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# Keystone Snowmobiler

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Volume 28 Issue 3

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## GOD'S COUNTRY BLACK FOREST SMC VINTAGE SHOW & RIDE



Photos by Bill Sowers  
See article on page 7.



**"PSSA PARTNERS" 2017 PSSA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CONFERENCE AND AWARDS**  
Reservation form and agenda on page 6.

## PSSA DIRECTORS

(Term Expires at Annual Spring Meeting)

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**10th of month**  
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## PSSA BOARD COMMITTEES

Elizabeth Krug, President,  
Ex-Officio of all Standing Committees

### STANDING COMMITTEES:

**Executive, Finance, Trails, Public Affairs, Fund Raising, Safety, Website**

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## INFORMATION

### PSSA Website:

[www.pasnow.org](http://www.pasnow.org)

### PSSA Facebook:

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"Pennsylvania Snowmobiling"

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grants@pasnow.org

(717-236-2050 ext. 127)

info@pasnow.org

(Toll Free – 1-888-411-PSSA (7772))

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(717-633-5051)

American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA)

[www.snowmobilers.org](http://www.snowmobilers.org)

International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association (ISMA)

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This issue mailed on or before February 23rd.



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OUR WEBSITE  
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# MOVING FORWARD



Unfortunately February is turning into a BUST! Don't give up HOPE! Snow will come to PA! (St. Patrick's Day is noted for having BIG snow storms!).

The Video Project via Video Mike and Snow Trails TV on Destination America channel is progressing for Year One. Video Mike was filming in February for the following counties: Somerset County, Forest County (Marienville), McKean County and Cameron County (Emporium). Thanks to our Grant Administrator, Lori Elliott, she kept everyone informed of snow/trail conditions and schedule. In spite of the snow, rain, mud and little snow, more rain and mud Video Mike did finish the above counties. We were on Schedule G and preparing another. This was part of Year One.

Some of the objectives of this project are: Promote Pennsylvania with its variety of 6,000 miles of trails. Showcase what amenities Pennsylvania has to offer – trails, businesses, snowmobile clubs. Promote trails supported by the Pennsylvania State Snowmobile Association (PSSA), snowmobile clubs, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), the Allegheny National Forest (ANF), and trails on Game Commission property. **If any other clubs/counties/visitor/tourism bureaus are interested in promoting your club/area in Year Two please contact Lori Elliott.**

Thank you to all those who support this project and are flexible in their schedules. I know one thing I do not want to be a Director or Producer of any videos/shows etc.

The Annual PSSA meeting will be held on Saturday, May 13, 2017 at the Ramada Golf and Conference Center in State College. The Conference is at the same location and time as last year. You may now register on-line at [www.pasnow.org](http://www.pasnow.org) if you do not have internet access please complete the registration form contained in this Keystone Snowmobiler and mail it to the Palmyra Office. Registration deadline is April 25, 2017 Speakers will be announced shortly.

## Don't forget:

- ❖ Nominations for Awards: due in Erie Office by March 19, 2017 (New this year- Teen Award)
- ❖ Nominations for Executive Board: due in Erie Office by March 5, 2017- those nominated will complete a set of questions. Their answers and resume will be posted in the April Keystone Snowmobiler.
- ❖ Regional Directors letters of support – Regions 3, 4(East), 5, 6, 10, 11 (Regions 4 (East), 6, 10 are vacant) – Due in Erie Office by March 3, 2017
- ❖ Annual Membership Conference – Registration deadline – April 25, 2017
- ❖ Hotel Reservations – Deadline April 12, 2017

The answer to the question asked last month – What is today's value of the \$10 registration fee which you paid in the mid 70's? - \$54.00

We are waiting to review a DRAFT of a bill to increase our registration fee and promote a public/private partnership with DCNR. Until we have something in hand we have no concrete information to forward to you. I have been assured that PSSA will have input in the final version. Bills do take a long time to review and pass in the Legislature. Regional Directors are discussing possibilities and potential problems with their members. (It is important that Regions who do not have a Regional Director nominate one at this time. Club discussion of the issues is important.) Comments are welcome. If you do not belong to a club please send your comments to Secretary Charles Walter.

Raffle tickets have been sent to all members. You can receive more by calling the Palmyra Office. Thank you for your support.

Travis Mathna, Region 5 Director, has offered to Chair the Powersport Show this year. Thank you Travis.

The Board is exploring ways to pay for the Show without depleting the budget.

Think Snow!

Liz Krug, President

Annual Membership Meeting  
9am May 13, 2017  
Ramada Golf and Conference Center  
1450 South Atherton Street  
State College, PA 16801  
1-814-238-3001 • 1-800- 2-RAMADA  
[www.ramadasc.com](http://www.ramadasc.com)

## NEWS FROM PSSA'S GRANTS ADMINISTRATOR



Hello, PSSA Members,  
I am happy to report that we had enough snow for "VideoMike" Grant to come to Pennsylvania for the first half of PSSA's "Snow Trails TV" video

project to be aired two times on the Destination America TV Channel. We previously obtained several sponsorships and grants to help support this marketing and awareness effort to promote PSSA, clubs, and snowmobiling in Pennsylvania. These include the International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association, the Allegheny National Forest Visitors Bureau and the Northwest PA Great Outdoors Visitors Bureau. I am happy to report that we also obtained a grant in January from the Somerset County Tourism Grant Program to add to this support. We were able to schedule Mike's visit to these areas while there was snow on the ground. He even stayed an extra day to take advantage of the fresh snow in Emporium. Mike now begins the process of editing the videos, and we will be anxious to see the end result!

