

The Official Publication of the Pennsylvania State Snowmobile Association

Keystone Snowmobiler

March 2019
Volume 30 Issue 3

www.pasnow.org

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MCKEAN SNOWRIDERS SMC

Greetings from the SnowRiders up in McKean PA. We are in Erie County, the heart of the Snow Belt!

Our 25th Annual Poker Run was held on Saturday, February 2nd this year. While we did not have the perfect weather or trail conditions, we did have a successful Poker Run. We had 82 sleds and lots of food and prizes for everyone. We had multiple groups go out riding. Most groups rode anywhere from 50 miles to 120 miles! This is a fun, family event and all are welcome. We hope that you and your family can join us next year.

Thirteen members of our club drove to Warren and rode the Allegheny National Forest Snowmobile Trail 1 (the loop). About 119 miles of awesome trails. We all had a great time. The weather and trail conditions were great. We would like to thank the Marienville Snowmobile Club and Forest County for keeping the trails in such good condition. Thanks!

By the time this is published, our riding season will be close to being over for most of us, but keep looking ahead to our next riding season and join us here! Check out our web site (or Facebook) for details: www.mckeansnowriders.com

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 2,000 people that have joined our Facebook page!

Any questions, check out our website or contact me.

Don Weaver

PSSA DIRECTORS

(Term Expires at Annual Spring Meeting)

PRESIDENT:

Liz Krug (2019, Erie Co.)
9820 Lake Pleasant Road
Erie, PA 16509
Cell Phone: (814) 464-3971
ottilia@roadrunner.com



VICE-PRESIDENT:

James Wolfe (2020, Elk Co.)
1384 Route 66
DeYoung, PA 16728
Phone: (814) 968-5469
jamwol@windstream.net



SECRETARY:

Charles Walter (2021, Wayne County)
171 St Mary Church Rd
Lake Ariel PA 18436
Phone: (570) 689-4788
Cell: (570) 877-0244
walter.charles@rocketmail .com



TREASURER:

Arline LaTourette (2020, Wayne County)
792 Torrey Road
Honesdale, PA 18431
Phone: (570) 729-7865
arlinedutton@hotmail.com



DIRECTORS:

Terry Wood (2021)
8622 Hickory Hollow Drive
Chardon, OH 44024
Phone: (440) 867-8682
woodtlw@gmail.com



Don Mosier (2019, Erie County)
4251 Greenlee Rd.
McKean, PA 16426
Phone: (814) 476-7984
cjdmosier@gmail.com



Richard Hayes (2020, Allegheny County)
2485 Parkview Lane
Allison Park, PA 15101
Phone: (412) 735-6716
rahazey@yahoo.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

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E-Mail: keystonesnowmobiler@comcast.net

EDITORS: Peggy & Henry Hartman
MATERIALS DEADLINE:
10th of month
preceding issue

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

REGION 1

Chuck Thompson (2021, Erie Co.)
12800 Rt. 6
Corry, PA 16407
Phone: (814) 462-5613
chuckthompson@hotmail.com
Richard East (Ass't Director, 2021, Erie Co.)
2346 Biley Road
Erie, PA 16510
Phone: (814) 882-7473
richard.east1949@gmail.com



REGION 2 VACANT

REGION 3

David E. McCarty (2020, Westmoreland Co.)
2533 Harrison City Road
Export, PA 15632
Phone: (412) 480-7068
Twintracker3@aol.com



REGION 4 VACANT (EAST)

Larry Martin (2021, WEST)
1008 Orr Ave.
Kittanning, Pa. 16201
Phone: (724) 664-5492
lmartin130@yahoo.com



REGION 5

Travis Mathna (2020, Adams Co.)
1110 Upper Bermudian Rd.
Gardners, PA 17324
Phone: (717) 677-8089
gotsno@embarqmail.com



