamwol@windstream.net SECRETARY: Roger Auker (2017, Lancaster Co.) 112 Homestead Drive Stevens, P A 17578 Phone: (717) 336-1061 Fax: (717) 336-1061 rogerr@dejazzd.com TREASURER: Steve Matscherz (2017, Allegheny Co.) 383 Allison Rd Gibsonia, P A 15044 Phone: (724)443-3357 stevem5215@zoominternet DIRECTORS: Don Mosier (2016, Erie County) 4251 Greenlee Rd McKean, PA 16426 Phone: (814) 476-7984 carolmosier@yahoo.com Janie French (2018, Clearfield County) 552 Maxville Road Curwensville PA 16833 Phone: (814) 577-1188 jfrench.552@gmail.com Charles Walter (2018, Wayne County) 171 St Mary Church Rd Lake Ariel PA 18436 Phone: (570) 689-4788 Cell: (570) 877-0244 walter.charles@rocketmail .com **PENNSYLVANIA STATE SNOWMOBILE** ASSOCIATION, INC. PO Box 10126 Erie, PA 16514 TOLL FREE: 1-888-411-PSSA (7772) FAX: 1-814-824-5461 EMAIL: info@pasnow.org www.pasnow.org THE KEYSTONE SNOWMOBILER published monthly by HARTMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY 2286 Black Rock Road

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Ginny Kline 811 State Route 288 Fombell, PA 16123 Phone: (724) 752-0509 Fax: (724) 752-8352



ginnykline@hotmail.com

PSSA BOARD COMMITTEES

Elizabeth Krug, President, Ex-Officio of all Standing Committees **STANDING COMMITTEES: Executive, Finance, Trails, Public** Affairs, Safety **Executive Committee** - Elected Directors of the Board of Directors Elizabeth Krug, President (2016), Chair James Wolfe, Vice President (2017) Roger Auker, Secretary (2017) Steve Matscherz, Treasurer (2017) Don Mosier (2016) **Finance Committee** Steve Matscherz, (2017), Chair Nathan Eckert **Trails Committee** Elizabeth Krug (2016), Chair Steve Matscherz (2017) Kevin Fogleman Clinton Latourette (2018) **Gary Bates** Janet Auker (2016) Glen Knisely, Coordinator, GPS/Signage Project **Public Affairs** Roger Auker, Chair (2017) Brenda Lausch Mark Hackenburg Tammy Sieber **Safety Committee** Clint Elias Harrison Langley

Annual Membership Meeting Ramada Golf and Conference Center April 23, 2016 State College, PA **Register on line after February 20th** Deadline April 5, 2016

Nominations for Executive Board are being accepted until March 10th.

Send your nomination to **Regional Directors Bill Sowers** or Larry Martin.

> This issue mailed March 2nd or later.

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INFORMATION **PSSA Website:**

www.pasnow.org **PSSA Facebook:** www.facebook.com/pasnow "Pennsylvania Snowmobiling" EMAIL: member@pasnow.org (717-461-7761) grants@pasnow.org (717-236-2050 ext. 127) info@pasnow.org (Toll Free – 1-888-411-PSSA (7772)) keystonesnowmobiler@comcast.net (717-633-5051) American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA) www.snowmobilers.org International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association (ISMA) www.snowmobile.org

THANK YOU To all our members, clubs, volunteers, Directors (Past and Present), and all those who helped in any way with this Annual Membership Meeting! You are truly appreciated!

RENEW OR JOIN PSSA ON OUR WEBSITE www.pasnow.org





MOVING FORWARD



HAPPY SPRING! HAPPY EASTER!

Mother Nature continues to have her way. If you were not prepared to ride you probably missed opportunities to ride this year. Don't give up as March usually has at least one good snow storm to give us suitable snow to ride before April.

Currently Erie is #1 in the Snow Globe Awards. Syracuse is close behind. Buffalo needs a blizzard or two to catch up to Erie.

You should have received your \$7500 Voucher tickets in the mail. Return your stubs with cash as soon as possible. Remember there are now three prizes but you cannot win without a ticket.

The Annual Membership Meeting is in its final stages. The time, place, food and agenda will be similar to last Speakers include Alexander year. MacDonald, Bureau Chief - Trails, Greenways and Statewide Planning Section from DCNR and Video Mike. We are waiting for a response from the PA Game Commission. Lori Elliott, Grant Administrator, will be on hand to update everyone on current grant information. Final details will be in the April issue of the Keystone Snowmobiler and on our website www.pasnow.org Register on line with your credit card or send your registration with a check made out to "PSSA Membership Meeting" to our Palmyra office.