This project was a great team effort by PSSA, clubs, tourism bureaus and chambers of commerce, local hotels and restaurants. We appreciate all your efforts in making this project a success!

### Thank you to the following sponsors and participants:

Mike Grant, Videographer  
Liz Krug, PSSA President  
Ed Klim, President, International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association  
Stop One – Somerset County (see photos page 12)  
James Yoder, Somerset County Commissioner and Tourism Grant Program Committee Chair  
David McCarty and Maple Summit SMC  
Laurel Highlands and Rolling Ridge SMC volunteers  
"Sporting Clays" Restaurant and Seven Springs Resort  
Stop Two – Forest County - Marienville

(see photo page 9)

John Straitiff, Executive Director of the Northwest PA Great Outdoors Visitors Bureau  
James Wolfe  
The Forest Lodge and Campground  
Kelly Hotel, Joe Rodgers  
Ed Fiedjasz, Ray Bish, Jerry Thornton, and Marienville Trail Riders volunteers  
Larry Martin of Forest County Snowmobile Club  
Curt Bowley, US Forest Service  
Stop Three – McKean County, Allegheny National Forest  
Linda Devlin, Executive Director of the Allegheny National Forest Visitors Bureau

Kevin and Stephanie Kost, Lantz Corners Getaway and Barrel House Restaurant  
Nathan Myers of Myers Motorsports  
Bob's Trading Post  
Richard Hayes  
Roy Duffy, Don Hull and Seneca Highlands Snowmobile Club  
Stop Four – Cameron County – Sizerville and Emporium, Elk State Forest  
John Straitiff, Executive Director of the Northwest PA Great Outdoors Visitors Bureau  
Tina Johns Solak, Chamber Director, Cameron County Chamber of Commerce  
Creekside Inn  
Cooks Forest Inn  
Aroma Café  
Pizza Palace Plus  
Karl Crowell of Cameron County Snowmobile Association  
Jesse Cunningham and St. Marys Snowmobile Association  
Jeanne Wambaugh, District Forester, PA DCNR, Elk State Forest

We have another video project planned for March in the Poconos (Carbon and Wayne Counties) and Huntingdon County, so keep fingers crossed that there will be plenty of snow!

Stay tuned for updates on this project!

Lori Elliott, Grants Administrator

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## GOD'S COUNTRY BLACK FOREST SMC

Howdy, Howdy, from windy, rainy snowy, top of the mountain, Pigeon Hill Road, Germania, PA. As I write this, Saturday, 4:00 AM, February 11, 2017, I just finished grooming local trails around Germania and our clubhouse. We had 8 inches of new snow this week. Trails are very good in our area, but they will not last long due to warm weather today and Sunday, the 12th. That will ruin it until the next snow arrives. (soon I hope). I want to give out a "That-a-boy" award to all local and DCNR Groomers and operators. They have been doing a great job with the amount of snow that we have gotten so far, this year. This year our snows have been about elevation, our top trails and roads have been good when we get snow, low elevation areas have not been so good until this week's snow. Also, our best snows have been in the middle of the week, Wednesdays to be exact. That's ok if you are here all week like I am.

Last weekend, Saturday, February 4th and Sunday February 5th our club had one of their best weekends in years for business. Saturday was our annual Vintage Sled Show and Ride. Between 1:00 and 2:00 there were approximately 125-150 people at our club. There were 52 vintage sleds on site. Bill and Sharon, Lara, and Sara hosted a great meal consisting of Philly cheesesteaks, chicken corn and ham and bean soups, relish trays and

plenty of good desserts. I would like to thank all members and patrons for their support to our club. Also, a big thanks to the entire crew that helped in the kitchen, raffles and judging sleds. The 1972 vintage CAT that we raffled off was a big hit.

Sunday, February 5th we served 180+ all you can eat breakfasts. Good crowd, lots of fun and camaraderie. GREAT TIME!

Calendar of events:

Late February or early March - Trail ride to Grand Canyon or Ole Bull State Park  
September 2, 2017 - Saturday 11am – 5pm  
Summer picnic

September 16, 2017 - Saturday 8 am-??  
Work Detail - Trails, Groomer, Clubhouse maintenance

October 14, 2017 - Saturday 7:30 am-4:30pm  
PA State Snowmobile Safety Class  
Breakfast and lunch served,  
Sign up/details- Call Rick Yonkin  
814.435.2389 or Bryan Junkins  
717.418.5107

Late October /Early November  
Work detail, bush hog, trim trees, post trail signs, arrows and snow poles

As always, ride safe, ride sober, leave tracks not trash!

*Bryan Junkins, President*

## POE VALLEY SMC

Well here it is February and very little snow! Most of the club has gone North to either Canada, or New York or Potter County, and have enjoyed the snow immensely. We had two days of riding up here in the Seven Mountains region. The last days, due to so much vehicular traffic, the roads deteriorated quickly.

The club had a trail cleanup on the Bald Eagle S.F. and accomplished a lot of clearing on Panther Hollow Road. We are hoping for a couple of storms in the near future.

Please see the picture of Scot Collins, the PVSMT Snowmobiler of the Year. Scot has done a lot for our club. He has made sign backers for the trail signs on private ground and is a member of the board of directors for the club.

If it snows, come on up and enjoy our forestry roadways.