REGION 6 VACANT

Nathan Eckhart, CPA (Ass't Director, Lehigh Co.)
4935 Abbey Road
Coplay, PA 18037
Phone: (610) 262-0281
Fax: (610) 262-0281
nsecpa@rcn.com



REGION 7 VACANT

REGION 8

Janet Auker (2019, Lancaster Co.)
112 Homestead Drive
Stevens, PA 17578
Phone: (717) 336-1061
Fax: (717) 336-0362
jrauker@dejazzd.com
Doug Blauch (Ass't Director, Lebanon Co.)
40 Clover Lane
Jonestown, PA 17038
Phone: 717-383-3559
blauch@comcast.net



REGION 9

Tim Holtz (2021, Cambria County)
PO Box 174
Patton, PA 16668
814-330-2182
tim1holtz@gmail.com



REGION 10 VACANT

REGION 11

Scott Watkins (2020, Bradford County)
1265 Watkins Hill Road
Columbia Cross Roads, PA 16914
Phone: 570-297-4018
Cell: 570-529-5375
1961watkins@gmail.com



REGION 12

Clinton LaTourette (2021, Wayne Co.)
792 Torrey Road
Honesdale, PA 18431
Phone: (570) 729-7865
windyview@live.com



SNOW ANGELS CHAIRPERSONS:

Kelly Watkins
1265 Watkins Hill Road
Columbia Cross Roads, PA 16914
Phone: (570) 297-4018
klmwatkins69@gmail.com
Loretta Hayes
2485 Parkview Lane
Allison Park, PA 15101
Phone: (412) 496-7615
mshazey15101@yahoo.com



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Membership/Finances Administrators:

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Maura Donley

PSSA

42 West Main Street

Palmyra, PA 17078

1-717-461-7761

EMAIL: member@pasnow.org

Grants Administrator

Julie McKenzie

908 North 2nd Street

Harrisburg, PA 17102

1-717-236-2050 Ext. 117

EMAIL: grants@pasnow.org

MiniGrants@wannerassoc.com



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))

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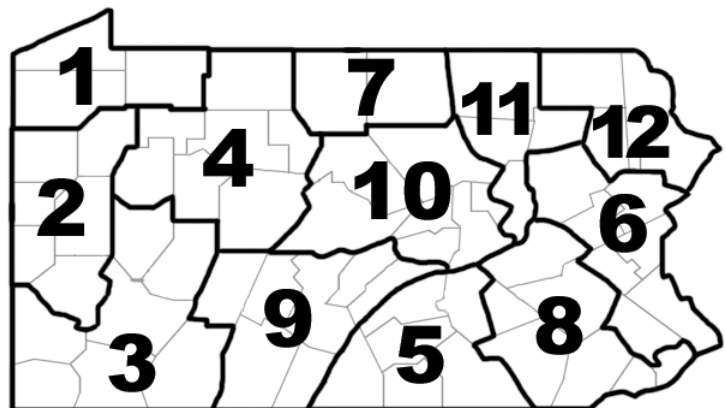
American Council of Snowmobile Associations
(ACSA)

www.snowmobilers.org

International Snowmobile Manufacturers
Association (ISMA)

www.snowmobile.org

This issue mailed on or before February 28th.



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OUR WEBSITE**
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MOVING FORWARD



Snow has been sporadic in Pennsylvania. If you were not prepared to ride you probably missed the opportunities to ride. All outdoor recreation is effected by the weather. We cannot control the weather but we can be prepared. Ride safe.

Senator Laughlin (R - Chair of the Fish and Game Commission) from Erie introduced SB 147. This bill would permit the Game Commission to determine dates which could include Sundays for hunting. Trail maintenance activities are done on many weekends. Safety of work crews is a concern. It is important that you express your opinion concerning this action to your local legislators.

PSSA encourages all clubs to keep in contact with local elected officials. They are the persons who vote on laws and budgets.

It is that time of the year for clubs to recognize club members who promote their club/Pennsylvania State Snowmobile Association (PSSA) and snowmobile recreation.