Glen Knisely, former Vice-President, and I did some research on our Executive Board term expiration dates. We discovered that James Wolfe replaced Brenda Lausch (2014) and his term is not finished until April of 2017. This means that there are only two positions open on the Executive Board. Anyone who is interested in running for the Executive Board should contact

Regional Directors Larry Martin or Bill Sowers. You must complete a short biography and answer several questions concerning your interest in running for this position. This information will be posted in the April Keystone Snowmobiler. Nominations will also be taken from the floor at the Membership Meeting. The two current Executive Board members-Don Mosier and I are running again. The Board was very happy to keep James Wolfe on the Executive Board and promptly elected him as our Vice-President. Congratulations!

Charles Walter from the NorthEast PA Trails was also elected to the Executive Board to replace Glen Knisely who retired. Charles will finish his term (2018) and will need to run for reelection.

Representatives of the Board are going to meet with DCNR personnel March 1 to pursue a Public, Private Partnership. We need a state-wide program to support snowmobile recreation across the state.

your local representatives - state, federal, and city/ township officers etc. to take a snowmobile ride. We need to be proactive to inform these people of who we are and what our agenda is. Many of these people will make decisions that will affect the future of snowmobile trails which you ride."

The Board has met several times to discuss the PowerSport Show. I can finally report that after much discussion, tweaking of contracts and answering questions the Executive Board voted on the following: Location – Lebanon Valley Exposition Corporation Date - October 28, 29, 30, 2016 Promotors - Emily Summey and Davey Naftzinger Show Committee - Roger Auker-Chair, Travis Mathna, Doug Blauch, Bill Sowers and Janet Auker. Please contact Roger Auker with any comments or suggestions. We need everyone's help to promote this show. Pray for suitable weather (no blizzards or hurricanes).

Check the website www.pasnow.org for any updates.

THINK SNOW! LIZ KRUG, PRESIDENT

Note: Annual Membership Meeting Saturday, April 23, 2016 9am, **Ramada Golf** and Conference Center.

NEWS FROM PSSA'S GRANTS ADMINISTRATOR

Hello, PSSA Members!

Our "snowmaaeddon' storm last month produced 32" in my area and Harrisburg was shut down for two

days. I hope you also have received an ample supply of snow in your area.

As you know, we announced a call for minigrant applications for PSSA's Round I of the DCNR Round 20 grant. Mini-grant applications have been filing in and were due February 26, 2016. There will only be one round in this grant. We will move the applications through the process as quickly as possible so that awards can be announced and funds released in time for your trail-maintenance

"Clubs are encouraged to invite I continue to work on PSSA's grant application for DCNR's Round 22 application cycle. It must be submitted by April 13th. I will be contacting clubs who have received PSSA mini-arants to ask for letters of support stating the importance of these mini-grants and the difference the

Page 3 March 2016 Keystone Snowmobiler

funds have made for the trail maintenance. improvement and development, grooming and other projects in your area. Please be thinking how you can respond. I would also welcome any of you individual PSSA members who would like to send letters of support describing the improvements you have seen on the trails because of the work of the volunteer snowmobile clubs and their use of these mini-grant funds. Please mail them to me at the address below or scan and email them to grants@pasnow.org. I will upload them to submit with the electronic application. I would need them by March 18th.

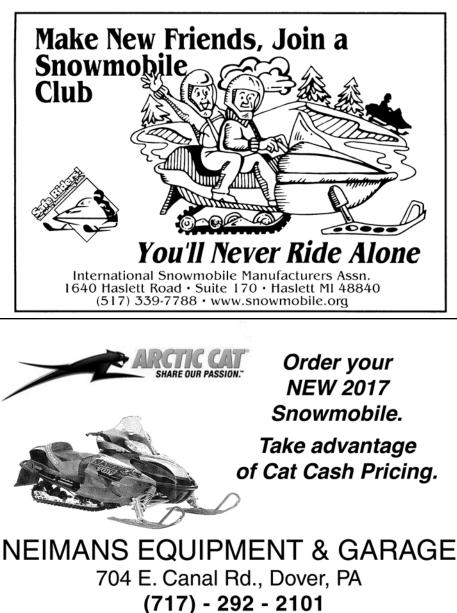
Lori Elliott, PSSA Grants Administrator c/o Wanner Associates 908 North Second St. Harrisburg, PA 17102

Thank you in advance!

Round III mini-grant recipients (DCNR Round 19), please remember that the round ends on March 15, 2016 and reports will be due March 31, 2015. Please keep me posted if you run into difficulties with your project.

Feel free to contact me if you have questions.