Well that's all for now,

*Don Spangler*



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An advertisement for Arctic Cat snowmobiles. It features a black and white photograph of a snowmobile rider in a snowy, wooded area. The rider is wearing a helmet and gear, and the snowmobile is kicking up a cloud of snow. The text "POWDER OR TRAIL, DEAL WORKS ON BOTH." is prominently displayed at the top. Below the photo, there is a paragraph of text describing the versatility of Arctic Cat machines and listing various models. The Arctic Cat logo is also present.

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**"PSSA PARTNERS"**  
**2017 PSSA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP**  
**CONFERENCE AND AWARDS**

**LUNCHEON REGISTRATION**

Saturday, May 13, 2017 – 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: CGSNOW - \$85 per night plus tax. Deadline April 12, 2017

Please Register on line for Conference: [www.pasnow.org](http://www.pasnow.org) if no internet access complete the information below:

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ ( )Mbr ( ) Non-Mbr

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Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Conference Registration ..... ( )@ \$25.00 = Total \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary Restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to "PSSA Annual Membership Meeting"

Mail to: PSSA 42 West Main St. Palmyra, PA 17078 Deadline for Conference Registrations: April 25, 2017

**AGENDA FOR PSSA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP**  
**CONFERENCE – MAY 13, 2017**  
**"PSSA PARTNERS"**

Ramada Conference and Golf Hotel  
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- 8:15 Registration and Refreshments
- 9:00 Opening Remarks – Elizabeth Krug, President
- 9:15 General Membership Meeting  
 PSSA Updates by Region
- 10:00 Break
- 10:15 General Membership Meeting  
 Elections  
 Budget  
 Member Forum
- 11:30 Luncheon and Awards Presentations  
 (Snowmobiler of the Year, Snowmobile Family of the Year, Snowmobile Dealer of the Year, Forester/Government Official of the Year, Teen Award, President's Award)
- 1:00 Educational Session
- 1:45 Break
- 2:00 Educational Session
- 2:45 Break
- 3:00 Member Forum
- 3:30 Drawing for Auction (Tombola)
- 3:45 Conference Ends



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## MARIENVILLE TRAIL RIDERS HOLD VALENTINE DINNER FUNDRAISER



The Marienville Trail Riders Snowmobile Club held a very successful fundraiser at the Marienville Area Civic Association building on Saturday, Feb 12, 2017. The club raised \$2,593.00 thru the ham dinner, Chinese auction and other raffles. The one hundred plus dinners was seen as a great success for the club and community as all customers were very satisfied with the fast service and excellent food. Thanks to all of the following volunteers: Bill and Linda Albrecht, Don and Brenda Fisher, Rick Huth, Joe and Maria LeClaire, Ray and Karla Lamison, Denise and Gregg Mashensic, Dan and Mickey Stevenson, Jerry and Roxanne Thornton, and Dave and Jane Timothy. A special thanks to Bo Stringer from Youngstown Tool and Supply for donating the tools and safety clothing, Forest Lodge Campground, Nate Meyers from Meyers

Motor Sports from Lantz's Corners, Leisure Time Sports from Limestone, New York, Off Road Express from Wattsburg, Joe Frost from The Shop out of Jamestown, Pa., and M and B Produce, from Marienville. Jeff Lloyd, and Paul and Becky Cene. The big winners in the Chinese auction were: Dave Timothy, hammer drill; John DeRubis, grinder; Preston Kramer, cupid lottery board; Mickey Stevenson, helmet; Preston Kramer, helmet, Linda Albrecht, helmet; Mellissa Gett, helmet. Kitty Rodgers won the 50/50. Al Cemer from Bridgeville won the AR 15 and Rodney Colvin from Marienville won the turkey fire pit. A special thanks to Tessa Korchak and Adele Aaron for providing Cello and Violin music during the dinner.

*Jerry Thornton*

**Above: Marienville Trail Riders Snowmobile Club members, Rick Huth, Don and Brenda Fisher, Ray and Karla Lamison Dave and Jane Timothy Joe and Maria LeClaire, Jerry and Roxanne Thornton, Bill and Linda Albrecht, Dan Stevenson. Photo by Micky Stevenson**

## GOD'S COUNTRY BLACK FOREST VINTAGE SHOW & RIDE

Anyone who follows the sport of snowmobiling knows it can be hit or miss, especially in Pennsylvania. If you were around Pigeon Hill Road in Germania Pa on Saturday Feb. 4th. You know it was a big hit. God's Country Black Forest Snowmobile Club held its 5th Annual Vintage Sled Show and Ride. We received eight inches of fresh snow that week. The weather on Saturday was perfect. Sunny temps in the twenties. Fifty-two old sleds showed up for the event. A wide range of brands were represented from mid-1960 to the 1980's. Many good conversations were had about the old machines with their riders in full "gab mode". (see photos on front cover!)

When folks were not outside enjoying the old sleds, they were in the club house enjoying the good food from the kitchen. I cannot give an exact number of visitors, but I do know we went through some food. Forty pounds of chip steak, 18 pounds of hot sausage, twelve pounds

of hot dogs and eight gallons of homemade soup. You get the point we had a crowd and no one left hungry.

We had twelve sleds participate in our trail ride with no break downs which made the trip a success. Upon our return it was time for awards and raffles. The judges sure had a tough time with so many very nice old sleds. A tee shirt marking the event along with certificate was given to all first place sleds and runners-up. The raffle for the 1972 Arctic Cat 440 Cheetah, was won by Bill Drue. It was nice to see him take it for a ride out through the field.

I want to personally thank all who came. Snowmobilers are very generous people, through the raffle tickets and donations we surpassed our goal for our charity, The Drew Comrey Foundation, which supports children going through cancer treatment at the Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital.