The following are the PSSA Annual Awards.

- ❖ Snowmobiler of the Year
- ❖ Snowmobile Family of the Year
- ❖ Snowmobile Teen of the Year
- ❖ Snowmobile Dealer of the Year
- ❖ Forest/Government Official of the Year

All nominees must have been a PSSA member or a business member since January 2018. Government /Forest Officials do not have to be a member. **Send/email your nominations with a short resume to the Erie Office by March 25, 2019. (ottilia@roadrunner.com)**

There are two positions open for the Executive Board (Don Mosier and myself). The election is held at the Annual Membership Meeting.

Resume' and answers will be posted in the April issue of KS.

Any Regional Director whose term of office ends April 2019 should ask their clubs to send an e-mail to Charles Walter, Board Secretary, designating their approval for you to represent them for another 3 years or they should elect someone else to represent them. Several Regions are vacant. Anyone who is a member of a club in a region can be elected as the Regional Director. **Send an e-mail to Charles Walter by March 25, 2019.**

Concerns have been raised about Youth Safety Classes. One can now take the Safety Class on line with no requirement for "on the ground" training. Who actually takes the test? Should the test be taken at a club Safety Class or with a Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) representative? Is money the motivating factor? This issue will be presented at the next Snowmobile/ATV meeting this spring.

Voucher Raffle tickets are in the mail. This is one way you can help PSSA. Be generous. The Drawing will be held at the Annual Membership Meeting in April.

OTHER INFORMATION

Clubs- send updated information to Kathy Woolever (website, Facebook, contact info)

Calendars – The American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA) calendars have arrived. They are available for \$20 each. You have many chances to win. PSSA benefits from the sale of these calendars. **Send your check with your return information to the Palmyra Office and the calendars will be sent to you.** (Calendars are available throughout the year.)

We are in need of a few more donations to purchase more snow cameras.

Get out and enjoy the beauty of Pennsylvania!
Think Snow!

Liz Krug, President

Remember the Date:

- ❖ Annual Meeting - Saturday, April 27, 9am Ramada Golf and Conference Center, University Park, PA
- ❖ PowerSport Show – last weekend of October – Lebanon Expo Center

Hartman Publishing Company

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717-633-5051 • keystonesnowmobiler@comcast.net

To all our PSSA member friends:

In 1989, the PSSA Board of Directors took a bold step and accepted a proposal from Peggy & Henry Hartman to edit and publish the Keystone Snowmobiler. This involved an unprecedented schedule of publishing each and every month, 12 months per year.

Starting with the September 1989 issue of the Keystone Snowmobiler, Hartman Publishing has consistently delivered the world's only snowmobile publication that goes out to snowmobilers all year long.

PSSA has enjoyed a basically FREE means of communication with its members on a regular basis for 30 years. The only obligation (cost) to PSSA has been that the association is responsible to provide an electronic mailing list every month. Otherwise, all expenses (printing, postage, production) have been the responsibility of Hartman Publishing.

In May of 2018, Hartman Publishing detailed the dwindling support for the Keystone Snowmobiler at the PSSA Annual Meeting. The advertisers who support the paper each month are nearly all from the south-eastern quadrant of the state. Businesses in areas that typically have riding are not doing any advertising, and clubs in many of those areas do not submit articles about their activities.

Postal rates and printing costs have risen to the point that advertising revenue will no longer cover the expenses associated with producing the Keystone Snowmobiler each month.

Please be informed that Hartman Publishing intends to publish a paper version April 2019 edition of the Keystone Snowmobiler, and then re-evaluate if we can continue the operation.

We sincerely appreciate the confidence and trust the association has placed in us and wish only the best for the future.

Thank you,

Peggy & Henry Hartman

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Of the 5 or 6 companies that manufactured snowmobiles here in Pennsylvania, there is no doubt the most prolific was AMF. At their plant in York, PA, tens of thousands of various models of silver "greyliners" and later orange Ski-Daddler machines were produced.