Lori Elliott, PSSA Grants Administrator



NAME: Don Mosier

TOWN: McKean, Pa. 16426

OCCUPATION: Retired from UPS

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A PSSA MEMBER: 15 yrs.

CLUB AFFILLATIONS: President McKean Snowriders, Member of Chaut. NY

FAVORITE RIDING LOCATIONS: Our area trails and the ANF

WHAT DO YOU FEEL ARE THE MOST PRESSING ISSUES FACING THE PSSA?

Building up the PSSA membership and raising the reg. for snowmobilers in PA with a formula to help fund PSSA and the clubs.

WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF THE PSSA:

My vision for the future of PSSA would be to get more members and work together to make a better organization.

PSSA BOARD CANDIDATES

NAME: Liz Krug

TOWN: Erie, PA (Born – St. Mary's, PA)

OCCUPATION: Retired Administrator, Tree Farmer, Antique Dealer, School Administrator and Teacher-40+ years, Data Analysis for Marketing Company

Grant Writer and Administrator, Region One Director

Executive Board, President

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A PSSA MEMBER? 16 years

CLUB AFFILIATIONS: Presque Isle Snowmobile Club

FAVORITE RIDING LOCATIONS: Erie Area, ANF, Potter County

WHAT DO YOU FEEL ARE THE MOST PRESSING ISSUES FACING THE PSSA?

Establish a state-wide snowmobile program in which PSSA will: Continue to work with our Senators/ Representatives to pass Pennsylvania laws to provide adequate funding/ protection for all PA snowmobile trails. Market the PSSA and PA trails to all snowmobilers. Establish a Public, Private Partnership with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Research/ develop alternate sources of funding for PSSA.

WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF THE PSSA?

The future of PSSA is determined by its members. All members must continue to be knowledgeable of the issues which may have an effect on PA trails. Members need to promote PSSA to other snowmobilers. PSSA should continue with its partnerships with other groups such as the local snowmobile clubs, the American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA), the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), the Allegheny National Forest (ANF), PA Game Commission, Travel and Tourism and the International Snowmobile Manufactures Association.

ANY OTHER INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR CANDIDACY OR YOURSELF THAT YOU WANT TO PROVIDE?

The next several years will determine the future of snowmobile trails in the state. I have been working with many Representatives and Senators on the "ground" floor to establish a snowmobile program throughout the state. Without consistent and adequate funding many of our clubs will not be able to sustain the expense involved in grooming and maintaining trails in their area. I will use my extensive background to help make this a reality.

READER ADS

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Your ad can be seen here too!

Rates are 50 cents per word with a \$10 minimum. Send ad copy with payment by the 10th of the month to: Hartman Publishing Company 2286 Black Rock Road Hanover PA 17331 or call or fax 717-633-5051 e-mail keystonesnowmobiler@comcast.net



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GOD'S COUNTRY BLACK FOREST SMC

mountain, Pigeon Hill Road, Germania, PA. Mother Nature is not waving her magic wand very good this winter. We have no snow on having no snow. We are averaging about 70 the ground and nothing in the upcoming week. Maybe we will get a big surprise from the middle of February until the end of March this year. Everyone cross your fingers please and safely. Please leave a lot of tracks not trash. do a little snow dance.

Our Vintage Show on Saturday, February 6th had a nice turn out for not having any snow. A lot of nice old machines were on hand. It makes it tough to judge - to me they are all winners! Bill Sowers and his entire family and friends did a great job with all of the food, drinks, and desserts. The cheese steak hoagies

Howdy, Howdy from the top of the were kick butt!!! Thanks again for a great job Bill and crew.

> Our Sunday breakfasts are going well for people each week. Thanks to all of you that support our club each week.

> Hope we can soon ride sober, and ride Respect all of our land owners and stay on the trails.

See you on the trail (hopefully). I'm out of here!!! Bryan Junkins, Pres. G.C.B.F.SMC

HYNER MOUNTAIN SMC

Club. Just wanted to let everyone know what has gotten up from his nap (or wherever he has has been happening up on the mountain. Well, as of the first week of February, which is when I sat down to do this article, nothing; I mean nothing has been happening as far as heavens we were at least able to get somewhat snowmobiling is concerned. So far this winter, we have had little more than an inch of snow at the lodge. I had seen on-line that Williamsport, to date, had measured only .9 inches of snow. Caribou, Maine which should have had snow by the feet has only 14 inches. The January storm did dump 33 inches in our backyard (no snowmobile trails by the way). What a winter this has been thus far. I only hope that by the

Hello from Hyner Mountain Snowmobile time you are reading this, "Old Man Winter" been this year) and dumped some snow on us that we can get SOME riding in before it's time to put the sleds away for the summer. Thank of a snowmobile fix watching Snow Trax TV, Sled Head 24/7, and last but not least, the Winter X Games 2016.