*Bill Sowers*



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## MARIENVILLE TRAIL RIDERS PURCHASE A BR180 GROOMER

The Marienville Trail Riders Snowmobile Club purchased a 2008 BR 180 Bombardier groomer from Chautauqua Snowmobile Club this past spring of 2016. Club members, Dan Stevenson, Dave Timothy, Jerry Thornton, Hank Bauer, Jerry Beichner, Ed Fiejdasz and Joe Rodgers have been busy preparing the machine for use. Dave Timothy was instrumental in acquiring a \$25,000.00 grant to pay for the machine while the club paid the remaining \$10,000.00. Ed Fiejdasz was able to acquire another grant to purchase the drag and was able to obtain 6 business supporters for signage that was placed on the drag.

Dan Stevenson and Ed Fiejdasz took the groomer and drag out on December 16, 2016 for a trial run and were happy with its use. They went out Trail 1 down the steep hill and made the sharp turn to Salmon Creek and according to Dan Stevenson, the operator, were satisfied with the performance. The club has a track truck groomer with a smaller drag that the club has been using for several years. It has been doing a good job but with the addition of this newer groomer, the Marienville Trail Riders will be able to do twice the amount of grooming.

As most know, grooming money from DCNR was cut from over \$90,000.00 to less than \$20,000.00. The US Forest Service used to do all of the grooming for Trail 1 of The Allegheny National Forest 115 mile loop. The Forest Service is still grooming the trails near the Longhouse trail near Kinzua and the remaining 115 mile loop is going to be groomed by the three local snowmobile clubs. Forest County Snowmobile Club will groom the trails near Kellettsville and head north toward Chapman Dam State Park. The Marienville Trail Riders will groom around Marienville and head toward Russell City. The Highland Snow Seekers will groom from Russell City toward Westline and north toward the Rt. 321 parking lot of the US Forest Service. These clubs could use your membership and/or your support in their fundraising activities. Thanks to Albrecht Electric, Bettina's Restaurant, Bob's Trading Post, Chris Tire Service, Forest Recreation, Kelly Hotel, Mike Loriman Trucking, and The Shop from Jamestown, Pa., for their support of the sign advertisements on the drag.

*Jerry Thornton*



Dan Stevenson and Joe Rodgers discuss work needed to be done on BR 180 while Ed Fiejdasz works on lights.

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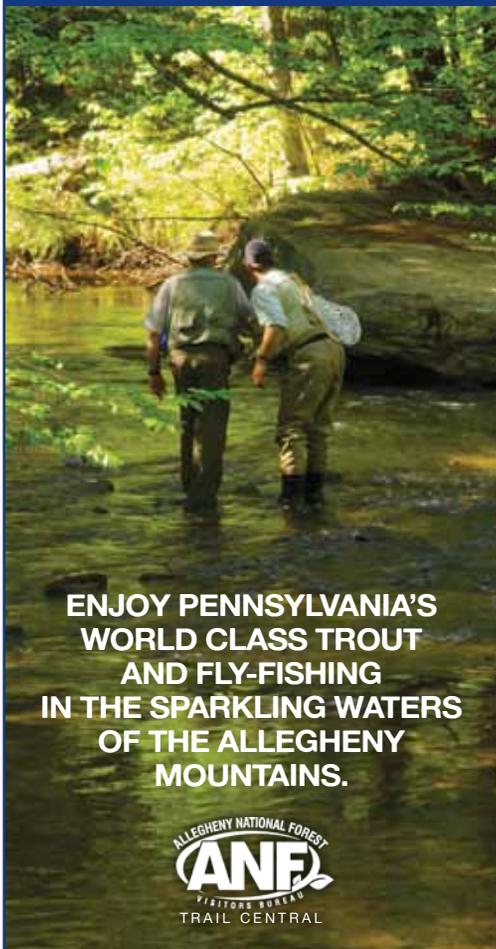
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## MARIENVILLE TRAIL RIDERS HOPE TO PROMOTE TRAILS

The Marienville Trail Riders were able to take Video Mike on some of the local trails on Sunday, February 5, 2017. Video Mike spent the night at The Forest Lodge Campground in Pigeon, courtesy of the Lodge the night of the 4th.

After having had a great breakfast at the Kelly Hotel and hearing some introductory comments from PSSA President Liz Krug, the club was off on an 8-hour trip around the lower half of the Allegheny National Forest Trail 1 Loop. The weather and trail conditions were excellent for the day's ride. Club President Ray Bish led the members out Trail 1 toward Kelly

Pines and out to Trail 14, and out across Trail 12, to 28, onto Trail 11, and Trail 8 ending out at Cougar Bob's for lunch.

The video should be available on the Discovery America Channel this fall and clips should be available on Video Mike's Facebook in mid-February. The club would like to thank Video Mike for his flexibility in his schedule since this taping had to be delayed on two other occasions. The club would also like to thank PSSA and the Tourism Bureau for sponsoring this "Snow Trails" TV program.

*Jerry Thornton*



**Video Mike Grant with Marienville Trail Riders Dave Timothy, Dan Stevenson and Joe Rodgers. Joining this crew was PSSA President Liz Krug.**



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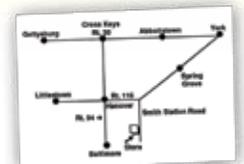
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# SNOWRIDERS SNOWMOBILE CLUB

Greetings from the SnowRiders up in McKean PA. We are in Erie County, the heart of the Snow Belt! We are hoping for a good riding season for the upcoming season with lots of "Lake Effect" snow.