This all took place from 1967 to 1972. During a few of those years, AMF fielded a Factory Race Team, hiring several well-known local dirt-track racecar drivers. There are a few of these men still living, and you can hear them recount many interesting stories from the hay-days of early factory sponsored teams. The remaining drivers are planning a reunion for Sunday, March 24, 2019.

The event will take place at the Eastern Museum of Motor Racing at York Springs, PA. The location of the museum is at the Latimore Valley Fairgrounds, right off of US15, north of PA route 94.

The "AMF Snowmobile Racer Reunion" will be from 1-3 pm, and there will be an Antique-Vintage Snowmobile Show from 9am to 1 pm, sponsored by F&S Yamaha & Marine of Hanover.

For more information, visit: www.EMMR.org

PSSA SPONSORS GROOMER OPERATOR TRAINING

This past December your PSSA sponsored two groomer operator training classes. This training was made possible through a grant provided by the Pa Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

The first class (west region) was held in Marienville Pa on Dec. 3, 2018. A report on this session was made in the January issue of the Keystone Snowmobiler.

On Dec. 4, 2018 the second session for the east region was conducted at the NEP Snow Trails facility located in Uniondale, Susquehanna County. Eighteen future groomer operators from both the Ace Snowmobile Club and NEP Sno Trails Club signed in for the training.. The instructor for this class was Richard Engrasser. Rich is a long time snowmobiler; a certified instructor for New York State and active member of the clubs in Chautauqua County NY.

The 3 hour training session included a slide presentation, handouts, and a question and answer discussion period. Topics included groomer basics, effective operating techniques, safety, scheduling, preplanning and "on trail" repairs. The local club had their Tucker groomer on site for use as a training aid. Participants ranged in age from a 18 year old "greenhorn" to a seasoned veteran. Everyone commented

that they had benefited from the training with even our experienced operator stating he had learned a few new tricks. Refreshments were provided at the end of the evening.

NEP Sno Trails and the ACE Snowmobile Club serve northern Lackawanna, Susquehanna and Wayne Counties. Between the two clubs they maintain over 375 miles of trails. In this area of the state trail riding on public lands is very limited, so trained groomer operators are vital in providing trail riding for local snowmobilers. Groomer equipment is expensive and allowing an untrained operator at the controls can lead to equipment down time plus some very costly repairs. There will be much more for our future operators to learn but this class is their first step leading to someday operating a groomer on their own.

We want to thank NEP Sno Trails for hosting this event; the PSSA for scheduling this training session for the eastern region and DCNR for their continued financial support. Special thanks go out to our instructor Rich Engasser for coming all the way from Chautauqua NY to share his knowledge and experiences... smooth trails.

Charles Walter, PSSA Secretary

GOD'S COUNTRY BLACK FOREST SMC

Greetings Snowmobilers!

If you happened to stop by God's Country Black Forest Snowmobile Club on February 2nd, you were in for a treat! It was the 8th annual Vintage Show and Ride, and we sure got some interesting sleds! There is nothing like the sound of these old machines as they fire up, and everyone stops to see what is rolling out of the trailer! About 40 sleds entered in total, and a dozen of those brave souls joined us for the ride! There were some strange looking machines present, and most of them help us appreciate how far our sport has come! Congratulations to the winners: Best of Show went to Mike Kleinfelter and his King Cat, People's Choice went to Joe and Kelly Marks with their '71 SkiRoule Racer, the Rookie Award went to Heaton Burkholder who was riding a '79 Jag, and the esteemed "Rough as a Cob" award went to Bill Wagner and his Passe Patriot. Thank you to everyone who brought their sleds, and to everyone who stopped by. Snowmobilers are a generous group, the proceeds from lunch and donations get donated to charity every year. This year we raised over \$1,000 for the Four Diamonds fund to help defeat childhood cancer! Hope you all had fun and will join us next year!!!