> Well that's about all for now. Hope that we all have ridden somewhere by now. Talk to ya next month.

> > THINK SNOW!

Dan Casey

5th annual drag races **Presented by:** BLACKMANS

Saturday, March 26 - Races begin at 10am

REGISTRATION: 6:30-9:30am in the Guest Services Lobby.

SPECTATORS: Food and drink specials, door prizes, giveaways and equipment demonstrations.

► 500cc Trail

▶700cc Trail

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PRIZES:

\$100 for 1st Place in each class

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Races are double elimination.)

(Prize purse may increase prior to the event.

- CLASSES: ►Vintage Class
 - (see website for details)
 - ► Kids Class (120cc & Kitty Cats 60cc)

FFFS

- \$5 Pit Pass (1 pit pass per sled) \$30 per snowmobile, per class \$15 entry for vintage
- \$10 entry for kids
- (Riders can enter 2 classes per sled maximum)

Special snowmobile race hotel rate.

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TIONESTA VALLEY SNOWMOBILE CLUB



Spring snow photo from Warren County taken on Saturday February 20, 2016. Our 'new/old' Arctic Cat reminds us of the old days. This is a 1980 Arctic Cat Panther, with less than 1100 miles on it. Runs like a top. What an enjoyable ride. This is my 'show and tell' snowmobile. We did not register it as 'vintage' because we want to occasionally ride it on the trails. It has definitely been a 'short' snow winter. Presently the temperature is 59 degrees here with close to eighteen inches of snow.

Edwin W. Atwood, President



MARK YOUR

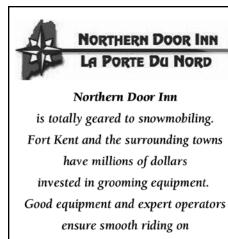
CALENDAR

Friday-March 18th

12 noon to 5 pm

Saturday-March 19th,

9 am to 3 pm



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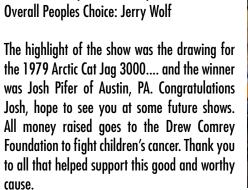
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GODS COUNTRY BLACK FOREST SMC VINTAGE SHOW

Snow? What's snow? It sure has been a bust in the northern tier this year. The lack of snow did not dampen the spirits of the folks that showed up for the Fourth Annual Vintage Show and Ride at God's Country Black Forest SMC, well no ride this year. We had 25 vintage sleds from 1965 to 1980. With eight different manufacturers there was plenty to see and talk about. The soup was hot and filling and the cheese steak sandwiches where a big hit as usual. Awards were given to the following: 1968 and older: Paul Gunns 1969-1972: Larry Warner 1977-1980: Steve Cummings and Bob Ulrich 1981-1985: Bob Ulrich Most Unusual: Paul Gunns - Puma Mod Mini Sled: Will Egan Race Sled: Jerry Wolfe and Kyle Warner



Bill Sowers



Jerry Wolf -'78 Yamaha



Bob Ulrich -'80 Citation and Blizzard



Paul Gunns -'68 Panther and **'70 Puma**



Will Egan on his Kitty Cat



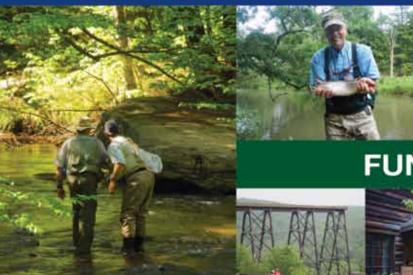
Steve Cummings -'77 Jag



Larry Warner Jr -**1970** Scorpion



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Kyle Warner - '74 Viking and Yamaha race sled



Al Clark - '72 Puma

MCKEAN SNOWRIDERS SNOWMOBILE CLUB

800-473-9370

Greetings trom the SnowRiders up in McKean PA. We are in Erie County, the heart of the Snow Belt! We have had a fair riding season so far, hoping for some more "Lake Effect" snow to hit here.

We finished our trail work a bit late this year. But the results were fantastic! We made history in our area by making trail improvements that enabled us to groom one of our new trails for the first time this season! Come on over and check it out.

We had a very successful Poker Run this year. Our 22nd Annual Poker Run! We had 161 sleds participate. We had about 11 different groups out on the trails riding. Some rode from McKean into NY, some went into Ohio, and some rode around Erie County stopping at local businesses that support our club and sport.