Thanks to all of our poker run business sponsors, we had 59 sponsors! As always, we want to thank our landowners. Also thanks to all the poker run participants that showed up to support our club. Thanks to all the volunteers that worked so hard to prepare, run, and bake cookies for the poker run.

We had a very successful poker run this year. This was our 23rd annual poker run. We had less participation than we normally get due to the uncooperative weather and less than perfect trail conditions. But everyone that showed up and rode had a great time.

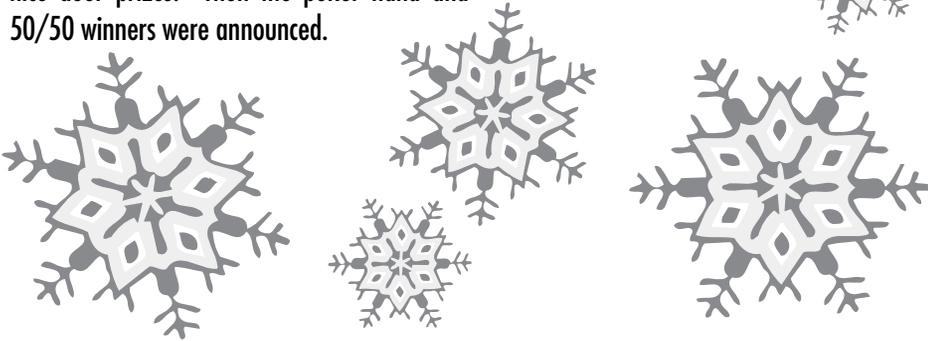
You can now join the McKean Snow Riders on FACEBOOK! Here you can get trail updates and post or read comments about our trails and club. Currently we have over 1,750 people that have Liked our FaceBook page!

We had about 5 different groups of snowmobile riders go out. Each group rode to different destinations. Some of the groups rode just over 50 miles, other groups rode up to 120 miles!

Any questions, check out our website or contact me.

After everyone returned from their rides, we had a great dinner and gave out lots of very nice door prizes. Then the poker hand and 50/50 winners were announced.

Don Weaver



Above: We had all 4 snowmobile manufacturers represented

Below: A group of riders stopping at one of our sponsor locations



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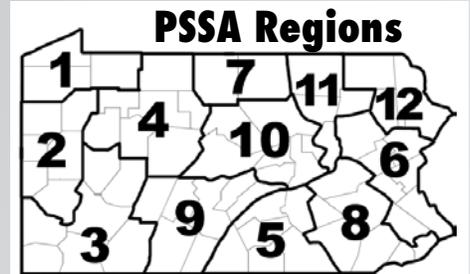
## CALENDAR OF PSSA & CLUB EVENTS:

- \* March 10–Deadline for the Keystone Snowmobiler April issue
- \* April 10–Deadline for the Keystone Snowmobiler May issue
- \* May 19–PSSA Annual Meeting, State College, PA
- \* October 27-29–PSSA Powersports Show, Lebanon, PA

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# SNOWMOBILE SAFETY CLASSES



County Date Time	PSSA Region Location Sponsor	Contact
Potter County October 14 7:30am-4:30pm	Region 7 God's Country Black Forest SMC Clubhouse, Germania, PA God's Country Black Forest SMC	Rick Yonkin 814-435-2389 or Bryan Junkins 717-418-5107
Lebanon County October 28 8:00am-4:00pm	Region 8 PSSA Powersports Show- Lebanon, PA Pennsylvania State Snowmobile Association	PSSA - 1-888-411-PSSA or www.pasnow.org
York County November 11 8:00am-4:00pm	Region 5 Conway-Runkle Annex of Dubs Church, Hanover, PA F&S Yamaha, SMC of Adams County, Pigeon Hills SMC	F&S Yamaha 717-632-6382 Limited to 40 students
Clinton County November 19 7:30am-4:00pm	Region 10 Hyner Mountain Snowmobile Club Hyner Mountain Snowmobile Club	Dan Casey at 570-875-3006 or dcasey@ptd.net Limited to 30 students
Lancaster County December 2 8:00am-4:00pm	Region 8 Akron Fire Company, Akron, PA Sports 'N Turf of Lancaster & Dutch Trail Cutters SMC	Janet Auker - 717-859-5455 or 1-866-791-6384 Limited to 40 students
Cambria County Jan. 6, 2018 8:00am-4:30pm	Region 9 Chickaree Ridge Runners Snowmobile Club Chickaree Ridge Runners SMC & Martin Marine Sales, Inc.	Clint Elias (724)-349-5369 or (814)-749-9931, clintswitchback8@gmail.com Class Limited to 25 Students

## SAFETY CLASS REMINDER

**ATTENTION Clubs, Dealers, Safety Instructors - Please schedule your Safety Class dates as soon as possible and send the information to the Keystone Snowmobiler for inclusion in our Master List of Snowmobile Safety Classes.**

## WHAT GOES AROUND COMES AROUND !

Some big news in late January was the announcement that Textron Inc. has purchased Arctic Cat. Textron is a Rhode Island-based conglomerate with many divisions. They are a large defense contractor, they own Lycoming aircraft engines based here in PA (Williamsport), Bell Helicopter, Beechcraft and Cessna aircraft, and assorted other product lines such as EZ-Go (golf carts) and Bad Boy buggies.