Bill and Lara Sowers

(see photos next page)

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Left: Mike Alderfer became the winner of an all new category, "The Iron-Butt" award when he rode that thing to Germania and back!

Right: Greg Burkholder's line up of Ski-Dos.



Below Left: "Rough as a Cob" Passe Patriot, owned by Bill Wagner.

Below Right: Joe and Kelly Marks People's Choice Skiroule Racer.



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Hello Everyone! Well, we finally got some riding in at The Snowseekers 'Highland Haven' club-house located in beautiful Elk County, Pa. in the Allegheny National Forest. Some members got to ride 3 week-ends in a row, from January 18th through February 3rd, which is getting to be unheard of in these parts. We were grateful to have had these riding opportunities and most of the members took full advantage of it! It was good to see the clubhouse parking lots full of trucks and trailers for a change, with lots of laughter and good stories on the inside. This never gets old! Like a lot of clubs who have clubhouses, we NEED SNOW to help pay expenses 'up there'. Hopefully, this isn't it for this winter as it was just 63 degrees here in Pittsburgh yesterday...yuk.

If you did get to ride the southern half of the Allegheny National Forest, or ANF this winter or last, you should be thanking the Forest County Snowmobile Club, who, along with The Marienville Trail Riders have been tirelessly grooming these trails, from Marienville to Kellettsville to Mayburg and all points between. The trails on the ANF in this area have been the best riding that they have been in years, thanks to their efforts! Give them a thanks when you see them or like Forest County SMC's Facebook page, and donate if you can to help with their grooming fund. From the Snowseekers and all snowmobilers, a big THANK YOU!

THE PENNSYLVANIA SNOWSEEKERS



As for grooming and related expenses, the Snowseekers club continues to try and groom our agreed to trails on the Allegheny National Forest, or ANF. However, the U.S. Forest Service, who owns our groomer and drag, have failed to live up to their end of the bargain and provide us with the necessary training they say we need to operate said groomer. We are also still waiting on a bridge modification that was promised to us to get the groomer and drag from our clubhouse, onto our connector trail #23 (where the bridge is located), and out to Trail #1 so we can groom. This groomer has been an added expense to our club in maintaining it and storing it, and to our members who continue to volunteer their time and their own heavy truck equipment to transport the groomer and drag. This has been going on for the last 3 winters,

and, although the last 2 winters before having been light on snow, there certainly has been grooming opportunities on the ANF, especially this winter. However, it just hasn't happened on the northern half of the ANF for the above reasons. If you have ridden on the northern half of the ANF and noticed NO GROOMING, it certainly hasn't been for a lack of effort on the Snowseekers part. This rather expensive equipment, bought with your tax dollars, continues to sit, and sit, and...sit. If you would like to help get it moving, feel free to give the Marienville Ranger District a call @ (814) 927-6628, and let your opinion be heard!

Now that I got that off my chest, the club has had several trips, with more planned. A large group of Snowseekers were in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and rode out of Trout

Lake the week of January 20th and had a blast. As I'm typing on February 8th (instead of snowmobiling), some Snowseekers are out in McCall, Idaho, riding in the Rocky Mountain deep stuff. Another group is in the U.P. and riding out of Au Train, MI. They actually have Blizzard Warnings out up there today, so I'm sure they're out playing in it! 4 couples are leaving February 10th for Newberry, Mi., and yet another contingent will be going back to Trout Lake again February 18th. Some more of us will be riding Tug Hill, N.Y., starting February 25th. This is in addition to riding 'locally' at members camps in Erie County, Pa., and Chautauqua County, N.Y.

The Snowseekers have been busy seeking riding as usual, whether locally on the Allegheny National Forest or abroad in New York, Michigan, or wherever there is SNOW, hence the name Snowseekers! We hope your clubs have also had a good winter with ample riding opportunities with family and friends, which is what it's all about. Until next time, Think Snow!