Last year we opened two new trails in our club trail system. We added a 2.5-mile trail section to allow riders to get into the McKean downtown and get fuel and food at local businesses. We also added a significant 10-mile trail section connecting our existing trails toward the west. This allows us to ride on official trails all the way to Ohio. And going east, we already can

Greetings from the SnowRiders up in McKean ride to NY. These trails are well signed and now PA. We are in Erie County, the heart of the Snow 100% groomed.

You can now join the McKean Snow Riders on FACEBOOK! Here you can get trail updates and post or read comments about our trails and club. Currently we have over 1,000 people that have joined our FaceBook page!

Any questions, check out our website or contact me.

Don Weaver Web site: www.mckeansnowriders.com Email: Newsletter@mckeansnowriders.com



The work crew making final modification to one section of our trail.



One of the stops on our Poker Run.

CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA SLEDS AND TREADS HOSTS THE 11th ANNUAL KING OF THE MOUNTAIN HILLCLIMB

The event is Saturday, March 19, 2016 at Ski Sawmill Family Resort located off Route #287 near Morris, PA.

The event is a double elimination race side by side up the ski slope.

Sled classification and racer registration open 8:00 am to 10:00 am. The entry fee is \$30.00 per class. We offer the following stock classes: 500 & under; 600 & under; 700 & under; 800 & under; 1000 & under; the following modified classes: 600 & under; 800 & under; PRO; and OPEN/OUTLAW. There are payouts for first and second places. All first place winners compete for KING OF THE rides, good food, and lodging are available. MOUNTAIN!

We also host two Youth Classes for racers 12-17 years of age. They are 500 & under and 600 & under. **Special youth racer requirements apply**

The requirements are:

at the race event,

2. Complete the youth racer insurance it! form(s) found on our website, and

3. Present your birth certificate.

All three (3) requirements MUST be met, **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

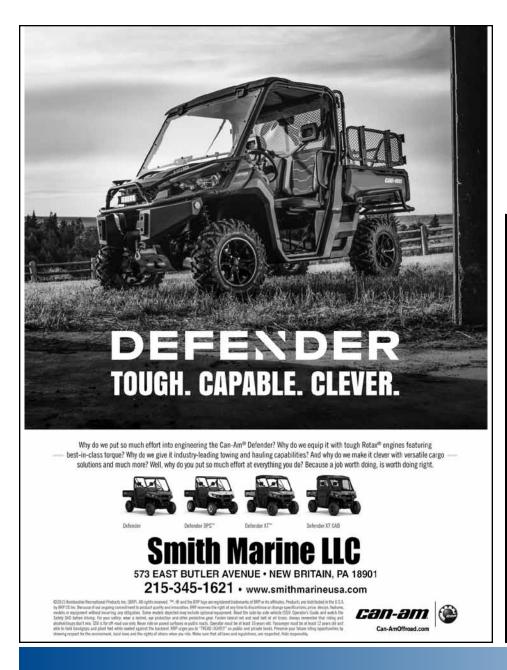
Our event is organized and operated by club volunteers and sponsored by our local dealers and businesses. This is NOT a sanctioned race event. Please follow our safety rules as published and have a good time. The success of this event over the years is a direct result of the fun atmosphere set forth by our volunteers and our relationships with our racers. If you have never attended a snowmobile hill climb, this event is for you whether you are a spectator or a participant.

So bring the entire family for a full day of fun. Family ski discounts, spectator chairlift There is a parking fee of \$5.00 per person or \$10.00 per car load. We do not charge a spectator fee.

This is one of the largest snowmobile events in Pennsylvania. We expect over 250 sleds! -DON'T MISS OUT! For more information please 1. Be accompanied by a parent or guardian visit our website at www.sledsandtreads.com

And don't worry about snow, Sawmill has

See you on the Mountain! Susan Iachini, CPAST Secretary







CALENDAR OF PSSA & CLUB EVENTS:

- * March 10–Deadline for the Keystone Snowmobiler April issue
- * April 10–Deadline for the Keystone Snowmobiler May issue
- * April 23–PSSA Annual Membership

Meeting, State College, PA

* June 10–Deadline for the Keystone

Snowmobiler July issue

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Bv Matt Blauch

Viking Snowmobiles, started in April of 1966 in Ashland, Wisconsin and was known as Berchli Enterprises. They produced farm equipment, leveling equipment, and were a fabrication shop. When adding the snowmobile to production, they changed the company name to Ashland Industries. In 1966 they produced only 12 machines, which were the prototypes for the '67 model year. The company advertised that they had a superior, more responsive band-type brake than their competitors. They also claimed their new steering system was more stable, accurate, and was more responsive. Viking was the first company to offer two different colors, orange or beige and also offered a dashboard. Another option was the seat riser for a more natural comfort seating with storage underneath. This sled came with a longer track and a single cylinder 300cc Hirth engine, which was mounted in front of the steel chassis. Most manufacturers at the time had mid mount engines on top of the tunnels. The Viking weighed in at 298 lbs. and used a full rubber track which was supplied by Scorpion Trail-a-Sled in Crosby, MN.