What is ironic about this recent change in the snowmobile industry is the fact that Textron was in the snowmobile business many years ago and bailed out! On July 31, 1968 Textron bought Polaris. The next dozen-plus years saw great growth for Polaris under the ownership of Textron. However, economic and weather conditions took their toll on the entire snowmobile industry in 1980-81. On July 21, 1981, a group of 9 investors purchased the Polaris operation from Textron after the former owner threatened to dissolve the Polaris division. Shortly after this, Arctic Cat declared

bankruptcy (Feb. 17, 1982) and rumors flew that Polaris would buy them and there would be a new machine named "Pol-Cat"! That did not happen, and other investors later re-introduced the Arctic Cat brand for the 1984 model year.

The big question with Textron's re-entry into the snowmobile business is "How long will it last?" Time will tell, as past history of other acquisitions by Textron provide a somewhat uncertain future for the Arctic Cat brand name. There is a saying that "History repeats itself", and another one that "Those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it".

Stay tuned for more news as the snowmobile business continues to evolve nearly 100 years after Carl Eliason built his first Motor-Toboggan".

*Henry Hartman*

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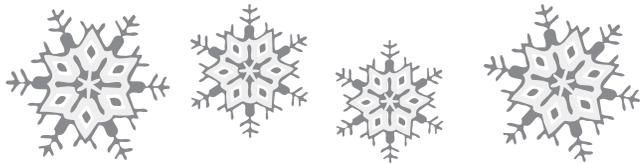
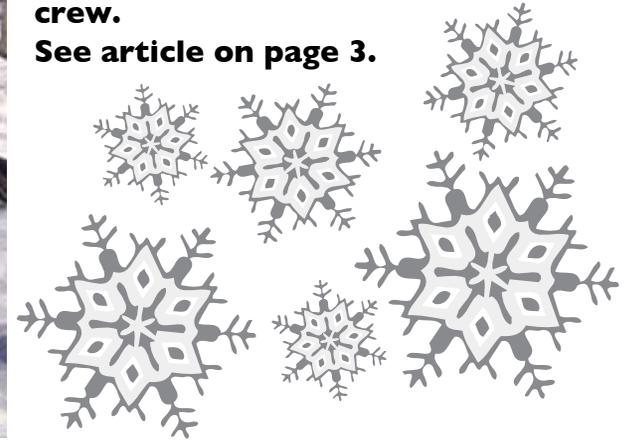
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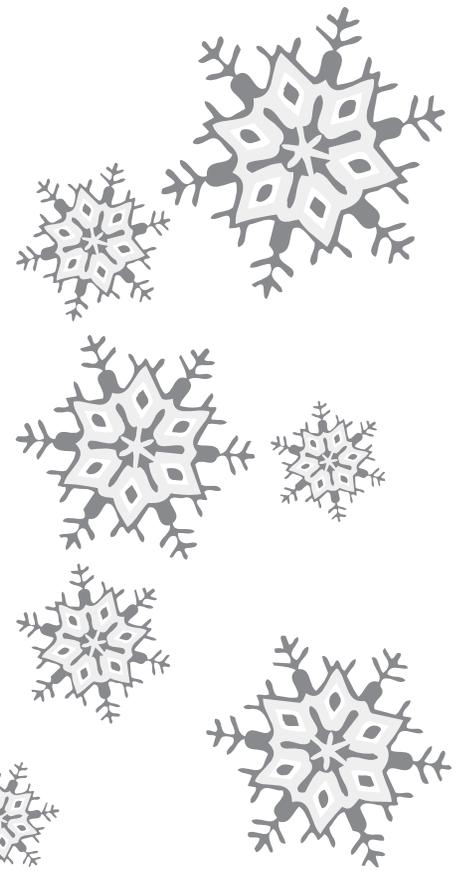
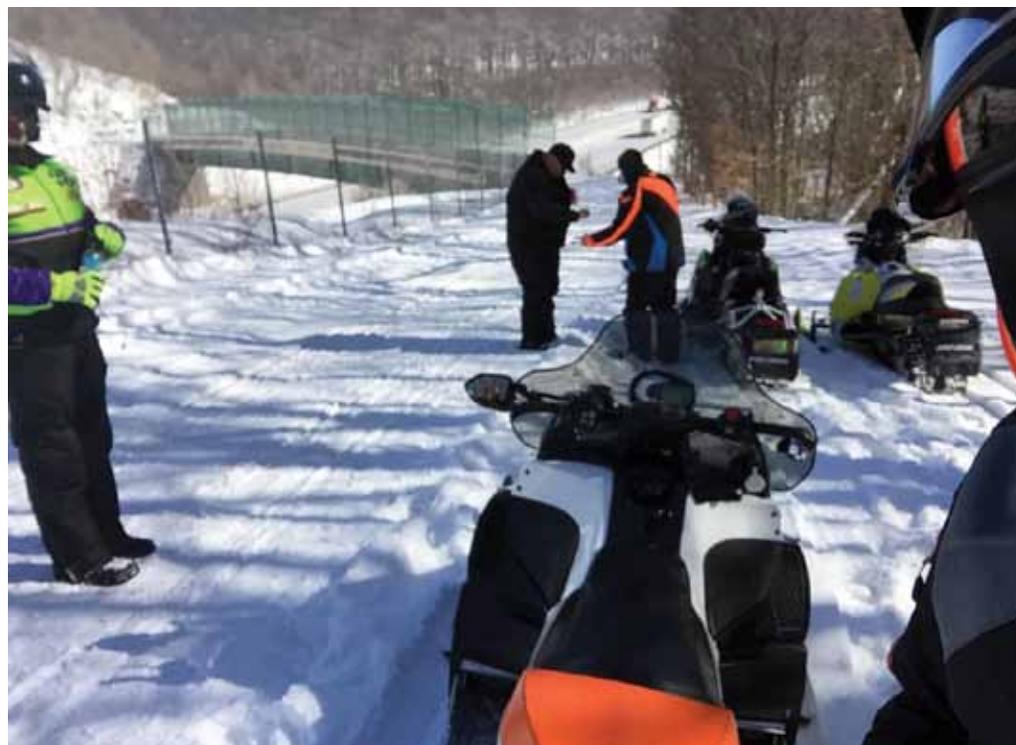
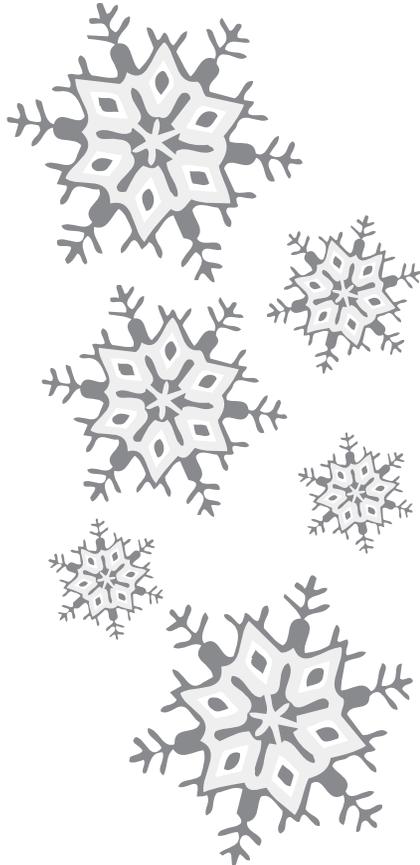
**Left: Maple Summit SMC portable lunch wagon provided food for Video Mike Grant and his TV video crew. See article on page 3.**