Mark Mueller

www.pasnowseekers.org or like us on Facebook

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Greetings from the beautiful Glendale Lake Area, the snowmobile capital of PA. Well, at least it's seemed that way for the last several weeks, as I'm writing this in early February. Our club trail and the surrounding area has seen some great local riding. What a refreshing change from last year. It was great that so many riders got out to enjoy the winter white.

The Black Moshannon Snowmobile Club's Poker Run was last weekend, February 3rd, and many of our members participated and supported our neighboring club. The trails were groomed to near perfection and there was a good turnout for the event, much better than some previous years. A great time was had and one of our members took home some winnings.

We are also working in collaboration with another neighboring club, the Scagburners on several trail projects. Their club is already active with trails and grooming and we're hoping to assist them in adding to their trail network. In mid-January we collectively hiked and partially cleared an area of possible trail expansion. And then when we had some more snow on the ground several club members rode the proposed trails to map them and appraise them. These trails could link several eating places and possibly several state parks. We're hoping to provide help with funding requests and construction of the trail.

GLENDALE LAKE SMC

We had a large turnout for our January meeting. It's been exciting to see the room near capacity for the last several meetings. Many members arrived early to take advantage of the great Patton Sportsmen's Club food. And many stay after the meeting to compare snowmobiling and trail notes. One member brought maps from adjoining trail areas for anyone that wanted them. You can never have enough maps, even if you have a GPS.

Club membership was also discussed. Just a reminder for those that haven't renewed or joined for 2019, it costs the club about \$2,000 a year to keep the club trail open from Glendale Lake to Black Mo. Our dues are the primary means of paying for this. If you enjoy riding this trail and haven't joined the club, please do so to help support the trail. If you're a member and haven't paid your dues, please do so ASAP. Application is upper right on our Facebook page or website. Thanks for your help on this.

Trail cleanup is needed after some of the winter storms and some has already been done due to some hardworking members. If you haven't done so already, please get signed up as a DCNR Volunteer for Prince Gallitzin State Park. This can be done on the DCNR Website. Directions can also be found on our FaceBook page. The State Park is processing these

applications much faster now. If you don't get a response within several days, call the Prince Gallitzin State Park Office.

We're also working with the Game Commission on some trail clean up and we've received our authorization to do trail cleanup in 2019. We hope to improve the Stage Coach section of our existing trail. For Trail Clean Up days and other events please follow us on Facebook, attend the club meetings or give us your email address. Also note that there has been a minor trail adjustment on the club trail on the AT&T line due to some landowner requests.

The club is also in the process of developing several more new trails, for details please join us at club meetings. We were excited to learn that a major key right away for our new trail has been conditionally granted. This is a big step in making the new trail a reality. We also learned of new community support for the trail which is also very encouraging. More to come on this.

The club is in need of a new Webmaster, let us know if you would be interested in helping out with that. Be sure to follow us on Facebook for club activities, trail conditions and anything snowmobiling. We also have a Facebook Group that we encourage you to join.

Our Club is located in south central PA, about 1.5 hours east of the Laurel Highlands and about 45 minutes southwest of Black Moshannon State Park. We're not far from Ebensburg and Altoona. If you're from this area or ride in this area, we urge you to join our club. We meet the first Monday of the month, year round at 7:30 PM at the Patton Sportsman's Club. Club hats and shirt are available anytime at the Patton Sportsman. We have a great time at our Club Meetings. We take care of business, enjoy some great food if you're hungry, and swap some real good sled stories. Come join us.

If you're not from our area, we still urge you to join a club in your area, or where you ride. And join the PSSA, when all of us sledders work together we can improve snowmobiling for all. Enjoy winter and share it with a friend.

Randy Green



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A QUOTE TO NOTE

“Leadership is Action, Not Position”

This great quote comes from Donald H. McGannon, who ran the Westinghouse Broadcasting Corporation and served as President of the National Urban League.