For 1968 Viking had a world of options starting with the first metal-flake hood and dashes in a choice of a couple different colors. An aluminum chassis made by the same supplier as Arctic Cat used, which was slightly longer than the previous year. The machines came with a removable gas tank, which was held by a strap directly next to the motor. And they had one of the earliest gas gauge designs, a simple tube stretching from the top of the gas tank to the bottom. Two different Hirth engines were offered: the 300cc as similar to previous year and the new 372cc at 20hp. Another option was a transmission with reverse but that was on a limited number of machines. Viking also offered an 18-inch track but concluded that it was more expensive to produce and the demand was poor, so they only built a small number.

In April 1968 the company went public offering a \$2 share and renamed the company Viking Snowmobile Inc. They were outgrowing their building at Ashland Industries so they moved Viking Snowmobiles Inc. to Twin Valley, MN. They had started with 15 employees, but grew to 250 employees by 1969, producing 3000 snowmobiles. For 1969 a wider, taller hood was introduced to accommodate the new engine options. New engines such as the Kohler 295cc 18hp & 399cc 24hp; and the Hirth 317cc 19hp, 493cc 27hp, 634cc 36hp engines were offered. Six different color hoods and dashes were offered: Peacock, Viking Purple, Flame Red, Kelley Green, Silver, and Royal Blue in metal flake of course! They also moved the gas tank to the rear of the sled under the seat increasing from 2.5 gallons to 6 gallons. Simply lift the seat to fill the gas tank.

VINTAGE FLASHBACKS

used the exact same body styles but added two more colors: Deep Gold and Black Fox. They also switched all engines over to Kohler adding the 309cc single 20hp and 440cc twin 29hp. They also produced snowmobiles for Leisure Industries in Minneapolis, MN. which were named "Wildcat". This sled only was offered in metallic gold and had a Kohler 440cc.

To promote the 1971 Viking lineup the Viking Industries hired four Viking Pro-Football players. Offering new model names: the Vigilante in a 295cc, 335cc, 440cc; the Vagabond in a 340cc, 399cc, 440cc; the Voyager in a 440cc; and the Vanquisher in a 440cc F/A only offered to racers entered in Lemans-style races, such as the I-500 race. The Voyager was the only model offered with an 18-inch track. Any of the eight metal flake colors were offered on any model. This was the last year they produced the Wildcat snowmobile for Leisure Industries as they cancelled their order early in the season as they had trouble promoting and selling the snowmobiles. So Viking sold the Wildcat as their own to recoup the investment of producing them.

In 1972, Viking offered many changes to the model lineup. The gas tank was moved to the tunnel directly in front of the driver. Low and high beam headlights were added as well as Hirth and Sachs engines added along with the Kohler engines. Bogie/Rail Suspensions similar to Scorpion snowmobiles were added. New model names such as the Vigiliante SS and the Vanguard. The Vanguisher also added the 650cc F/A Hirth for racing and exposed the engine from the hood for better cooling, plus tuned pipes. Each model also had a tachometer and a speedometer. The Voyager was retired and the color silver was removed as an option. Since Viking over-produced in 1972 and the 1973 season was much more difficult, they only offered two models: the Vigilante and the Vanguard. They introduced the Poly Grip rail suspension, emergency kill switch, voltage regulator, ski shocks, studded track and a purple track (only year produced).

The 1974 models were unchanged from the previous season. They used the 1973 brochures in 1974 and 1975. They cut back color options to Five Choices: Viking Purple, Flame Red, Royal Blue, Black Fox, and Kelley Green. Viking Snowmobiles struggled to sell their sleds in the overcrowded market in '75 and '76.

Following the 1976 season they sold all remaining Viking snowmobiles to a liquidation company. Machines which originally retailed at around \$1200 were sold at liquidation prices of \$500. There is a wonderful website: vikingsnomobiles.com with pictures and more info. Check it out!

For 1970, Vikings were similar to 1969's as they We will be looking for your photos of your vintage snowmobile out in the snow this winter for the future months issues. If you have one and would like it published, e-mail it to the Keystone Snowmobiler.

keystonesnowmobiler@comcast.net





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The most famous aroundhoa in Pennsylvania, Punxsutawney Phil, has spoken. He did not see his shadow, so that tells us there will be an early spring. However, his record of being correct is not very good. Maybe we still have hope for another ride or two this season. Anyway, a female meteorologist called Phil a rodent on prime time TV, and they want her to apologize for it. I think the media is getting way too serious. Groundhog Day is supposed to be fun, isn't it? Did you know that the kids in Punxsutawney get the day off, and the high school has a dance where they crown a king and queen? How would you like the honor to be crowned king or gueen of the Groundhog Dance? Whether Phil is right or wrong we all try to have some fun at his expense. Poor guy can't please all of us. As usual, I'm hoping that the weather works in our favor a little longer.