**Right: Brad, Video Mike, Barry, Brian, and Bill checking in at the clubhouse along their journey.**



**Below: Jim and Linda Wilkinson talking to Jim Bower at the turnpike overlook.**



Greetings from Region 3 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It's hard to believe that another season is almost gone. It seems as though we barely rode, but members did manage a few local riding days. If you are going to ride snowmobiles in the Laurel Highlands, you must be a Minuteman. That simply means you must ride ASAP. If you waited even a day or two to ride, it was probably 50 plus degrees and the snow was gone.

Despite the lack of consistent snow in the area, DCNR did a terrific job on the trails. Brad Hoover, our president and DCNR employee, did his best to move the snow around and flatten what was available in the Laurel Hill State Park. Forbes State Forestry also made it out, and kept the trails in the best condition possible. The only thing both teams missed out on was the extra needed snowfall that was beyond their control. Thank you DCNR employees!

Thank you also to Bob Ainsley and Bob Nichols for continually keeping the parking lot plowed open!

If you haven't ridden the North side lately, the Route 30 Warming Hut has new latrines. The Nordic Ski Patrol welcomed us inside the warming hut, where they sold snacks on the weekends. Many of them attended our last snowmobile safety class, and look forward

## LAUREL HIGHLANDS SMC

to getting to know snowmobilers better. The Laurel Mountain Ski Resort has also reopened. The trail off of Laurel Summit road onto Locust Camp road leads right into the parking lot. There is a cafe upstairs, and a restaurant downstairs where you can relax and re-energize for the rest of the ride.

Video Mike Grant, from SnowTrails TV, came to us from the state of Michigan. He is in the process of adding a tour of PA to his fall schedule. The 3 clubs in our area, Maple Summit, Rolling Ridge, and Laurel Highlands, all took part. Dave McCarty, our Regional Director, organized his stay. Brad Hoover, Barry Harcum, Bill Bennett, and Brian travelled with him as tour guides. You can go to our Facebook page to see 22 pictures about Video Mike's visit. They started at the Sporting Clays in Seven Springs, and worked their way to our clubhouse, the Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail Bridge, the warming hut, Laurel Mountain Ski Resort, and then back across to Maple Summit's trailside cookout. They reported a nice ride all around. Video Mike left the following day to continue his tour in the Allegheny National Forest. His website will have more information about when the episode will air.

See photos opposite page.

Here are some upcoming events for the club:

1. March 9, Club Meeting at 8:00 PM in the clubhouse.

2. April 13, Club Meeting at 8:00 PM in the clubhouse.

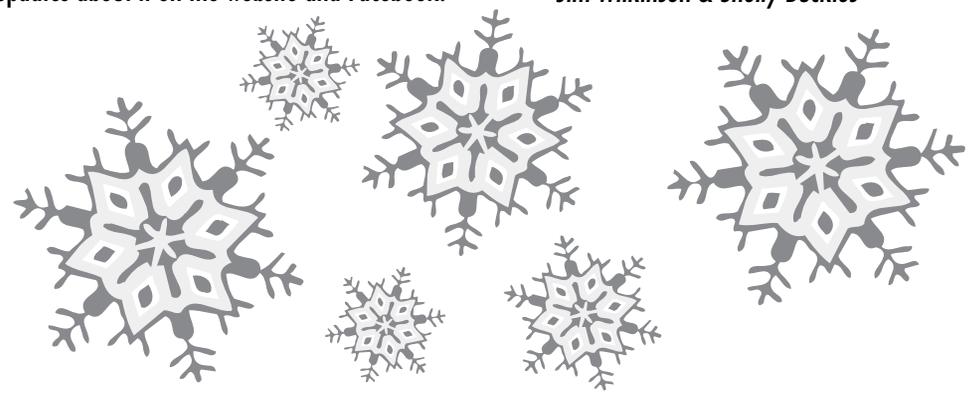
3. April 22, 2017 Adopt A Highway 9:00 A.M. This is actually a fun workday despite the garbage. It is interesting to see what people have left behind. You wouldn't believe the things we have found through the years. We will provide gloves, trash grabbers, bags, safety vests, and lunch. We divide our volunteers into 2 groups to cover more area. The main stretch is along Route 31, but we send an additional crew along Tunnel Road and Camp Run Road. In the past, we have picked up between 42 and 86 bags of garbage. We will post more updates about it on the website and Facebook.