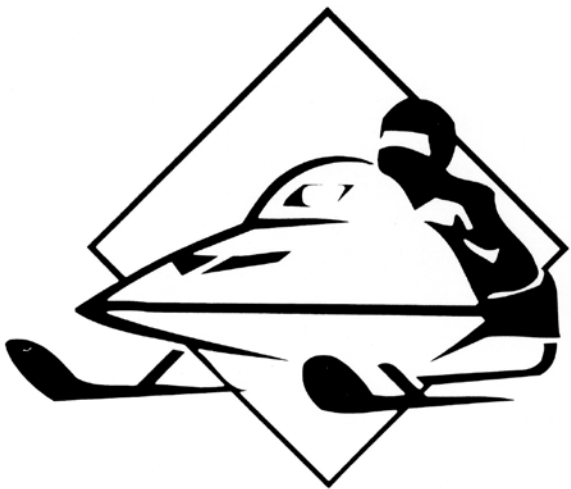
MARIENVILLE TRAIL RIDERS SMC

The month of January 2019 proved to be a rare winter weather event. But the Marienville Trail Riders saw plenty of snow for two separate weeks. The snow started to fall Saturday night, the 19th and before you knew it, the club was riding fresh wet snow that covered the trails by Sunday morning. The 20th of January seemed late for its areas first snow, but better late than never. After a few phone calls, the club was hitting the local trails around Marienville. The trails even though ungroomed for this first day were fabulous to say the least. Total mileage on that first day was 114. The next day after having heard that Dan Stevenson and Joe Rogers had groomed their sections of the Marienville trails with the BR 180 and the Track Truck, respectively, the group of 14 headed out to do the 115 mile ANF loop. The group also was the first to ride from Kellettville to Chapman Dam which had been groomed by the Forest County Club. It turned out to be a 135 mile trip since they went to Kane for gas and food. The trails could not have been any better and in fact they made the trip back to Marienville before dark. This allowed others to make another 30 mile loop out to trail 14 and 15 and back to the Kelly Hotel for snacks.

But then, the Wednesday weather brought the rain and the Thursday rain took care of the trails. The following week brought more snow and extremely cold temperatures which made the trails just as nice as the week before. Another group of 8 riders did the loop again on Friday the 1st of February making it back to Cougar Bobs at Kellettville for supper. Saturday and Sunday proved to allow the club to add another 250 miles for the two day total. Some of our members rode over 780 miles in this two week span. The club would like to thank Joe Rogers and Dan Stevenson as well as the Forest County Snowmobile club for doing such a great job grooming their trails.

The Marienville Club will travel to Curtis, Michigan the week of Feb. 17-24, staying at Pine Bluff Resort and hope to have as nice a ride as they had here in Marienville. The club is also sponsoring a St. Patrick's Day Ham Dinner at the MACA building on Saturday March 16 from 4-7. Have fun on the trails and be safe.

Jerry Thornton



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When I sat down over the last few months to write the article, the weather was not cooperating. On January 8, 2019, it was 56 degrees outside. As I sit down to write this article it is February 8, 2019, and PennDot just placed wooden horses across a local highway within a mile of my house to close the road on account of flooding. We were able to ride for a few days last week with temperatures below zero then it went up to the sixties almost over night. In past articles, I have tried in vain to find out what our winter would be like without success. The 1st time that I tried, I went to the computer and asked Google - guess what - the computer froze. 2nd time I watched KDKA-TV -Pittsburgh, chief meteorologist Jeff Verzulla, and he claimed 39.5 inches for our area. Guess what???

The 3rd time and I finally got an answer. Punxasutawney Phil, the most famous rodent in Pennsylvania, and the most popular landmark in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, reported our fate. Phil along with thousands of people gathered at Gobbler's Knob, which is the site of the Groundhog Day celebration held in Punxsutawney, Pa. Phil made his weather prediction on February 2, 2019. Phil said, and I quote, "Early Spring". For additional about Phil go to www.groundhog.org.