Our first Poker Run of the year was cancelled due to a lack of snow. A second Poker Run is scheduled for February 23. As I write this article it is snowing, and we are hopeful that the event will take place. It is being held along with Laurel Summit State Park's winter weekend festivities. We will have more for you about that next month. As always, you can check our website at www.lhsc.net or our Facebook page for updates with the club.

LAUREL HIGHLANDS SMC

Most of us were fortunate enough to get out on the trails a few times so far. We had an amazing two-day snowfall in January leaving 30+ inches of powder on the mountain. The snow was so deep that several trails were left unbroken. Many riders talked about spending more time digging out their toys than riding on them. Thank you to the riders that broke the first paths through, making a place for us to aim our buried sleds into. We jumped into someone else's tracks, and kept on going. It was definitely a test of stamina. The groomer operators were busy plowing out the parking lots, and did their best to smooth things out. It was great riding those groomed sections during the workweek hours. Unfortunately, there wasn't a base beneath all that snow leading to quickly deteriorating conditions. The temperatures went into the fifties a couple days later, and brought rain melting off the snow that we had.

The huge snowfall brought many people from different sports to the mountain. I cannot remember the last time I witnessed so many winter enthusiasts in one spot. We saw skiers, people with snowshoes, hikers, and dogsledders. I bet there were some on the mountain bikes (fat bikes) too. Every public parking lot was full. We stumbled across one guy who shoveled out his own space in the woods just to park. Several others drove around looking for places to go. It is no wonder that Forbes State Forestry has offered a "suggested trail" list to the public. It marks locations that are best suited to each type of activity on the mountain. The DCNR Rangers have reminded us to keep a watchful eye out for these people on our trails just in case, and to remember the twenty-five mile per hour speed limit. Summit Road is a particularly dangerous spot for the variety of traffic on it. When I wrote this article last month Michigan had reported 2 deaths from snowmobile accidents, as of February 5, 2016, that number is now 14. I do not have the current numbers for PA. Please be safe out there.

As we move into, dare I say it, SPRING, it is a good time to think about what we carry on our sleds and in our backpacks. Do you carry a flashlight? How about something to start a fire with? First Aid kit? Extra tools? Spare clothes? Snacks? Water? A pair of jumper cables for our 4 stroke sleds, etc? Don't be like the guy who had a spare belt for his sled, but it was located in his truck. We take an inventory of what we use, didn't use, and might need for next year. This way it is easy to replace items over the break, and be ready for the next time the snow flies. Just some friendly advice to make life easier.

Several of our members are making plans to attend the PSSA Spring Meeting to be held April 23, 2016, at the Ramada Inn located in State College, Pa. A lot of good stuff happens there with plenty of nice people in attendance. You can register online at pasnow.org.

Upcoming Events

Club Meeting - Thursday, March 10 at 8:00 PM in the clubhouse Club Meeting - Thursday, April 14 at 8:00 PM in the clubhouse Adopt-A-Highway - Saturday, April 16 at 9:00 AM at the clubhouse

Until next time, be safe out there and enjoy life.

Jim Wilkinson & Shelly Buckles





Scott at the new view of the turnpike crossing on the south side.



Rick Stupanic on the groomer.

| Annual Membership Meeting | "PSSA PARTNERS" 2016 PSSA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CONFERENCE AND AWARDS LUNCHEON REGISTRATION Saturday, April 23, 2016 – 9:00 am – 3:45pm- Meeting Registration 8:15am Ramada Conference and Golf Hotel, 1450 South Atherton Street, State College, PA 16801 814-238-3001 www.ramadasc.com Room Reservation Code: PSSA - S80 per night plus tax. Deadline March 17 Please Register on line for Conference: www.pasnow.org if no internet access complete the information below: Deadline for Registrations: April 1, 2016 |
|--|--|
| Ramada Golf and Conference Center April 23, 2016 State College, PA Register on line after February 20th Deadline April 5, 2016 | Name () Mbr () Non-Mbr I Name () Mbr () Non-Mbr I Mailing Address: I I City, State, Zip Code: I I Phone: Email: |
| Basin Solution | Conference Registration ()@ \$25.00 = Total Dietary Restrictions: ()@ \$25.00 = Total Please make checks payable to "PSSA Annual Membership Meeting" Mail to: PSSA 1200 E Main St. PMB 207, Palmyra, PA 17078 Deadline for Registrations: April 5, 2016 Image: Conference Registration Image: Conference Registration |