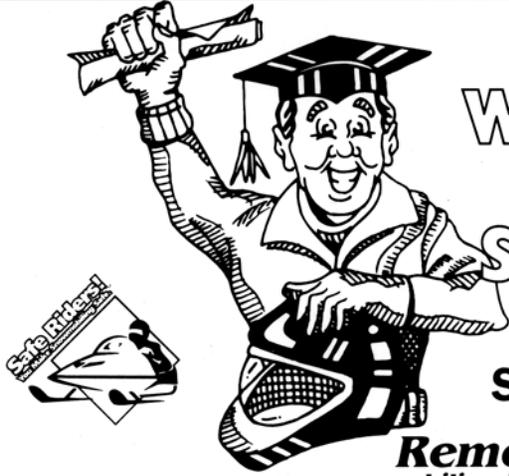
4. The PSSA general membership meeting will be held soon at the Ramada Inn located in State College. This event starts at 9:00 A.M. This meeting is held May 13, 2017. We always have at least 5-6 members who attend.

Our club is open 12 months of the year. We meet the 2nd Thursday of the month at 8:00 P.M. After our meetings we have pizza, brownies, and open up the pop machine. We have 2 drag races a year in October, have various work days, a picnic, a banquet, and a Christmas party. If you are a member, you receive a schedule of events that our club has. Be involved, join a club, make new friends, and become active.

Until next time---Keep Healthy

Jim Wilkinson & Shelly Buckles





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## VINTAGE FLASHBACKS

by Henry Hartman

The advertisement accompanying this article is from the September 1976 edition of SnowGoer magazine, and proclaims the 1977 Rupp snowmobiles are "the Trail Boss". Only one model year later, the Rupp brand was essentially gone, having hung on longer than dozens of their competitors who ceased the snowmobile business in the prior 10 years. A few left-over '78 machines got labeled as '79's but were still considered to be 1978's.

Rupp Industries was based in Ohio and started in 1959 by H. E. "Mickey" Rupp. Mick Rupp was an Indy race driver and an airplane pylon-racing pilot. He started in his basement, building go-karts and mini-bikes. In 1964, Mickey bought his first snowmobile and later introduced his own "Sno-Sport" snowmobiles for the 1965 model year. Over the next 13 model years, Rupp snowmobiles earned many faithful owners and riders. Through the 60's and early 70's, German-built Hirth, JLO, and Sachs engines powered the Sno-Sport sleds. 1970 was the first year that the machines became identified as "Rupp" snowmobiles. The next year (1971), new engines, built by Tohatsu in Japan and labeled as Rupp engines were introduced in several models. By 1974, some Kohler engines joined the mix, and by '76 only Kohler and Xenoah engines were found under the hood of a Rupp.

For 1972, eleven different models were included in the Rupp lineup. The only other year

with 11 models was 1975. During 1974, the so-called "energy crisis" spelled doom for many snowmobile companies. Rupp did its best to hang on and was able to do so but with poor sales and competitors spreading rumors of Rupp's demise. The Rupp snowmobiles had been primarily United States distributed machines, and the company wanted to see better sales in Canada. Their solution to that problem was to buy the Allouette snowmobile brand from Montreal. The Canadian plant was closed and all production moved to Ohio. But 1975 was not a much better year, and to satisfy creditors, snowmobile production was stopped. The company lowered their costs by contracting with Arctic Cat to build future Rupp models at Arctic's Minnesota factory. (And you thought snowmobile cross-manufacturing and cross-branding was something new?)

The 1976 model line-up included one fan-cooled machine powered by a Xenoah 340cc engine, one liquid-cooled 440 Kohler, and 6 models with Xenoah liquid-cooled engines of 250, 340, or 440 cc.

In February of '76, things became very serious for Rupp fans when the company declared bankruptcy. The restructuring plan they devised allowed them to continue for only 2 more model years with limited models and a bare-bones staff to handle business.



### Meet Rupp for '77 ...the Trail Boss!

Here's Rupp for '77 — boss of the trail. These are the sleek machines built to bring you all the fun and excitement of winter. They tame the toughest trails. They're the dependable beauties known for great styling and for precision engineering. Of course. They're Rups! At Rupp, each year, we analyze and refine our machines, to bring you the best — with the latest technological improvements. That's why, when folks think of Rupp, they think of action — and reliability.

Take the '77 Rupp Nitro, for example — built to be the super trail performance machine. Its features include a rarin'-to-go 440cc Xenoah

liquid cooled engine, C.D. ignition, twin Mikuni carbs, reed valves, torture-proven clutch and chain case — and lots more. To give you the ultimate in performance!

And then — the Nitro 440's kissin' cousins — the Nitro 250 and the Sport. They're loaded with wanted features that make trail snowmobiling fun. You have to see them!

Remember. It's Rupp for '77 — with the dependable machines — the service — the back-up. Everything you could want for happy snowmobiling. Now's the time to head for your Rupp dealer's!

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