Despite the short lived snow that we had, our January event had to be cancelled. We have planned for February 23, 2019, a Poker Run/Radar Run at the clubhouse. It is not looking promising at the moment though. Please keep an eye on our website, LHSC.net or our Facebook page for updates.

LAUREL HIGHLANDS SMC

Maple Summit, our neighboring club to the South was able to hold their trailside cookout. There was a nice turn out of riders. Everyone ate their fill, and spent time enjoying each others' company. Both Maple Summit and our Northern neighbor, Rolling Ridge, were out grooming and smoothed our way. DCNR took great care of the trails in between. We greatly appreciate all of their efforts in making our trails so much fun.

The next club meeting is Thursday, March 14 at 8:00 PM.

Several of our members plan on going to the Ramada Inn located at State College on April, 27, for the PSSA meeting. Look forward to seeing many of you at this event.

Our workdays will be starting up again next month. The annual Adopt-A-Highway is scheduled for April 20, at 9:00 AM. We will meet up in the clubhouse to start the day. We'll have everything you need including a free lunch.

Still going to keep the possibilities open for more rides yet this winter. Hope you are out there enjoying the trails today.

Until next time---live life to its fullest
Jim Wilkinson & Shelly Buckles



Above: Jim Wilkinson riding past parked sleds at the cookout.

Below: Tracked truck for grooming.



PLAN TO TAKE A VACATION SNOWMOBILING!



HASLETT, MI, February 4, 2019: I recently attended a Tourism planning event and learned that Americans love to take vacations and they say vacations are important to them, and yet more than

a short trip. Throughout the winter, I often snowmobile on the weekends, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday when most people are out riding. Once in a while I am able to take somebody snowmobiling on a Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday "mid-week" and what an enjoyable time it is! The trails and riding areas are much less crowded and I can easily get a seat at my favorite restaurant for breakfast in the morning.

In our culture, we have hyper connectivity which Sociologists call 'work martyrdom.' Individuals who take their vacation time off, have greater happiness at work and at home. Individuals who take their time off to go snowmobiling have even more fun and help support a great outdoor recreation activity that supports rural America.

The key to taking vacation time, according to the experts, is to plan for it. Studies show that 75% of the people who plan a vacation actually take it!! The most effective remedy for us who want to use our vacation days is to plan for them. People who plan their vacation tend

54% of all North American employees with vacation time leave a considerable amount of their vacation time unused! As a matter of fact, up to 25% of the employees interviewed, reported that they did not take even half of their allowed time off. These unused vacation days carry a significant economic impact and since individuals don't recreate enough, it impacts on their productivity, creativity, and can damage an employee's personal well-being and relationships with family and friends.

Knowing all of the above, why not use some of your vacation time to take a snowmobiling vacation? We have great snow conditions in many locations so it's a great time to plan

to take longer vacations and enjoy themselves more while people who do not plan for vacations take significantly fewer days, from 0 days to 3 days at the maximum. There are some great trails and riding areas out there, and it makes sense to me to bring some family and friends along to build memories.

At the Tourism seminar I learned that most bosses support individuals who take their vacations. The boss knows when you take a vacation you come back happier and you are more efficient while you are working.

For the rest of this snowmobiling season and for next season, it's important that we all try to change our habits and take a few additional

days off for snowmobiling! You can start by reviewing your calendar and put down some definite dates to take that snowmobile vacation. Holidays are a great time of year for snowmobiling and it should be relatively easy to take an extra day before or after the holiday to take a longer snowmobiling vacation. It is never too early to start planning your next snowmobile vacation. Block some days on your calendar and plan to go snowmobiling. As many of us know, there is not snow everywhere, but certainly snow can be readily available after a short drive.

Ed Klim