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GILMANTON NH 03237 603/267-7840 ROCK RUN RECREATION (R 9) PO BOX 94 1228 ST LAWRENCE ROAD PATTON PA 16668 814/674-6026 RESTAILRANT **BEECHWOOD INN (R 1)** 9866 WATTSBURG ROAD ERIE PA 16509 814/825-2999 **RETAIL : CHOKO DESIGN** 6505, BOUL. METROPOLITAIN EST ST-LEONARD QUE H1P1X9 514/327-7994 **KEENERS KOUNTRY STORE (R 7)** 4477 CHERRY SPRINGS RD **COUDERSPORT PA 16915** 814/435-2176 TOURISM : **ALLEGHENY NATL FOREST VISITORS BUREAU (R4) BRADFORD PA 16701** 800/473-9370 **KELLNER SNOW TOURS INC (R 6)** 575 OLD SKIPPACK ROAD HARLEYSVILLE PA 19438 267/664-2719 POTTER COUNTY VISITORS ASSOCIATION (R 7) COUDERSPORT PA 16915 814/274-3365 **DEALER &** ACCESS. DEALER MEMBERS (SLED BRAND) (REGION) A. J.'S OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT (R 7) 1699 SOUTH MAIN STREET MANSFIELD PA 16933 570/662-1700 ALEK'S POWERSPORTS (P, Y) (R 1) 1501 PENINSULA DRIVE ERIE PA 16505 814/833-3861 BAER SPORT CENTER (P) (R 12) 330 GRANDVIEW AVENUE Honesdale pa 18431 570/253-2000 **BARRY'S AUTO REPAIR** 369 FOOLVILLE-RICHMOND RD JEFFERSON OH 44047 440/576-8852 BEST LINE EQUIPMENT (R 11) (P) 183 TOMAHAWK ROAD Towanda pa 18848 570/265-4440 BEST LINE EQUIPMENT (R 10) (P) **25 LEGION ROAD** PENNSDALE PA 17756 570/546-8422 BEST LINE POWER SPORTS (R 10) (P) 2013 GENERAL POTTER HIGHWAY CENTRE HALL PA 16828 814/237-0897 BEST SYNTHETIC OIL PRODUCTS (R 3) 1050 BABCOCK PARK DRIVE WINDBER PA 15963 814/867-1000 BILL CASE POLARIS S-S (P) (R 12) 408 WELCOME LAKE ROAD BEACH LAKE PA 18405 570/729-7402 BLACKMAN'S CYCLE CENTER (R 6) 4911 BUCKEYE ROAD EMMAUS PA 18049 610/965-9865 **BLETTNER POWER SPORTS (R 5)** 1121 FROGTOWN ROAD HANOVER PA 17331 717/633-9151 **BLOCKER ENTERPRISES INC. (Y) (R 6)** 497 S. 9TH STREET Lehighton PA 18235 610/377-0440 **BONALLE AUTO SALES (R 8) 501 EAST PENN AVENUE** CLEONA PA 17042 717/273-9331 BONNER SPORTS & RV (R 10)

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The Keystone Snowmobiler would like to thank all the Safety Instructors, Clubs, and businesses that conducted and sponsored Snowmobile Safety Training classes this past year.

It has occurred to us that the PA Snowmobile Safety Training Program originally began in 1975, so this past year (2015) was the 40th anniversary of the program. How many currently active Instructors have been certified since the inception of the program? We would like to hear from you if you have any information or thoughts on this!

Please consider scheduling your classes for the 2016-17 season as soon as you can and send

THANK YOU !

the information to us. Many clubs suspend regular monthly meetings during the summer months, and we would encourage all of them to include Safety Classes on the agenda of their season-ending meetings.

One of the 'pet peeves' we have as Instructors are those folks who wait till all the classes are over (and we are out riding!) and then decide their youngster needs Safety Training! So let's be pro-active and get our classes listed and advertised sooner rather than later. This past season, we again had 20 separate classes listed on our master schedule. If you know of any other Instructors, Clubs, or Dealers that sponsor classes, please encourage them to contact us and get their classes listed. Working together, we can continue to make snowmobiling a safe sport.

Please include the following details when submitting a class for listing: County, PSSA Region, Date, Time, Location, Sponsor, and Contact. E-mail it to: keystonesnowmobiler@ comcast.net or fax to: 717-633-5051, or simply phone us at the same number.

Henry Hartman



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